

EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC
Form 10-K
March 23, 2016
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, 2015

Commission file number 1-14527

EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 22-3263609
(State or other jurisdiction (I.R.S Employer
of incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

477 Martinsville Road
Post Office Box 830
Liberty Corner, New Jersey 07938-0830
(908) 604-3000

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive office)

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

| <u>Title of Each Class</u> | <u>Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered</u> |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 4.868% Senior Notes Due 2044 | NYSE |
| 6.60% Long Term Notes Due 2067 | NYSE |

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

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

Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

Yes No

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

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes No

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

Yes No

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

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

The aggregate market value on June 30, 2015, the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second quarter, of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was zero.

At March 15, 2016, the number of shares outstanding of the registrant common shares was 1,000, all of which are owned by Everest Underwriting Group (Ireland) Limited, a wholly-owned direct subsidiary of Everest Re Group, Ltd.

The Registrant meets the conditions set forth in General Instruction I(1)(a) and (b) of Form 10-K and is therefore filing this form with the reduced disclosure format permitted by General Instruction I of Form 10-K.

EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS, INC.

Table of Contents
FORM 10-K

| | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| PART I | |
| Item 1. Business | 1 |
| Item 1A. Risk Factors | 7 |
| Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments | 13 |
| Item 2. Properties | 13 |
| Item 3. Legal Proceedings | 13 |
| Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures | 13 |
| PART II | |
| Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities | 14 |
| Item 6. Selected Financial Data | 14 |
| Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations | 14 |
| Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk | 28 |
| Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data | 31 |
| Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure | 31 |
| Item 9A. Controls and Procedures | 31 |
| Item 9B. Other Information | 31 |
| PART III | |
| Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance | 32 |
| Item 11. Executive Compensation | 32 |
| Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters | 32 |
| Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence | 32 |
| Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services | 32 |
| PART IV | |
| Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules | 33 |

PART I

Unless otherwise indicated, all financial data in this document have been prepared using accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"). As used in this document, "Holdings" means Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc., a Delaware company and direct subsidiary of Everest Underwriting Group (Ireland) Limited ("Holdings Ireland"); "Group" means Everest Re Group, Ltd. (Holdings Ireland's parent); "Bermuda Re" means Everest Reinsurance (Bermuda), Ltd., a subsidiary of Group; "Everest Re" means Everest Reinsurance Company and its subsidiaries, a subsidiary of Holdings (unless the context otherwise requires); and the "Company", "we", "us", and "our" means Holdings and its subsidiaries (unless the context otherwise requires).

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

The Company.

Holdings, a Delaware corporation, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Holdings Ireland. On December 30, 2008, Group contributed Holdings to its recently established Irish holding company, Holdings Ireland. Holdings Ireland is a direct subsidiary of Group and was established to serve as a holding company for the U.S. and Irish reinsurance and insurance subsidiaries. Group is a Bermuda holding company whose common shares are publicly traded in the U.S. on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "RE". Group files an annual report on Form 10-K with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") with respect to its consolidated operations, including Holdings.

The Company's principal business, conducted through its operating segments, is the underwriting of reinsurance and insurance in the U.S. and international markets. The Company had gross written premiums, in 2015, of \$5.0 billion, with approximately 70% representing reinsurance and 30% representing insurance. Stockholder's equity at December 31, 2015 was \$4.9 billion. The Company underwrites reinsurance both through brokers and directly with ceding companies, giving it the flexibility to pursue business based on the ceding company's preferred reinsurance purchasing method. The Company underwrites insurance directly and through general agent relationships, brokers and surplus lines brokers. Holdings' active operating subsidiaries, are each rated A+ ("Superior") by A.M. Best Company ("A.M. Best"), a leading provider of insurer ratings that assigns financial strength ratings to insurance companies based on their ability to meet their obligations to policyholders.

Following is a summary of the Company's operating subsidiaries:

Everest Re, a Delaware insurance company and a direct subsidiary of Holdings, is a licensed property and casualty insurer and/or reinsurer in all states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico and is authorized to conduct reinsurance business in Canada, Singapore and Brazil. Everest Re underwrites property and casualty reinsurance for insurance and reinsurance companies in the U.S. and international markets. Everest Re has engaged in reinsurance transactions with Bermuda Re, Everest International Reinsurance, Ltd. ("Everest International"), Mt. Logan Re, Ltd. ("Mt. Logan Re") and Everest Insurance Company of Canada ("Everest Canada"), which are affiliated companies, primarily driven by enterprise risk and capital management considerations under which business is transacted at market rates and terms. At December 31, 2015 Everest Re had statutory surplus of \$3.2 billion.

Everest National Insurance Company ("Everest National"), a Delaware insurance company and a direct subsidiary of Everest Re, is licensed in 50 states and the District of Columbia and is authorized to write property and casualty insurance on an admitted basis in the jurisdictions in which it is licensed. The majority of Everest National's business is reinsured by its parent, Everest Re.

Everest Indemnity Insurance Company ("Everest Indemnity"), a Delaware insurance company and a direct subsidiary of Everest Re, writes excess and surplus lines insurance business in the U.S. on a non-admitted basis. Excess and surplus lines insurance is specialty property and liability coverage that an insurer not licensed to write insurance in a particular jurisdiction is permitted to provide to insureds when the specific specialty coverage is unavailable from admitted insurers. Everest Indemnity is licensed in Delaware and is eligible to write business on a non-admitted basis in all other states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The majority of Everest Indemnity's business is reinsured by its parent, Everest Re.

Everest Security Insurance Company ("Everest Security"), a Georgia insurance company and a direct subsidiary of Everest Re, writes property and casualty insurance on an admitted basis in Georgia and Alabama. The majority of Everest Security's business is reinsured by its parent, Everest Re.

Mt. McKinley Insurance Company ("Mt. McKinley"), a Delaware insurance company and a direct subsidiary of Holdings, was acquired by Holdings in September 2000 from The Prudential Insurance Company of America ("The Prudential"). In 1985, Mt. McKinley ceased writing new and renewal insurance and commenced a run-off operation to service claims arising from its previously written business. Effective September 19, 2000, Mt. McKinley and Bermuda Re entered into a loss portfolio transfer reinsurance agreement, whereby Mt. McKinley transferred, for arm's length consideration, all of its net insurance exposures and reserves to Bermuda Re.

Effective July 13, 2015, the Company sold all of the outstanding shares of capital stock in Mt. McKinley to Clearwater Insurance Company. The operating results of Mt. McKinley through July 13, 2015 are included within the Company's financial statements.

Heartland Crop Insurance, Inc. ("Heartland"), a Kansas based managing general agent and a direct subsidiary of Holdings, was acquired on January 2, 2011. Heartland specializes in crop insurance, which is written mainly through Everest National.

Everest International Assurance, Ltd. ("Everest Assurance"), a Bermuda company and a direct subsidiary of Holdings is registered in Bermuda as a Class 3A general business insurer and as a Class C long-term insurer. Everest Assurance has made a one-time election under section 953(d) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code to be a U.S. income tax paying "Controlled Foreign Corporation." By making this election, Everest Assurance will be authorized to write life reinsurance and casualty reinsurance in both Bermuda and the U.S.

Reinsurance Industry Overview.

Reinsurance is an arrangement in which an insurance company, the reinsurer, agrees to indemnify another insurance or reinsurance company, the ceding company, against all or a portion of the insurance risks underwritten by the ceding company under one or more insurance contracts. Reinsurance can provide a ceding company with several benefits, including a reduction in its net liability on individual risks or classes of risks, catastrophe protection from large and/or multiple losses and/or a reduction in operating leverage as measured by the ratio of net premiums and reserves to capital. Reinsurance also provides a ceding company with additional underwriting capacity by permitting it to accept larger risks and write more business than would be acceptable relative to the ceding company's financial resources. Reinsurance does not discharge the ceding company from its liability to policyholders; rather, it reimburses the ceding company for covered losses.

There are two basic types of reinsurance arrangements: treaty and facultative. Treaty reinsurance obligates the ceding company to cede and the reinsurer to assume a specified portion of a type or category of risks insured by the ceding company. Treaty reinsurers do not separately evaluate each of the individual risks assumed under their treaties, instead, the reinsurer relies upon the pricing and underwriting decisions made by the ceding company. In facultative reinsurance, the ceding company cedes and the reinsurer assumes all or part of the risk under a single insurance contract. Facultative reinsurance is negotiated separately for each insurance contract that is reinsured. Facultative reinsurance, when purchased by ceding companies, usually is intended to cover individual risks not covered by their reinsurance treaties because of the dollar limits involved or because the risk is unusual.

Both treaty and facultative reinsurance can be written on either a pro rata basis or an excess of loss basis. Under pro rata reinsurance, the ceding company and the reinsurer share the premiums as well as the losses and expenses in an agreed proportion. Under excess of loss reinsurance, the reinsurer indemnifies the ceding company against all or a specified portion of losses and expenses in excess of a specified dollar amount, known as the ceding company's retention or reinsurer's attachment point, generally subject to a negotiated reinsurance contract limit.

In pro rata reinsurance, the reinsurer generally pays the ceding company a ceding commission. The ceding commission generally is based on the ceding company's cost of acquiring the business being reinsured (commissions, premium taxes, assessments and miscellaneous administrative expense and may contain profit sharing provisions, whereby the ceding commission is adjusted based on loss experience). Premiums paid by the ceding company to a reinsurer for excess of loss reinsurance are not directly proportional to the premiums that the ceding company receives because the reinsurer does not assume a proportionate risk. There is usually no ceding commission on excess of loss reinsurance.

Reinsurers may purchase reinsurance to cover their own risk exposure. Reinsurance of a reinsurer's business is called a retrocession. Reinsurance companies cede risks under retrocessional agreements to other reinsurers, known as retrocessionaires, for reasons similar to those that cause insurers to purchase reinsurance: to reduce net liability on individual or classes of risks, protect against catastrophic losses, stabilize financial ratios and obtain additional underwriting capacity.

Reinsurance can be written through intermediaries, generally professional reinsurance brokers, or directly with ceding companies. From a ceding company's perspective, the broker and the direct distribution channels have advantages and disadvantages. A ceding company's decision to select one distribution channel over the other will be influenced by its perception of such advantages and disadvantages relative to the reinsurance coverage being placed.

Business Strategy.

The Company's business strategy is to sustain its leadership position within targeted reinsurance and insurance markets, provide effective management throughout the property and casualty underwriting cycle and thereby achieve an attractive return for its shareholders. The Company's underwriting strategies seek to capitalize on its i) financial strength and capacity, ii) global franchise, iii) stable and experienced management team, iv) diversified product and distribution offerings, v) underwriting expertise and disciplined approach, vi) efficient and low-cost operating structure and vii) effective enterprise risk management practices.

The Company offers treaty and facultative reinsurance and admitted and non-admitted insurance. The Company's products include the full range of property and casualty reinsurance and insurance coverages, including marine, aviation, surety, errors and omissions liability ("E&O"), directors' and officers' liability ("D&O"), medical malpractice, other specialty lines, accident and health ("A&H") and workers' compensation.

The Company's underwriting strategies emphasizes underwriting profitability over premium volume. Key elements of this strategy include careful risk selection, appropriate pricing through strict underwriting discipline and adjustment of the Company's business mix in response to changing market conditions. The Company focuses on reinsuring companies that effectively manage the underwriting cycle through proper analysis and pricing of underlying risks and whose underwriting guidelines and performance are compatible with its objectives.

The Company's underwriting strategies emphasize flexibility and responsiveness to changing market conditions. The Company believes that its existing strengths, including its broad underwriting expertise, global presence, strong financial ratings and substantial capital, facilitate adjustments to its mix of business geographically, by line of business and by type of coverage, allowing it to participate in those market opportunities that provide the greatest potential for underwriting profitability. The Company's insurance operations complement these strategies by accessing business that is not available on a reinsurance basis. The Company carefully monitors its mix of business across all operations to avoid unacceptable geographic or other risk concentrations.

During 2015, the Company initiated a strategic build out of its insurance platform through the investment in key leadership hires which in turn has brought significant underwriting talent and stronger direction in achieving its insurance program strategic goals of increased premium volume and improved underwriting results. Recent growth is coming from highly diversified areas including newly launched lines of business, as well as, product and geographic expansion in existing lines of business. The Company is building a world-class insurance platform capable of offering products across lines and geographies, complementing its leading global reinsurance franchise.

Capital Transactions.

The Company's business operations are in part dependent on its financial strength and financial strength ratings, and the market's perception of its financial strength. The Company's stockholder's equity was \$4,931.2 million and \$4,572.7 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The Company possesses significant financial flexibility with access to the debt markets and, through its ultimate parent, equity markets, as a result of its perceived financial strength, as evidenced by the financial strength ratings as assigned by independent rating agencies. The Company's capital position remains strong, commensurate with its financial ratings and the Company has ample liquidity to meet its financial obligations for the foreseeable future.

On July 9, 2014, Group and Holdings renewed its shelf registration statement on Form S-3ASR with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), as a Well Known Seasoned Issuer. This shelf registration statement can be used by Group to register common shares, preferred shares, debt securities, warrants, share purchase contracts and share purchase units; by Holdings to register debt securities and by Everest Re Capital Trust III ("Capital Trust III") to register trust preferred securities.

On June 5, 2014, Holdings issued \$400,000 thousand of 30 year senior notes at 4.868%, which will mature on June 1, 2044. The proceeds from the issuance were used in part to pay off the \$250,000 thousand of 5.40% senior notes which matured on October 15, 2014.

On May 24, 2013, Holdings elected to redeem the \$329.9 million of 6.2% junior subordinated debt securities. As a result of the early redemption, the Company incurred pre-tax expense of \$7.3 million related to the immediate amortization of the remaining capitalized issuance costs on the trust preferred securities.

Financial Strength Ratings.

The following table shows the current financial strength ratings of the Company's operating subsidiaries as reported by A.M. Best, Standard & Poor's Financial Services, LLC ("Standard & Poor's") and Moody's Investors Services, Inc. ("Moody's"). These ratings are based upon factors of concern to policyholders and should not be considered an indication of the degree or lack of risk involved in a direct or indirect equity investment in an insurance or reinsurance company.

All of the below-mentioned ratings are continually monitored and revised, if necessary, by each of the rating agencies. The ratings presented in the following table were in effect as of February 8, 2016.

The Company believes that its ratings are important as they provide the Company's customers and its investors with an independent assessment of the Company's financial strength using a rating scale that provides for relative comparisons. Strong financial ratings are particularly important for reinsurance companies. Ceding companies must rely on their reinsurers to pay covered losses well into the future. As a result, a highly rated reinsurer is generally preferred.

| Operating Subsidiary: | A.M. Best | Standard & Poor's | Moody's |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Everest Re | A+ (Superior) | A+ (Strong) | A1 (upper-medium) |
| Everest National | A+ (Superior) | A+ (Strong) | Not Rated |
| Everest Indemnity | A+ (Superior) | A+ (Strong) | Not Rated |
| Everest Security | A+ (Superior) | Not Rated | Not Rated |
| Everest International Assurance | A+ (Superior) | A (Strong) | Not Rated |

A.M. Best states that the "A+" ("Superior") rating is assigned to those companies which, in its opinion, have a superior ability to meet their ongoing insurance policy and contract obligations based on A.M. Best's comprehensive quantitative and qualitative evaluation of a company's balance sheet strength, operating performance and business profile. A.M. Best affirmed these ratings on September 9, 2015. Standard & Poor's states that the "A+/"A" ratings are assigned to those insurance companies which, in its opinion, have strong financial security characteristics with respect to their ability to pay under its insurance policies and contracts in accordance with their terms. Standard & Poor's affirmed these ratings on June 16, 2015. Moody's states that an "A1" rating is assigned to companies that, in their opinion, offer upper-medium grade security and are subject to low credit risk. Moody's affirmed these ratings on December 21, 2015.

Subsidiaries other than Everest Re may not be rated by some or any rating agencies because such ratings are not considered essential by the individual subsidiary's customers or because of the limited nature of the subsidiary's operations.

Debt Ratings.

The following table shows the debt ratings by A.M. Best, Standard & Poor's and Moody's of the Holdings' senior notes due June 1, 2044 and long term notes due May 1, 2067 both of which are considered investment grade. Debt ratings are the rating agencies' current assessment of the credit worthiness of an obligor with respect to a specific obligation.

| | A.M. Best | Standard & Poor's | Moody's |
|--|-----------|-------------------|---------|
|--|-----------|-------------------|---------|

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Senior Notes | a- (Strong) | A- (Strong) | Baa1 (Medium Grade) |
| Long Term Notes | bbb(Adequate) | BBB(Adequate) | Baa2(Medium Grade) |

A debt rating of "a-" is assigned by A.M. Best where the issuer, in A.M. Best's opinion, has a strong ability to meet the terms of the obligation. A.M. Best assigns a debt rating in the "bbb" range where the issuer, in A.M. Best's opinion, has adequate ability to meet the terms of the obligation but notes that the issue is more susceptible to changes in economic or other conditions. Standard & Poor's assigns a debt rating in the "A" range to issuers that have strong capacity to meet its financial commitments but is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligors in higher-rated categories. A debt rating in the "BBB" range is assigned by Standard & Poor's where the obligation exhibits adequate protection parameters although adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment

5

on the obligation. According to Moody's, a debt rating of "Baa" is assigned to issues that are considered medium-grade obligations and subject to moderate credit risk and as such may possess certain speculative characteristics.

Competition.

The worldwide reinsurance and insurance businesses are highly competitive, as well as cyclical by product and market. As such, financial results tend to fluctuate with periods of constrained availability, high rates and strong profits followed by periods of abundant capacity, low rates and constrained profitability. Competition in the types of reinsurance and insurance business that we underwrite is based on many factors, including the perceived overall financial strength of the reinsurer or insurer, ratings of the reinsurer or insurer by A.M. Best and/or Standard & Poor's, underwriting expertise, the jurisdictions where the reinsurer or insurer is licensed or otherwise authorized, capacity and coverages offered, premiums charged, other terms and conditions of the reinsurance and insurance business offered, services offered, speed of claims payment and reputation and experience in lines written. Furthermore, the market impact from these competitive factors related to reinsurance and insurance is generally not consistent across lines of business, domestic and international geographical areas and distribution channels.

The Company competes in the U.S. and international reinsurance and insurance markets with numerous global competitors. Our competitors include independent reinsurance and insurance companies, subsidiaries or affiliates of established worldwide insurance companies, reinsurance departments of certain insurance companies, domestic and international underwriting operations, including underwriting syndicates at Lloyd's of London and certain government sponsored risk transfer vehicles. Some of these competitors have greater financial resources than we do and have established long term and continuing business relationships, which can be a significant competitive advantage. In addition, the lack of strong barriers to entry into the reinsurance business and recently, the securitization of reinsurance and insurance risks through capital markets provide additional sources of potential reinsurance and insurance capacity and competition.

Worldwide insurance and reinsurance market conditions continued to be very competitive, particularly in the property catastrophe and casualty reinsurance lines of business. Generally, there was ample insurance and reinsurance capacity relative to demand, as well as, additional capital from the capital markets through insurance linked financial instruments. These financial instruments such as side cars, catastrophe bonds and collateralized reinsurance funds, provide capital markets with access to insurance and reinsurance risk exposure. The capital markets demand for these products is being primarily driven by the current low interest environment and the desire to achieve greater risk diversification and potentially higher returns on their investments. This increased competition is generally having a negative impact on rates, terms and conditions; however, the impact varies widely by market and coverage.

Rates tend to fluctuate by specific region and products, particularly areas recently impacted by large catastrophic events. During the second and third quarters of 2013, Canada experienced historic flooding in Alberta and Toronto, which resulted in higher catastrophe rates in these areas during 2014. Although there have been other flooding and wind storm events and earthquakes in other parts of the world, the overall 2013, 2014 and 2015 catastrophe losses for the industry were considerably lower than average. This lower level of losses, combined with increased competition has resulted in downward pressure on insurance and reinsurance rates in certain geographical areas. These lower catastrophe historic losses are placing downward pressure on worldwide regional catastrophe markets.

During 2015, the company initiated a strategic build out of its insurance platform through the investment in key leadership hires which in turn has brought significant underwriting talent and stronger direction in achieving its insurance program strategic goals of increased premium volume and improved underwriting results. Recent growth is coming from highly diversified areas including newly launched lines of business, as well as, product and geographic expansion in existing lines of business. The Company is building a world-class insurance platform capable of offering products across lines and geographies, complementing its leading global reinsurance franchise.

Overall, the Company believes that given our size, strong ratings, distribution system, reputation, expertise and capital market vehicle activity the current marketplace conditions provide profit opportunities. We continue to employ our strategy of targeting business that offers the greatest profit potential, while maintaining balance and diversification in our overall portfolio.

Employees.

As of February 1, 2016, the Company employed 760 persons. Management believes that employee relations are good. None of the Company's employees are subject to collective bargaining agreements, and the Company is not aware of any current efforts to implement such agreements.

Available Information.

The Company's Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports are available free of charge through the Company's internet website at <http://www.everestgroup.com> as soon as reasonably practicable after such reports are electronically filed with the SEC.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information provided in this report, the following risk factors should be considered when evaluating us. If the circumstances contemplated by the individual risk factors materialize, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected and our ability to service our debt, our debt ratings and our ability to issue new debt could decline significantly.

RISKS RELATING TO OUR BUSINESS

Fluctuations in the financial markets could result in investment losses.

Prolonged and severe disruptions in the overall public debt and equity markets, such as occurred during 2008, could result in significant realized and unrealized losses in our investment portfolio. Although financial markets have significantly improved since 2008, they could deteriorate in the future. There could also be disruption in individual market sectors, such as is occurring in the energy sector. Such declines in the financial markets could result in significant realized and unrealized losses on investments and could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations, equity, business and insurer financial strength and debt ratings.

Our results could be adversely affected by catastrophic events.

We are exposed to unpredictable catastrophic events, including weather-related and other natural catastrophes, as well as acts of terrorism. Any material reduction in our operating results caused by the occurrence of one or more catastrophes could inhibit our ability to pay dividends or to meet our interest and principal payment obligations. By way of illustration, during the past five calendar years, pre-tax catastrophe losses, net of contract specific reinsurance but before cessions under corporate reinsurance programs, were as follows:

| Calendar year: (Dollars in millions) | Pre-tax catastrophe losses |
|---|----------------------------|
| 2015 | \$ 31.9 |
| 2014 | 18.2 |
| 2013 | 76.6 |
| 2012 | 235.8 |

2011

798.4

7

Our losses from future catastrophic events could exceed our projections.

We use projections of possible losses from future catastrophic events of varying types and magnitudes as a strategic underwriting tool. We use these loss projections to estimate our potential catastrophe losses in certain geographic areas and decide on the placement of retrocessional coverage or other actions to limit the extent of potential losses in a given geographic area. These loss projections are approximations, reliant on a mix of quantitative and qualitative processes, and actual losses may exceed the projections by a material amount, resulting in a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

If our loss reserves are inadequate to meet our actual losses, our net income would be reduced or we could incur a loss.

We are required to maintain reserves to cover our estimated ultimate liability of losses and loss adjustment expenses ("LAE") for both reported and unreported claims incurred. These reserves are only estimates of what we believe the settlement and administration of claims will cost based on facts and circumstances known to us. In setting reserves for our reinsurance liabilities, we rely on claim data supplied by our ceding companies and brokers and we employ actuarial and statistical projections. The information received from our ceding companies is not always timely or accurate, which can contribute to inaccuracies in our loss projections. Because of the uncertainties that surround our estimates of loss and LAE reserves, we cannot be certain that ultimate losses and LAE payments will not exceed our estimates. If our reserves are deficient, we would be required to increase loss reserves in the period in which such deficiencies are identified which would cause a charge to our earnings and a reduction of capital. By way of illustration, during the past five calendar years, the reserve re-estimation process resulted in an increase to our pre-tax net income in 2015 and a decrease to our pre-tax net income in 2011 through 2014.

| Calendar year: (Dollars in millions) | Effect on pre-tax net income | |
|---|------------------------------|----------|
| 2015 | \$ 6.5 | increase |
| 2014 | 39.2 | decrease |
| 2013 | 44.6 | decrease |
| 2012 | 12.3 | decrease |
| 2011 | 14.8 | decrease |

The difficulty in estimating our reserves is significantly more challenging as it relates to reserving for potential asbestos and environmental ("A&E") liabilities. At December 31, 2015, 5.5% of our gross reserves were comprised of A&E reserves. A&E liabilities are especially hard to estimate for many reasons, including the long delays between exposure and manifestation of any bodily injury or property damage, difficulty in identifying the source of the asbestos or environmental contamination, long reporting delays and difficulty in properly allocating liability for the asbestos or environmental damage. Legal tactics and judicial and legislative developments affecting the scope of insurers' liability, which can be difficult to predict, also contribute to uncertainties in estimating reserves for A&E liabilities.

The failure to accurately assess underwriting risk and establish adequate premium rates could reduce our net income or result in a net loss.

Our success depends on our ability to accurately assess the risks associated with the businesses on which the risk is retained. If we fail to accurately assess the risks we retain, we may fail to establish adequate premium rates to cover our losses and LAE. This could reduce our net income and even result in a net loss.

In addition, losses may arise from events or exposures that are not anticipated when the coverage is priced. In addition to unanticipated events, we also face the unanticipated expansion of our exposures, particularly in long-tail liability lines. An example of this is the expansion over time of the scope of insurers' legal liability within the mass tort arena, particularly for A&E exposures discussed above.

Decreases in pricing for property and casualty reinsurance and insurance could reduce our net income.

The worldwide reinsurance and insurance businesses are highly competitive, as well as cyclical by product and market. These cycles, as well as other factors that influence aggregate supply and demand for property and casualty insurance and reinsurance products, are outside of our control. The supply of (re)insurance is driven by prevailing prices and levels of capacity that may fluctuate in response to a number of factors including large catastrophic losses and investment returns being realized in the insurance industry. Demand for (re)insurance is influenced by underwriting results of insurers and insureds, including catastrophe losses, and prevailing general economic conditions. If any of these factors were to result in a decline in the demand for (re)insurance or an overall increase in (re)insurance capacity, our net income could decrease.

If rating agencies downgrade the ratings of our insurance subsidiaries, future prospects for growth and profitability could be significantly and adversely affected.

Our active insurance company subsidiaries currently hold financial strength ratings assigned by third-party rating agencies which assess and rate the claims paying ability and financial strength of insurers and reinsurers. Our active subsidiaries carry an "A+" ("Superior") rating from A.M. Best. Everest Re, Everest National and Everest Indemnity hold an "A+" ("Strong") rating from Standard & Poor's and Everest Assurance holds an "A" ("Strong") rating from this same agency. Everest Re holds an "A1" ("upper-medium") rating from Moody's. Financial strength ratings are used by client companies and agents and brokers that place the business as an important means of assessing the financial strength and quality of reinsurers. A downgrade or withdrawal of any of these ratings might adversely affect our ability to market our insurance products and could have a material and adverse effect on future prospects for growth and profitability.

Consistent with market practice, much of our treaty reinsurance business allows the ceding company to terminate the contract or seek collateralization of our obligations in the event of a rating downgrade below a certain threshold. The termination provision would generally be triggered if a rating fell below A.M. Best's A- rating level, which is three levels below Everest Re's current rating of A+. To a lesser extent, Everest Re also has modest exposure to reinsurance contracts that contain provisions for obligatory funding of outstanding liabilities in the event of a rating agency downgrade. Those provisions would also generally be triggered if Everest Re's rating fell below A.M. Best's A- rating level.

The failure of our insureds, intermediaries and reinsurers to satisfy their obligations to us could reduce our income.

In accordance with industry practice, we have uncollateralized receivables from insureds, agents and brokers and/or rely on agents and brokers to process our payments. We may not be able to collect amounts due from insureds, agents and brokers, resulting in a reduction to net income.

We are subject to credit risk of reinsurers in connection with retrocessional arrangements because the transfer of risk to a reinsurer does not relieve us of our liability to the insured. In addition, reinsurers may be unwilling to pay us even though they are able to do so. The failure of one or more of our reinsurers to honor their obligations to us in a timely fashion would impact our cash flow and reduce our net income and could cause us to incur a significant loss.

If we are unable or choose not to purchase reinsurance and transfer risk to the reinsurance markets, our net income could be reduced or we could incur a net loss in the event of unusual loss experience.

We are generally less reliant on the purchase of reinsurance than many of our competitors, in part because of our strategic emphasis on underwriting discipline and management of the cycles inherent in our business. We try to separate our risk taking process from our risk mitigation process in order to avoid developing too great a reliance on reinsurance. Historically, we generally purchased reinsurance from other third parties only when we expect a net benefit. With the expansion of the capital markets into insurance linked financial instruments, we increased our use of capital market products for catastrophe reinsurance starting in 2014. In addition, some of our quota share contracts with larger retrocessions were increased during 2014. The percentage of business that we reinsure may vary considerably from year to year, depending on our view of the relationship between cost and expected benefit for the contract period.

