Maiden Holdings, Ltd. Form 10-K March 01, 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

OR

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

For the Transition Period from to Commission File Number: 001-34042

#### MAIDEN HOLDINGS, LTD.

(Exact Name of Registrant As Specified in Its Charter)

Bermuda 98-0570192

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

Organization)

131 Front Street

Hamilton HM 12, Bermuda

(Address of Principal Executive Offices and Zip Code)

(441) 298-4900

(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

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

Title of Each Class

Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered

\$0.01 per share

Series C Preference Shares, par value \$0.01 per share

New York Stock Exchange, Inc

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

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

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 o No x

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 x No o

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 x No o

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

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

Large Accelerated Filer o Non-Accelerated Filer o

X

Non-Accelerated Filer o

(Do not check if a smaller reporting)

Smaller Reporting Company o

company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes o No x The aggregate market value of voting and non-voting common shares held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2015 (the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter) was approximately \$931.1 million based on the closing sale price of the registrant's common shares on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on that date. As of February 19, 2016, 73,862,441 common shares were outstanding.

### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's definitive proxy statement to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Regulation 14A with respect to the annual general meeting of the shareholders of the registrant scheduled to be held on May 4, 2016 are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

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#### PART I

Special Note About Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, other than purely historical information, including estimates, projections, statements relating to our business plans, objectives and expected operating results and the assumptions upon which those statements are based are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. These forward-looking statements include general statements both with respect to us and the insurance industry and generally are identified with the words "anticipate", "believe", "expect", "predict", "estimate", "intend", "plan", "project", "seek", "potential", "possible", "could", "might", "may", "should", "will", "would", "will be", "will continue", "will likely result" and similar expressions. In light of the risks and uncertainties inherent in all forward-looking statements, the inclusion of such statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K should not be considered as a representation by us or any other person that our objectives or plans or other matters described in any forward-looking statement will be achieved. These statements are based on current plans, estimates, assumptions and expectations. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in such forward-looking statements and therefore, you should not place undue reliance on them. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in such forward-looking statements are set forth in Item 1A "Risk Factors" in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

We caution that the list of important risk factors is not intended to be and is not exhaustive. We undertake no obligation to update or revise publicly any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as may be required by law, and all subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or individuals acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by this paragraph. If one or more risks or uncertainties materialize, or if our underlying assumptions prove to be incorrect, our actual results may vary materially from what we projected. Any forward-looking statements in this Annual Report on Form 10-K reflect our current view with respect to future events and are subject to these and other risks, uncertainties and assumptions relating to our operations, results of operations, growth, strategy and liquidity. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements which speak only as of the dates of the documents in which such statements were made.

References in this Annual Report on Form 10-K to the terms "we", "us", "our", "the Company" or other similar terms mean the consolidated operations of Maiden Holdings, Ltd. and our consolidated subsidiaries, unless the context requires otherwise. References in this Annual Report on Form 10-K to the term "Maiden Holdings" or "Maiden" means Maiden Holdings, Ltd. only. References in this Annual Report on Form 10-K to \$ are to the lawful currency of the United States, unless otherwise indicated. Any discrepancies in the tables included herein between the amounts listed and the totals thereof are due to rounding.

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Item 1. Business.

#### General Overview

We are a Bermuda-based holding company, primarily focused on serving the needs of regional and specialty insurers in the United States, Europe and select other global markets by providing innovative reinsurance solutions designed to support their capital needs. We specialize in reinsurance solutions that optimize financing and risk management by providing coverage within the more predictable and actuarially credible lower layers of coverage and/or reinsuring risks that are believed to be lower hazard, more predictable and generally not susceptible to catastrophe claims. Our tailored solutions include a variety of value added services focused on helping our clients grow and prosper. Our principal operating subsidiaries are rated "A-" (Excellent) with a positive outlook by A.M. Best Company ("A.M. Best"), which rating is the fourth highest of sixteen rating levels, and "BBB+" (Good) with a stable outlook by Standard & Poor's ("S&P"), which is the eighth highest of twenty-two rating levels. Our common shares trade on the NASDAQ Global Select Market ("NASDAQ") under the symbol "MHLD".