We have entered into affiliated whole account quota share reinsurance agreements for 2002 through 2015 and which continue for 2016 with Bermuda Re. We believe that the terms, conditions and pricing of the quota share agreements reflect arm's length market conditions. In addition, we entered into a loss portfolio transfer agreement with Bermuda Re on October 1, 2008. These affiliated reinsurance arrangements allow us to more effectively leverage our capital, expertise, distribution platform and market presence than our stand alone capital position would otherwise allow.

| Percentage of ceded written premiums to gross written premiums | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Unaffiliated | 8.2% | 9.3% | 5.0% | 6.3% | 5.0% |
| Affiliated | 49.9% | 48.2% | 47.3% | 46.3% | 45.8% |

Our affiliated quota share agreements reflect general reinsurance market terms and conditions and are negotiated on an arms' length basis. As a result, there can be no assurance that these arrangements will continue beyond 2015. If the quota shares are not renewed, we may have to reduce our premium volume and we may be more exposed to reductions in net income from large losses.

Our industry is highly competitive and we may not be able to compete successfully in the future.

Our industry is highly competitive and subject to pricing cycles that can be pronounced. We compete globally in the United States, international reinsurance and insurance markets with numerous competitors. Our competitors include independent reinsurance and insurance companies, subsidiaries or affiliates of established worldwide insurance companies, reinsurance departments of certain insurance companies and domestic and international underwriting operations, including underwriting syndicates at Lloyd's of London.

According to Standard & Poor's, we rank among the top ten global reinsurance groups, where more than two-thirds of the market share is concentrated. The worldwide net premium written by the Top 40 global reinsurance groups, for both life and non-life business, was estimated to be \$195 billion in 2014 according to data compiled by Standard & Poor's. The leaders in this market are Swiss Re, Munich Re, Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Hannover Rueckversicherung AG, SCOR SE and syndicates at Lloyd's of London. Some of these competitors have greater financial resources than we do and have established long term and continuing business relationships throughout the industry, which can be a significant competitive advantage. In addition, the lack of strong barriers to entry into the reinsurance business and the entry of alternative capital market products and vehicles provide additional sources of reinsurance and insurance capacity and increased competition.

We are dependent on our key personnel.

Our success has been, and will continue to be, dependent on our ability to retain the services of our existing key executive officers and to attract and retain additional qualified personnel in the future. The loss of the services of any key executive officer or the inability to hire and retain other highly qualified personnel in the future could adversely affect our ability to conduct business. Generally, we consider key executive officers to be those individuals who have the greatest influence in setting overall policy and controlling operations: Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Dominic J. Addresso (age 62), Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Craig Howie (age 52), Executive Vice President and Chief Underwriting Officer of our

10

operating subsidiaries, John P. Doucette (age 50) and Executive Vice President, General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer and Secretary, Sanjoy Mukherjee (age 49). Through Group and its affiliates, we have employment contracts with Mr. Addesso, Mr. Doucette and Mr. Mukherjee, which have been filed with the SEC and provide for terms of employment ending on December 31, 2018 for Mr. Addesso and September 1, 2016 for Mr. Doucette and Mr. Mukherjee.

Our investment values and investment income could decline because they are exposed to interest rate, credit and market risks.

A significant portion of our investment portfolio consists of fixed income securities and smaller portions consist of equity securities and other investments. Both the fair market value of our invested assets and associated investment income fluctuate depending on general economic and market conditions. For example, the fair market value of our predominant fixed income portfolio generally increases or decreases inversely to fluctuations in interest rates. The market value of our fixed income securities could also decrease as a result of a downturn in the business cycle that causes the credit quality of such securities to deteriorate. The net investment income that we realize from future investments in fixed income securities will generally increase or decrease with interest rates.

Interest rate fluctuations also can cause net investment income from fixed income investments that carry prepayment risk, such as mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities, to differ from the income anticipated from those securities at the time of purchase. In addition, if issuers of individual investments are unable to meet their obligations, investment income will be reduced and realized capital losses may arise.

The majority of our fixed income securities are classified as available for sale and temporary changes in the market value of these investments are reflected as changes to our stockholder's equity. Our actively managed equity security portfolios are fair valued and any changes in fair value are reflected as net realized capital gains or losses. As a result, a decline in the value of our securities reduces our capital or could cause us to incur a loss.

We have invested a portion of our investment portfolio in equity securities. The value of these assets fluctuates with changes in the markets. In times of economic weakness, the fair value of these assets may decline, and may negatively impact net income. We also invest in non-traditional investments which have different risk characteristics than traditional fixed income and equity securities. These alternative investments are comprised primarily of private equity limited partnerships. The changes in value and investment income/(loss) for these partnerships may be more volatile than over-the-counter securities.

The following table quantifies the portion of our investment portfolio that consists of fixed income securities, equity securities and investments that carry prepayment risk.

| (Dollars in millions) | At | | |
|--|-------------------|------------|---|
| | December 31, 2015 | % of Total | |
| Mortgage-backed securities | | | |
| Commercial | \$ 62.4 | 0.7 | % |
| Agency residential | 712.3 | 7.5 | % |
| Non-agency residential | 0.2 | 0.0 | % |
| Other asset-backed | 145.0 | 1.5 | % |
| Total asset-backed | 919.9 | 9.7 | % |
| Other fixed income | 4,436.6 | 46.6 | % |
| Total fixed income, at market value | 5,356.5 | 56.3 | % |
| Fixed maturities, at fair value | 2.1 | 0.0 | % |
| Equity securities, at fair value | 1,215.4 | 12.8 | % |
| Other invested assets, at market value | 450.2 | 4.7 | % |

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-------|---|
| Other invested assets, at fair value | 1,773.2 | 18.6 | % |
| Cash and short-term investments | 718.9 | 7.6 | % |
| Total investments and cash | \$ 9,516.3 | 100.0 | % |

11

We may experience foreign currency exchange losses that reduce our net income and capital levels.

Through our international operations, we conduct business in a variety of foreign (non-U.S.) currencies, principally the Canadian dollar and the Singapore dollar. Assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses denominated in foreign currencies are exposed to changes in currency exchange rates. Our reporting currency is the U.S. dollar, and exchange rate fluctuations, especially relative to the U.S. dollar, may materially impact our results and financial position. In 2015, we wrote approximately 19.7% of our coverages in non-U.S. currencies; as of December 31, 2015, we maintained approximately 9.7% of our investment portfolio in investments denominated in non-U.S. currencies. During 2015, 2014 and 2013, the impact on our quarterly pre-tax net income from exchange rate fluctuations ranged from a loss of \$11.5 million to a gain of \$16.7 million.

We are subject to cybersecurity risks that could negatively impact our business operations.

We are dependent upon our information technology platform, including our processing systems, data and electronic transmissions in our business operations. Security breaches could expose us to the loss or misuse of our information, litigation and potential liability. In addition, cyber incidents that impact the availability, reliability, speed, accuracy or other proper functioning of these systems could have a significant negative impact on our operations and possibly our results. An incident could also result in a violation of applicable privacy and other laws, damage our reputation, cause a loss of customers or give rise to monetary fines and other penalties, which could be significant. Management is not aware of a cybersecurity incident that has had a material impact on our operations.

RISKS RELATING TO REGULATION

Insurance laws and regulations restrict our ability to operate and any failure to comply with those laws and regulations could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We are subject to extensive and increasing regulation under U.S., state and foreign insurance laws. These laws limit the amount of dividends that can be paid to us by our operating subsidiaries, impose restrictions on the amount and type of investments that we can hold, prescribe solvency, accounting and internal control standards that must be met and maintained and require us to maintain reserves. These laws also require disclosure of material inter-affiliate transactions and require prior approval of "extraordinary" transactions. Such "extraordinary" transactions include declaring dividends from operating subsidiaries that exceed statutory thresholds. These laws also generally require approval of changes of control of insurance companies. The application of these laws could affect our liquidity and ability to pay dividends, interest and other payments on securities, as applicable, and could restrict our ability to expand our business operations through acquisitions of new insurance subsidiaries. We may not have or maintain all required licenses and approvals or fully comply with the wide variety of applicable laws and regulations or the relevant authority's interpretation of the laws and regulations. If we do not have the requisite licenses and approvals or do not comply with applicable regulatory requirements, the insurance regulatory authorities could preclude or temporarily suspend us from carrying on some or all of our activities or monetarily penalize us. These types of actions could have a material adverse effect on our business. To date, no material fine, penalty or restriction has been imposed on us for failure to comply with any insurance law or regulation.

As a result of the previous dislocation of the financial markets, Congress and the Presidential administration in the United States are implementing changes in the way the financial services industry is regulated. Some of these changes are also impacting the insurance industry. For example, the United States Department of Treasury has recently established the Federal Insurance Office with the authority to monitor all aspects of the insurance sector, monitor the extent to which traditionally underserved communities and consumers have access to affordable non-health insurance products, to represent the United States on prudential aspects of international insurance matters, to assist with administration of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program and to advise on important national and international

insurance matters. In addition, regulatory bodies in Europe are developing a new capital adequacy directive for insurers and reinsurers. The future impact of such initiatives, if any, on our operation, net income (loss) or financial condition cannot be determined at this time.

RISK RELATING TO OUR SECURITIES

Because of our holding company structure, our ability to pay dividends, interest and principal is dependent on our receipt of dividends, loan payments and other funds from our subsidiaries.

We are a holding company, whose most significant asset consists of the stock of our operating subsidiaries. As a result, our ability to pay dividends, interest or other payments on our securities in the future will depend on the earnings and cash flows of the operating subsidiaries and the ability of the subsidiaries to pay dividends or to advance or repay funds to us. This ability is subject to general economic, financial, competitive, regulatory and other factors beyond our control. Payment of dividends and advances and repayments from some of the operating subsidiaries are regulated by U.S., state and foreign insurance laws and regulatory restrictions, including minimum solvency and liquidity thresholds. Accordingly, the operating subsidiaries may not be able to pay dividends or advance or repay funds to us in the future, which could prevent us from paying dividends, interest or other payments on our securities.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

Everest Re's corporate offices are located in approximately 230,500 square feet of leased office space in Liberty Corner, New Jersey. The Company's other seventeen locations occupy a total of approximately 161,664 square feet, all of which are leased. Management believes that the above described office space is adequate for its current and anticipated needs.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

In the ordinary course of business, the Company is involved in lawsuits, arbitrations and other formal and informal dispute resolution procedures, the outcomes of which will determine the Company's rights and obligations under insurance and reinsurance agreements. In some disputes, the Company seeks to enforce its rights under an agreement or to collect funds owing to it. In other matters, the Company is resisting attempts by others to collect funds or enforce alleged rights. These disputes arise from time to time and are ultimately resolved through both informal and formal means, including negotiated resolution, arbitration and litigation. In all such matters, the Company believes that its positions are legally and commercially reasonable. The Company considers the statuses of these proceedings when determining its reserves for unpaid loss and loss adjustment expenses.

Aside from litigation and arbitrations related to these insurance and reinsurance agreements, the Company is not a party to any other material litigation or arbitration.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

PART II

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

Market Information and Holder of Common Stock.

As of December 31, 2015, all of the Company's common stock was owned by Holdings Ireland and was not publicly traded.

Dividend History and Restrictions.

The Company did not pay any dividends in 2015, 2014 and 2013. The declaration and payment of future dividends, if any, by the Company will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors and will depend upon many factors, including the Company's earnings, financial condition, business needs and growth objectives, capital and surplus requirements of its operating subsidiaries, regulatory restrictions, rating agency considerations and other factors. As an insurance holding company, the Company is dependent on dividends and other permitted payments from its subsidiaries to pay cash dividends to its stockholder. The payment of dividends to Holdings by Everest Re is subject to limitations imposed by Delaware law. Generally, Everest Re may only pay dividends out of its statutory earned surplus, which was \$3.2 billion at December 31, 2015, and only after it has given 10 days prior notice to the Delaware Insurance Commissioner. During this 10-day period, the Commissioner may, by order, limit or disallow the payment of ordinary dividends if the Commissioner finds the insurer to be presently or potentially in financial distress. Further, the maximum amount of dividends that may be paid without the prior approval of the Delaware Insurance Commissioner in any twelve month period is the greater of (1) 10% of an insurer's statutory surplus as of the end of the prior calendar year or (2) the insurer's statutory net income, not including realized capital gains, for the prior calendar year. The maximum amount that is available for the payment of dividends by Everest Re in 2016 without prior regulatory approval is \$498.5 million.

Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities.

None.

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

Information for Item 6 is not required pursuant to General Instruction I(2) of Form 10-K.

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

The following is a discussion and analysis of our results of operations and financial condition. It should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and accompanying notes thereto presented under ITEM 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data".

Industry Conditions.

The worldwide reinsurance and insurance businesses are highly competitive, as well as cyclical by product and market. As such, financial results tend to fluctuate with periods of constrained availability, high rates and strong profits followed by periods of abundant capacity, low rates and constrained profitability. Competition in the types of reinsurance and insurance business that we underwrite is based on many factors, including the perceived overall financial strength of the reinsurer or insurer, ratings of the reinsurer or insurer by A.M. Best and/or Standard & Poor's, underwriting expertise, the jurisdictions where the reinsurer or insurer is licensed or otherwise authorized, capacity

and coverages offered, premiums charged, other terms and conditions of the reinsurance and insurance business offered, services offered, speed of claims payment and reputation and experience in lines written. Furthermore, the market impact from these competitive factors related to reinsurance and insurance is generally not consistent across lines of business, domestic and international geographical areas and distribution channels.

14

We compete in the U.S. and international reinsurance and insurance markets with numerous global competitors. Our competitors include independent reinsurance and insurance companies, subsidiaries or affiliates of established worldwide insurance companies, reinsurance departments of certain insurance companies, domestic and international underwriting operations, including underwriting syndicates at Lloyd's of London and certain government sponsored risk transfer vehicles. Some of these competitors have greater financial resources than we do and have established long term and continuing business relationships, which can be a significant competitive advantage. In addition, the lack of strong barriers to entry into the reinsurance business and recently, the securitization of reinsurance and insurance risks through capital markets provide additional sources of potential reinsurance and insurance capacity and competition.

Worldwide insurance and reinsurance market conditions continued to be very competitive, particularly in the property catastrophe and casualty reinsurance lines of business. Generally, there was ample insurance and reinsurance capacity relative to demand, as well as, additional capital from the capital markets through insurance linked financial instruments. These financial instruments such as side cars, catastrophe bonds and collateralized reinsurance funds, provide capital markets with access to insurance and reinsurance risk exposure. The capital markets demand for these products is being primarily driven by the current low interest environment and the desire to achieve greater risk diversification and potentially higher returns on their investments. This increased competition is generally having a negative impact on rates, terms and conditions; however, the impact varies widely by market and coverage.

Rates tend to fluctuate by specific region and products, particularly areas recently impacted by large catastrophic events. During the second and third quarters of 2013, Canada experienced historic flooding in Alberta and Toronto, which resulted in higher catastrophe rates in these areas during 2014. Although there have been other flooding and wind storm events and earthquakes in other parts of the world, the overall 2013, 2014 and 2015 catastrophe losses for the industry were considerably lower than average. This lower level of losses, combined with increased competition has resulted in downward pressure on insurance and reinsurance rates in certain geographical areas. These lower catastrophe historic losses are placing downward pressure on worldwide regional catastrophe markets.

During 2015, we initiated a strategic build out of our insurance platform through the investment in key leadership hires which in turn has brought significant underwriting talent and stronger direction in achieving our insurance program strategic goals of increased volume and improved underwriting results. Recent growth is coming from highly diversified areas including newly launched lines of business, as well as, product and geographic expansion in existing lines of business. We are building a world-class insurance platform capable of offering products across lines and geographies, complementing our leading global reinsurance franchise.

Overall, we believe that given our size, strong ratings, distribution system, reputation, expertise and capital market vehicle activity the current marketplace conditions provide profit opportunities. We continue to employ our strategy of targeting business that offers the greatest profit potential, while maintaining balance and diversification in our overall portfolio.

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

Financial Summary.

We monitor and evaluate our overall performance based upon financial results. The following table displays a summary of the consolidated net income (loss), ratios and stockholder's equity for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in millions) | Years Ended December 31, | | | Percentage Increase/(Decrease) | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2015/2014 | 2014/2013 | | |
| Gross written premiums | \$4,995.6 | \$4,965.3 | \$4,437.5 | 0.6 | % | 11.9 | % |
| Net written premiums | 2,093.3 | 2,107.0 | 2,117.4 | -0.6 | % | -0.5 | % |
| REVENUES: | | | | | | | |
| Premiums earned | \$2,143.8 | \$2,113.7 | \$2,006.4 | 1.4 | % | 5.4 | % |
| Net investment income | 273.3 | 290.3 | 297.0 | -5.9 | % | -2.3 | % |
| Net realized capital gains (losses) | 50.3 | 206.7 | 723.1 | -75.6 | % | -71.4 | % |
| Other income (expense) | 29.3 | (22.3) | (7.7) | -231.3 | % | 188.8 | % |
| Total revenues | 2,496.6 | 2,588.4 | 3,018.8 | -3.5 | % | -14.3 | % |
| CLAIMS AND EXPENSES: | | | | | | | |
| Incurred losses and loss adjustment expenses | 1,319.6 | 1,354.1 | 1,272.2 | -2.6 | % | 6.4 | % |
| Commission, brokerage, taxes and fees | 315.1 | 339.4 | 293.9 | -7.2 | % | 15.5 | % |
| Other underwriting expenses | 214.8 | 192.0 | 193.5 | 11.9 | % | -0.8 | % |
| Corporate expense | 7.2 | 7.3 | 8.3 | -1.0 | % | -12.2 | % |
| Interest, fee and bond issue cost amortization expense | 35.4 | 38.0 | 45.5 | -6.7 | % | -16.5 | % |
| Total claims and expenses | 1,892.1 | 1,930.7 | 1,813.3 | -2.0 | % | 6.5 | % |
| INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE TAXES | 604.5 | 657.7 | 1,205.5 | -8.1 | % | -45.4 | % |
| Income tax expense (benefit) | 191.9 | 203.6 | 407.2 | -5.7 | % | -50.0 | % |
| NET INCOME (LOSS) | \$412.7 | \$454.1 | \$798.3 | -9.1 | % | -43.1 | % |
| RATIOS: | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Point Change | | | |
| Loss ratio | 61.6 | % 64.1 | % 63.4 | % (2.5 |) | 0.7 | |
| Commission and brokerage ratio | 14.7 | % 16.1 | % 14.6 | % (1.4 |) | 1.5 | |
| Other underwriting expense ratio | 10.0 | % 9.0 | % 9.7 | % 1.0 | | (0.7 |) |
| Combined ratio | 86.3 | % 89.2 | % 87.7 | % (2.9 |) | 1.5 | |

| (Dollars in millions) | At December 31, | | | Percentage Increase/(Decrease) | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|------|---|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2015/2014 | 2014/2013 | | |
| Balance sheet data: | | | | | | | |
| Total investments and cash | \$9,516.3 | \$9,572.6 | \$9,495.1 | -0.6 | % | 0.8 | % |
| Total assets | 16,700.6 | 16,322.3 | 15,521.0 | 2.3 | % | 5.2 | % |
| Loss and loss adjustment expense reserves | 7,940.7 | 7,843.9 | 7,653.2 | 1.2 | % | 2.5 | % |
| Total debt | 638.4 | 638.4 | 488.3 | 0.0 | % | 30.7 | % |
| Total liabilities | 11,769.4 | 11,749.6 | 11,330.5 | 0.2 | % | 3.7 | % |
| Stockholder's equity | 4,931.2 | 4,572.7 | 4,190.5 | 7.8 | % | 9.1 | % |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding)

Revenues.

Premiums. Gross written premiums increased by 0.6% to \$4,995.6 million in 2015, compared to \$4,965.3 million in 2014, reflecting a \$293.4 million, or 24.9%, increase in our insurance business, partially offset by a \$263.0 million, or 6.9%, decrease in our reinsurance business. The rise in insurance premiums was primarily due to increases in most lines of business, as we have focused on expanding the insurance operations. The decline in reinsurance premiums were due mainly to decreases in treaty casualty business, reductions in quota share agreements and a negative impact of approximately \$91.9 million from the year over year movement in foreign exchange rates. Net written premiums decreased by 0.6% to \$2,093.3 million in 2015 compared to \$2,107.0 million in 2014. The difference between the change in gross written premiums compared to the change in net written premiums is primarily due to varying utilization of reinsurance mainly related to quota share contracts. Premiums earned increased by 1.4% to \$2,143.8

16

million in 2015, compared to \$2,113.7 million in 2014. The change in premiums earned relative to net written premiums is the result of timing; premiums are earned ratably over the coverage period whereas written premiums are recorded at the initiation of the coverage period.

Gross written premiums increased by 11.9% to \$4,965.3 million in 2014, compared to \$4,437.5 million in 2013, reflecting a \$588.3 million, or 18.4%, increase in our reinsurance business, partially offset by a \$60.4 million, or 4.9%, decrease in our insurance business. The increase in reinsurance premiums was mainly due to new business: quota share contracts and contracts with catastrophe exposed risks, partially offset by a negative impact of approximately \$50.0 million from the movement in foreign exchange rates. The decrease in insurance premiums was primarily due to lower crop premiums, partially offset by an increase in non-standard auto business. Net written premiums decreased by 0.5% to \$2,107.0 million in 2014 compared to \$2,117.4 million in 2013. The variances of the changes in gross written premiums compared to the changes in net written premiums is primarily due to a higher utilization of reinsurance related to the new quota share contracts. Premiums earned increased by 5.4% to \$2,113.7 million in 2014, compared to \$2,006.4 million in 2013. The change in premiums earned relative to net written premiums is the result of timing; premiums are earned ratably over the coverage period whereas written premiums are recorded at the initiation of the coverage period.

Net Investment Income. Net investment income decreased by 5.9% to \$273.3 million in 2015, compared with net investment income of \$290.3 million in 2014. Net pre-tax investment income, as a percentage of average invested assets, was 3.1% in 2015 compared to 3.5% in 2014. The decline in income and yield was primarily the result of lower income on fixed income securities and a decrease in our limited partnership income.

Net investment income decreased by 2.3% to \$290.3 million in 2014, compared with net investment income of \$297.0 million in 2013. Net pre-tax investment income, as a percentage of average invested assets, was 3.5% in 2014 compared to 3.6% in 2013. The decline in income and yield in 2014 compared to 2013 was primarily the result of a decrease in our limited partnership income and lower reinvestment rates for the fixed income portfolios, partially offset by an increase in dividends from shares held of the parent.

Net Realized Capital Gains (Losses). Net realized capital gains were \$50.3 million, \$206.7 million and \$723.1 million in 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The \$50.3 million was comprised of a \$94.7 million gain on the sale of a subsidiary and \$44.1 million of net gains from sales on our fixed maturity and equity securities, partially offset by \$78.8 million of other-than-temporary impairments and \$9.6 million of losses from fair value re-measurements on equity securities and other invested assets. Comprising the \$206.7 million, there were \$251.8 million of gains from fair value re-measurements on fixed maturity, equity securities and other invested assets, partially offset by \$38.9 million of other-than-temporary impairments and \$6.2 million of losses from sales on our fixed maturity and equity securities. The net realized capital gains of \$723.1 million in 2013 were the result of \$687.6 million of gains from fair value re-measurements and \$35.6 million of net realized capital gains from sales on our fixed maturity and equity securities.

Other Income (Expense). We recorded other income of \$29.3 million in 2015 and other expense of \$22.3 million and \$7.7 million in 2014 and 2013, respectively. The changes were primarily the result of fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates for the corresponding periods.

Claims and Expenses.

Incurred Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses. The following table presents our incurred losses and loss adjustment expenses ("LAE") for the periods indicated.

| (Dollars in millions) | Years Ended December 31, | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | Current Year | Ratio %/ Pt Change | Prior Years | Ratio %/ Pt Change | Total Incurred | Ratio %/ Pt Change |
| <u>2015</u> | | | | | | |
| Attritional (a) | \$ 1,282.9 | 59.8% | \$4.7 | 0.3 % | \$1,287.6 | 60.1% |
| Catastrophes | 43.1 | 2.0 % | (11.2) | -0.5 % | 31.9 | 1.5 % |
| Total | \$ 1,326.0 | 61.8% | \$(6.5) | -0.2 % | \$1,319.6 | 61.6% |
| <u>2014</u> | | | | | | |
| Attritional (a) | \$ 1,273.1 | 60.3% | \$62.8 | 2.9 % | \$1,335.9 | 63.2% |
| Catastrophes | 41.8 | 2.0 % | (23.6) | -1.1 % | 18.2 | 0.9 % |
| Total | \$ 1,314.9 | 62.3% | \$39.2 | 1.8 % | \$1,354.1 | 64.1% |
| <u>2013</u> | | | | | | |
| Attritional (a) | \$ 1,167.6 | 58.2% | \$27.9 | 1.4 % | \$1,195.5 | 59.6% |
| Catastrophes | 59.9 | 3.0 % | 16.7 | 0.8 % | 76.6 | 3.8 % |
| Total | \$ 1,227.5 | 61.2% | \$44.6 | 2.2 % | \$1,272.2 | 63.4% |
| <u>Variance 2015/2014</u> | | | | | | |
| Attritional (a) | \$ 9.8 | (0.5) pts | \$(58.1) | (2.6) pts | \$(48.3) | (3.1) pts |
| Catastrophes | 1.3 | - pts | 12.4 | 0.6 pts | 13.7 | 0.6 pts |
| Total | \$ 11.1 | (0.5) pts | \$(45.7) | (2.0) pts | \$(34.5) | (2.5) pts |
| <u>Variance 2014/2013</u> | | | | | | |
| Attritional (a) | \$ 105.5 | 2.1 pts | \$34.9 | 1.5 pts | \$140.4 | 3.6 pts |
| Catastrophes | (18.1) | (1.0) pts | (40.3) | (1.9) pts | (58.4) | (2.9) pts |
| Total | \$ 87.4 | 1.1 pts | \$(5.4) | (0.4) pts | \$81.9 | 0.7 pts |

(a) Attritional losses exclude catastrophe losses.
(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding.)

Incurred losses and LAE decreased by 2.6% to \$1,319.6 million in 2015 compared to \$1,354.1 million in 2014, primarily due to a decrease in prior years attritional losses of \$58.1 million. The \$4.7 million of prior years losses was comprised of \$79.8 million of losses from the insurance segment, partially offset by \$75.1 million of favorable development from the reinsurance segments. This \$79.8 million of loss development in the insurance segment largely related to umbrella business and construction liability on run-off programs non-renewed by the Company several years ago. The \$75.1 million of favorable development related primarily to casualty and property treaty business and was net of \$30.9 million of development in asbestos reserves. Current year catastrophe losses were \$43.1 million in 2015 and related to the 2015 Chilean earthquake (\$17.4 million), Northern Chile storms (\$9.6 million), the 2015 US Storms (\$8.1 million) and the New South Wales storms (\$8.0 million). The \$41.8 million of current year catastrophe losses for the year ended December 31, 2014 represented 2.0 points and related to the Japan snowstorm (\$13.9 million), the 2014 Chilean earthquake (\$10.4 million), Hurricane Odile (\$10.1 million) and the Brisbane hailstorm (\$7.5 million). The \$11.2 million of favorable development in prior years catastrophes related primarily to Typhoon Fitow.

Incurring losses and LAE increased by 6.4% to \$1,354.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to \$1,272.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2013, primarily due to increases in current year and prior years attritional losses, partially offset by a reduction in current year and prior years catastrophe losses. The increase in current year attritional losses of \$105.5 million is primarily due to the impact of the increase in premiums earned. The \$62.8 million of unfavorable prior years development for 2014 is a combination of \$87.4 million of development on A&E reserves and \$11.3 million of development on insurance reserves, primarily related to construction liability and umbrella business, partially offset by \$35.9 million of favorable development in the reinsurance segments, related primarily to treaty casualty and treaty property reserves. The \$59.9 million of current year catastrophe losses for the year ended December 31, 2013 related to U.S. storms (\$22.4 million), Canadian floods (\$20.4 million), Typhoon Fitow (\$14.6 million) and European floods (\$2.5 million).

18

Commission, Brokerage, Taxes and Fees. Commission, brokerage, taxes and fees decreased by 7.2% to \$315.1 million in 2015 compared to \$339.4 million in 2014. These changes were primarily due to the impact of changes in the mix of business and the impact of affiliated quota shares.

Commission, brokerage, taxes and fees increased by 15.5% to \$339.4 million in 2014 compared to \$293.9 million in 2013. These changes were primarily due to the impact of the increase in premiums earned, higher contingent commissions and changes in the mix of business.

Other Underwriting Expenses. Other underwriting expenses were \$214.8 million, \$192.0 million and \$193.5 million in 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The increase for 2015 compared with 2014 was due to the impact of higher premium earned and higher compensation expenses. Other underwriting expense was essentially flat for 2014 compared to 2013.

Corporate Expenses. Corporate expenses, which are general operating expenses that are not allocated to segments, were \$7.2 million, \$7.3 million and \$8.3 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

Interest, Fees and Bond Issue Cost Amortization Expense. Interest, fees and other bond amortization expense was \$35.4 million, \$38.0 million and \$45.5 million in 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The decreases were primarily due to the redemption of \$329.9 million of trust preferred securities in May, 2013 and the maturity of \$250.0 million of senior notes on October 15, 2014, partially offset by the impact of the issuance of \$400.0 million of senior notes in June, 2014.

Income Tax Expense (Benefit). Income tax expenses were \$191.9 million, \$203.6 million and \$407.2 million in 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. Income tax expense is primarily a function of the geographic location of the Company's pre-tax income and the statutory tax rates in those jurisdictions, as affected by tax-exempt investment income. Variations in the income tax expense generally result from changes in the relative levels of pre-tax income, including the impact of catastrophe losses and net capital gains (losses), among jurisdictions with different tax rates. The decrease in income tax expense for 2015 compared to 2014 was due to lower realized capital gains in the U.S. The decrease in income tax expense for 2014 compared to 2013 is primarily due to lower net realized capital gains in the U.S. and the realization of additional foreign tax credits.

Net Income (Loss).

Our net income was \$412.7 million, \$454.1 million and \$798.3 million in 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The changes were primarily driven by the financial component fluctuations explained above.

Ratios.

Our combined ratio decreased by 2.9 points to 86.3% in 2015 compared to 89.2% in 2014. The loss ratio component decreased 2.5 points in 2015 over the same period last year, primarily due to the decrease in prior years attritional losses. The commission and brokerage ratio components decreased 1.4 points in 2015 over the same period last year primarily due to changes in the mix of business and the impact of the affiliated quota shares. The other underwriting expense ratio components increased 1.0 points in 2015 over the same period last year due to the additional expenses related to the increased focus on the expansion of the insurance business.

Our combined ratio increased by 1.5 points to 89.2% in 2014 compared to 87.7% in 2013. The loss ratio component increased 0.7 points in 2014 over the same period last year, primarily due to increased current year attritional losses. The commission and brokerage ratio components increased 1.5 points in 2014 over the same period last year primarily due to higher contingent commissions and changes in the mix of business. The other underwriting expense ratio components decreased 0.7 points in 2014 over the same period last year.

Stockholder's Equity.

Stockholders' equity increased by \$358.5 million to \$4,931.2 million at December 31, 2015 from \$4,572.7 million at December 31, 2014, principally as a result of \$412.7 million of net income, \$12.5 million of share-based compensation transactions and \$11.9 million of net benefit plan obligation adjustments, partially offset by \$54.6 million of net foreign currency translation adjustments and \$24.0 million of net unrealized depreciation on investments, net of tax.

Stockholders' equity increased by \$382.2 million to \$4,572.7 million at December 31, 2014 from \$4,190.5 million at December 31, 2013, principally as a result of \$454.1 million of net income and \$11.2 million of share-based compensation transactions, partially offset by \$36.1 million of net benefit plan obligation adjustments, \$29.2 million of net foreign currency translation adjustments and \$17.8 million of net unrealized depreciation on investments, net of tax.

Consolidated Investment Results**Net Investment Income.**

Net investment income decreased by 5.9 % to \$273.3 million in 2015 compared to \$290.3 million 2014. These decreases were primarily due to a decrease in income on the fixed income portfolio and income from our limited partnership investments, partially offset by an increase in dividends from Parent's shares and interest income received from the Parent on the affiliated note receivable.

Net investment income decreased 2.3% to \$290.3 million in 2014 compared to \$297.0 million in 2013 primarily due to a decline in income from our limited partnership investments and a decline in income from our fixed maturities, reflective of lower reinvestment rates, partially offset by an increase in dividends from parent's shares.

The following table shows the components of net investment income for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in millions) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Fixed maturities | \$ 188.3 | \$ 207.9 | \$ 210.4 |
| Equity securities | 34.4 | 34.1 | 36.3 |
| Short-term investments and cash | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| Other invested assets | | | |
| Limited partnerships | 19.6 | 29.7 | 36.7 |
| Dividends from Parent's shares | 38.9 | 31.1 | 21.3 |
| Other | 1.8 | 3.6 | 7.3 |
| Gross investment income before adjustments | 284.0 | 307.5 | 313.1 |
| Funds held interest income (expense) | 5.6 | 5.4 | 6.9 |
| Interest income from Parent | 4.3 | - | - |
| Gross investment income | 293.9 | 313.0 | 320.1 |
| Investment expenses | (20.6) | (22.7) | (23.1) |
| Net investment income | \$ 273.3 | \$ 290.3 | \$ 297.0 |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding.)

The following table shows a comparison of various investment yields for the periods indicated:

| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|---|------|------|------|
| Imbedded pre-tax yield of cash and invested assets at December 31 | 2.9% | 3.1% | 3.3% |
| Imbedded after-tax yield of cash and invested assets at December 31 | 2.1% | 2.2% | 2.4% |
| Annualized pre-tax yield on average cash and invested assets | 3.1% | 3.5% | 3.6% |
| Annualized after-tax yield on average cash and invested assets | 2.2% | 2.5% | 2.6% |

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

Net Realized Capital Gains (Losses).

The following table presents the composition of our net realized capital gains (losses) for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in millions) | Years Ended December 31, | | | 2015/2014 | 2014/2013 |
|--|--------------------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | Variance | Variance |
| <u>Gains (losses) from sales:</u> | | | | | |
| Fixed maturity securities, market value | | | | | |
| Gains | \$ 10.9 | \$ 13.5 | \$ 14.4 | \$(2.6) | \$(0.9) |
| Losses | (47.2) | (16.2) | (10.7) | (31.0) | (5.5) |
| Total | (36.3) | (2.7) | 3.8 | (33.6) | (6.5) |
| Fixed maturity securities, fair value | | | | | |
| Gains | - | 1.3 | 0.5 | (1.3) | 0.8 |
| Losses | - | (4.4) | (0.3) | 4.4 | (4.1) |
| Total | - | (3.1) | 0.2 | 3.1 | (3.3) |
| Equity securities, fair value | | | | | |
| Gains | 26.1 | 17.9 | 40.5 | 8.2 | (22.6) |
| Losses | (34.1) | (18.3) | (8.9) | (15.8) | (9.4) |
| Total | (8.0) | (0.4) | 31.6 | (7.6) | (32.0) |
| Other invested assets, fair value | | | | | |
| Gains on exchange | 88.4 | - | - | 88.4 | - |
| Losses | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 88.4 | - | - | 88.4 | - |
| Total net realized gains (losses) from sales | | | | | |
| Gains | 125.4 | 32.7 | 55.4 | 92.7 | (22.7) |
| Losses | (81.3) | (38.9) | (19.8) | (42.4) | (19.1) |
| Total | 44.1 | (6.2) | 35.6 | 50.3 | (41.8) |
| <u>Other than temporary impairments:</u> | | | | | |
| | (78.8) | (38.9) | - | (39.9) | (38.9) |
| <u>Gain on sale of subsidiary:</u> | | | | | |
| | 94.7 | - | - | 94.7 | - |
| <u>Gains (losses) from fair value adjustments:</u> | | | | | |
| Fixed maturities, fair value | - | (1.5) | 0.3 | 1.5 | (1.8) |
| Equity securities, fair value | (39.1) | 113.1 | 240.9 | (152.2) | (127.8) |
| Other invested assets, fair value | 29.5 | 140.3 | 446.3 | (110.8) | (306.0) |
| Total | (9.6) | 251.8 | 687.6 | (261.4) | (435.8) |
| Total net realized gains (losses) | \$ 50.3 | \$ 206.7 | \$ 723.1 | \$(156.4) | \$(516.5) |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding)

Net realized capital gains were \$50.3 million, \$206.7 million and \$723.1 million in 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. In 2015, we recorded a \$94.7 million gain on the sale of a subsidiary and \$44.1 million of net realized capital gains from sales of fixed maturity and equity securities, partially offset by \$78.8 million of

other-than-temporary impairments and \$9.6 million of net realized capital losses due to fair value re-measurements on equity securities and other invested assets. The fixed maturity and equity sales in 2015 related primarily to adjusting the portfolios for overall market changes and individual credit shifts. In 2014, we recorded \$251.8 million of net realized capital gains due to fair value re-measurements on fixed maturity, equity securities and other invested assets, partially offset by \$38.9 million of other-than-temporary impairments and \$6.2 million of net realized capital losses from sales of fixed maturity and equity securities. In 2013, we recorded \$687.6 million of gains due to fair value re-measurements on fixed maturity, equity securities and other invested assets and \$35.6 million of net realized capital gains from sales of fixed maturity and equity securities. The fixed maturity and equity sales in 2013 related primarily to adjusting the portfolios for overall market changes and individual credit shifts.

Segment Results.

The U.S. Reinsurance operation writes property and casualty reinsurance and specialty lines of business, including Marine, Aviation, Surety and A&H business, on both a treaty and facultative basis, through reinsurance brokers, as well as directly with ceding companies primarily within the U.S. The International operation writes non-U.S. property and casualty reinsurance through Everest Re's branches in Canada, Singapore and through offices in Brazil, Miami and New Jersey. The Insurance operation writes property and casualty insurance directly and through general agents, brokers and surplus lines brokers mainly within the U.S.

These segments are managed independently, but conform with corporate guidelines with respect to pricing, risk management, control of aggregate catastrophe exposures, capital, investments and support operations. Management generally monitors and evaluates the financial performance of these operating segments based upon their underwriting results.

Underwriting results include earned premium less losses and LAE incurred, commission and brokerage expenses and other underwriting expenses. We measure our underwriting results using ratios, in particular loss, commission and brokerage and other underwriting expense ratios, which respectively, divide incurred losses, commissions and brokerage and other underwriting expenses by premiums earned.

Our loss and LAE reserves are management's best estimate of our ultimate liability for unpaid claims. We re-evaluate our estimates on an ongoing basis, including all prior period reserves, taking into consideration all available information and, in particular, recently reported loss claim experience and trends related to prior periods. Such re-evaluations are recorded in incurred losses in the period in which the re-evaluation is made.

The following discusses the underwriting results for each of our segments for the periods indicated:

U.S. Reinsurance.

The following table presents the underwriting results and ratios for the U.S. Reinsurance segment for the periods indicated.

| | Years Ended December 31, | | | 2015/2014 | | 2014/2013 | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|---------|-------------|--------|---|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | Variance | Change | Variance | Change | |
| (Dollars in millions) | | | | | | | | |
| Gross written premiums | \$ 2,147.9 | \$ 2,154.5 | \$ 1,826.0 | \$(6.6) | -0.3 | % \$328.5 | 18.0 | % |
| Net written premiums | 899.9 | 977.9 | 909.6 | (78.0) | -8.0 | % 68.3 | 7.5 | % |
| Premiums earned | \$ 951.5 | \$ 988.3 | \$ 842.3 | \$(36.9) | -3.7 | % \$146.0 | 17.3 | % |
| Incurred losses and LAE | 413.3 | 545.9 | 424.2 | (132.6) | -24.3 | % 121.7 | 28.7 | % |
| Commission and brokerage | 199.0 | 201.9 | 159.7 | (2.9) | -1.4 | % 42.2 | 26.4 | % |
| Other underwriting expenses | 50.1 | 45.6 | 47.2 | 4.5 | 9.9 | % (1.6) | -3.4 | % |
| Underwriting gain (loss) | \$ 289.1 | \$ 195.0 | \$ 211.2 | \$ 94.1 | 48.3 | % \$(16.3) | -7.7 | % |
| | | | | | Point | | Point | |
| | | | | | Chg | | Chg | |
| Loss ratio | 43.4 | % 55.2 | % 50.4 | % | (11.8) | | 4.8 | |
| Commission and brokerage ratio | 20.9 | % 20.4 | % 19.0 | % | 0.5 | | 1.4 | |
| Other underwriting expense ratio | 5.3 | % 4.7 | % 5.5 | % | 0.6 | | (0.8) | |
| Combined ratio | 69.6 | % 80.3 | % 74.9 | % | (10.7) | | 5.4 | |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding)

22

Premiums. Gross written premiums decreased by 0.3% to \$2,147.9 million in 2015 from \$2,154.5 million in 2014, primarily due to a decline in treaty casualty business resulting from the cancellation of some contracts. Net written premiums decreased by 8.0% to \$899.9 million in 2015 compared to \$977.9 million in 2014. The difference between the change in gross written premiums compared to the change in net written premiums is primarily due to a varying utilization of reinsurance primarily related to affiliated quota share contracts. Premiums earned decreased 3.7% to \$951.5 million in 2015 compared to \$988.3 million in 2014. The change in premiums earned relative to net written premiums is primarily the result of timing; premiums are earned ratably over the coverage period whereas written premiums are recorded at the initiation of the coverage period.

Gross written premiums increased by 18.0% to \$2,154.5 million in 2014 from \$1,826.0 million in 2013, primarily due to new business opportunities, particularly for contracts with catastrophe exposed risks. Net written premiums increased by 7.5% to \$977.9 million in 2014 compared to \$909.6 million in 2013, which is in line with the increase in gross written premiums combined with a higher use of reinsurance for catastrophe exposures. Premiums earned increased 17.3% to \$988.3 million in 2014 compared to \$842.3 million in 2013. The change in premiums earned relative to net written premiums is primarily the result of timing; premiums are earned ratably over the coverage period whereas written premiums are recorded at the initiation of the coverage period.

Incurred Losses and LAE. The following table presents the incurred losses and LAE for the U.S. Reinsurance segment for the periods indicated.

| (Dollars in millions) | Years Ended December 31, | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | Current Year | Ratio %/ Pt Change | Prior Years | Ratio %/ Pt Change | Total Incurred | Ratio %/ Pt Change |
| 2015 | | | | | | |
| Attrititional | \$ 473.5 | 49.8 % | \$(63.7) | -6.8 % | \$409.8 | 43.0 % |
| Catastrophes | 8.4 | 0.9 % | (4.9) | -0.5 % | 3.5 | 0.4 % |
| Total segment | \$ 481.9 | 50.7 % | \$(68.6) | -7.2 % | \$413.3 | 43.4 % |
| 2014 | | | | | | |
| Attrititional | \$ 495.8 | 50.3 % | \$59.2 | 5.9 % | \$555.0 | 56.2 % |
| Catastrophes | 6.3 | 0.6 % | (15.4) | -1.6 % | (9.1) | -1.0 % |
| Total segment | \$ 502.1 | 50.9 % | \$43.8 | 4.3 % | \$545.9 | 55.2 % |
| 2013 | | | | | | |
| Attrititional | \$ 400.5 | 47.6 % | \$(21.0) | -2.5 % | \$379.5 | 45.1 % |
| Catastrophes | 25.9 | 3.1 % | 18.8 | 2.2 % | 44.7 | 5.3 % |
| Total segment | \$ 426.4 | 50.6 % | \$(2.2) | -0.3 % | \$424.2 | 50.4 % |
| Variance 2015/2014 | | | | | | |
| Attrititional | \$ (22.3) | (0.5) pts | \$(122.9) | (12.7) pts | \$(145.2) | (13.2) pts |
| Catastrophes | 2.1 | 0.3 pts | 10.5 | 1.1 pts | 12.6 | 1.4 pts |
| Total segment | \$ (20.2) | (0.2) pts | \$(112.4) | (11.5) pts | \$(132.6) | (11.8) pts |
| Variance 2014/2013 | | | | | | |
| Attrititional | \$ 95.3 | 2.7 pts | \$80.2 | 8.4 pts | \$175.5 | 11.1 pts |
| Catastrophes | (19.6) | (2.5) pts | (34.2) | (3.8) pts | (53.8) | (6.3) pts |
| Total segment | \$ 75.7 | 0.3 pts | \$46.0 | 4.6 pts | \$121.7 | 4.8 pts |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding.)

Incurred losses decreased by 24.3% to \$413.3 million in 2015 compared to \$545.9 million in 2014, primarily resulting from favorable development of \$122.9 million on prior years attritional losses in 2015 compared to 2014 related to treaty property, treaty casualty and marine lines of business and less year over year development on A&E reserves. In addition, current year attritional losses decreased \$22.3 million due primarily to the impact of the decline in earned premiums partially offset by \$6.7 million of losses related to the explosion at the Chinese port of Tianjin. The \$8.4 million of current year catastrophe losses in 2015 were mainly due to the 2015 US Storms (\$8.2 million). The \$6.3 million of current year catastrophe losses in 2014 related to the Japan snowstorm (\$3.9 million) and Hurricane Odile (\$2.4 million).

Incurred losses increased by 28.7% to \$545.9 million in 2014 compared to \$424.2 million in 2013, primarily due to the increase in current year attritional losses of \$95.3 million resulting primarily from the impact of the increase in premiums earned and less favorable development of \$80.2 million on prior years attritional losses in 2014 compared to 2013, mainly related to an increase in A&E reserves. This increase was partially offset by a favorable development of \$34.2 million on prior year catastrophe losses in 2014 compared to 2013, mainly related to Superstorm Sandy, and a decrease of \$19.6 million in current year catastrophe losses. The \$25.9 million of current year catastrophe losses in 2013 were mainly due to U.S. Storms (\$22.4 million), the European floods (\$2.5 million) and the Canadian Floods (\$1.0 million).

Segment Expenses. Commission and brokerage decreased by 1.4% to \$199.0 million in 2015 compared to \$201.9 million in 2014. This decrease was primarily due to the impact of the decrease in premiums earned and changes related to the affiliated quota share contracts. Segment other underwriting expenses increased to \$50.1 million in 2015 from \$45.6 million in 2014. The increase was primarily due to the impact of changes in the mix of business and higher employee benefit costs.

Commission and brokerage increased by 26.4% to \$201.9 million in 2014 compared to \$159.7 million in 2013. These variances were due to the impact of the increases in premiums earned, higher contingent commissions and changes in the mix of business. Segment other underwriting expenses decreased slightly to \$45.6 million in 2014 from \$47.2 million in 2013.

International.

The following table presents the underwriting results and ratios for the International segment for the periods indicated.

| (Dollars in millions) | Years Ended December 31, | | | 2015/2014 | | 2014/2013 | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------|------------|--------|---|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | Variance | Change | Variance | Change | |
| Gross written premiums | \$ 1,374.0 | \$ 1,630.4 | \$ 1,370.6 | \$(256.4) | -15.7 | % \$259.8 | 19.0 | % |
| Net written premiums | 562.7 | 612.2 | 610.1 | (49.6) | -8.1 | % 2.2 | 0.4 | % |
| Premiums earned | \$ 581.2 | \$ 601.0 | \$ 591.7 | \$(19.8) | -3.3 | % \$9.3 | 1.6 | % |
| Incurred losses and LAE | 394.8 | 358.0 | 315.9 | 36.8 | 10.3 | % 42.1 | 13.3 | % |
| Commission and brokerage | 121.2 | 119.7 | 114.3 | 1.5 | 1.3 | % 5.3 | 4.7 | % |
| Other underwriting expenses | 34.3 | 34.6 | 33.9 | (0.3) | -0.9 | % 0.7 | 2.0 | % |
| Underwriting gain (loss) | \$ 30.9 | \$ 88.7 | \$ 127.5 | \$(57.8) | -65.1 | % \$(38.9) | -30.5 | % |
| | | | | | Point | | Point | |
| | | | | | Chg | | Chg | |
| Loss ratio | 67.9 | % 59.6 | % 53.4 | % | 8.3 | | 6.2 | |
| Commission and brokerage ratio | 20.8 | % 19.9 | % 19.3 | % | 0.9 | | 0.6 | |
| Other underwriting expense ratio | 6.0 | % 5.7 | % 5.7 | % | 0.3 | | - | |
| Combined ratio | 94.7 | % 85.2 | % 78.4 | % | 9.5 | | 6.8 | |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding)

Premiums. Gross written premiums decreased by 15.7% to \$1,374.0 million in 2015 compared to \$1,630.4 million in 2014, primarily due to the decline in Latin American and Asian business, reductions in premiums related to quota share agreements and the negative impact of approximately \$86.8 million from the movement of foreign exchange rates. Net written premiums decreased by 8.1% to \$562.7 million in 2015 compared to \$612.2 million in 2014. The

difference between the change in gross written premiums compared to the change in net written premiums is primarily due to varying utilization of reinsurance related to the quota share contracts. Premiums earned decreased 3.3% to \$581.2 million in 2015 compared to \$601.0 million in 2014. The change in premiums earned relative to net written premiums is primarily the result of timing; premiums are earned ratably over the coverage period whereas written premiums are recorded at the initiation of the coverage period.

Gross written premiums increased by 19.0% to \$1,630.4 million in 2014 compared to \$1,370.6 million in 2013, primarily due to new quota share contracts, partially offset by the negative impact of approximately \$47.9 million from the movement of foreign exchange rates. Net written premiums increased by 0.4% to \$612.2 million in 2014 compared to \$610.1 million in 2013. The variance of the change in gross written premiums compared to the change in net written premiums is due to a higher utilization of reinsurance related to the new quota share contracts. Premiums earned increased 1.6% to \$601.0 million in 2014 compared to \$591.7 million in 2013. The change in premiums earned relative to net written premiums is primarily the result of timing; premiums are earned ratably over the coverage period whereas written premiums are recorded at the initiation of the coverage period.

Incurred Losses and LAE. The following table presents the incurred losses and LAE for the International segment for the periods indicated.

| (Dollars in millions) | Years Ended December 31, | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | Current Year | Ratio %/ Pt Change | Prior Years | Ratio %/ Pt Change | Total Incurred | Ratio %/ Pt Change |
| <u>2015</u> | | | | | | |
| Attrititional | \$ 378.1 | 65.1 % | \$(11.4) | -2.1 % | \$ 366.7 | 63.0 % |
| Catastrophes | 34.7 | 6.0 % | (6.6) | -1.1 % | 28.1 | 4.9 % |
| Total segment | \$ 412.8 | 71.1 % | \$(18.0) | -3.2 % | \$ 394.8 | 67.9 % |
| <u>2014</u> | | | | | | |
| Attrititional | \$ 338.4 | 56.4 % | \$(7.7) | -1.3 % | \$ 330.7 | 55.1 % |
| Catastrophes | 35.5 | 5.9 % | (8.2) | -1.4 % | 27.3 | 4.5 % |
| Total segment | \$ 373.9 | 62.3 % | \$(15.9) | -2.7 % | \$ 358.0 | 59.6 % |
| <u>2013</u> | | | | | | |
| Attrititional | \$ 307.3 | 51.9 % | \$(23.9) | -4.0 % | \$ 283.4 | 47.9 % |
| Catastrophes | 33.6 | 5.7 % | (1.1) | -0.2 % | 32.5 | 5.5 % |
| Total segment | \$ 340.9 | 57.6 % | \$(25.0) | -4.2 % | \$ 315.9 | 53.4 % |
| <u>Variance 2015/2014</u> | | | | | | |
| Attrititional | \$ 39.7 | 8.7 pts | \$(3.7) | (0.8) pts | \$ 36.0 | 7.9 pts |
| Catastrophes | (0.8) | 0.1 pts | 1.6 | 0.3 pts | 0.8 | 0.4 pts |
| Total segment | \$ 38.9 | 8.8 pts | \$(2.1) | (0.5) pts | \$ 36.8 | 8.3 pts |
| <u>Variance 2014/2013</u> | | | | | | |
| Attrititional | \$ 31.1 | 4.5 pts | \$16.2 | 2.7 pts | \$ 47.3 | 7.2 pts |
| Catastrophes | 1.9 | 0.2 pts | (7.1) | (1.2) pts | (5.2) | (1.0) pts |
| Total segment | \$ 33.0 | 4.7 pts | \$ 9.1 | 1.5 pts | \$ 42.1 | 6.2 pts |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding.)

Incurred losses and LAE increased by 10.3% to \$394.8 million in 2015 compared to \$358.0 million in 2014, primarily due to the increase in current year attrititional losses of \$39.7 million, mainly related to \$14.9 million of losses from the explosion at the Chinese port of Tianjin. The \$34.7 million of current year catastrophe losses in 2015 were due to the 2015 Chilean earthquake (\$17.4 million), Northern Chile storms (\$9.6 million) and the New South Wales storms (\$7.8 million). The \$35.5 million of current year catastrophe losses for 2014 were due to the Chilean earthquake (\$10.4 million), Japan snowstorm (\$10.0 million), Hurricane Odile (\$7.7 million) and Brisbane hailstorm (\$7.5 million).

Incurred losses and LAE increased by 13.3% to \$358.0 million in 2014 compared to \$315.9 million in 2013, primarily due to an increase of \$31.1 million in current year attritional losses, related to additional losses in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. The \$33.6 million of current year catastrophe losses for 2013 were due to Canadian floods (\$19.0 million) and Typhoon Fitow (\$14.6 million).

Segment Expenses. Commission and brokerage increased 1.3% to \$121.2 million in 2015 compared to \$119.7 million in 2014. The variances were primarily due to the impact of changes in the mix of business and changes in affiliated quota share agreements. Segment other underwriting expenses decreased slightly to \$34.3 million in 2015 compared to \$34.6 million in 2014.

Commission and brokerage increased 4.7% to \$119.7 million in 2014 compared to \$114.3 million in 2013. This increase was primarily due to the impact of the increase in premiums earned. Segment other underwriting expenses slightly increased to \$34.6 million in 2014 compared to \$33.9 million in 2013.

Insurance.

The following table presents the underwriting results and ratios for the Insurance segment for the periods indicated.

| (Dollars in millions) | Years Ended December 31, | | | 2015/2014 | | 2014/2013 | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------|---|-------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | Variance | Change | Variance | Change | | |
| Gross written premiums | \$ 1,473.8 | \$ 1,180.4 | \$ 1,240.8 | \$ 293.4 | 24.9 | % \$(60.4) | -4.9 | % | |
| Net written premiums | 630.7 | 516.9 | 597.7 | 113.8 | 22.0 | % (80.9) | -13.5 | % | |
| Premiums earned | \$ 611.1 | \$ 524.4 | \$ 572.3 | \$ 86.7 | 16.5 | % \$(47.9) | -8.4 | % | |
| Incurred losses and LAE | 511.5 | 450.2 | 532.0 | 61.3 | 13.6 | % (81.9) | -15.4 | % | |
| Commission and brokerage | (5.1) | 17.8 | 19.8 | (22.9) | -128.7 | % (2.0) | -10.1 | % | |
| Other underwriting expenses | 130.4 | 111.8 | 112.4 | 18.6 | 16.6 | % (0.6) | -0.5 | % | |
| Underwriting gain (loss) | \$(25.7) | \$(55.4) | \$(92.0) | \$ 29.7 | -53.6 | % \$36.6 | -39.7 | % | |
| | | | | | | | | | Point |
| | | | | | Point Chg | | | | Chg |
| Loss ratio | 83.7 | % 85.8 | % 93.0 | % | (2.1) | | (7.2) | |) |
| Commission and brokerage ratio | -0.8 | % 3.4 | % 3.5 | % | (4.2) | | (0.1) | |) |
| Other underwriting expense ratio | 21.3 | % 21.4 | % 19.6 | % | (0.1) | | 1.8 | |) |
| Combined ratio | 104.2 | % 110.6 | % 116.1 | % | (6.4) | | (5.5) | |) |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding)

Premiums. Gross written premiums increased by 24.9% to \$1,473.8 million in 2015 compared to \$1,180.4 million in 2014. This increase was primarily driven by an increase in various lines of business as the company focused on expanding its insurance operations. Net written premiums increased by 22.0% to \$630.7 million in 2015 compared to \$516.9 million in 2014, which is consistent with the change in gross written premiums. Premiums earned increased 16.5% to \$611.1 million in 2015 compared to \$524.4 million in 2014. The change in premiums earned relative to net written premiums is the result of timing; premiums are earned ratably over the coverage period whereas written premiums are recorded at the initiation of the coverage period.

Gross written premiums decreased by 4.9% to \$1,180.4 million in 2014 compared to \$1,240.8 million in 2013. This decrease was primarily driven by a decline in crop business, partially offset by an increase in the non-standard auto business. Net written premiums decreased by 13.5% to \$516.9 million in 2014 compared to \$597.7 million in 2013. The variance of the change in gross written premiums compared to the change in net written premiums is due to changes in the utilization of reinsurance, particularly on the crop business. Premiums earned decreased 8.4% to \$524.4 million in 2014 compared to \$572.3 million in 2013. The change in premiums earned relative to net written premiums is the result of timing; premiums are earned ratably over the coverage period whereas written premiums are recorded at the initiation of the coverage period.