We provide reinsurance through our wholly owned subsidiaries, Maiden Reinsurance Ltd. ("Maiden Bermuda") and Maiden Reinsurance North America, Inc. ("Maiden US"). Internationally, we provide insurance sales and distribution services through Maiden Global Holdings, Ltd. ("Maiden Global") and its subsidiaries. Maiden Global primarily focuses on providing branded auto and credit life insurance products through insurer partners to retail clients in the European Union ("EU") and other global markets. These products also produce reinsurance programs which are underwritten by Maiden Bermuda. Certain international credit life business is written on a primary basis by Maiden Life Försäkrings AB ("Maiden LF").

Since our founding in 2007, we have entered into a series of strategic transactions that have significantly transformed the scope and scale of our business while maintaining our our low volatility, non-catastrophe oriented risk profile. These transactions have increased our gross premiums written to an amount in excess of \$2.6 billion. These strategic transactions include the following:

Entering into a quota share reinsurance agreement (the "Reinsurance Agreement" or "AmTrust Quota Share") with a Bermuda subsidiary of AmTrust Financial Services, Inc. ("AmTrust"), AmTrust International Insurance, Ltd. ("AII"), in 2007 and a quota share reinsurance agreement (the "European Hospital Liability Quota Share") with AmTrust Europe Limited ("AEL") and AmTrust International Underwriters Limited ("AIUL") in 2011;

Acquiring the reinsurance operations of GMAC Insurance (the "GMAC Acquisition") in 2008 and the GMAC International Insurance Services (the "IIS Acquisition") in 2010;

Entering into a quota share reinsurance agreement with a subsidiary of National General Holdings Corporation ("NGHC") in 2010 (the "NGHC Quota Share"). This agreement was terminated on a run-off basis effective August 1, 2013;

Substantially reducing our net exposure to natural hazard events by selling, on May 1, 2013, the primary insurance business written on a surplus lines basis by Maiden Specialty Insurance Company ("Maiden Specialty"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Maiden US, to Brit Insurance. Maiden Specialty provided non-catastrophe inland marine and property coverages. On November 4, 2015, Maiden US finalized the sale of Maiden Specialty to Clear Blue Financial Holdings, LLC ("Clear Blue"); and

During 2015, we acquired Regulatory Capital Limited, trading as Insurance Regulatory Capital ("IRC"), a licensed asset manager in Ireland. IRC offers solutions designed to meet the capital and risk management needs of mid-sized

insurance companies.

We have also entered into a series of capital transactions that have enabled us to support our growing reinsurance operations while significantly enhancing our capital position to over \$1.7 billion at December 31, 2015 and lowering our cost of capital. These capital transactions include:

Private placement of Trust Preferred Securities (the "TRUPS Offering"), the proceeds from which were used to finance the issuance of subordinated debenture (the "Junior Subordinated Debt") resulting in gross proceeds of \$260.1 million in January 2009. The net proceeds of this transaction were used as working capital for Maiden US and Maiden Specialty in conjunction with the GMAC Acquisition. The outstanding Junior Subordinated Debt was fully repurchased on January 15, 2014;

Public debt offering of \$107.5 million in June 2011 ("2011 Senior Notes") and repurchasing a like amount of our Junior Subordinated Debt in July 2011. The 2011 Senior Notes trade on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") under the symbol "MHNA";

Public debt offering of \$100.0 million in March 2012 ("2012 Senior Notes"). The 2012 Senior Notes trade on NYSE under the symbol "MHNB". The net proceeds of \$96.6 million were used for working capital and general corporate purposes;

Public offering of \$150.0 million Preference Shares - Series A ("Preference Shares - Series A") in August 2012. We received net proceeds of \$145.0 million from the offering. The Preference Shares - Series A trade on NYSE under the

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symbol "MHPRA". The net proceeds from the offering were used for continued support and development of our reinsurance business and for other general corporate purposes;

Public offering of \$165.0 million Mandatory Convertible Preference Shares - Series B ("Preference Shares - Series B") in October 2013. The Preference Shares - Series B trade on NASDAQ under the symbol "MHLDO". We received net proceeds of \$159.7 million from the offering. The net proceeds from the offering were used for general corporate purposes, primarily to support the continuing growth of our reinsurance operations;

Public debt offering of \$152.5 million in November 2013 ("2013 Senior Notes"). The 2013 Senior Notes trade on NYSE under the symbol "MHNC". The net proceeds of \$147.4 million, as well as cash on hand, were used to repurchase all of the remaining portion of our outstanding Junior Subordinated Debt, with a face value of \$152.5 million, on January 15, 2014, which substantially lowered our cost of capital; and

Public offering of \$165.0 million Preference Shares - Series C ("Preference Shares - Series C") in November 2015. The Preference Shares - Series C trade on NYSE under the symbol "MHPRC". We received net proceeds of \$159.6 million from the offering. We expect to use the net proceeds of this offering for continued support and development of our reinsurance business and for other general corporate purposes.