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

Incurred Losses and LAE. The following table presents the incurred losses and LAE for the Insurance segment for the periods indicated.

| (Dollars in millions) | Years Ended December 31, | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | Current Year | Ratio %/ Pt Change | Prior Years | Ratio %/ Pt Change | Total Incurred | Ratio %/ Pt Change |
| <u>2015</u> | | | | | | |
| Attritional | \$ 431.4 | 70.6 % | \$79.8 | 13.1 % | \$ 511.2 | 83.7 % |
| Catastrophes | - | 0.0 % | 0.3 | 0.0 % | 0.3 | 0.0 % |
| Total segment | \$ 431.4 | 70.6 % | \$80.1 | 13.1 % | \$ 511.5 | 83.7 % |
| <u>2014</u> | | | | | | |
| Attritional | \$ 438.8 | 83.6 % | \$11.3 | 2.2 % | \$ 450.2 | 85.8 % |
| Catastrophes | - | 0.0 % | - | 0.0 % | - | 0.0 % |
| Total segment | \$ 438.8 | 83.6 % | \$11.3 | 2.2 % | \$ 450.2 | 85.8 % |
| <u>2013</u> | | | | | | |
| Attritional | \$ 459.8 | 80.4 % | \$72.9 | 12.7 % | \$ 532.6 | 93.2 % |
| Catastrophes | 0.5 | 0.1 % | (1.0) | -0.2 % | (0.6) | -0.1 % |
| Total segment | \$ 460.2 | 80.5 % | \$71.8 | 12.5 % | \$ 532.0 | 93.0 % |
| <u>Variance 2015/2014</u> | | | | | | |
| Attritional | \$ (7.4) | (13.0) pts | \$68.5 | 10.9 pts | \$ 61.0 | (2.1) pts |
| Catastrophes | - | - pts | 0.3 | - pts | 0.3 | - pts |
| Total segment | \$ (7.4) | (13.0) pts | \$68.8 | 10.9 pts | \$ 61.3 | (2.1) pts |
| <u>Variance 2014/2013</u> | | | | | | |
| Attritional | \$ (21.0) | 3.2 pts | \$(61.6) | (10.5) pts | \$(82.4) | (7.4) pts |
| Catastrophes | (0.5) | (0.1) pts | 1.0 | 0.2 pts | 0.6 | 0.1 pts |
| Total segment | \$ (21.4) | 3.1 pts | \$(60.5) | (10.3) pts | \$(81.9) | (7.2) pts |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding.)

Incurred losses and LAE increased by 13.6% to \$511.5 million in 2015 compared to \$450.2 million in 2014, mainly due to an increase of \$68.5 million in prior years attritional losses related primarily to run-off umbrella and construction liability business, partially offset by a decline of \$7.4 million in current year attritional losses. There were no current year catastrophe losses for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014.

Incurred losses and LAE decreased by 15.4% to \$450.2 million in 2014 compared to \$532.0 million in 2013, mainly due to a decrease of \$61.6 million of prior years attritional losses which mainly related to development on workers' compensation, constructions liability and umbrella business in 2013, which did not recur to the same extent in 2014 and by a decrease of \$21.0 million in current year attritional losses, which were mainly related to the decline in the crop book of business. The \$0.5 million of current year catastrophe losses for 2013 were due to the Canadian floods.

Segment Expenses. Commission and brokerage decreased by 128.7% to income of \$5.1 million in 2015 compared to \$17.8 million of expense in 2014. The decrease was primarily driven by changes in the mix of business and impacts from affiliated quota share agreements. Segment other underwriting expenses increased to \$130.4 million in 2015 compared to \$111.8 million in 2014. The increase resulted from the impact of the increase in premiums earned and increased focus on the insurance operations, resulting in increased operating expense, including new hires.

Commission and brokerage decreased 10.1% to \$17.8 million in 2014 compared to \$19.8 million in 2013. The decrease for the year was primarily driven by the decline in premiums earned. Segment other underwriting expenses decreased slightly to \$111.8 million in 2014 compared to \$112.4 million in 2013 due primarily to the impact of the decline in premiums earned.

SAFE HARBOR DISCLOSURE

This report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. federal securities laws. We intend these forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements in the federal securities laws. In some cases, these statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking words such as "may", "will", "should", "could", "anticipate", "estimate", "expect", "plan", "believe", "predict", "potential" and "intend". Forward-looking statements contained in this report include information regarding our reserves for losses and LAE, the adequacy of our provision for uncollectible balances, estimates of our catastrophe exposure, the effects of catastrophic events on our financial statements and the ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends. Forward-looking statements only reflect our expectations and are not guarantees of performance. These statements involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Actual events or results may differ materially from our expectations. Important factors that could cause our actual events or results to be materially different from our expectations include those discussed under the caption ITEM 1A, "Risk Factors". We undertake no obligation to update or revise publicly any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Market Sensitive Instruments.

The SEC's Financial Reporting Release #48 requires registrants to clarify and expand upon the existing financial statement disclosure requirements for derivative financial instruments, derivative commodity instruments and other financial instruments (collectively, "market sensitive instruments"). We do not generally enter into market sensitive instruments for trading purposes.

Our current investment strategy seeks to maximize after-tax income through a high quality, diversified, taxable and tax-preferenced fixed maturity portfolio, while maintaining an adequate level of liquidity. Our mix of taxable and tax-preferenced investments is adjusted periodically, consistent with our current and projected operating results, market conditions and our tax position. The fixed maturity securities in the investment portfolio are comprised of non-trading available for sale securities. Additionally, we have invested in equity securities.

The overall investment strategy considers the scope of present and anticipated Company operations. In particular, estimates of the financial impact resulting from non-investment asset and liability transactions, together with our capital structure and other factors, are used to develop a net liability analysis. This analysis includes estimated payout characteristics for which our investments provide liquidity. This analysis is considered in the development of specific investment strategies for asset allocation, duration and credit quality. The change in overall market sensitive risk exposure principally reflects the asset changes that took place during the period.

Interest Rate Risk. Our \$9.5 billion investment portfolio, at December 31, 2015, is principally comprised of fixed maturity securities, which are generally subject to interest rate risk and some foreign currency exchange rate risk, and some equity securities, which are subject to price fluctuations and some foreign exchange rate risk. The overall economic impact of the foreign exchange risks on the investment portfolio is partially mitigated by changes in the dollar value of foreign currency denominated liabilities and their associated income statement impact.

Interest rate risk is the potential change in value of the fixed maturity securities portfolio, including short-term investments, from a change in market interest rates. In a declining interest rate environment, it includes prepayment risk on the \$774.9 million of mortgage-backed securities in the \$5,358.6 million fixed maturity portfolio. Prepayment risk results from potential accelerated principal payments that shorten the average life and thus the expected yield of the security.

The table below displays the potential impact of market value fluctuations and after-tax unrealized appreciation on our fixed maturity portfolio (including \$563.5 million of short-term investments) for the period indicated based on upward and downward parallel and immediate 100 and 200 basis point shifts in interest rates. For legal entities with a U.S. dollar functional currency, this modeling was performed on each security individually. To generate appropriate price estimates for mortgage-backed securities, changes in prepayment expectations under different interest rate environments were taken into account. For legal entities with non-U.S. dollar functional currency, the effective duration of the involved portfolio of securities was used as a proxy for the market value change under the various interest rate change scenarios.

| (Dollars in millions) | Impact of Interest Rate Shift in Basis Points | | | | |
|--|---|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| | At December 31, 2015 | | | | |
| | -200 | -100 | 0 | 100 | 200 |
| Total Market/Fair Value | \$6,216.3 | \$6,071.9 | \$5,922.1 | \$5,761.5 | \$5,594.6 |
| Market/Fair Value Change from Base (%) | 5.0 % | 2.5 % | 0.0 % | -2.7 % | -5.5 % |
| Change in Unrealized Appreciation | | | | | |
| After-tax from Base (\$) | \$191.2 | \$97.4 | \$- | \$(104.4) | \$(212.9) |

| (Dollars in millions) | Impact of Interest Rate Shift in Basis Points | | | | |
|--|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| | At December 31, 2014 | | | | |
| | -200 | -100 | 0 | 100 | 200 |
| Total Market/Fair Value | \$6,151.8 | \$6,006.9 | \$5,859.3 | \$5,706.4 | \$5,549.2 |
| Market/Fair Value Change from Base (%) | 5.0 % | 2.5 % | 0.0 % | -2.6 % | -5.3 % |
| Change in Unrealized Appreciation | | | | | |
| After-tax from Base (\$) | \$190.2 | \$96.0 | \$- | \$(99.4) | \$(201.6) |

We had \$7,940.7 million and \$7,843.9 million of gross reserves for losses and LAE as of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively. These amounts are recorded at their nominal value, as opposed to present value, which would reflect a discount adjustment to reflect the time value of money. Since losses are paid out over a period of time, the present value of the reserves is less than the nominal value. As interest rates rise, the present value of the reserves decreases and, conversely, as interest rates decline, the present value increases. These movements are the opposite of the interest rate impacts on the fair value of investments. While the difference between present value and nominal value is not reflected in our financial statements, our financial results will include investment income over time from the investment portfolio until the claims are paid. Our loss and loss reserve obligations have an expected duration that is reasonably consistent with our fixed income portfolio.

Equity Risk. Equity risk is the potential change in fair and/or market value of the common stock and preferred stock portfolios arising from changing prices. Our equity investments consist of a diversified portfolio of individual securities. The primary objective of the equity portfolio is to obtain greater total return relative to bonds over time through market appreciation and income.

The tables below displays the impact on fair/market value and after-tax change in fair/market value of a 10% and 20% change in equity prices up and down for the periods indicated.

| (Dollars in millions) | Impact of Percentage Change in Equity Fair/Market Values At December 31, 2015 | | | | |
|---|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | -20% | -10% | 0% | 10% | 20% |
| Fair/Market Value of the Equity Portfolio | \$ 972.3 | \$ 1,093.8 | \$ 1,215.4 | \$ 1,336.9 | \$ 1,458.5 |
| After-tax Change in Fair/Market Value | (158.0) | (79.0) | - | 79.0 | 158.0 |

| (Dollars in millions) | Impact of Percentage Change in Equity Fair/Market Values At December 31, 2014 | | | | |
|---|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | -20% | -10% | 0% | 10% | 20% |
| Fair/Market Value of the Equity Portfolio | \$ 1,039.2 | \$ 1,169.1 | \$ 1,299.1 | \$ 1,429.0 | \$ 1,558.9 |
| After-tax Change in Fair/Market Value | (168.9) | (84.4) | - | 84.4 | 168.9 |

Foreign Exchange Risk. Foreign currency risk is the potential change in value, income and cash flow arising from adverse changes in foreign currency exchange rates. Each of our non-U.S. ("foreign") operations maintains capital in the currency of the country of its geographic location consistent with local regulatory guidelines. Each foreign operation may conduct business in its local currency, as well as the currency of other countries in which it operates. The primary foreign currency exposures for these foreign operations are the Singapore and Canadian Dollars. We mitigate foreign exchange exposure by generally matching the currency and duration of our assets to our corresponding operating liabilities. In accordance with FASB guidance, we translate the assets, liabilities and income of non-U.S. dollar functional currency legal entities to the U.S. dollar. This translation amount is reported as a component of other comprehensive income. As of December 31, 2015, there has been no material change in exposure to foreign exchange rates as compared to December 31, 2014.

The tables below display the potential impact of a parallel and immediate 10% and 20% increase and decrease in foreign exchange rates on the valuation of invested assets subject to foreign currency exposure for the periods indicated. This analysis includes the after-tax impact of translation from transactional currency to functional currency as well as the after-tax impact of translation from functional currency to the U.S. dollar reporting currency.

| (Dollars in millions) | Change in Foreign Exchange Rates in Percent At December 31, 2015 | | | | |
|---|---|-----------|------|---------|----------|
| | -20% | -10% | 0% | 10% | 20% |
| Total After-tax Foreign Exchange Exposure | \$(126.5) | \$(63.3) | \$ - | \$ 63.3 | \$ 126.5 |

| (Dollars in millions) | Change in Foreign Exchange Rates in Percent At December 31, 2014 | | | | |
|---|---|-----------|------|---------|----------|
| | -20% | -10% | 0% | 10% | 20% |
| Total After-tax Foreign Exchange Exposure | \$(140.3) | \$(70.2) | \$ - | \$ 70.2 | \$ 140.3 |

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

The financial statements and schedules listed in the accompanying Index to Financial Statements and Schedules on page F-1 are filed as part of this report.

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

As required by Rule 13a-15(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act), our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act). Based on that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this annual report.

Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal controls over financial reporting. Our internal control over financial reporting is designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of our financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

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

Management has assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015. In making this assessment, we used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013). Based on our assessment we concluded that, as of December 31, 2015, our internal control over financial reporting is effective based on those criteria.

Attestation Report of the Registered Public Accounting Firm

This annual report does not include an attestation report of the Company's registered public accounting firm regarding internal control over financial reporting. Management's report was not subject to attestation by the Company's registered public accounting firm pursuant to rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission that permit the Company to provide only management's report in this annual report due to the Company's status as a non-accelerated filer.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As required by Rule 13a-15(d) of the Exchange Act, our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated our internal control over financial reporting to determine whether any changes occurred during the fourth fiscal quarter covered by this annual report that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting. Based on that evaluation, there has been no such change during the fourth quarter.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

31

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Information for Item 10 is not required pursuant to General Instruction I(2) of Form 10-K.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Information for Item 11 is not required pursuant to General Instruction I(2) of Form 10-K.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

Information for Item 12 is not required pursuant to General Instruction I(2) of Form 10-K.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

Information for Item 13 is not required pursuant to General Instruction I(2) of Form 10-K.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES

The PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (and its worldwide affiliates) fees incurred are as follows for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | 2015 | 2014 |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| (1) Audit Fees | \$2,177.6 | \$2,172.3 |
| (2) Audit-Related Fees | 72.6 | 61.4 |
| (3) Tax Fees | 893.7 | 89.0 |
| (4) All Other Fees | 6.5 | 6.5 |

Audit fees include the annual audit and quarterly financial statement reviews, subsidiary audits, and procedures required to be performed by the independent auditor to be able to form an opinion on our consolidated financial statements. These other procedures include information systems and procedural reviews and testing performed in order to understand and place reliance on the systems of internal control, and consultations relating to the audit or quarterly review. Audit fees may also include statutory audits or financial audits for our subsidiaries or affiliates and services associated with SEC registration statements, periodic reports and other documents filed with the SEC or other documents issued in connection with securities offerings.

Audit-related fees include assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our financial statements, including due diligence services pertaining to potential business acquisitions/dispositions, accounting consultations related to accounting, financial reporting or disclosure matters not classified as "audit services"; assistance with understanding and implementing new accounting and financial reporting guidance from rule making authorities; financial audits of employee benefit plans; agreed-upon or expanded audit procedures related to accounting and/or billing records required to respond to or comply with financial, accounting or regulatory reporting matters and assistance with internal control reporting requirements.

Tax fees include tax compliance, tax planning and tax advice and is granted general pre-approval by Group's Audit Committee.

All other fees represent an accounting research subscription and software.

32

Under its Charter and the "Audit and Non-Audit Services Pre-Approval Policy" (the "Policy"), the Audit Committee is required to pre-approve the audit and non-audit services to be performed by the independent auditors. The Policy mandates specific approval by the Audit Committee for any service that has not received a general pre-approval or that exceeds pre-approved cost levels or budgeted amounts. For both specific and general pre-approval, the Audit Committee considers whether such services are consistent with the SEC's rules on auditor independence. The Audit Committee also considers whether the independent auditors are best positioned to provide the most effective and efficient service and whether the service might enhance the Company's ability to manage or control risk or improve audit quality. The Audit Committee is also mindful of the relationship between fees for audit and non-audit services in deciding whether to pre-approve any such services. It may determine, for each fiscal year, the appropriate ratio between the total amount of audit, audit-related and tax fees and a total amount of fees for certain permissible non-audit services classified below as "All Other Fees". All such factors are considered as a whole, and no one factor is determinative. The Audit Committee further considered whether the performance by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP of the non-audit related services disclosed below is compatible with maintaining their independence. The Audit Committee approved all of the audit-related fees, tax fees and all other fees for 2015 and 2014.

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

Exhibits

The exhibits listed on the accompanying Index to Exhibits on page E-1 are filed as part of this report except that the certifications in Exhibit 32 are being furnished to the SEC, rather than filed with the SEC, as permitted under applicable SEC rules.

Financial Statements and Schedules.

The financial statements and schedules listed in the accompanying Index to Financial Statements and Schedules on page F-1 are filed as part of this report.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized on March 23, 2016.

EVEREST REINSURANCE
HOLDINGS, INC.

By: /S/DOMINIC J. ADDESSO
Dominic J. Addesso
(Chairman, President and
Chief Executive Officer)

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| <u>Signature</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|--|---|----------------|
| /S/ DOMINIC J. ADDESSO Dominic J. Addesso | Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer) | March 23, 2016 |
| /S/ CRAIG HOWIE Craig Howie | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer) | March 23, 2016 |
| /S/ KEITH T. SHOEMAKER Keith T. Shoemaker | Comptroller (Principal Accounting Officer) | March 23, 2016 |

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit No.

2. 1 Agreement and Plan of Merger among Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc., Everest Re Group, Ltd. and Everest Re Merger Corporation, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-4 (No. 333-87361)
3. 1 Certificate of Incorporation of Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc., incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-8 (No. 333-05771)
3. 2 By-Laws of Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc., incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc. Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2000
4. 1 Indenture, dated March 14, 2000, between Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc. and The Chase Manhattan Bank, as Trustee, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc. Form 8-K filed on March 15, 2000
4. 2 Second Supplemental Indenture relating to Holdings 6.20% Junior Subordinated Debt Securities due March 29, 2034, dated as of March 29, 2004, among Holdings, Group and JPMorgan Chase Bank, as Trustee, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc. Form 8-K filed on March 30, 2004 (the "March 30, 2004 8-K")
4. 3 Amended and Restated Trust Agreement of Everest Re Capital Trust II, dated as of March 29, 2004, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the March 30, 2004 8-K
4. 4 Guarantee Agreement, dated as of March 29, 2004, between Holdings and JPMorgan Chase Bank, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the March 30, 2004 8-K
4. 5 Expense Agreement, dated as of March 29, 2004, between Holdings and Everest Re Capital Trust II, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the March 30, 2004 8-K
4. 6 Third Supplemental Indenture relating to Holdings 5.40% Senior Notes due October 15, 2014, dated as of October 12, 2004, among Holdings and JPMorgan Chase Bank, as Trustee, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc. Form 8-K filed on October 12, 2004
4. 7 Fourth Supplemental Indenture relating to Holdings \$400.0 million 4.868% Senior Notes due June 1, 2044, dated June 5 2014, between Holdings and the Bank of New York Mellon, as Trustee, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc. Form 8-K filed on June 5, 2014
- 10.1 Completion of Tender Offer relating to Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc. 6.60% Fixed to Floating Rate Long Term Subordinated Notes (LoTSSM) dated March 19, 2009, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to Everest Re Group, Ltd. Form 8-K filed on March 31, 2009
- 10.2 Credit Agreement, dated August 15, 2011, between Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc., the lenders named therein and Citibank, National Association, as administrative agent, providing for a \$150.0 million three year revolving credit facility, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.30 to Everest Re Group, Ltd. Form 10K filed on February 29, 2012. This new agreement replaces the August 23, 2006 five year senior revolving credit facility

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

- *10.3 Employment agreement between Everest Global Services, Inc., Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc. and Dominic J. Addesso, dated July 1, 2012, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Everest Re Group, Ltd. Form 8-K filed on July 20, 2012
- *10.4 Employment agreement between Everest Global Services, Inc., Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc. and Joseph V. Taranto, dated July 1, 2012, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Everest Re Group, Ltd. Form 8-K filed on July 20, 2012
- *10.5 Change of Control Agreement between and among Everest Reinsurance Company, Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc., Everest Re Group, Ltd., Everest Global Services, Inc. and Joseph V. Taranto, dated January 1, 2012, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to Everest Re Group, Ltd. Form 8-K filed on July 20, 2012
- *10.6 Employment agreement between Everest Global Services, Inc., Everest Reinsurance Holdings Inc. and Dominic J. Addesso, dated December 4, 2015, incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Everest Re Group, Ltd. Form 8-K filed on December 8, 2015.
- 23. 1 Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, filed herewith
- 31. 1 Section 302 Certification of Dominic J. Addesso, filed herewith
- 31. 2 Section 302 Certification of Craig Howie, filed herewith
- 32. 1 Section 906 Certification of Dominic J. Addesso and Craig Howie, filed herewith
- 101.INS XBRL Instance Document
- 101.SCHXBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema
- 101.CALXBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase
- 101.DEF XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase
- 101.LABXBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase
- 101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase
- * Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

E-2

EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS, INC.

INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SCHEDULES

| | <u>Pages</u> |
|---|--------------|
| Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm | F-2 |

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

| | |
|---|-----|
| Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2015 and 2014 | F-3 |
| Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income (Loss) for the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 | F-4 |
| Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholder's Equity for the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 | F-5 |
| Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 | F-6 |
| Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements | F-7 |
| Schedules | |
| I Summary of Investments Other Than Investments in Related Parties at December 31, 2015 | S-1 |
| II Condensed Financial Information of Registrant: | |
| Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2015 and 2014 | S-2 |
| Statements of Operations for the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 | S-3 |
| Statements of Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 | S-4 |
| Noted to Condensed Financial Information | S-5 |
| III Supplementary Insurance Information for the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 | S-6 |
| IV Reinsurance for the Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 | S-7 |

Schedules other than those listed above are omitted for the reason that they are not applicable or the information is otherwise contained in the Financial Statements.

F-1

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders
Of Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc.:

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements listed in the accompanying index present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the "Company") at December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2015 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, in our opinion, the financial statement schedules listed in the accompanying index present fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein when read in conjunction with the related consolidated financial statements. These financial statements and financial statement schedules are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial statement schedules based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
New York, NY
March 23, 2016

F-2

EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS, INC.
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

| (Dollars in thousands, except par value per share) | December 31, | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| ASSETS: | | |
| Fixed maturities - available for sale, at market value (amortized cost: 2015, \$5,335,472; 2014, \$5,235,523) | \$5,356,477 | \$5,293,411 |
| Fixed maturities - available for sale, at fair value | 2,102 | 1,509 |
| Equity securities - available for sale, at market value (cost: 2015, \$0; 2014, \$15) | - | 16 |
| Equity securities - available for sale, at fair value | 1,215,377 | 1,299,037 |
| Short-term investments | 563,536 | 564,364 |
| Other invested assets (cost: 2015, \$450,154; 2014, \$435,010) | 450,154 | 435,010 |
| Other invested assets, at fair value | 1,773,214 | 1,655,311 |
| Cash | 155,429 | 323,975 |
| Total investments and cash | 9,516,289 | 9,572,633 |
| Note receivable - affiliated | 250,000 | 250,000 |
| Accrued investment income | 41,727 | 45,386 |
| Premiums receivable | 1,129,656 | 1,086,203 |
| Reinsurance receivables - unaffiliated | 716,982 | 659,303 |
| Reinsurance receivables - affiliated | 3,742,105 | 3,372,715 |
| Funds held by reinsureds | 176,712 | 182,159 |
| Deferred acquisition costs | 92,651 | 109,262 |
| Prepaid reinsurance premiums | 772,686 | 809,083 |
| Other assets | 261,805 | 235,576 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$16,700,613 | \$16,322,320 |
| LIABILITIES: | | |
| Reserve for losses and loss adjustment expenses | \$7,940,720 | \$7,843,856 |
| Unearned premium reserve | 1,349,799 | 1,442,122 |
| Funds held under reinsurance treaties | 101,531 | 101,743 |
| Losses in the course of payment | 125,592 | 178,521 |
| Commission reserves | 51,873 | 63,110 |
| Other net payable to reinsurers | 1,225,260 | 1,028,549 |
| 4.868% Senior notes due 6/1/2044 | 400,000 | 400,000 |
| 6.6% Long term notes due 5/1/2067 | 238,368 | 238,364 |
| Accrued interest on debt and borrowings | 3,537 | 3,537 |
| Income taxes | 68,024 | 46,835 |
| Unsettled securities payable | 15,040 | 41,092 |
| Other liabilities | 249,658 | 361,874 |
| Total liabilities | 11,769,402 | 11,749,603 |
| Commitments and Contingencies (Note 15) | | |
| STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY: | | |
| Common stock, par value: \$0.01; 3,000 shares authorized; 1,000 shares issued and outstanding (2015 and 2014) | - | - |

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

| | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Additional paid-in capital | 374,789 | 362,293 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), net of deferred income tax expense (benefit) of (\$33,458) at 2015 and \$2,434 at 2014 | (62,136) | 4,519 |
| Retained earnings | 4,618,558 | 4,205,905 |
| Total stockholder's equity | 4,931,211 | 4,572,717 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY | \$16,700,613 | \$16,322,320 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

F-3

EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| REVENUES: | | | |
| Premiums earned | \$2,143,760 | \$2,113,726 | \$2,006,361 |
| Net investment income | 273,253 | 290,310 | 296,996 |
| Net realized capital gains (losses): | | | |
| Other-than-temporary impairments on fixed maturity securities | (78,833) | (38,912) | - |
| Other-than-temporary impairments on fixed maturity securities transferred to other comprehensive income (loss) | - | - | - |
| Realized gain on sale of subsidiary | 94,704 | - | - |
| Other net realized capital gains (losses) | 34,464 | 245,591 | 723,149 |
| Total net realized capital gains (losses) | 50,335 | 206,679 | 723,149 |
| Other income (expense) | 29,256 | (22,278) | (7,714) |
| Total revenues | 2,496,604 | 2,588,437 | 3,018,792 |
| CLAIMS AND EXPENSES: | | | |
| Incurred losses and loss adjustment expenses | 1,319,561 | 1,354,093 | 1,272,156 |
| Commission, brokerage, taxes and fees | 315,069 | 339,402 | 293,922 |
| Other underwriting expenses | 214,819 | 192,032 | 193,499 |
| Corporate expenses | 7,179 | 7,252 | 8,262 |
| Interest, fee and bond issue cost amortization expense | 35,434 | 37,970 | 45,452 |
| Total claims and expenses | 1,892,062 | 1,930,749 | 1,813,291 |
| INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE TAXES | 604,542 | 657,688 | 1,205,501 |
| Income tax expense (benefit) | 191,889 | 203,562 | 407,238 |
| NET INCOME (LOSS) | \$412,653 | \$454,126 | \$798,263 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax: | | | |
| Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) ("URA(D)") on securities arising during the period | (23,157) | (44,902) | (99,241) |
| Less: reclassification adjustment for realized losses (gains) included in net income (loss) | (817) | 27,073 | (2,465) |
| Total URA(D) on securities arising during the period | (23,974) | (17,829) | (101,706) |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | (54,578) | (29,210) | (19,128) |
| Benefit plan actuarial net gain (loss) for the period | 5,681 | (39,110) | 17,837 |
| Reclassification adjustment for amortization of net (gain) loss included in net income (loss) | 6,216 | 3,020 | 5,778 |
| Total benefit plan net gain (loss) for the period | 11,897 | (36,090) | 23,615 |
| Total other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax | (66,655) | (83,129) | (97,219) |
| COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS) | \$345,998 | \$370,997 | \$701,044 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

F-4

EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF
CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY

| (Dollars in thousands, except share amounts) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| COMMON STOCK (shares outstanding): | | | |
| Balance, beginning of period | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Balance, end of period | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| ADDITIONAL PAID-IN CAPITAL: | | | |
| Balance, beginning of period | 362,293 | \$351,051 | \$340,223 |
| Share-based compensation plans | 12,496 | 11,242 | 10,828 |
| Balance, end of period | 374,789 | 362,293 | 351,051 |
| ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS), NET OF DEFERRED INCOME TAXES: | | | |
| Balance, beginning of period | 4,519 | 87,648 | 184,867 |
| Net increase (decrease) during the period | (66,655) | (83,129) | (97,219) |
| Balance, end of period | (62,136) | 4,519 | 87,648 |
| RETAINED EARNINGS: | | | |
| Balance, beginning of period | 4,205,905 | 3,751,779 | 2,953,516 |
| Net income (loss) | 412,653 | 454,126 | 798,263 |
| Balance, end of period | 4,618,558 | 4,205,905 | 3,751,779 |
| TOTAL STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY, END OF PERIOD | \$4,931,211 | \$4,572,717 | \$4,190,478 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | | |
| Net income (loss) | \$412,653 | \$454,126 | \$798,263 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | | |
| Decrease (increase) in premiums receivable | (49,602) | 83,362 | (175,854) |
| Decrease (increase) in funds held by reinsureds, net | 4,737 | 2,236 | (12,075) |
| Decrease (increase) in reinsurance receivables | (465,761) | (460,635) | 25,665 |
| Decrease (increase) in income taxes | 57,487 | 68,206 | 351,573 |
| Decrease (increase) in prepaid reinsurance premiums | 30,985 | (138,010) | (118,173) |
| Increase (decrease) in reserve for losses and loss adjustment expenses | 184,845 | 248,053 | (439,560) |
| Increase (decrease) in unearned premiums | (82,494) | 130,519 | 228,097 |
| Increase (decrease) in other net payable to reinsurers | 204,526 | 5,130 | 127,252 |
| Increase (decrease) in losses in course of payment | (51,416) | (171,071) | 171,829 |
| Change in equity adjustments in limited partnerships | (18,144) | (28,249) | (35,721) |
| Distribution of limited partnership income | 45,235 | 41,064 | 24,133 |
| Change in other assets and liabilities, net | 7,499 | 81,388 | 25,049 |
| Non-cash compensation expense | 8,025 | 7,911 | 7,983 |
| Amortization of bond premium (accrual of bond discount) | 18,160 | 19,086 | 25,599 |
| Amortization of underwriting discount on senior notes | 4 | 46 | 54 |
| Net realized capital (gains) losses | (50,335) | (206,679) | (723,149) |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | 256,404 | 136,483 | 280,965 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | | |
| Proceeds from fixed maturities matured/called - available for sale, at market value | 902,932 | 1,071,296 | 1,099,850 |
| Proceeds from fixed maturities matured/called - available for sale, at fair value | - | 875 | 7,213 |
| Proceeds from fixed maturities sold - available for sale, at market value | 544,955 | 1,080,276 | 598,342 |
| Proceeds from fixed maturities sold - available for sale, at fair value | 1,824 | 36,467 | 21,572 |
| Proceeds from equity securities sold - available for sale, at market value | 16 | - | - |
| Proceeds from equity securities sold - available for sale, at fair value | 567,069 | 528,958 | 612,516 |
| Proceeds from sale of subsidiary (net of cash disposed) | 3,934 | - | - |
| Distributions from other invested assets | 51,494 | 72,323 | 64,483 |
| Cost of fixed maturities acquired - available for sale, at market value | (1,811,463) | (2,406,162) | (1,611,791) |
| Cost of fixed maturities acquired - available for sale, at fair value | (2,436) | (24,097) | (6,196) |
| Cost of equity securities acquired - available for sale, at fair value | (530,538) | (416,375) | (439,115) |
| Cost of other invested assets acquired | (93,728) | (134,373) | (17,926) |
| Net change in short-term investments | (6,145) | 189,139 | (292,751) |
| Net cost of lending for long term note - affiliated | - | (250,000) | - |
| Net change in unsettled securities transactions | (23,447) | (4,157) | (3,057) |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities | (395,533) | (255,830) | 33,140 |

CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:

| | | | |
|--|-------|------------|------------|
| Tax benefit from share-based compensation | 4,472 | 3,331 | 2,845 |
| Net cost of junior subordinated debt securities redemption | - | - | (329,897) |
| Net proceeds from issuance of senior notes | - | 400,000 | - |
| Net cost of senior notes maturing | - | (250,000) | - |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | 4,472 | 153,331 | (327,052) |

| | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| EFFECT OF EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES ON CASH | (33,889) | (26,816) | (17,966) |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Net increase (decrease) in cash | (168,546) | 7,168 | (30,913) |
| Cash, beginning of period | 323,975 | 316,807 | 347,720 |
| Cash, end of period | \$ 155,429 | \$ 323,975 | \$ 316,807 |

SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Income taxes paid (recovered) | \$ 131,632 | \$ 133,057 | \$ 51,045 |
| Interest paid | 35,217 | 38,861 | 37,725 |

NON-CASH TRANSACTION:

| | | | |
|--|--------------|-----|-----|
| Exchange of common shares of parent company, held as other invested assets at fair value, | \$ 1,773,214 | \$- | \$- |
| for preferred shares of an affiliated company, held as other invested assets at fair value | | | |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Years Ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Business and Basis of Presentation.

Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc. ("Holdings"), a Delaware company and direct subsidiary of Everest Underwriting Group (Ireland) Limited ("Holdings Ireland"), which is a direct subsidiary of Everest Re Group, Ltd. ("Group"), through its subsidiaries, principally provides property and casualty reinsurance and insurance in the United States of America and internationally. As used in this document, "Company" means Holdings and its subsidiaries.

The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"). The statements include all of the following domestic and foreign direct and indirect subsidiaries of the Company: Everest Reinsurance Company ("Everest Re"), Everest National Insurance Company ("Everest National"), Everest Indemnity Insurance Company ("Everest Indemnity"), Everest Security Insurance Company ("Everest Security"), Heartland Crop Insurance, Inc. ("Heartland"), Everest International Assurance, Ltd. ("Everest Assurance"), Specialty Insurance Group, Inc. ("Specialty"), Specialty Insurance Group - Leisure and Entertainment Risk Purchasing Group LLC ("Specialty RPG"), Mt. Whitney Securities, Inc., Everest Reinsurance Company – Escritório de Representação No Brasil Ltda. ("Everest Brazil"), Mt. McKinley Managers, L.L.C. and Mt. McKinley Insurance Company ("Mt. McKinley"). All amounts are reported in U.S. dollars.

Effective July 13, 2015, the Company sold all of the outstanding shares of capital stock of a wholly-owned subsidiary entity, Mt. McKinley Insurance Company ("Mt. McKinley"), to Clearwater Insurance Company. The operating results of Mt. McKinley through July 13, 2015 are included within the Company's financial statements.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities (and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities) at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Ultimate actual results could differ, possibly materially, from those estimates.

All intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

Certain reclassifications and format changes have been made to prior years' amounts to conform to the 2015 presentation.

B. Investments.

Fixed maturity and equity security investments available for sale, at market value, reflect unrealized appreciation and depreciation, as a result of temporary changes in market value during the period, in stockholder's equity, net of income taxes in "accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)" in the consolidated balance sheets. Fixed maturity, equity securities and other invested assets carried at fair value reflect fair value re-measurements as net realized capital gains and losses in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss). The Company records changes in fair value for its fixed maturities-available for sale, at market value through stockholders' equity, net of taxes in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) since cash flows from these investments will be primarily used to settle its reserve for losses and loss adjustment expense liabilities. The Company anticipates holding these investments for an extended period as the cash flow from interest and maturities will fund the projected payout of these liabilities. Fixed maturities carried at fair value represent a portfolio of convertible bond securities, which have characteristics similar to equity securities and at times, designated foreign denominated fixed maturity securities, which will be used to settle loss and loss adjustment reserves in the same currency. The Company carries all of its equity securities at fair value except for mutual fund investments whose underlying investments are comprised of

fixed maturity securities. For equity securities, available for sale, at fair value, the Company reflects changes in value as net realized capital gains and

F-7

losses since these securities may be sold in the near term depending on financial market conditions. Other invested assets, at fair value, at December 31, 2015 were comprised of convertible preferred stocks of Everest Preferred International Holdings, Ltd. ("Preferred Holdings"), an affiliated entity. At December 31, 2014, the other invested assets were comprised of common shares of the Company's ultimate parent, Everest Re Group, Ltd. Interest income on all fixed maturities and dividend income on all equity securities are included as part of net investment income in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss). Unrealized losses on fixed maturities, which are deemed other-than-temporary and related to the credit quality of a security, are charged to net income (loss) as net realized capital losses. Short-term investments are stated at cost, which approximates market value. Realized gains or losses on sales of investments are determined on the basis of identified cost. The fair value of the Preferred Holdings convertible preferred stocks represented the December 21, 2015 value of Group's common shares that were exchanged for the preferred stocks. For other non-publicly traded securities, market prices are determined through the use of pricing models that evaluate securities relative to the U.S. Treasury yield curve, taking into account the issue type, credit quality, and cash flow characteristics of each security. For publicly traded securities, market value is based on quoted market prices or valuation models that use observable market inputs. When a sector of the financial markets is inactive or illiquid, the Company may use its own assumptions about future cash flows and risk-adjusted discount rates to determine fair value. Retrospective adjustments are employed to recalculate the values of asset-backed securities. Each acquisition lot is reviewed to recalculate the effective yield. The recalculated effective yield is used to derive a book value as if the new yield were applied at the time of acquisition. Outstanding principal factors from the time of acquisition to the adjustment date are used to calculate the prepayment history for all applicable securities. Conditional prepayment rates, computed with life to date factor histories and weighted average maturities, are used to effect the calculation of projected and prepayments for pass-through security types. Other invested assets include limited partnerships and rabbi trusts. Limited partnerships are accounted for under the equity method of accounting, which can be recorded on a monthly or quarterly lag.

C. Uncollectible Receivable Balances.

The Company provides reserves for uncollectible reinsurance recoverable and premium receivable balances based on management's assessment of the collectability of the outstanding balances. Such reserves are presented in the table below for the periods indicated.

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Reinsurance recoverable and premium receivables | \$ 22,511 | \$ 29,153 |

D. Deferred Acquisition Costs.

Acquisition costs, consisting principally of commissions and brokerage expenses and certain premium taxes and fees incurred at the time a contract or policy is issued and that vary with and are directly related to the Company's reinsurance and insurance business, are deferred and amortized over the period in which the related premiums are earned. Deferred acquisition costs are limited to their estimated realizable value by line of business based on the related unearned premiums, anticipated claims and claim expenses and anticipated investment income. Deferred acquisition costs amortized to income are presented in the table below for the periods indicated.

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Deferred acquisition costs | \$315,069 | \$339,402 | \$293,922 |

E. Reserve for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses.

The reserve for losses and loss adjustment expenses ("LAE") is based on individual case estimates and reports received from ceding companies. A provision is included for losses and LAE incurred but not reported ("IBNR") based on past experience. A provision is also included for certain potential liabilities relating to asbestos and environmental ("A&E") exposures, which liabilities cannot be estimated using traditional reserving techniques. See also Note 3. The reserves are reviewed periodically and any changes in estimates are reflected in earnings in the period the adjustment is made. The Company's loss and LAE reserves represent management's best estimate of the ultimate liability. Loss and LAE reserves are presented gross of reinsurance receivables and incurred losses and LAE are presented net of reinsurance.

Accruals for commissions are established for reinsurance contracts that provide for the stated commission percentage to increase or decrease based on the loss experience of the contract. Changes in estimates for such arrangements are recorded as commission expense. Commission accruals for contracts with adjustable features are estimated based on expected loss and LAE.

F. Premium Revenues.

Written premiums are earned ratably over the periods of the related insurance and reinsurance contracts. Written premiums related to crop insurance are earned on a seasonal pattern, which is based upon the planting and harvesting periods of each crop season. Unearned premium reserves are established relative to the unexpired contract period. Such reserves are established based upon reports received from ceding companies or estimated using pro rata methods based on statistical data. Reinstatement premiums represent additional premium received on reinsurance coverages, most prevalently catastrophe related, when limits have been depleted under the original reinsurance contract and additional coverage is granted. Written and earned premiums and the related costs, which have not yet been reported to the Company, are estimated and accrued. Premiums are net of ceded reinsurance.

G. Prepaid Reinsurance Premiums.

Prepaid reinsurance premiums represent unearned premium reserves ceded to other reinsurers. Prepaid reinsurance premiums for any foreign reinsurers comprising more than 10% of the outstanding balance at December 31, 2015 were collateralized either through collateralized trust arrangements, rights of offset or letters of credit, thereby limiting the credit risk to the Company.

H. Income Taxes.

The Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries file a consolidated U.S. federal income tax return. Foreign branches of subsidiaries file local tax returns as required. Deferred income taxes have been recorded to recognize the tax effect of temporary differences between the financial reporting and income tax bases of assets and liabilities, which arise because of differences between GAAP and income tax accounting rules.

I. Foreign Currency.

As a global entity, the Company transacts business in numerous currencies through business units located around the world. The base transactional currency for each business unit is determined by the local currency used for most economic activity in that area. Movements in exchange rates related to assets and liabilities at the business units between the original currency and the base currency are recorded through the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss) in other income (expense), except for currency movements related to available for sale investments, which are excluded from net income (loss) and accumulated in stockholders' equity, net of deferred taxes.

The business units' base currency financial statements are translated to U.S. dollars using the exchange rates at the end of period for the balance sheets and the average exchange rates in effect for the reporting period for the income statements. Gains and losses resulting from translating the foreign currency financial statements, net of deferred income taxes, are excluded from net income loss and accumulated in stockholder's equity.

J. Segmentation.

The Company, through its subsidiaries, operates in three segments: U.S. Reinsurance, International and Insurance. See also Note 17.

F-9

K. Retroactive Reinsurance.

Premiums on ceded retroactive contracts are earned when written with a corresponding reinsurance recoverable established for the amount of reserves ceded. The initial gain, if applicable, is deferred and amortized into income over an actuarially determined expected payout period. Any future loss is recognized immediately and charged against earnings.

L. Application of Recently Issued Accounting Standard Changes.

Disclosures about Short-Duration Contracts. In May 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-09, authoritative guidance regarding required disclosures associated with short duration insurance contracts. The new disclosure requirements focus on information about initial claim estimates and subsequent claim estimate adjustment, methodologies in estimating claims and the timing, frequency and severity of claims related to short duration insurance contracts. This guidance is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015 and interim reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016. The Company has decided not to early adopt and will implement this guidance as of January 1, 2016. The Company is still evaluating the impact of the implementation of this guidance but does not anticipate that it will have a significant impact on its financial statements.

Debt Issuance Costs. In April 2015, The FASB issued ASU 2015-03, authoritative guidance on the presentation of debt issuance costs. This guidance requires that debt issuance costs be presented within the balance sheet as a reduction of the carrying value of the debt liability, rather than as a separate asset. This guidance is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015 and interim reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016. The Company has decided not to early adopt and will implement this guidance as of January 1, 2016. The Company is still evaluating the impact of the implementation of this guidance but does not anticipate that it will have a significant impact on its financial statements.

Consolidation. In February 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-02, authoritative guidance regarding consolidation of reporting entities. The new guidance focuses on the required evaluation of whether certain legal entities should be consolidated. This guidance is effective for annual and interim reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015. The Company has decided not to early adopt and will implement this guidance as of January 1, 2016. The Company is still evaluating the impact of the implementation of this guidance but does not anticipate that it will have a significant impact on its financial statements.

Treatment of Insurance Contract Acquisition Costs. In October 2010, the FASB issued authoritative guidance for the accounting for costs associated with acquiring or renewing insurance contracts. The guidance identifies the incremental direct costs of contract acquisition and costs directly related to acquisition activities that should be capitalized. This guidance is effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2011. The Company implemented this guidance as of January 1, 2012 and determined that \$7,215 thousand of previously deferrable acquisition costs would be expensed, including \$5,818 thousand and \$1,397 thousand expensed in the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2013, respectively. No additional expense will be incurred related to this guidance implementation in future periods.

2. INVESTMENTS

The amortized cost, market value and gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of available for sale, fixed maturity, equity security investments, carried at market value and other-than-temporary impairments ("OTTI") in accumulated other comprehensive income ("AOCI") are as follows for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | At December 31, 2015 | | | | OTTI in |
|--|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Amortized Cost | Unrealized Appreciation | Unrealized Depreciation | Market Value | AOCI (a) |
| Fixed maturity securities | | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. government agencies and corporations | \$ 329,281 | \$ 2,422 | \$ (718) | \$ 330,985 | \$ - |
| Obligations of U.S. states and political subdivisions | 669,945 | 34,020 | (890) | 703,075 | - |
| Corporate securities | 2,011,997 | 27,286 | (70,725) | 1,968,558 | (86) |
| Asset-backed securities | 145,755 | 290 | (1,063) | 144,982 | - |
| Mortgage-backed securities | | | | | |
| Commercial | 61,527 | 1,430 | (511) | 62,446 | - |
| Agency residential | 714,907 | 3,994 | (6,603) | 712,298 | - |
| Non-agency residential | 126 | 24 | - | 150 | - |
| Foreign government securities | 447,244 | 24,255 | (8,425) | 463,074 | - |
| Foreign corporate securities | 954,690 | 27,616 | (11,397) | 970,909 | 17 |
| Total fixed maturity securities | \$ 5,335,472 | \$ 121,337 | \$ (100,332) | \$ 5,356,477 | \$ (69) |
| Equity securities | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |

| (Dollars in thousands) | At December 31, 2014 | | | | OTTI in |
|--|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Amortized Cost | Unrealized Appreciation | Unrealized Depreciation | Market Value | AOCI (a) |
| Fixed maturity securities | | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. government agencies and corporations | \$ 135,724 | \$ 1,416 | \$ (304) | \$ 136,836 | \$ - |
| Obligations of U.S. states and political subdivisions | 783,129 | 41,969 | (626) | 824,472 | - |
| Corporate securities | 1,992,200 | 39,954 | (53,219) | 1,978,935 | (9,735) |
| Asset-backed securities | 94,470 | 727 | (374) | 94,823 | - |
| Mortgage-backed securities | | | | | |
| Commercial | 57,027 | 2,292 | (51) | 59,268 | - |
| Agency residential | 596,140 | 6,697 | (4,720) | 598,117 | - |
| Non-agency residential | 271 | 44 | - | 315 | - |
| Foreign government securities | 515,016 | 27,415 | (5,344) | 537,087 | - |
| Foreign corporate securities | 1,061,546 | 27,832 | (25,820) | 1,063,558 | - |
| Total fixed maturity securities | \$ 5,235,523 | \$ 148,346 | \$ (90,458) | \$ 5,293,411 | \$ (9,735) |
| Equity securities | \$ 15 | \$ 1 | \$ - | \$ 16 | \$ - |

(a) Represents the amount of OTTI recognized in AOCI. Amount includes unrealized gains and losses on impaired securities relating to changes in the value of such securities subsequent to the impairment measurement date.

F-11

The amortized cost and market value of fixed maturity securities are shown in the following tables by contractual maturity. Mortgage-backed securities are generally more likely to be prepaid than other fixed maturity securities. As the stated maturity of such securities may not be indicative of actual maturities, the totals for mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities are shown separately.

| (Dollars in thousands) | At December 31, 2015 | | At December 31, 2014 | |
|--|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
| | Amortized Cost | Market Value | Amortized Cost | Market Value |
| Fixed maturity securities – available for sale | | | | |
| Due in one year or less | \$ 330,029 | \$ 330,509 | \$ 385,721 | \$ 384,022 |
| Due after one year through five years | 2,617,079 | 2,618,056 | 2,387,533 | 2,369,917 |
| Due after five years through ten years | 870,266 | 856,230 | 1,025,221 | 1,029,077 |
| Due after ten years | 595,783 | 631,806 | 689,140 | 757,872 |
| Asset-backed securities | 145,755 | 144,982 | 94,470 | 94,823 |
| Mortgage-backed securities | | | | |
| Commercial | 61,527 | 62,446 | 57,027 | 59,268 |
| Agency residential | 714,907 | 712,298 | 596,140 | 598,117 |
| Non-agency residential | 126 | 150 | 271 | 315 |
| Total fixed maturity securities | \$ 5,335,472 | \$ 5,356,477 | \$ 5,235,523 | \$ 5,293,411 |

The changes in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) for the Company's investments are derived from the following sources for the periods as indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Increase (decrease) during the period between the market value and cost of investments carried at market value, and deferred taxes thereon: | | |
| Fixed maturity securities | \$ (46,548) | \$ (17,697) |
| Fixed maturity securities, other-than-temporary impairment | 9,666 | (9,735) |
| Equity securities | (1) | 3 |
| Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation), pre-tax | (36,883) | (27,429) |
| Deferred tax benefit (expense) | 16,292 | 6,193 |
| Deferred tax benefit (expense), other-than-temporary impairment | (3,383) | 3,407 |
| Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation), net of deferred taxes, included in stockholder's equity | \$ (23,974) | \$ (17,829) |

The Company frequently reviews all of its fixed maturity, available for sale securities for declines in market value and focuses its attention on securities whose fair value has fallen below 80% of their amortized cost at the time of review. The Company then assesses whether the decline in value is temporary or other-than-temporary. In making its assessment, the Company evaluates the current market and interest rate environment as well as specific issuer information. Generally, a change in a security's value caused by a change in the market, interest rate or foreign exchange environment does not constitute an other-than-temporary impairment, but rather a temporary decline in market value. Temporary declines in market value are recorded as unrealized losses in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). If the Company determines that the decline is other-than-temporary and the Company does not have the intent to sell the security; and it is more likely than not that the Company will not have to sell the security before recovery of its cost basis, the carrying value of the investment is written down to fair value. The fair

value adjustment that is credit or foreign exchange related is recorded in net realized capital gains (losses) in the Company's consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss). The fair value adjustment that is non-credit related is recorded as a component of other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax, and is included in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) in the Company's consolidated balance sheets. The Company's assessments are based on the issuers current and expected future financial position, timeliness with respect to interest and/or principal payments, speed of repayments and any applicable credit enhancements or breakeven constant default rates on mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities, as well as relevant information provided by rating agencies, investment advisors and analysts.

F-12

The majority of the Company's equity securities available for sale at market value are primarily comprised of mutual fund investments whose underlying securities consist of fixed maturity securities. When a fund's value reflects an unrealized loss, the Company assesses whether the decline in value is temporary or other-than-temporary. In making its assessment, the Company considers the composition of its portfolios and their related markets, reports received from the portfolio managers and discussions with portfolio managers. If the Company determines that the declines are temporary and it has the ability and intent to continue to hold the investments, then the declines are recorded as unrealized losses in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). If declines are deemed to be other-than-temporary, then the carrying value of the investment is written down to fair value and recorded in net realized capital gains (losses) in the Company's consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss).

Retrospective adjustments are employed to recalculate the values of asset-backed securities. All of the Company's asset-backed and mortgage-backed securities have a pass-through structure. Each acquisition lot is reviewed to recalculate the effective yield. The recalculated effective yield is used to derive a book value as if the new yield were applied at the time of acquisition. Outstanding principal factors from the time of acquisition to the adjustment date are used to calculate the prepayment history for all applicable securities. Conditional prepayment rates, computed with life to date factor histories and weighted average maturities, are used in the calculation of projected prepayments for pass-through security types.

The tables below display the aggregate market value and gross unrealized depreciation of fixed maturity and equity securities, by security type and contractual maturity, in each case subdivided according to length of time that individual securities had been in a continuous unrealized loss position for the periods indicated:

| | Duration of Unrealized Loss at December 31, 2015 By Security Type | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| | Less than 12 months | | Greater than 12 months | | Total | |
| | Market Value | Gross Unrealized Depreciation | Market Value | Gross Unrealized Depreciation | Market Value | Gross Unrealized Depreciation |
| (Dollars in thousands) | | | | | | |
| Fixed maturity securities - available for sale | | | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. government agencies and corporations | \$216,352 | \$ (712) | \$ 692 | \$ (6) | \$217,044 | \$ (718) |
| Obligations of U.S. states and political subdivisions | 6,434 | (84) | 4,917 | (806) | 11,351 | (890) |
| Corporate securities | 866,715 | (49,034) | 307,215 | (21,691) | 1,173,930 | (70,725) |
| Asset-backed securities | 102,506 | (791) | 28,048 | (272) | 130,554 | (1,063) |
| Mortgage-backed securities | | | | | | |
| Commercial | 26,483 | (511) | - | - | 26,483 | (511) |
| Agency residential | 320,285 | (3,094) | 150,095 | (3,509) | 470,380 | (6,603) |
| Non-agency residential | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Foreign government securities | 61,498 | (2,182) | 77,911 | (6,243) | 139,409 | (8,425) |
| Foreign corporate securities | 324,904 | (6,289) | 76,951 | (5,108) | 401,855 | (11,397) |
| Total fixed maturity securities | \$1,925,177 | \$ (62,697) | \$ 645,829 | \$ (37,635) | \$2,571,006 | \$ (100,332) |
| Equity securities | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | \$1,925,177 | \$ (62,697) | \$ 645,829 | \$ (37,635) | \$2,571,006 | \$ (100,332) |

| | Duration of Unrealized Loss at December 31, 2015 By Maturity | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| | Less than 12 months | | Greater than 12 months | | Total | |
| | Market Value | Gross Unrealized Depreciation | Market Value | Gross Unrealized Depreciation | Market Value | Gross Unrealized Depreciation |
| (Dollars in thousands) | | | | | | |
| Fixed maturity securities | | | | | | |
| Due in one year or less | \$21,780 | \$ (1,577) | \$ 12,212 | \$ (1,171) | \$33,992 | \$ (2,748) |
| Due in one year through five years | 1,023,437 | (23,255) | 347,203 | (21,582) | 1,370,640 | (44,837) |
| Due in five years through ten years | 394,978 | (31,423) | 99,335 | (10,131) | 494,313 | (41,554) |
| Due after ten years | 35,708 | (2,046) | 8,936 | (970) | 44,644 | (3,016) |
| Asset-backed securities | 102,506 | (791) | 28,048 | (272) | 130,554 | (1,063) |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 346,768 | (3,605) | 150,095 | (3,509) | 496,863 | (7,114) |
| Total fixed maturity securities | \$1,925,177 | \$ (62,697) | \$ 645,829 | \$ (37,635) | \$2,571,006 | \$ (100,332) |

F-13

The aggregate market value and gross unrealized losses related to investments in an unrealized loss position at December 31, 2015 were \$2,571,006 thousand and \$100,332 thousand, respectively. The market value of securities for the single issuer whose securities comprised the largest unrealized loss position at December 31, 2015, did not exceed 0.07% of the overall market value of the Company's fixed maturity securities. In addition, as indicated on the above table, there was no significant concentration of unrealized losses in any one market sector. The \$62,697 thousand of unrealized losses related to fixed maturity securities that have been in an unrealized loss position for less than one year were primarily comprised of domestic and foreign corporate securities, agency residential mortgage-backed securities and foreign government securities. The majority of these unrealized losses are attributable to unrealized losses in the energy sector, \$35,978 thousand, as falling oil prices disrupted the market values for this sector, particularly for oil exploration, production and servicing companies and unrealized foreign exchange losses, \$6,090 thousand, as the U.S. dollar has strengthened against other currencies. The \$37,635 thousand of unrealized losses related to fixed maturity securities in an unrealized loss position for more than one year related primarily to domestic and foreign corporate securities, foreign government securities and agency residential mortgage-backed securities. The majority of these unrealized losses are attributable to unrealized foreign exchange losses, \$14,807 thousand, as the U.S. dollar has strengthened against other currencies and unrealized losses in the energy sector, \$6,959 thousand, as falling oil prices disrupted the market values for this sector, particularly for oil exploration, production and servicing companies. The Company did not have any sub-prime or alt-A loans with gross unrealized depreciation at December 31, 2015. In all instances, there were no projected cash flow shortfalls to recover the full book value of the investments and the related interest obligations. The mortgage-backed securities still have excess credit coverage and are current on interest and principal payments.

The Company, given the size of its investment portfolio and capital position, does not have the intent to sell these securities; and it is more likely than not that the Company will not have to sell the security before recovery of its cost basis. In addition, all securities currently in an unrealized loss position are current with respect to principal and interest payments.

The tables below display the aggregate market value and gross unrealized depreciation of fixed maturity and equity securities, by security type and contractual maturity, in each case subdivided according to length of time that individual securities had been in a continuous unrealized loss position for the periods indicated:

| | Duration of Unrealized Loss at December 31, 2014 By Security Type | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| | Less than 12 months | | Greater than 12 months | | Total | |
| | Market Value | Gross Unrealized Depreciation | Market Value | Gross Unrealized Depreciation | Market Value | Gross Unrealized Depreciation |
| (Dollars in thousands) | | | | | | |
| Fixed maturity securities - available for sale | | | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. government agencies and corporations | \$ 13,187 | \$ (20) | \$ 26,897 | \$ (284) | \$ 40,084 | \$ (304) |
| Obligations of U.S. states and political subdivisions | 20,428 | (242) | 18,199 | (384) | 38,627 | (626) |
| Corporate securities | 830,928 | (48,891) | 171,207 | (4,328) | 1,002,135 | (53,219) |
| Asset-backed securities | 62,451 | (374) | - | - | 62,451 | (374) |
| Mortgage-backed securities | | | | | | |
| Commercial | 11,742 | (51) | - | - | 11,742 | (51) |
| Agency residential | 24,230 | (59) | 267,824 | (4,661) | 292,054 | (4,720) |

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Non-agency residential | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Foreign government securities | 45,521 | (913) | 53,086 | (4,431) | 98,607 | (5,344) |
| Foreign corporate securities | 228,733 | (21,704) | 117,713 | (4,116) | 346,446 | (25,820) |
| Total fixed maturity securities | \$1,237,220 | \$ (72,254) | \$ 654,926 | \$ (18,204) | \$ 1,892,146 | \$ (90,458) |
| Equity securities | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | \$1,237,220 | \$ (72,254) | \$ 654,926 | \$ (18,204) | \$ 1,892,146 | \$ (90,458) |

F-14

| (Dollars in thousands) | Duration of Unrealized Loss at December 31, 2014 By Maturity | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| | Less than 12 months | | Greater than 12 months | | Total | |
| | Market Value | Gross Unrealized Depreciation | Market Value | Gross Unrealized Depreciation | Market Value | Gross Unrealized Depreciation |
| Fixed maturity securities | | | | | | |
| Due in one year or less | \$ 12,858 | \$ (550) | \$ 53,528 | \$ (4,224) | \$ 66,386 | \$ (4,774) |
| Due in one year through five years | 622,137 | (51,262) | 243,192 | (6,306) | 865,329 | (57,568) |
| Due in five years through ten years | 467,187 | (18,958) | 66,630 | (2,018) | 533,817 | (20,976) |
| Due after ten years | 36,615 | (1,000) | 23,752 | (995) | 60,367 | (1,995) |
| Asset-backed securities | 62,451 | (374) | - | - | 62,451 | (374) |
| Mortgage-backed securities | 35,972 | (110) | 267,824 | (4,661) | 303,796 | (4,771) |
| Total fixed maturity securities | \$ 1,237,220 | \$ (72,254) | \$ 654,926 | \$ (18,204) | \$ 1,892,146 | \$ (90,458) |

The aggregate market value and gross unrealized losses related to investments in an unrealized loss position at December 31, 2014 were \$1,892,146 thousand and \$90,458 thousand, respectively. The market value of securities for the single issuer whose securities comprised the largest unrealized loss position at December 31, 2014, did not exceed 0.3% of the overall market value of the Company's fixed maturity securities. In addition, as indicated on the above table, there was no significant concentration of unrealized losses in any one market sector. The \$72,254 thousand of unrealized losses related to fixed maturity securities that have been in an unrealized loss position for less than one year were primarily comprised of domestic and foreign corporate securities. The majority of these unrealized losses are attributable to unrealized losses in the energy sector, \$53,772 thousand, as falling oil prices disrupted the market values for this sector, particularly for oil exploration, production and servicing companies during the fourth quarter of 2014 and unrealized foreign exchange losses, \$7,298 thousand, as the U.S. dollar has strengthened against other currencies. The \$18,204 thousand of unrealized losses related to fixed maturity securities in an unrealized loss position for more than one year related primarily to agency residential mortgage-backed securities, foreign and domestic corporate securities and foreign government securities. Of these unrealized losses, \$16,680 thousand were related to securities that were rated investment grade by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization. The Company did not have any sub-prime or alt-A loans with gross unrealized depreciation at December 31, 2014. In all instances, there were no projected cash flow shortfalls to recover the full book value of the investments and the related interest obligations. The mortgage-backed securities still have excess credit coverage and are current on interest and principal payments.

Other invested assets, at fair value, as of December 31, 2015, were comprised of preferred shares held in Preferred Holdings, an affiliated company. As of December 31, 2014, other invested assets, at fair value, were comprised of shares held in the Parent company.

The components of net investment income are presented in the tables below for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Fixed maturities | \$188,300 | \$207,861 | \$210,416 |
| Equity securities | 34,418 | 34,112 | 36,274 |
| Short-term investments and cash | 964 | 1,190 | 1,090 |
| Other invested assets | | | |
| Limited partnerships | 19,613 | 29,653 | 36,737 |
| Dividends from Parent's shares | 38,880 | 31,104 | 21,287 |
| Other | 1,804 | 3,620 | 7,328 |
| Gross investment income before adjustments | 283,979 | 307,540 | 313,132 |
| Funds held interest income (expense) | 5,611 | 5,429 | 6,925 |
| Interest income from Parent | 4,300 | - | - |
| Gross investment income | 293,890 | 312,969 | 320,057 |
| Investment expenses | (20,637) | (22,658) | (23,061) |
| Net investment income | \$273,253 | \$290,310 | \$296,996 |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding.)

The Company records results from limited partnership investments on the equity method of accounting with changes in value reported through net investment income. Due to the timing of receiving financial information from these partnerships, the results are generally reported on a one month or quarter lag. If the Company determines there has been a significant decline in value of a limited partnership during this lag period, a loss will be recorded in the period in which the Company identifies the decline.

The Company had contractual commitments to invest up to an additional \$321,999 thousand in limited partnerships at December 31, 2015. These commitments will be funded when called in accordance with the partnership agreements, which have investment periods that expire, unless extended, through 2020.

The components of net realized capital gains (losses) are presented in the tables below for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|---------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Fixed maturity securities, market value: | | | |
| Other-than-temporary impairments | \$(78,833) | \$(38,912) | \$- |
| Gains (losses) from sales | (36,299) | (2,711) | 3,792 |
| Fixed maturity securities, fair value: | | | |
| Gain (losses) from sales | 25 | (3,137) | 201 |
| Gains (losses) from fair value adjustments | (44) | (1,498) | 307 |
| Equity securities, market value: | | | |
| Gains (losses) from sales | 1 | - | - |
| Equity securities, fair value: | | | |
| Gains (losses) from sales | (8,010) | (385) | 31,566 |
| Gains (losses) from fair value adjustments | (39,119) | 113,065 | 240,927 |
| Other invested assets, fair value: | | | |
| Gains (losses) from exchange | 88,354 | - | - |
| Gains (losses) from fair value adjustments | 29,549 | 140,259 | 446,341 |

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

| | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Gain on sale of subsidiary | 94,704 | - | - |
| Short-term investment gains (losses) | 7 | (2 |) 15 |
| Total net realized capital gains (losses) | \$50,335 | \$206,679 | \$723,149 |

The Company recorded as net realized capital gains (losses) in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss) both fair value re-measurements and write-downs in the value of securities deemed to be impaired on an other-than-temporary basis as displayed in the table above. The Company had no other-than-temporary impaired securities where the impairment had both a credit and non-credit component.

F-16

On July 13, 2015, the Company sold Mt. McKinley, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company to Clearwater Insurance Company, a Delaware domiciled insurance company. The purchase price of \$20,156 thousand was based upon the statutory book value of Mt. McKinley as of the closing date. The Company recognized a pre-tax realized gain of \$94,704 thousand on the sale of Mt. McKinley.

The proceeds and split between gross gains and losses, from sales of fixed maturity and equity securities, are presented in the tables below for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Proceeds from sales of fixed maturity securities | \$546,779 | \$1,116,743 | \$619,914 |
| Gross gains from sales | 10,935 | 14,782 | 14,914 |
| Gross losses from sales | (47,209) | (20,630) | (10,921) |
| Proceeds from sales of equity securities | \$567,085 | \$528,958 | \$612,516 |
| Gross gains from sales | 26,136 | 17,921 | 40,191 |
| Gross losses from sales | (34,146) | (18,306) | (8,925) |

Securities with a carrying value amount of \$1,398,874 thousand at December 31, 2015, were on deposit with various state or governmental insurance departments in compliance with insurance laws.

3. RESERVES FOR LOSSES AND LAE

Reserves for losses and LAE.

Activity in the reserve for losses and LAE is summarized for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | At December 31, | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Gross reserves at January 1 | \$7,843,856 | \$7,653,229 | \$8,143,055 |
| Less reinsurance recoverables | (3,702,782) | (3,427,385) | (3,444,970) |
| Net reserves at January 1 | 4,141,074 | 4,225,844 | 4,698,085 |
| Incurred related to: | | | |
| Current year | 1,326,015 | 1,314,887 | 1,227,525 |
| Prior years | (6,454) | 39,206 | 44,631 |
| Total incurred losses and LAE | 1,319,561 | 1,354,093 | 1,272,156 |
| Paid related to: | | | |
| Current year | 357,819 | 452,662 | 464,914 |
| Prior years | 946,337 | 926,819 | 1,209,941 |
| Total paid losses and LAE | 1,304,156 | 1,379,481 | 1,674,855 |
| Foreign exchange/translation adjustment | (90,832) | (59,382) | (69,542) |
| Net reserves at December 31 | 4,065,647 | 4,141,074 | 4,225,844 |
| Plus reinsurance recoverables | 3,875,073 | 3,702,782 | 3,427,385 |
| Gross reserves at December 31 | \$7,940,720 | \$7,843,856 | \$7,653,229 |

Prior years' reserves decreased by \$6,454 thousand, increased by \$39,206 thousand and increased by \$44,631 thousand for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The decrease for 2015 was attributable to \$86,540 thousand of favorable development in the reinsurance segments related to treaty casualty, treaty property and catastrophe reserves, partially offset by unfavorable development of \$80,086 thousand in the insurance segment primarily related to construction liability and umbrella business.

F-17

The increase for 2014 was attributable to an increase of \$87,362 thousand in A&E reserves along with unfavorable development of \$11,352 thousand in the insurance segment, partially offset by \$59,509 thousand of favorable development in the reinsurance segments related to treaty casualty, treaty property and catastrophe reserves.

The increase for 2013 was attributable to a \$71,838 thousand increase in insurance business, primarily related to development on contractors' liability, workers compensation, and umbrella reserves, partially offset by a \$27,207 thousand decrease in reinsurance business, primarily related to favorable development on treaty property reserves.

The Company continues to receive claims under expired insurance and reinsurance contracts asserting injuries and/or damages relating to or resulting from environmental pollution and hazardous substances, including asbestos. Environmental claims typically assert liability for (a) the mitigation or remediation of environmental contamination or (b) bodily injury or property damage caused by the release of hazardous substances into the land, air or water. Asbestos claims typically assert liability for bodily injury from exposure to asbestos or for property damage resulting from asbestos or products containing asbestos.

The Company's reserves include an estimate of the Company's ultimate liability for A&E claims. The Company's A&E liabilities emanate from Mt. McKinley, a direct subsidiary of the Company, direct insurance business and Everest Re's assumed reinsurance business. All of the contracts of insurance and reinsurance under which the Company has received claims during the past three years, expired more than 20 years ago. There are significant uncertainties surrounding the Company's reserves for its A&E losses.

A&E exposures represent a separate exposure group for monitoring and evaluating reserve adequacy. The following table summarizes incurred losses with respect to A&E reserves on both a gross and net of reinsurance basis for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | At December 31, | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Gross basis: | | | |
| Beginning of period reserves | \$476,205 | \$402,461 | \$442,821 |
| Incurred losses | 40,000 | 142,233 | 5,598 |
| Paid losses | (83,088) | (68,490) | (45,958) |
| End of period reserves | \$433,117 | \$476,205 | \$402,461 |
| Net basis: | | | |
| Beginning of period reserves | \$304,286 | \$269,370 | \$305,469 |
| Incurred losses | 30,879 | 87,362 | 3,965 |
| Paid losses | (58,625) | (52,446) | (40,064) |
| End of period reserves | \$276,540 | \$304,286 | \$269,370 |

On July 13, 2015, the Company closed its agreement to sell all of the outstanding shares of capital stock of Mt. McKinley, a Delaware domiciled insurance company and wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company to Clearwater Insurance Company, a Delaware domiciled insurance company. The purchase price of \$20,156 thousand was based upon the statutory book value of Mt. McKinley as of the closing date. The Company recognized a pre-tax realized gain of \$94,704 thousand on the sale of Mt. McKinley.

Reinsurance Receivables. Reinsurance receivables for both paid and unpaid losses totaled \$4,459,087 thousand and \$4,032,018 thousand at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. At December 31, 2015, \$3,643,252 thousand, or 81.7%, was receivable from Everest Reinsurance (Bermuda), Ltd. ("Bermuda Re") and is fully collateralized by a trust agreement. No other retrocessionaire accounted for more than 5% of reinsurance receivables.

4. FAIR VALUE

GAAP guidance regarding fair value measurements address how companies should measure fair value when they are required to use fair value measures for recognition or disclosure purposes under GAAP and provides a common definition of fair value to be used throughout GAAP. It defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly fashion between market participants at the measurement date. In addition, it establishes a three-level valuation hierarchy for the disclosure of fair value measurements. The valuation hierarchy is based on the transparency of inputs to the valuation of an asset or liability. The level in the hierarchy within which a given fair value measurement falls is determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the measurement, with Level 1 being the highest priority and Level 3 being the lowest priority.

The levels in the hierarchy are defined as follows:

Level 1: Inputs to the valuation methodology are observable inputs that reflect unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in an active market;

Level 2: Inputs to the valuation methodology include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, and inputs that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the financial instrument;

Level 3: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The Company's fixed maturity and equity securities are primarily managed by third party investment asset managers. The investment asset managers obtain prices from nationally recognized pricing services. These services seek to utilize market data and observations in their evaluation process. They use pricing applications that vary by asset class and incorporate available market information and when fixed maturity securities do not trade on a daily basis the services will apply available information through processes such as benchmark curves, benchmarking of like securities, sector groupings and matrix pricing. In addition, they use model processes, such as the Option Adjusted Spread model to develop prepayment and interest rate scenarios for securities that have prepayment features.

In limited instances where prices are not provided by pricing services or in rare instances when a manager may not agree with the pricing service, price quotes on a non-binding basis are obtained from investment brokers. The investment asset managers do not make any changes to prices received from either the pricing services or the investment brokers. In addition, the investment asset managers have procedures in place to review the reasonableness of the prices from the service providers and may request verification of the prices. In addition, the Company continually performs analytical reviews of price changes and tests the prices on a random basis to an independent pricing source. No material variances were noted during these price validation procedures. In limited situations, where financial markets are inactive or illiquid, the Company may use its own assumptions about future cash flows and risk-adjusted discount rates to determine fair value. Due to the unavailability of prices for two private placement security, the Company valued the securities at \$3,593 thousand at December 31, 2015 and made no such adjustments at December 31, 2014.

The Company internally manages a small public equity portfolio which had a fair value at December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 of \$131,219 thousand and \$96,890 thousand, respectively, and all prices were obtained from publically published sources.

Equity securities denominated in U.S. currency with quoted prices in active markets for identical assets are categorized as level 1 since the quoted prices are directly observable. Equity securities traded on foreign exchanges are categorized as level 2 due to the added input of a foreign exchange conversion rate to determine fair or market value. The Company uses foreign currency exchange rates published by nationally recognized sources.

All categories of fixed maturity securities listed in the tables below are generally categorized as level 2, since a particular security may not have traded but the pricing services are able to use valuation models with observable market inputs such as interest rate yield curves and prices for similar fixed maturity securities in terms of issuer, maturity and seniority. For foreign government securities and foreign corporate securities, the fair values provided by the third party pricing services in local currencies, and where applicable, are converted to U.S. dollars using currency exchange rates from nationally recognized sources.

The fixed maturities with fair values categorized as level 3 result when prices are not available from the nationally recognized pricing services. The asset managers will then obtain non-binding price quotes for the securities from brokers. The single broker quotes are provided by market makers or broker-dealers who are recognized as market participants in the markets in which they are providing the quotes. The prices received from brokers are reviewed for reasonableness by the third party asset managers and the Company. If the broker quotes are for foreign denominated securities, the quotes are converted to U.S. dollars using currency exchange rates from nationally recognized sources. In limited circumstances when broker prices are not available for private placements the Company will value the securities using comparable market information. Historically, most of the level 3 fixed maturities have resulted from new issuances and the third party prices services have not yet included the issuance in their data base. Generally, in subsequent measurement periods, the issuances will be included in the data base and the fair value will transfer to level 2.

The composition and valuation inputs for the presented fixed maturities categories are as follows:

U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. government agencies and corporations are primarily comprised of U.S. Treasury bonds and the fair value is based on observable market inputs such as quoted prices, reported trades, quoted prices for similar issuances or benchmark yields;

Obligations of U.S. states and political subdivisions are comprised of state and municipal bond issuances and the fair values are based on observable market inputs such as quoted market prices, quoted prices for similar securities, benchmark yields and credit spreads;

Corporate securities are primarily comprised of U.S. corporate and public utility bond issuances and the fair values are based on observable market inputs such as quoted market prices, quoted prices for similar securities, benchmark yields and credit spreads;

Asset-backed and mortgage-backed securities fair values are based on observable inputs such as quoted prices, reported trades, quoted prices for similar issuances or benchmark yields and cash flow models using observable inputs such as prepayment speeds, collateral performance and default spreads;

Foreign government securities are comprised of global non-U.S. sovereign bond issuances and the fair values are based on observable market inputs such as quoted market prices, quoted prices for similar securities and models with observable inputs such as benchmark yields and credit spreads and then, where applicable, converted to U.S. dollars using an exchange rate from a nationally recognized source;

Foreign corporate securities are comprised of global non-U.S. corporate bond issuances and the fair values are based on observable market inputs such as quoted market prices, quoted prices for similar securities and models with observable inputs such as benchmark yields and credit spreads and then, where applicable, converted to U.S. dollars using an exchange rate from a nationally recognized source.

Other invested assets, at fair value, was categorized as Level 3 at December 31, 2015 since it represented a privately placed convertible preferred stock issued by an affiliate. The stock was received in exchange for shares of the Company's parent, which were valued on a public securities exchange on December 21, 2015. The fair value of the

stock at December 31, 2015 represented this exchange value. The other invested assets, at fair value, at December 31, 2014, was categorized as Level 1, Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets, since the securities are shares of the Company's parent, which are actively traded on an exchange and the price is based on a quoted price.

F-20

The following table presents the fair value measurement levels for all assets, which the Company has recorded at fair value (fair and market value) as of the period indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | December 31, 2015 | Fair Value Measurement Using: | | |
|--|-------------------|---|---|--|
| | | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Fixed maturities, market value | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of U.S. government agencies and corporations | \$ 330,985 | \$- | \$330,985 | \$ - |
| Obligations of U.S. States and political subdivisions | 703,075 | - | 703,075 | - |
| Corporate securities | 1,968,558 | - | 1,964,625 | 3,933 |
| Asset-backed securities | 144,982 | - | 144,982 | - |
| Mortgage-backed securities | | | | |
| Commercial | 62,446 | - | 62,446 | - |
| Agency residential | 712,298 | - | 712,298 | - |
| Non-agency residential | 150 | - | 150 | - |
| Foreign government securities | 463,074 | - | 463,074 | - |
| Foreign corporate securities | 970,909 | - | 969,316 | 1,593 |
| Total fixed maturities, market value | 5,356,477 | - | 5,350,951 | 5,526 |
| Fixed maturities, fair value | 2,102 | - | 2,102 | - |
| Equity securities, market value | - | - | - | - |
| Equity securities, fair value | 1,215,377 | 1,153,310 | 62,067 | - |
| Other invested assets, fair value | 1,773,214 | - | - | 1,773,214 |

There were no transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 for the twelve months ended December 31, 2015.

The following table presents the fair value measurement levels for all assets, which the Company has recorded at fair value (fair and market value) as of the period indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | December 31, 2014 | Fair Value Measurement Using: | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|---|---|--|
| | | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) |
| Assets: | | | | |

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

| | | | | |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Fixed maturities, market value | | | | |
| U.S. Treasury securities and obligations of | | | | |
| U.S. government agencies and corporations | \$ 136,836 | \$- | \$136,836 | \$ - |
| Obligations of U.S. States and political subdivisions | 824,472 | - | 824,472 | - |
| Corporate securities | 1,978,935 | - | 1,978,935 | - |
| Asset-backed securities | 94,823 | - | 94,823 | - |
| Mortgage-backed securities | | | | |
| Commercial | 59,268 | - | 50,671 | 8,597 |
| Agency residential | 598,117 | - | 598,117 | - |
| Non-agency residential | 315 | - | 315 | - |
| Foreign government securities | 537,087 | - | 537,087 | - |
| Foreign corporate securities | 1,063,558 | - | 1,056,392 | 7,166 |
| Total fixed maturities, market value | 5,293,411 | - | 5,277,648 | 15,763 |
| Fixed maturities, fair value | 1,509 | - | 1,509 | - |
| Equity securities, market value | 16 | 16 | - | - |
| Equity securities, fair value | 1,299,037 | 1,188,613 | 110,424 | - |
| Other invested assets, fair value | 1,655,311 | 1,655,311 | - | - |

F-21

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

The following table presents the activity under Level 3, fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs by asset type, for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | December 31, 2015 | | | | | December 31, 2014 | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|----------|-------------------|--------------|---------|------------|-------|----------|
| | Corporate | Asset-backed | Foreign | Corporate | Total | Corporate | Asset-backed | Foreign | Non-agency | Total | |
| Beginning balance | \$- | \$- | \$8,597 | \$7,166 | \$15,763 | \$- | \$3,533 | \$- | \$481 | \$4 | \$4,018 |
| Total gains or (losses) (realized/unrealized) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Included in earnings | 6 | - | - | (9,480) | (9,474) | - | 1,291 | - | 73 | 2 | 1,366 |
| Included in other comprehensive income (loss) | (52) | - | - | 3,908 | 3,856 | 42 | (192) | (426) | (5,208) | (3) | (5,787) |
| Purchases, issuances and settlements | 3,625 | - | - | - | 3,625 | 1,274 | 16,744 | 9,023 | 3,135 | (3) | 30,173 |
| Transfers in and/or (out) of Level 3 | 354 | - | (8,597) | (1) | (8,244) | (1,316) | (21,376) | - | 8,685 | - | (14,007) |
| Ending balance | \$3,933 | \$- | \$- | \$1,593 | \$5,526 | \$- | \$- | \$8,597 | \$7,166 | \$- | \$15,763 |

The amount of total gains or losses for the period included in earnings (or changes in net assets) attributable to the change in unrealized gains or losses relating to assets still held at the reporting date

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|---------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| \$- | \$- | \$- | \$9,721 | \$9,721 | \$- | \$- | \$- | \$- | \$- | \$- |
|-----|-----|-----|---------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding.)

The net transfers from level 3, fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs, of \$8,244 thousand and \$14,007 thousand of investments during 2015 and 2014, respectively, primarily relate to securities that were priced using single non-binding broker quotes and were subsequently priced using a recognized pricing service and were then classified as level 2.

The following table presents the activity under Level 3, fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs by other invested assets, for the periods indicated:

Years Ended December 31,

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

| (Dollars in thousands) | 2015 | 2014 |
|---|--------------|------|
| Other invested assets, fair value: | | |
| Beginning balance | \$ - | \$ - |
| Total gains or (losses) (realized/unrealized) | | |
| Included in earnings | - | - |
| Included in other comprehensive income (loss) | - | - |
| Purchases, issuances and settlements | 1,773,214 | - |
| Transfers in and/or (out) of Level 3 | - | - |
| Ending balance | \$ 1,773,214 | \$ - |

| | | |
|---|------|------|
| The amount of total gains or losses for the period included in earnings (or changes in net assets) attributable to the change in unrealized gains or losses relating to assets still held at the reporting date | \$ - | \$ - |
|---|------|------|

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding.)

5. CREDIT FACILITY - EXPIRED

Effective August 15, 2011, the Company entered into a three year, \$150,000 thousand unsecured revolving credit facility, referred to as the "Holdings Credit Facility", which expired on August 15, 2014. The Company decided not to renew the Holdings Credit Facility at expiration.

The following table presents the costs incurred in connection with the Holdings Credit Facility for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|--------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Credit facility fees incurred | \$ - | \$ 97 | \$ 299 |

6. SENIOR NOTES

The table below displays Holdings' outstanding senior notes. Market value is based on quoted market prices, but due to limited trading activity, these senior notes are considered Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

| (Dollars in thousands) | Date Issued | Date Due | Principal Amounts | December 31, 2015 | | December 31, 2014 | |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| | | | | Consolidated Sheet Balance | Market Value | Consolidated Sheet Balance | Market Value |
| 4.868% Senior notes | 06/05/2014 | 06/01/2044 | 400,000 | \$400,000 | \$ 381,204 | \$400,000 | \$ 404,892 |
| 5.40% Senior notes | 10/12/2004 | 10/15/2014 | 250,000 | - | - | - | - |

On June 5, 2014, Holdings issued \$400,000 thousand of 30 year senior notes at 4.868%, which will mature on June 1, 2044. Interest will be paid semi-annually on June 1 and December 1 of each year. The proceeds from the issuance have been used in part to pay off the \$250,000 thousand of 5.40% senior notes which matured on October 15, 2014.

Interest expense incurred in connection with these senior notes is as follows for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Interest expense incurred | \$19,472 | \$21,818 | \$13,551 |

7. LONG TERM SUBORDINATED NOTES

The table below displays Holdings' outstanding fixed to floating rate long term subordinated notes. Market value is based on quoted market prices, but due to limited trading activity, these subordinated notes are considered Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

| (Dollars in thousands) | Date Issued | Original Principal Amount | Maturity Date | | December 31, 2015 | | December 31, 2014 | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| | | | Scheduled | Final | Consolidated Sheet Balance | Market Value | Consolidated Sheet Balance | Market Value |
| 6.6% Long term subordinated notes | 04/26/2007 | \$ 400,000 | 05/15/2037 | 05/01/2067 | \$238,368 | \$ 208,978 | \$238,364 | \$ 246,312 |

During the fixed rate interest period from May 3, 2007 through May 14, 2017, interest will be at the annual rate of 6.6%, payable semi-annually in arrears on November 15 and May 15 of each year, commencing on November 15, 2007, subject to Holdings' right to defer interest on one or more occasions for up to ten consecutive years. During the floating rate interest period from May 15, 2017 through maturity, interest will be based on the 3 month LIBOR plus 238.5 basis points, reset quarterly, payable quarterly in arrears on February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15 of each year, subject to Holdings' right to defer interest on one or more occasions for up to ten consecutive years.

Deferred interest will accumulate interest at the applicable rate compounded semi-annually for periods prior to May 15, 2017, and compounded quarterly for periods from and including May 15, 2017.

Holdings can redeem the long term subordinated notes prior to May 15, 2017, in whole but not in part at the applicable redemption price, which will equal the greater of (a) 100% of the principal amount being redeemed and (b) the present value of the principal payment on May 15, 2017 and scheduled payments of interest that would have accrued from the redemption date to May 15, 2017 on the long term subordinated notes being redeemed, discounted to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis at a discount rate equal to the treasury rate plus an applicable spread of either 0.25% or 0.50%, in each case plus accrued and unpaid interest. Holdings may redeem the long term subordinated notes on or after May 15, 2017, in whole or in part at 100% of the principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest; however, redemption on or after the scheduled maturity date and prior to May 1, 2047 is subject to a replacement capital covenant. This covenant is for the benefit of certain senior note holders and it mandates that Holdings receive proceeds from the sale of another subordinated debt issue, of at least similar size, before it may redeem the subordinated notes. Effective upon the maturity of the Company's 5.40% senior notes on October 15, 2014, the Company's 4.868% senior notes, due on June 1, 2044, have become the Company's long term indebtedness that ranks senior to the long term subordinated notes.

F-23

On March 19, 2009, Group announced the commencement of a cash tender offer for any and all of the 6.60% fixed to floating rate long term subordinated notes. Upon expiration of the tender offer, the Company had reduced its outstanding debt by \$161,441 thousand.

Interest expense incurred in connection with these long term subordinated notes is as follows for the periods indicated:

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| (Dollars in thousands) | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Interest expense incurred | \$15,749 | \$15,749 | \$15,748 |

8. REINSURANCE AND TRUST AGREEMENTS

A subsidiary of the Company, Everest Re, has established a trust agreement, which effectively uses Everest Re's investments as collateral, as security for assumed losses payable to a non-affiliated ceding company. At December 31, 2015, the total amount on deposit in the trust account was \$347,105 thousand.

On April 24, 2014, the Company entered into two collateralized reinsurance agreements with Kilimanjaro Re Limited ("Kilimanjaro"), a Bermuda based special purpose reinsurer, to provide the Company with catastrophe reinsurance coverage. These agreements are multi-year reinsurance contracts which cover specified named storm and earthquake events. The first agreement provides up to \$250,000 thousand of reinsurance coverage from named storms in specified states of the Southeastern United States. The second agreement provides up to \$200,000 thousand of reinsurance coverage from named storms in specified states of the Southeast, Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions of the United States and Puerto Rico as well as reinsurance coverage from earthquakes in specified states of the Southeast, Mid-Atlantic, Northeast and West regions of the United States, Puerto Rico and British Columbia.

On November 18, 2014, the Company entered into a collateralized reinsurance agreement with Kilimanjaro Re to provide the Company with catastrophe reinsurance coverage. This agreement is a multi-year reinsurance contract which covers specified earthquake events. The agreement provides up to \$500,000 thousand of reinsurance coverage from earthquakes in the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada.

On December 1, 2015 the Company entered into two collateralized reinsurance agreements with Kilimanjaro Re to provide the Company with catastrophe reinsurance coverage. These agreements are multi-year reinsurance contracts which cover named storm and earthquake events. The first agreement provides up to \$300,000 thousand of reinsurance coverage from named storms and earthquakes in the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada. The second agreement provides up to \$325,000 thousand of reinsurance coverage from named storms and earthquakes in the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada.

Kilimanjaro has financed the various property catastrophe reinsurance coverage by issuing catastrophe bonds to unrelated, external investors. On April 24, 2014, Kilimanjaro issued \$450,000 thousand of notes ("Series 2014-1 Notes"). On November 18, 2014, Kilimanjaro issued \$500,000 thousand of notes ("Series 2014-2 Notes"). On December 1, 2015, Kilimanjaro issued \$625,000 thousand of notes ("Series 2015-1 Notes"). The proceeds from the issuance of the Series 2014-1 Notes, the Series 2014-2 Notes and the Series 2015-1 Notes are held in reinsurance trust throughout the duration of the applicable reinsurance agreements and invested solely in US government money market funds with a rating of at least "AAAm" by Standard & Poor's.

9. OPERATING LEASE AGREEMENTS

The future minimum rental commitments, exclusive of cost escalation clauses, at December 31, 2015, for all of the Company's operating leases with remaining non-cancelable terms in excess of one year are as follows:

| (Dollars in thousands) | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 2016 | \$ 13,239 |
| 2017 | 12,889 |
| 2018 | 13,111 |
| 2019 | 12,929 |
| 2020 | 12,594 |
| Thereafter | 16,511 |
| Net commitments | \$ 81,273 |

All of these leases, the expiration terms of which range from 2018 to 2027, are for the rental of office space. Rental expense was \$14,145 thousand, \$13,028 thousand and \$12,405 thousand for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

10. INCOME TAXES

All of the income of Holdings U.S. subsidiaries is subject to the applicable federal, foreign, state and local taxes on corporations. Additionally, the income of foreign branches of the Company's insurance operating companies is subject to various income taxes. The provision for income taxes in the Consolidated Statement of Operations and Comprehensive Income (Loss) has been determined in accordance with the individual income of each entity and the respective applicable tax laws. The provision reflects the permanent differences between financial and taxable income relevant to each entity. The significant components of the provision are as follows for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Current tax expense (benefit): | | | |
| U.S. | \$ 52,347 | \$ 104,327 | \$ 86,345 |
| Foreign | 30,373 | 33,171 | 7,909 |
| Total current tax expense (benefit) | 82,720 | 137,498 | 94,254 |
| Total deferred U.S. tax expense (benefit) | 109,169 | 66,064 | 312,984 |
| Total income tax expense (benefit) | \$ 191,889 | \$ 203,562 | \$ 407,238 |

A reconciliation of the total income tax provision using the statutory U.S. Federal Income tax rate to the Company's total income tax provision is as follows for the period indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Expected income tax provision at the U.S. statutory tax rate | \$ 211,588 | \$ 230,190 | \$ 421,924 |
| Increase (reduction) in taxes resulting from: | | | |
| Tax exempt income | (10,004) | (12,231) | (15,038) |
| Dividend received deduction | (4,851) | (5,428) | (7,328) |

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Proration | 2,160 | 1,835 | 2,274 |
| Other, net | (7,005) | (10,804) | 5,406 |
| Total income tax provision | \$ 191,889 | \$ 203,562 | \$ 407,238 |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding.)

The Company has no reserve for uncertain tax positions.

The Company's U.S. Corporation Income Tax Returns from 2009 and subsequent are open to IRS audit.

F-25

Deferred income taxes reflect the tax effect of the temporary differences between the value of assets and liabilities for financial statement purposes and such values as measured by the U.S. tax laws and regulations. The principal items making up the net deferred income tax assets are as follows for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | At December 31, | |
|--|-----------------|------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Deferred tax assets: | | |
| Loss reserve | \$ 169,771 | \$ 153,978 |
| Unearned premium reserve | 40,624 | 44,582 |
| Net unrecognized losses on benefit plans | 33,971 | 40,377 |
| Investment impairments | 23,481 | 13,841 |
| Benefit plan liabilities | 18,747 | 9,873 |
| Foreign tax credits | 11,836 | 64,902 |
| Alternative minimum tax credits | 7,604 | 44,954 |
| Uncollectible reinsurance reserve | 5,534 | 5,237 |
| Deferred expenses | 3,182 | 3,076 |
| Deferred gain on reinsurance | - | 35,231 |
| Other assets | 13,402 | 17,357 |
| Total deferred tax assets | 328,152 | 433,408 |
| Deferred tax liabilities: | | |
| Net fair value income | 401,305 | 403,731 |
| Deferred acquisition costs | 33,227 | 38,636 |
| Gain on tender of debt | 16,437 | 21,916 |
| Net unrealized investment gains | 6,811 | 25,516 |
| Bond market discount | 2,674 | 3,043 |
| Other liabilities | 13,569 | 13,158 |
| Total deferred tax liabilities | 474,023 | 506,000 |
| Net deferred tax assets/(liabilities) | \$(145,871) | \$(72,592) |

For U.S. income tax purposes at December 31, 2015, the Company has foreign tax credit carry forwards of \$11,836 thousand that begin to expire in 2021. In addition, the Company has \$7,604 thousand of Alternative Minimum Tax Credits that do not expire. Management believes that it is more likely than not that the Company will realize the benefits of the majority of its net deferred tax assets, and accordingly, no valuation allowance has been recorded for the periods presented.

The Company has recorded tax benefits related to share-based compensation deductions for dividends on restricted stock, vestings of restricted stock and exercised stock options in 2015 and 2014, respectively, of \$4,469 thousand and \$3,333 thousand to additional paid-in capital in the shareholders' equity section of the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

11. REINSURANCE

The Company utilizes reinsurance agreements to reduce its exposure to large claims and catastrophic loss occurrences. These agreements provide for recovery from reinsurers of a portion of losses and LAE under certain circumstances without relieving the Company of its underlying obligations. Losses and LAE incurred and premiums earned are reported after deduction for reinsurance. In the event that one or more of the reinsurers were unable to meet their obligations under these reinsurance agreements, the Company would not realize the full value of the reinsurance recoverable balances. The Company may hold partial collateral, including letters of credit, trust accounts and funds held, under these agreements. See also Note 1C, Note 3 and Note 8.

Premiums written and earned and incurred losses and LAE are comprised of the following for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Written premiums: | | | |
| Direct | \$1,511,217 | \$1,179,034 | \$1,240,761 |
| Assumed | 3,484,414 | 3,786,260 | 3,196,707 |
| Ceded | (2,902,348) | (2,858,320) | (2,320,091) |
| Net written premiums | \$2,093,283 | \$2,106,974 | \$2,117,377 |
| Premiums earned: | | | |
| Direct | \$1,439,795 | \$1,148,297 | \$1,183,542 |
| Assumed | 3,637,484 | 3,685,784 | 3,024,825 |
| Ceded | (2,933,519) | (2,720,355) | (2,202,006) |
| Net premiums earned | \$2,143,760 | \$2,113,726 | \$2,006,361 |
| Incurred losses and LAE: | | | |
| Direct | \$1,235,012 | \$1,073,485 | \$1,153,004 |
| Assumed | 1,728,661 | 1,855,057 | 1,473,297 |
| Ceded | (1,644,112) | (1,574,449) | (1,354,145) |
| Net incurred losses and LAE | \$1,319,561 | \$1,354,093 | \$1,272,156 |

The Company engages in reinsurance transactions with Bermuda Re, Everest International Reinsurance, Ltd. ("Everest International"), Mt. Logan Re, Ltd. ("Mt. Logan Re") and Everest Insurance Company of Canada ("Everest Canada"), which are affiliated companies primarily driven by enterprise risk and capital management considerations under which business is ceded at market rates and terms.

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

The table below represents affiliated quota share reinsurance agreements ("whole account quota share") for all new and renewal business for the indicated coverage period:

(Dollars in thousands)

| Coverage Period | Ceding Company | Percent Ceded | Assuming Company | Type of Business | Single Occurrence Limit | Aggregate Limit |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 01/01/2002-12/31/2002 | Everest Re | 20.0 % | Bermuda Re | property / casualty business | \$ - | \$- |
| 01/01/2003-12/31/2003 | Everest Re | 25.0 % | Bermuda Re | property / casualty business | - | - |
| 01/01/2004-12/31/2005 | Everest Re | 22.5 % | Bermuda Re | property / casualty business | - | - |
| | Everest Re | 2.5 % | Everest International | property / casualty business | - | - |
| 01/01/2006-12/31/2006 | Everest Re | 18.0 % | Bermuda Re | property business | 125,000 | (1) - |
| | Everest Re | 2.0 % | Everest International | property business | - | - |
| 01/01/2006-12/31/2007 | Everest Re | 31.5 % | Bermuda Re | casualty business | - | - |
| | Everest Re | 3.5 % | Everest International | casualty business | - | - |
| 01/01/2007-12/31/2007 | Everest Re | 22.5 % | Bermuda Re | property business | 130,000 | (1) - |
| | Everest Re | 2.5 % | Everest International | property business | - | - |
| 01/01/2008-12/31/2008 | Everest Re | 36.0 % | Bermuda Re | property / casualty business | 130,000 | (1) 275,000 (2) |
| | Everest Re | 4.0 % | Everest International | property / casualty business | - | - |
| 01/01/2009-12/31/2009 | Everest Re | 36.0 % | Bermuda Re | property / casualty business | 150,000 | (1) 325,000 (2) |
| | Everest Re | 8.0 % | | | - | - |

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------|-----|-------------|
| | | | Everest International | property / casualty business | | | |
| 01/01/2010-12/31/2010 | Everest Re | 44.0 % | Bermuda Re | property / casualty business | 150,000 | | 325,000 |
| 01/01/2011-12/31/2011 | Everest Re | 50.0 % | Bermuda Re | property / casualty business | 150,000 | | 300,000 |
| 01/01/2012-12/31/2014 | Everest Re | 50.0 % | Bermuda Re | property / casualty business | 100,000 | | 200,000 |
| 01/01/2015 | Everest Re | 50.0 % | Bermuda Re | property / casualty business | 162,500 | | 325,000 |
| 01/01/2003-12/31/2006 | Everest Re-Canadian Branch | 50.0 % | Bermuda Re | property business | - | | - |
| 01/01/2007-12/31/2009 | Everest Re-Canadian Branch | 60.0 % | Bermuda Re | property business | - | | - |
| 01/01/2010-12/31/2010 | Everest Re-Canadian Branch | 60.0 % | Bermuda Re | property business | 350,000 | (3) | - |
| 01/01/2011-12/31/2011 | Everest Re-Canadian Branch | 60.0 % | Bermuda Re | property business | 350,000 | (3) | - |
| 01/01/2012-12/31/2012 | Everest Re-Canadian Branch | 75.0 % | Bermuda Re | property / casualty business | 206,250 | (3) | 412,500 (3) |
| 01/01/2013-12/31/2013 | Everest Re-Canadian Branch | 75.0 % | Bermuda Re | property / casualty business | 150,000 | (3) | 412,500 (3) |
| 01/01/2014 | Everest Re-Canadian Branch | 75.0 % | Bermuda Re | property / casualty business | 262,500 | (3) | 412,500 (3) |
| 01/01/2012 | Everest Canada | 80.0% | Everest Re-Canadian Branch | property business | - | - | |

(1) The single occurrence limit is applied before the loss cessions to either Bermuda Re or Everest International.

(2) The aggregate limit is applied before the loss cessions to either Bermuda Re or Everest International.

(3) Amounts shown are Canadian dollars.

For premiums earned and losses incurred for the period January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002, Everest Re, Everest National Insurance Company and Everest Security Insurance Company entered into an Excess of Loss Reinsurance Agreement with Bermuda Re, covering workers' compensation losses occurring on and after January 1, 2002, as respect to new, renewal and in force policies effective on that date through December 31, 2002. This agreement was commuted as of September 30, 2013. The table below represents Bermuda Re's liability limits for any losses per one occurrence.

| (Dollars in thousands) | Liability Limits | |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Exceeding | Not to Exceed |
| Losses per one occurrence | \$100,000 | \$ 150,000 |

The table below represents loss portfolio transfer reinsurance agreements whereby net insurance exposures and reserves were transferred to an affiliate.

| Effective Date | Transferring Company | Assuming Company | % of Business or Amount of Transfer | Covered Period of Transfer |
|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 09/19/2000 | Mt. McKinley | Bermuda Re | 100 | % All years |
| 10/01/2001 | Everest Re (Belgium Branch) | Bermuda Re | 100 | % All years |
| 10/01/2008 | Everest Re | Bermuda Re | \$ 747,022 | 01/01/2002-12/31/2007 |

On July 13, 2015, the Company sold Mt. McKinley to Clearwater Insurance Company, a Delaware domiciled insurance company. As of that date, Mt. McKinley is no longer deemed an affiliated company or related party.

The following tables summarize the premiums and losses ceded by the Company to Bermuda Re and Everest International, respectively, and premiums and losses assumed by the Company from Everest Canada for the periods indicated:

| <u>Bermuda Re</u> (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Ceded written premiums | \$2,283,815 | \$2,273,222 | \$2,097,812 |
| Ceded earned premiums | 2,316,096 | 2,208,084 | 1,986,421 |
| Ceded losses and LAE (a) | 1,293,997 | 1,196,118 | 1,148,841 |

| <u>Everest International</u> (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Ceded written premiums | \$ 395 | \$ 286 | \$ 691 |
| Ceded earned premiums | 522 | 563 | 1,105 |
| Ceded losses and LAE | 673 | (2,356) | (3,180) |

| <u>Everest Canada</u> | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--|

| (Dollars in thousands) | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Assumed written premiums | \$39,819 | \$37,436 | \$20,419 |
| Assumed earned premiums | 35,988 | 25,925 | 17,447 |
| Assumed losses and LAE | 20,345 | 15,401 | 12,014 |

(a) Ceded losses and LAE include the Mt. McKinley loss portfolio transfer that constitutes losses ceded under retroactive reinsurance and therefore, in accordance with FASB guidance, amortization of deferred gain on retroactive reinsurance is reflected in other income on the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss). Upon the sale of Mt. McKinley, the value of the remaining deferred gain on retroactive reinsurance was included in the calculation of the realized gain on sale of subsidiary.

Everest Re sold net assets of its UK branch to Bermuda Re and provided Bermuda Re with a reserve indemnity agreement allowing for indemnity payments of up to 90% of 25.0 million of the excess of 2002 and prior reserves, provided that any recognition of profit from the reserves for 2002 and prior underwriting years is taken into account.

F-29

Effective February 27, 2013, Group established a new subsidiary, Mt. Logan Re, which is a Class 3 insurer based in Bermuda. Effective July 1, 2013, Mt. Logan Re established separate segregated accounts for its business activity, which will invest in a diversified set of catastrophe exposures.

The following table summarizes the premiums and losses that are ceded by the Company to Mt. Logan Re and assumed by the Company from Mt. Logan Re.

| <u>Mt. Logan Re</u> (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Ceded written premiums | \$209,162 | \$122,203 | \$19,066 |
| Ceded earned premiums | 201,416 | 122,979 | 18,001 |
| Ceded losses and LAE | 40,753 | 28,844 | 4,171 |
| Assumed written premiums | 15,421 | 13,889 | 1,735 |
| Assumed earned premiums | 15,421 | 13,889 | 1,735 |
| Assumed losses and LAE | - | - | - |

12. COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)

The following table presents the components of comprehensive income (loss) in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss) for the periods indicated:

| | Years Ended December 31, | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| | 2015 | | | 2014 | | | 2013 | | |
| (Dollars in thousands) | Before Tax | Tax Effect | Net of Tax | Before Tax | Tax Effect | Net of Tax | Before Tax | Tax Effect | Net of Tax |
| Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) ("URA(D)") on securities - temporary | \$ (43,777) | \$ 14,337 | \$ (29,440) | \$ (59,318) | \$ 20,744 | \$ (38,574) | \$ (152,280) | \$ 53,298 | \$ (98,982) |
| URA(D) on securities - OTTI | 9,666 | (3,383) | 6,283 | (9,735) | 3,407 | (6,328) | (399) | 140 | (259) |
| Reclassification of net realized losses (gains) included in net income (loss) | (2,772) | 1,955 | (817) | 41,624 | (14,551) | 27,073 | (3,792) | 1,327 | (2,465) |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | (83,966) | 29,388 | (54,578) | (44,938) | 15,728 | (29,210) | (29,428) | 10,300 | (19,128) |
| Benefit plan actuarial net gain (loss) | 8,740 | (3,059) | 5,681 | (60,169) | 21,059 | (39,110) | 27,442 | (9,605) | 17,837 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|------------|-------------|----------|------------|-------------|----------|------------|
| Reclassification of amortization of net gain (loss) included in net income (loss) | 9,563 | (3,347) | 6,216 | 4,647 | (1,627) | 3,020 | 8,889 | (3,111) | 5,778 |
| Total other comprehensive income (loss) | \$(102,546) | \$35,891 | \$(66,655) | \$(127,890) | \$44,761 | \$(83,129) | \$(149,568) | \$52,349 | \$(97,219) |

(Some amounts
may not
reconcile due to
rounding)

The following table presents details of the amounts reclassified from AOCI for the periods indicated:

| AOCI component (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | Affected line item within the statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss) |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|---|
| | 2015 | 2014 | |
| URA(D) on securities | \$ (2,772) | \$ 41,624 | Other net realized capital gains (losses) |
| | 1,955 | (14,551) | Income tax expense (benefit) |
| | \$ (817) | \$ 27,073 | Net income (loss) |
| Benefit plan net gain (loss) | \$ 9,563 | \$ 4,647 | Other underwriting expenses |
| | (3,347) | (1,627) | Income tax expense (benefit) |
| | \$ 6,216 | \$ 3,020 | Net income (loss) |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding)

The following table presents the components of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax, in the consolidated balance sheets for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Beginning balance of URA (D) on securities | \$ 37,628 | \$ 55,457 |
| Current period change in URA (D) of investments - temporary | (30,257) | (11,501) |
| Current period change in URA (D) of investments - non-credit OTTI | 6,283 | (6,328) |
| Ending balance of URA (D) on securities | 13,654 | 37,628 |
| Beginning balance of foreign currency translation adjustments | 41,877 | 71,087 |
| Current period change in foreign currency translation adjustments | (54,578) | (29,210) |
| Ending balance of foreign currency translation adjustments | (12,701) | 41,877 |
| Beginning balance of benefit plan net gain (loss) | (74,986) | (38,896) |
| Current period change in benefit plan net gain (loss) | 11,897 | (36,090) |
| Ending balance of benefit plan net gain (loss) | (63,089) | (74,986) |
| Ending balance of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) | \$ (62,136) | \$ 4,519 |

13. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

Defined Benefit Pension Plans.

The Company maintains both qualified and non-qualified defined benefit pension plans for its U.S. employees employed prior to April 1, 2010. Generally, the Company computes the benefits based on average earnings over a period prescribed by the plans and credited length of service. The Company's non-qualified defined benefit pension plan, affected in October 1995, provides compensating pension benefits for participants whose benefits have been curtailed under the qualified plan due to Internal Revenue Code limitations.

Although not required to make contributions under IRS regulations, the following table summarizes the Company's contributions to the defined benefit pension plans for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Company contributions | \$5,949 | \$16,484 | \$22,536 |

The following table summarizes the Company's pension expense for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Pension expense | \$22,682 | \$18,543 | \$19,348 |

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

The following table summarizes the status of these defined benefit plans for U.S. employees for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Change in projected benefit obligation: | | |
| Benefit obligation at beginning of year | \$ 270,065 | \$ 214,059 |
| Service cost | 12,511 | 10,015 |
| Interest cost | 10,759 | 10,474 |
| Actuarial (gain) / loss | (18,595) | 55,107 |
| Benefits paid | (20,718) | (19,588) |
| Projected benefit obligation at end of year | 254,022 | 270,065 |
| Change in plan assets: | | |
| Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year | 157,090 | 152,446 |
| Actual return on plan assets | (7,234) | 7,747 |
| Actual contributions during the year | 5,949 | 16,484 |
| Benefits paid | (20,718) | (19,588) |
| Fair value of plan assets at end of year | 135,087 | 157,090 |
| Funded status at end of year | \$ (118,936) | \$ (112,976) |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding.)

Amounts recognized in the consolidated balance sheets for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | At December 31, | |
|--|-----------------|-------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Other assets (due beyond one year) | \$- | \$- |
| Other liabilities (due within one year) | (1,869) | (5,469) |
| Other liabilities (due beyond one year) | (117,067) | (107,507) |
| Net amount recognized in the consolidated balance sheets | \$(118,936) | \$(112,976) |

Amounts not yet reflected in net periodic benefit cost and included in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | At December 31, | |
|---|-----------------|-------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Prior service cost | \$- | \$(21) |
| Accumulated income (loss) | (91,920) | (102,671) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) | \$(91,920) | \$(102,692) |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding.)

Other changes in other comprehensive income (loss) for the periods indicated are as follows:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | |
|--|--------------------------|---------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) at December 31, prior year | \$ (102,692) | \$ (53,387) |
| Net gain (loss) arising during period | (259) | (58,647) |
| Recognition of amortizations in net periodic benefit cost: | | |
| Prior service cost | 21 | 49 |
| Actuarial loss | 11,011 | 9,294 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) at December 31, current year | \$ (91,920) | \$ (102,692) |

F-32

Net periodic benefit cost for U.S. employees included the following components for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Service cost | \$12,511 | \$10,015 | \$11,182 |
| Interest cost | 10,759 | 10,474 | 8,511 |
| Expected return on assets | (11,620) | (11,288) | (8,495) |
| Amortization of actuarial loss from earlier periods | 9,243 | 4,341 | 8,101 |
| Amortization of unrecognized prior service cost | 21 | 49 | 49 |
| Settlement | 1,768 | 4,953 | - |
| Net periodic benefit cost | \$22,682 | \$18,543 | \$19,348 |
| Other changes recognized in other comprehensive income (loss): | | | |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) attributable to change from prior year | (10,773) | 49,305 | |
| Total recognized in net periodic benefit cost and other comprehensive income (loss) | \$11,909 | \$67,847 | |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding.)

The estimated transition obligation, actuarial loss and prior service cost that will be amortized from accumulated other comprehensive income into net periodic benefit cost over the next year are \$0 thousand, \$8,055 thousand and \$0 thousand, respectively.

The weighted average discount rates used to determine net periodic benefit cost for 2015, 2014 and 2013 were 4.00%, 5.00% and 4.00%, respectively. The rate of compensation increase used to determine the net periodic benefit cost for 2015, 2014 and 2013 was 4.0%. The expected long-term rate of return on plan assets for 2015, 2014 and 2013 was 7.50% and was based on expected portfolio returns and allocations.

The weighted average discount rates used to determine the actuarial present value of the projected benefit obligation for years end 2015, 2014 and 2013 were 4.38%, 4.00% and 5.00%, respectively.

The following table summarizes the accumulated benefit obligation for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | At December 31, | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Qualified Plan | \$188,702 | \$200,205 |
| Non-qualified Plan | 17,756 | 19,167 |
| Total | \$206,458 | \$219,371 |

The following table displays the plans with projected benefit obligations in excess of plan assets for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | At December 31, | |
|------------------------|-----------------|------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |

Qualified Plan

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Projected benefit obligation | \$229,719 | \$243,525 |
| Fair value of plan assets | 135,087 | 157,090 |

Non-qualified Plan

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Projected benefit obligation | \$24,303 | \$26,540 |
| Fair value of plan assets | - | - |

F-33

The following table displays the plans with accumulated benefit obligations in excess of plan assets for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | At December 31, | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Qualified Plan | | |
| Accumulated benefit obligation | \$ 188,702 | \$ 200,205 |
| Fair value of plan assets | 135,087 | 157,090 |
| Non-qualified Plan | | |
| Accumulated benefit obligation | \$ 17,756 | \$ 19,167 |
| Fair value of plan assets | - | - |

The following table displays the expected benefit payments in the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | |
|------------------------|---------|
| 2016 | \$6,709 |
| 2017 | 7,779 |
| 2018 | 9,607 |
| 2019 | 12,139 |
| 2020 | 10,660 |
| Next 5 years | 67,416 |

Plan assets consist of shares in investment trusts with approximately 80%, 17% and 3% of the underlying assets consisting of equity securities, fixed maturities and cash, respectively. The Company manages the qualified plan investments for U.S. employees. The assets in the plan consist of debt and equity mutual funds. Due to the long term nature of the plan, the target asset allocation has historically been 70% equities and 30% bonds.

The following tables present the fair value measurement levels for the qualified plan assets at fair value for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | December 31, 2015 | Fair Value Measurement Using: | | |
|---|----------------------|--|---|--|
| | | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Cash | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Short-term investments, which approximates fair value (a) | 4,034 | 4,034 | - | - |
| Mutual funds, fair value | | | | |

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

| | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------|-----------|
| Fixed income (b) | 22,537 | 22,537 | - | - |
| Equities (c) | 86,505 | 86,505 | - | - |
| Multi-strategy equity fund, fair value (d) | 10,673 | - | - | 10,673 |
| Private equity limited partnerships (e) | 11,338 | - | - | 11,338 |
| Total | \$ 135,087 | \$ 113,076 | \$ - | \$ 22,011 |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding.)

(a) This category includes high quality, short-term money market instruments, which are issued and payable in U.S. dollars.

This category includes fixed income funds, which invest in investment grade securities of corporations, governments and government agencies with approximately 50% in U.S. securities and 50% in international securities.

(c) This category includes funds, which invest in small, mid and multi-cap equity securities including common stocks, securities convertible into common stock and securities with common stock characteristics, such as rights and warrants, with approximately 90% in U.S. equities and 10% in international equities.

(d) This category consists of a privately held fund of U.S. and international equity funds and may include currency hedges for the foreign funds. The fair value is provided by the external investment manager.

(e) This category consists of private equity limited partnerships.

F-34

| | December 31, 2014 | Fair Value Measurement Using: | | |
|---|----------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| | | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets | Significant Other Observable Inputs | Significant Unobservable Inputs |
| (Dollars in thousands) | | (Level 1) | (Level 2) | (Level 3) |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Cash | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Short-term investments, which approximates fair value (a) | 14,328 | 14,328 | - | - |
| Mutual funds, fair value | | | | |
| Fixed income (b) | 23,948 | 23,948 | - | - |
| Equities (c) | 96,762 | 96,762 | - | - |
| Multi-strategy equity fund, fair value (d) | 10,629 | - | - | 10,629 |
| Private equity limited partnerships (e) | 11,423 | - | - | 11,423 |
| Total | \$ 157,090 | \$ 135,037 | \$ - | \$ 22,053 |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding.)

(a) This category includes high quality, short-term money market instruments, which are issued and payable in U.S. dollars.

This category includes fixed income funds, which invest in investment grade securities of corporations,

(b) governments and government agencies with approximately 50% in U.S. securities and 50% in international securities.

This category includes funds, which invest in small, mid and multi-cap equity securities including common stocks, securities convertible into common stock and securities with common stock characteristics, such as rights and warrants, with approximately 90% in U.S. equities and 10% in international equities.

(c) This category consists of a privately held fund of U.S. and international equity funds and may include currency hedges for the foreign funds. The fair value is provided by the external investment manager.

(d) This category consists of private equity limited partnerships.

The following table presents the activity under Level 3, fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs for fixed maturity investments, for the period indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Year Ended December 31, | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Assets: | | |
| Balance, beginning of period | \$ 22,053 | \$ 19,921 |
| Actual return on plan assets: | | |
| Realized gains (losses) relating to assets sold during the period | 84 | 75 |
| Unrealized gains (losses) relating to assets still held at the reporting date | 601 | 331 |
| Purchases and capital contributions | 1,719 | 3,390 |
| Investment income earned on assets | - | - |
| Sales and capital distributions | (2,445) | (1,664) |
| Transfers in and/or (out) of Level 3 | - | - |

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Balance, end of period | \$ 22,011 | \$ 22,053 |
| The amount of total gains (losses) for the period included in changes in net assets attributable to the change in unrealized gains (losses) relating to assets still held at the reporting date | \$ 517 | \$ 256 |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding.)

The Company does not expect to make any contributions to the qualified plan in 2016.

F-35

Defined Contribution Plans.

The Company also maintains both qualified and non-qualified defined contribution plans ("Savings Plan" and "Non-Qualified Savings Plan", respectively) covering U.S. employees. Under the plans, the Company contributes up to a maximum 3% of the participants' compensation based on the contribution percentage of the employee. The Non-Qualified Savings Plan provides compensating savings plan benefits for participants whose benefits have been curtailed under the Savings Plan due to Internal Revenue Code limitations. In addition, effective for new hires (and rehires) on or after April 1, 2010, the Company will contribute between 3% and 8% of an employee's earnings for each payroll period based on the employee's age. These contributions will be 100% vested after three years.

The following table presents the Company's incurred expenses related to these plans for the periods indicated:

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| (Dollars in thousands) | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Incurred expenses | \$ 5,468 | \$ 4,676 | \$ 3,903 |

In addition, the Company maintains several defined contribution pension plans covering non-U.S. employees. Each non-U.S. office (Brazil, Canada and Singapore) maintains a separate plan for the non-U.S. employees working in that location. The Company contributes various amounts based on salary, age and/or years of service. The contributions as a percentage of salary for the branch offices range from 6.1% to 9.7%. The contributions are generally used to purchase pension benefits from local insurance providers. The following table presents the Company's incurred expenses related to these plans for the periods indicated:

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------|--------|
| (Dollars in thousands) | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Incurred expenses | \$ 447 | \$ 479 | \$ 462 |

Post-Retirement Plan.

The Company sponsors a Retiree Health Plan for employees employed prior to April 1, 2010. This plan provides healthcare benefits for eligible retired employees (and their eligible dependants), who have elected coverage. The Company anticipates that most covered employees will become eligible for these benefits if they retire while working for the Company. The cost of these benefits is shared with the retiree. The Company accrues the post-retirement benefit expense during the period of the employee's service.

The following medical cost trend rates were used to determine net cost and benefit obligations: a healthcare inflation rate for pre-Medicare claims of 7.0% in 2015 was assumed to decrease gradually to 4.5% in 2027 and then remain at that level; and a healthcare inflation rate for post-Medicare claims of 6.2% in 2015 was assumed to decrease gradually to 4.5% in 2027 and then remain at that level.

Changes in the assumed healthcare cost trend can have a significant effect on the amounts reported for the healthcare plans. A one percent change in the rate would have the following effects on:

| | Percentage Point Increase (\$ Impact) | Percentage Point Decrease (\$ Impact) |
|---|---|---|
| (Dollars in thousands) | | |
| a. Effect on total service and interest cost components | \$ 706 | \$ (537) |

b. Effect on accumulated post-retirement benefit obligation 6,504 (5,064)

The following table presents the post-retirement benefit expenses for the periods indicated:

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| (Dollars in thousands) | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Post-retirement benefit expenses | \$ 3,280 | \$ 3,196 | \$ 3,801 |

F-36

The following table summarizes the status of this plan for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | At December 31, | |
|--|-----------------|------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Change in projected benefit obligation: | | |
| Benefit obligation at beginning of year | \$36,506 | \$27,594 |
| Service cost | 1,794 | 1,619 |
| Interest cost | 1,187 | 1,320 |
| Actuarial loss | (7,231) | 6,475 |
| Benefits paid | (568) | (502) |
| Benefit obligation at end of year | 31,687 | 36,506 |
| Change in plan assets: | | |
| Fair value of plan assets at beginning of year | - | - |
| Employer contributions | 568 | 502 |
| Benefits paid | (568) | (502) |
| Fair value of plan assets at end of year | - | - |
| Funded status at end of year | \$(31,687) | \$(36,506) |

Amounts recognized in the consolidated balance sheets for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | At December 31, | |
|--|-----------------|------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Other liabilities (due within one year) | \$(654) | \$(639) |
| Other liabilities (due beyond one year) | (31,033) | (35,867) |
| Net amount recognized in the consolidated balance sheets | \$(31,687) | \$(36,506) |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding.)

Amounts not yet reflected in net periodic benefit cost and included in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | At December 31, | |
|---|-----------------|------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Accumulated income (loss) | \$(5,139) | \$(12,670) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) | \$(5,139) | \$(12,670) |

Other changes in other comprehensive income (loss) for the periods indicated are as follows:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | |
|--|--------------------------|------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) at December 31, prior year | \$(12,670) | \$(6,452) |

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

| | | |
|--|-------------|--------------|
| Net gain (loss) arising during period | 7,231 | (6,475) |
| Recognition of amortizations in net periodic benefit cost: | | |
| Actuarial loss (gain) | 300 | 257 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) at December 31, current year | \$ (5,139) | \$ (12,670) |

F-37

Net periodic benefit cost included the following components for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Service cost | \$ 1,794 | \$ 1,619 | \$ 1,899 |
| Interest cost | 1,187 | 1,320 | 1,164 |
| Net loss recognition | 300 | 257 | 739 |
| Net periodic cost | \$ 3,280 | \$ 3,196 | \$ 3,801 |
| Other changes recognized in other comprehensive income (loss): | | | |
| Other comprehensive gain (loss) attributable to change from prior year | (7,531) | 6,218 | |
| Total recognized in net periodic benefit cost and other comprehensive income (loss) | \$(4,251) | \$ 9,414 | |

(Some amounts may not reconcile due to rounding.)

The estimated transition obligation, actuarial loss and prior service cost that will be amortized from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) into net periodic benefit cost over the next fiscal year are \$0 thousand, \$193 thousand and \$0 thousand, respectively.

The weighted average discount rates used to determine net periodic benefit cost for 2015, 2014 and 2013 were 4.00 %, 5.00% and 4.00%, respectively.

The weighted average discount rates used to determine the actuarial present value of the projected benefit obligation at year end 2015, 2014 and 2013 were 4.38 %, 4.00% and 5.00%, respectively.

The following table displays the expected benefit payments in the years indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | |
|------------------------|-------|
| 2016 | \$654 |
| 2017 | 717 |
| 2018 | 844 |
| 2019 | 972 |
| 2020 | 1,141 |
| Next 5 years | 8,157 |

14. DIVIDEND RESTRICTIONS AND STATUTORY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Holdings and its operating subsidiaries are subject to various regulatory restrictions, including the amount of dividends that may be paid and the level of capital that the operating entities must maintain. These regulatory restrictions are based upon statutory capital as opposed to GAAP basis equity or net assets. Holdings' primary operating subsidiary, Everest Re, is regulated by Delaware law and is subject to the Risk-Based Capital Model ("RBC") developed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners ("NAIC"). This model represents the aggregate regulatory restrictions on net assets and statutory capital and surplus.

Dividend Restrictions.

Delaware law provides that an insurance company which is a member of an insurance holding company system and is domiciled in the state shall not pay dividends without giving prior notice to the Insurance Commissioner of Delaware and may not pay dividends without the approval of the Insurance Commissioner if the value of the proposed dividend, together with all other dividends and distributions made in the preceding twelve months, exceeds the greater of (1) 10% of statutory surplus or (2) net income, not including realized capital gains, each as reported in the prior year's statutory annual statement. In addition, no dividend may be paid in excess of unassigned earned surplus. At December 31, 2015, Everest Re has \$498,455 thousand available for payment of dividends in 2016 without the need for prior regulatory approval.

F-38

Statutory Financial Information.

Everest Re prepares its statutory financial statements in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the NAIC and the Delaware Insurance Department. Prescribed statutory accounting practices are set forth in the NAIC Accounting Practices and Procedures Manual. The capital and statutory surplus of Everest Re was \$3,210,891 thousand and \$2,892,999 thousand at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The statutory net income of Everest Re was \$498,455 thousand, \$357,298 thousand and \$540,020 thousand for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

There are certain regulatory and contractual restrictions on the ability of Holdings' operating subsidiaries to transfer funds to Holdings in the form of cash dividends, loans or advances. The insurance laws of the State of Delaware, where Holdings' direct insurance subsidiaries are domiciled, require regulatory approval before those subsidiaries can pay dividends or make loans or advances to Holdings that exceed certain statutory thresholds.

Capital Restrictions.

In the United States, Everest Re is subject to the RBC developed by the NAIC which determines an authorized control level risk-based capital. As long as the total adjusted capital is 200% or more of the authorized control level capital, no action is required by the Company.

The regulatory targeted capital and the actual statutory capital for Everest Re is as follows:

| | Everest Re ⁽¹⁾ | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| | At December 31, | |
| (Dollars in thousands) | 2015 | 2014 |
| Regulatory targeted capital | \$1,355,668 | \$1,209,601 |
| Actual capital | \$3,210,891 | \$2,892,999 |

⁽¹⁾ Regulatory targeted capital represents 200% of the RBC authorized control level calculation for the applicable year.

15. CONTINGENCIES

In the ordinary course of business, the Company is involved in lawsuits, arbitrations and other formal and informal dispute resolution procedures, the outcomes of which will determine the Company's rights and obligations under insurance and reinsurance agreements. In some disputes, the Company seeks to enforce its rights under an agreement or to collect funds owing to it. In other matters, the Company is resisting attempts by others to collect funds or enforce alleged rights. These disputes arise from time to time and are ultimately resolved through both informal and formal means, including negotiated resolution, arbitration and litigation. In all such matters, the Company believes that its positions are legally and commercially reasonable. The Company considers the statuses of these proceedings when determining its reserves for unpaid loss and loss adjustment expenses.

Aside from litigation and arbitrations related to these insurance and reinsurance agreements, the Company is not a party to any other material litigation or arbitration.

The Company has entered into separate annuity agreements with The Prudential Insurance of America ("The Prudential") and an additional unaffiliated life insurance company in which the Company has either purchased annuity contracts or become the assignee of annuity proceeds that are meant to settle claim payment obligations in the future. In both instances, the Company would become contingently liable if either The Prudential or the unaffiliated life insurance company were unable to make payments related to the respective annuity contact.

The table below presents the estimated cost to replace all such annuities for which the Company was contingently liable for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | At December 31, | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| The Prudential | \$142,427 | \$142,653 |
| Unaffiliated life insurance company | \$33,062 | \$31,964 |

16. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Parent

Group entered into a \$250,000 thousand long term promissory note agreement with Holdings as of December 31, 2014. The note will mature on December 31, 2023 and has an interest rate of 1.72% that will be paid annually, on December 15th of each year. This transaction is presented as a Note Receivable – Affiliated in the Consolidated Balance Sheets of Holdings. Interest income in the amount of \$4,300 thousand was recorded by Holdings for the year ended December 31, 2015

Group's Board of Directors approved an amended share repurchase program authorizing Group and/or its subsidiary Holdings to purchase Group's common shares through open market transactions, privately negotiated transactions or both. The table below represents the amendments to the share repurchase program for the common shares approved for repurchase.

| <u>Amendment Date</u> (Dollars in thousands) | Common Shares Authorized for Repurchase |
|---|---|
| 09/21/2004 | 5,000,000 |
| 07/21/2008 | 5,000,000 |
| 02/24/2010 | 5,000,000 |
| 02/22/2012 | 5,000,000 |
| 05/15/2013 | 5,000,000 |
| 11/19/2014 | 5,000,000 |
| | 30,000,000 |

Through December, 2015, Holdings had purchased and held 9,719,971 Common Shares of Group, which were purchased in the open market between February 2007 and March 2011.

In December, 2015, Holdings transferred the 9,719,971 Common Shares of Group, which it held as other invested assets, at fair value, valued at \$1,773,214 thousand, to Preferred Holdings, an affiliated entity and subsidiary of Group, in exchange for 1,773.214 preferred shares of Preferred Holdings with a \$1,000 thousand par value and 1.75% annual dividend rate. After the exchange, Holdings no longer holds any shares or has any ownership interest in Group.

Holdings reported both its Parent Shares and preferred shares in Preferred Holdings, as other invested assets, fair value, in the consolidated balance sheets with changes in fair value re-measurement recorded in net realized capital gains (losses) in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss). The following table presents the dividends received on the Parent shares that are reported as net investment income in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss) for the period indicated.

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| (Dollars in thousands) | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Dividends received | \$38,880 | \$31,104 | \$21,287 |

F-40

Affiliated Companies

Everest Global Services, Inc. ("Global Services"), an affiliate of Holdings, provides centralized management and home office services, through a management agreement, to Holdings and other affiliated companies within Holdings' consolidated structure. Services provided by Everest Global include executive managerial services, legal services, actuarial services, accounting services, information technology services and others.

The following table presents the expenses incurred by Holdings from services provided by Everest Global for the periods indicated.

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| (Dollars in thousands) | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Expenses incurred | \$81,122 | \$77,322 | \$84,675 |

17. SEGMENT REPORTING

The U.S. Reinsurance operation writes property and casualty reinsurance and specialty lines of business, including Marine, Aviation, Surety and Accident and Health ("A&H") business, on both a treaty and facultative basis, through reinsurance brokers, as well as directly with ceding companies primarily within the U.S. The International operation writes non-U.S. property and casualty reinsurance through Everest Re's branches in Canada, Singapore and through offices in Brazil, Miami and New Jersey. The Insurance operation writes property and casualty insurance directly and through general agents, brokers and surplus lines brokers mainly within the U.S.

These segments are managed independently, but conform with corporate guidelines with respect to pricing, risk management, control of aggregate catastrophe exposures, capital, investments and support operations. Management generally monitors and evaluates the financial performance of these operating segments based upon their underwriting results.

Underwriting results include earned premium less losses and LAE incurred, commission and brokerage expenses and other underwriting expenses. Underwriting results are measured using ratios, in particular loss, commission and brokerage and other underwriting expense ratios, which, respectively, divide incurred losses, commissions and brokerage and other underwriting expenses by premiums earned.

The Company does not maintain separate balance sheet data for its operating segments. Accordingly, the Company does not review and evaluate the financial results of its operating segments based upon balance sheet data.

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

The following tables present the underwriting results for the operating segments for the periods indicated:

| <u>U.S. Reinsurance</u> | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| (Dollars in thousands) | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Gross written premiums | \$2,147,893 | \$2,154,529 | \$1,826,044 |
| Net written premiums | 899,918 | 977,858 | 909,557 |
| Premiums earned | \$951,457 | \$988,315 | \$842,341 |
| Incurred losses and LAE | 413,292 | 545,862 | 424,184 |
| Commission and brokerage | 198,983 | 201,912 | 159,747 |
| Other underwriting expenses | 50,089 | 45,583 | 47,177 |
| Underwriting gain (loss) | \$289,093 | \$194,958 | \$211,233 |

| <u>International</u> | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| (Dollars in thousands) | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Gross written premiums | \$1,373,978 | \$1,630,381 | \$1,370,615 |
| Net written premiums | 562,691 | 612,243 | 610,084 |
| Premiums earned | \$581,216 | \$600,964 | \$591,695 |
| Incurred losses and LAE | 394,819 | 358,038 | 315,923 |
| Commission and brokerage | 121,158 | 119,655 | 114,331 |
| Other underwriting expenses | 34,303 | 34,603 | 33,910 |
| Underwriting gain (loss) | \$30,936 | \$88,668 | \$127,531 |

| <u>Insurance</u> | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| (Dollars in thousands) | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Gross written premiums | \$1,473,760 | \$1,180,384 | \$1,240,809 |
| Net written premiums | 630,674 | 516,873 | 597,736 |
| Premiums earned | \$611,087 | \$524,447 | \$572,325 |
| Incurred losses and LAE | 511,450 | 450,193 | 532,049 |
| Commission and brokerage | (5,072) | 17,835 | 19,844 |
| Other underwriting expenses | 130,427 | 111,846 | 112,412 |
| Underwriting gain (loss) | \$(25,718) | \$(55,427) | \$(91,980) |

The following table reconciles the underwriting results for the operating segments to income (loss) before taxes as reported in the consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss) for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Underwriting gain (loss) | \$294,311 | \$228,199 | \$246,784 |
| Net investment income | 273,253 | 290,310 | 296,996 |
| Net realized capital gains (losses) | 50,335 | 206,679 | 723,149 |

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

| | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Corporate expense | (7,179) | (7,252) | (8,262) |
| Interest, fee and bond issue cost amortization expense | (35,434) | (37,970) | (45,452) |
| Other income (expense) | 29,256 | (22,278) | (7,714) |
| Income (loss) before taxes | \$604,542 | \$657,688 | \$1,205,501 |

F-42

The Company produces business in the U.S. and internationally. The net income deriving from assets residing in the individual foreign countries in which the Company writes business are not identifiable in the Company's financial records. Based on gross written premium, the table below presents the largest country, other than the U.S., in which the Company writes business, for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| Canada gross written premiums | \$ 114,859 | \$ 159,451 | \$ 169,148 |

No other country represented more than 5% of the Company's revenues.

Approximately 16.3%, 17.6% and 19.6% of the Company's gross written premiums in 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively, were sourced through the Company's largest intermediary.

18. DISPOSITIONS

On July 13, 2015, the Company closed its agreement to sell all of the outstanding shares of capital stock of Mt. McKinley, a Delaware domiciled insurance company and wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company to Clearwater Insurance Company, a Delaware domiciled insurance company. The purchase price of \$20,156 thousand was based upon the statutory book value of Mt. McKinley as of the closing date. The Company recognized a pre-tax realized gain of \$94,704 thousand on the sale of Mt. McKinley.

19. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Company has evaluated known recognized and non-recognized subsequent events. The Company does not have any subsequent events to report.

20. UNAUDITED QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA

Summarized quarterly financial data for the periods indicated:

| (Dollars in thousands) | 2015 | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
| Operating data: | | | | |
| Gross written premiums | \$ 1,226,763 | \$ 1,089,441 | \$ 1,448,711 | \$ 1,230,716 |
| Net written premiums | 508,427 | 472,464 | 599,073 | 513,319 |
| Premiums earned | 521,062 | 521,424 | 546,050 | 555,224 |
| Net investment income | 72,581 | 70,925 | 63,363 | 66,384 |
| Net realized capital gains (losses) | 21,296 | 51,225 | (121,695) | 99,509 |
| Total claims and underwriting expenses | 453,954 | 447,405 | 499,858 | 448,232 |
| Net income (loss) | 115,944 | 133,766 | (4,659) | 167,602 |

2014

Edgar Filing: EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC - Form 10-K

| (Dollars in thousands) | 1st Quarter | 2nd Quarter | 3rd Quarter | 4th Quarter |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Operating data: | | | | |
| Gross written premiums | \$ 1,084,455 | \$ 1,224,820 | \$ 1,453,394 | \$ 1,202,625 |
| Net written premiums | 499,704 | 492,727 | 611,916 | 502,627 |
| Premiums earned | 470,445 | 520,736 | 569,597 | 552,948 |
| Net investment income | 63,787 | 68,636 | 83,446 | 74,441 |
| Net realized capital gains (losses) | (4,050) | 125,114 | (160) | 85,775 |
| Total claims and underwriting expenses | 393,391 | 453,997 | 510,371 | 527,768 |
| Net income (loss) | 86,466 | 158,174 | 100,141 | 109,345 |

F-43

SCHEDULE I – SUMMARY OF INVESTMENTS -
OTHER THAN INVESTMENTS IN RELATED PARTIES
DECEMBER 31, 2015

| Column A | Column B | Column C | Column D |
|--|-------------|-----------------|--|
| | | | Amount Shown in Balance Sheet |
| (Dollars in thousands) | Cost | Market Value | |
| Fixed maturities-available for sale | | | |
| Bonds: | | | |
| U.S. government and government agencies | \$ 329,281 | \$ 330,985 | \$ 330,985 |
| State, municipalities and political subdivisions | 669,945 | 703,075 | 703,075 |
| Foreign government securities | 447,244 | 463,074 | 463,074 |
| Foreign corporate securities | 954,690 | 970,909 | 970,909 |
| Public utilities | 62,451 | 62,695 | 62,695 |
| All other corporate bonds | 2,071,915 | 2,026,648 | 2,026,648 |
| Mortgage - backed securities | | | |
| Commercial | 61,527 | 62,446 | 62,446 |
| Agency residential | 714,907 | 712,298 | 712,298 |
| Non-agency residential | 126 | 150 | 150 |
| Redeemable preferred stock | 23,386 | 24,197 | 24,197 |
| Total fixed maturities-available for sale | 5,335,472 | 5,356,477 | 5,356,477 |
| Fixed maturities - available for sale, at fair value ⁽¹⁾ | 2,202 | 2,102 | 2,102 |
| Equity securities - available for sale, at market value | - | - | - |
| Equity securities - available for sale, at fair value ⁽¹⁾ | 1,006,535 | 1,215,377 | 1,215,377 |
| Short-term investments | 563,536 | 563,536 | 563,536 |
| Other invested assets | 450,154 | 450,154 | 450,154 |
| Other invested assets, at fair value ⁽¹⁾ | 1,773,214 | 1,773,214 | 1,773,214 |
| Cash | 155,429 | 155,429 | 155,429 |
| Total investments and cash | \$9,286,542 | \$9,516,289 | \$9,516,289 |

⁽¹⁾ Original cost does not reflect adjustments, which have been realized through the statements of operations and comprehensive income.

S-1

SCHEDULE II – CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF THE REGISTRANT
CONDENSED BALANCE SHEETS

| (Dollars and share amounts in thousands, except par value per share) | At December 31, | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| ASSETS: | | |
| Fixed maturities - available for sale, at market value (amortized cost: 2015, \$66,016; 2014, \$9,008) | \$65,441 | \$9,040 |
| Equity securities - available for sale, at fair value | 131,219 | 96,890 |
| Other invested assets | 3,047 | 3,047 |
| Other invested assets, at fair value | 1,773,214 | 1,655,311 |
| Short-term investments | 37,802 | 92,390 |
| Cash | 6,232 | 6,206 |
| Total investments and cash | 2,016,955 | 1,862,884 |
| Investment in subsidiaries, at equity in the underlying net assets | 3,534,552 | 3,276,082 |
| Note receivable - affiliated | 250,000 | 250,000 |
| Accrued investment income | 438 | 92 |
| Advances to affiliates | 109,775 | 130,018 |
| Other assets | 18,097 | 18,340 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$5,929,817 | \$5,537,416 |
| LIABILITIES: | | |
| 4.868% Senior notes due 6/1/2044 | \$400,000 | \$400,000 |
| 6.6% Long term notes due 5/1/2067 | 238,368 | 238,364 |
| Accrued interest on debt and borrowings | 3,537 | 3,537 |
| Income taxes | 354,312 | 317,991 |
| Due to affiliates | 1,049 | 932 |
| Other liabilities | 1,340 | 3,875 |
| Total liabilities | 998,606 | 964,699 |
| STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY: | | |
| Common stock, par value: \$0.01; 3,000 shares authorized; 1,000 shares issued and outstanding (2015 and 2014) | - | - |
| Additional paid-in capital | 374,789 | 362,293 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), net of deferred income tax expense (benefit) of (\$33,458) at 2015 and \$2,434 at 2014 | (62,136) | 4,519 |
| Retained earnings | 4,618,558 | 4,205,905 |
| Total stockholder's equity | 4,931,211 | 4,572,717 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY | \$5,929,817 | \$5,537,416 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

SCHEDULE II – CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF THE REGISTRANT
CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| REVENUES: | | | |
| Net investment income | \$40,441 | \$32,774 | \$23,451 |
| Net investment income - Affiliated | 4,300 | - | - |
| Net realized capital gains (losses) | 119,075 | 149,932 | 467,999 |
| Realized gain of sale of subsidiary | 94,704 | - | - |
| Other income (expense) | (263) | (309) | (420) |
| Net income (loss) of subsidiaries | 274,625 | 364,869 | 511,976 |
| Total revenues | 532,882 | 547,266 | 1,003,006 |
| EXPENSES: | | | |
| Interest expense | 35,434 | 37,970 | 45,452 |
| Corporate expense | 5,251 | 5,070 | 6,065 |
| Total expenses | 40,685 | 43,040 | 51,517 |
| INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE TAXES | 492,197 | 504,226 | 951,489 |
| Income tax expense (benefit) | 79,544 | 50,100 | 153,226 |
| NET INCOME (LOSS) | \$412,653 | \$454,126 | \$798,263 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax : | | | |
| Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) ("URA(D)") on securities arising during the period | (23,157) | (44,902) | (99,241) |
| Less: reclassification adjustment for realized losses (gains) included in net income (loss) | (817) | 27,073 | (2,465) |
| Total URA(D) on securities arising during the period | (23,974) | (17,829) | (101,706) |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | (54,578) | (29,210) | (19,128) |
| Benefit plan actuarial net gain (loss) for the period | 5,681 | (39,110) | 17,837 |
| Reclassification adjustment for amortization of net (gain) loss included in net income (loss) | 6,216 | 3,020 | 5,778 |
| Total benefit plan net gain (loss) for the period | 11,897 | (36,090) | 23,615 |
| Total other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax | (66,655) | (83,129) | (97,219) |
| COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS) | \$345,998 | \$370,997 | \$701,044 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

SCHEDULE II – CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF THE REGISTRANT
CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

| (Dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | | |
| Net income (loss) | \$412,653 | \$454,126 | \$798,263 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | | |
| Equity in (earnings) deficit of subsidiaries | (274,625) | (364,869) | (511,976) |
| Dividends received from subsidiaries | - | 155,000 | 359,000 |
| Decrease (increase) in advances to affiliates | 20,243 | (66,019) | (26,298) |
| Decrease (increase) in income taxes | 1,082 | 191,840 | 104,724 |
| Change in other assets and liabilities, net | (6,876) | (48,486) | 46,916 |
| Amortization of bond premium (accrual of bond discount) | 259 | 139 | 280 |
| Amortization of underwriting discount on senior notes | 4 | 46 | 54 |
| Net realized capital losses (gains) | (119,075) | (149,932) | (467,999) |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | 33,665 | 171,845 | 302,964 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | | |
| Additional investment in subsidiaries | (2,837) | (1,342) | (1,102) |
| Proceeds from fixed maturities matured/called - available for sale, at market value | 2,972 | 1,631 | 1,993 |
| Proceeds from fixed maturities sold - available for sale, at market value | - | 300,049 | - |
| Proceeds from equity maturities sold - available for sale, at fair value | 43,402 | 14,655 | 24,750 |
| Proceeds from other invested assets sold | - | - | 9,897 |
| Proceeds from sale of subsidiary (net of cash disposed) | 3,934 | - | - |
| Cost of fixed maturities acquired - available for sale, at market value | (60,240) | (300,007) | - |
| Cost of equity securities acquired - available for sale, at fair value | (76,559) | (13,575) | (29,537) |
| Net change in short-term investments | 54,588 | (67,209) | 20,802 |
| Net cost of lending for long term note - affiliated | - | (250,000) | - |
| Net change in unsettled securities transaction | 1,101 | - | - |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities | (33,639) | (315,798) | 26,803 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES: | | | |
| Proceeds from issuance of senior notes | - | 400,000 | - |
| Net cost of junior subordinated notes redemption | - | - | (329,897) |
| Net cost of senior notes maturing | - | (250,000) | - |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | - | 150,000 | (329,897) |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash | 26 | 6,047 | (130) |
| Cash, beginning of period | 6,206 | 159 | 289 |
| Cash, end of period | \$6,232 | \$6,206 | \$159 |
| Non-cash financing transaction: | | | |
| Non-cash contribution from parent | \$12,497 | \$11,242 | \$10,828 |
| Non-cash contribution to subsidiaries | (12,497) | (11,242) | (10,828) |

NON-CASH TRANSACTION:

| | | | |
|--|-------------|-----|-----|
| Exchange of common shares of parent company, held as other invested assets at fair value, | \$1,773,214 | \$- | \$- |
| for preferred shares of an affiliated company, held as other invested assets at fair value | | | |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

S-4

SCHEDULE II – CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF THE REGISTRANT
NOTES TO CONDENSED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1) The accompanying condensed financial information should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and related Notes of Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc. and its Subsidiaries.

2) The Senior Notes and Long-Term Subordinated Notes presented in Notes 6 and 7 are direct obligations of the Registrant.

3) Everest Re Group, Ltd., the parent company, entered into a \$250,000 thousand long term promissory note agreement with Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc. as of December 31, 2014. The note will mature on December 31, 2023 and has an interest rate of 1.72% that will be paid annually, on December 15th of each year. This transaction is presented as a Note Receivable – Affiliated in the Condensed Balance Sheets of Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc.

4) In December, 2015, Holdings transferred the 9,719,971 Common Shares of Group, which it held as other invested assets, at fair value, valued at \$1,773,214 thousand, to Preferred Holdings, an affiliated entity and subsidiary of Group, in exchange for 1,773,214 preferred shares of Preferred Holdings with a \$1,000 thousand par value and 1.75% annual dividend rate. After the exchange, Holdings no longer holds any shares or has any ownership interest in Group.

SCHEDULE III – SUPPLEMENTARY INSURANCE INFORMATION

| Column A | Column B | Column C Reserve | Column D | Column E | Column F | Column G Incurred | Column H | Column I | Column J |
|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Geographic Area | Deferred Acquisition Costs | and Loss Adjustment Expenses | Unearned Premium Reserves | Earned Premiums | Net Investment Income | Loss Adjustment Expenses | Amortization of Deferred Acquisition Costs | Other Operating Expenses | Net Written Premium |
| (Dollars in thousands) | | | | | | | | | |
| December 31, 2015 | | | | | | | | | |
| Domestic | \$68,055 | \$6,033,374 | \$1,059,530 | \$1,562,544 | \$239,072 | \$924,742 | \$193,911 | \$180,516 | \$1,530,592 |
| International | 24,596 | 1,907,346 | 290,269 | 581,216 | 34,181 | 394,819 | 121,158 | 34,303 | 562,691 |
| Total | \$92,651 | \$7,940,720 | \$1,349,799 | \$2,143,760 | \$273,253 | \$1,319,561 | \$315,069 | \$214,819 | \$2,093,283 |
| December 31, 2014 | | | | | | | | | |
| Domestic | \$79,674 | \$6,005,952 | \$1,078,384 | \$1,512,762 | \$250,048 | \$996,055 | \$219,747 | \$157,429 | \$1,494,731 |
| International | 29,588 | 1,837,904 | 363,738 | 600,964 | 40,262 | 358,038 | 119,655 | 34,603 | 612,243 |
| Total | \$109,262 | \$7,843,856 | \$1,442,122 | \$2,113,726 | \$290,310 | \$1,354,093 | \$339,402 | \$192,032 | \$2,106,974 |
| December 31, 2013 | | | | | | | | | |
| Domestic | \$85,098 | \$5,908,051 | \$1,041,653 | \$1,414,666 | \$252,671 | \$956,233 | \$179,591 | \$159,589 | \$1,507,293 |
| International | 26,926 | 1,745,178 | 275,494 | 591,695 | 44,325 | 315,923 | 114,331 | 33,910 | 610,084 |
| Total | \$112,024 | \$7,653,229 | \$1,317,147 | \$2,006,361 | \$296,996 | \$1,272,156 | \$293,922 | \$193,499 | \$2,117,377 |

SCHEDULE IV – REINSURANCE

| Column A | Column B | Column C | Column D | Column E | Column F | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---|
| (Dollars in thousands) | Gross Amount | Ceded to Other Companies | Assumed from Other Companies | Net Amount | Assumed to Net | |
| December 31, 2015 | | | | | | |
| Total property and liability insurance premiums earned | \$1,439,795 | \$2,933,519 | \$3,637,484 | \$2,143,760 | 169.7 | % |
| December 31, 2014 | | | | | | |
| Total property and liability insurance premiums earned | \$1,148,297 | \$2,720,355 | \$3,685,784 | \$2,113,726 | 174.4 | % |
| December 31, 2013 | | | | | | |
| Total property and liability insurance premiums earned | \$1,183,542 | \$2,202,006 | \$3,024,825 | \$2,006,361 | 150.8 | % |

S-7