The 2011 Senior Notes, 2012 Senior Notes and 2013 Senior Notes may also collectively be referred to as the "Senior Note Offerings". These transactions, along with other unusual or non-recurring events, should be considered when evaluating year-to-year comparability or when comparing our performance with other companies considered our peers and with whom we compete on a regular basis.

## **Business Strategy**

Our goal is to leverage the competitive strengths of our organization and capital structure to generate stable long term operating returns on common equity in excess of 15%. We seek to accomplish this by becoming a premier global preferred provider of customized reinsurance and capital products and services to regional and specialty insurance companies. To achieve this goal, we have adopted the following strategies:

Dedication to Predictable and Stable Results — we execute this strategy in two ways: (1) focusing on traditional, lower volatility lines of business that are more predictable and thus, produce more stable long-term operating results and require less capital to achieve those results; and (2) placing emphasis on working layer and pro rata reinsurance participations where data is more abundant and results are more predictable;

Targeted Customer Focus — we execute this strategy by developing significant and long term reinsurance relationships with targeted regional and specialty insurance companies for which reinsurance plays a critical element of their capital structure and supporting the long term needs of these companies by providing differentiated products as well as an array of support services; and

Efficient Operating Platform — recognizing the mature nature of the reinsurance market, we are focused on maintaining operating expense ratios within the top quartile of the industry. Efficiency is a critical component of maintaining a disciplined underwriting approach.

To date, despite achieving operating returns on common equity generally in excess of our industry peers, we have not yet attained our targeted returns. We believe our efficient balance sheet and low volatility business are the primary reasons our returns have generally exceeded industry averages, despite a declining investment yield environment since our founding. Our ability to achieve our targeted returns were initially impacted by a significantly higher cost of capital. Our capital management strategy in recent years has appreciably lowered our cost of capital and improved our

returns on common equity. More recently, higher than targeted combined ratios have affected our underwriting profitability and limited our progress toward our objective. We believe however, that the underwriting initiatives we have implemented will enable us to make progress toward our long term operating return on common equity target during the next 12 to 24 months.

Our future results, and our ability to generate our targeted return on capital, may be additionally impacted by risks and trends set forth in Item 1A, "Risk Factors", and elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

#### Our Principal Operating Subsidiaries

Maiden Bermuda, a wholly owned subsidiary of Maiden Holdings, is a registered Class 3B Bermuda reinsurance company that began operations in June 2007. Senior management and all of the staff of Maiden Bermuda operate from and are based in our Bermuda headquarters.

Maiden Holdings North America, Ltd. ("Maiden NA") is our wholly owned U.S. holding company and is domiciled in the state of Delaware. Maiden US, a wholly owned subsidiary of Maiden NA, is a licensed property and casualty insurance company domiciled in the state of Missouri. Maiden Re Insurance Services, LLC ("Maiden Re"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Maiden NA, is a limited liability company organized in the state of Delaware in January 2008. Maiden Re operates as a managing general agent and underwriter for Maiden US.

Maiden Global, a wholly owned subsidiary of Maiden Holdings, operates as a reinsurance services and holding company. Maiden Global is organized under the laws of England and Wales. Opel Händler VersicherungsService GmbH ("OVS"), organized under the laws of Germany, operates as an insurance producer in Germany and is a 90% owned indirect subsidiary of Maiden Global.

Maiden LF, a wholly owned subsidiary of Maiden Holdings, is a life insurer organized under the laws of Sweden and writes credit life insurance on a primary basis in support of Maiden Global's business development efforts.

IRC, a 66.7% owned subsidiary of Maiden Holdings, is a licensed asset manager offering solutions designed to meet the capital and risk management needs of mid-sized insurance companies.

#### Our Reportable Segments

Our business consists of two reportable segments: Diversified Reinsurance and AmTrust Reinsurance. Our Diversified Reinsurance segment consists of a portfolio of predominantly property and casualty reinsurance business focusing on regional and specialty property and casualty insurance companies located, primarily in the U.S. and Europe. Our AmTrust Reinsurance segment includes all business ceded by AmTrust to Maiden Bermuda, primarily the AmTrust Quota Share and the European Hospital Liability Quota Share.

In addition to our reportable segments, the results of operations of the former NGHC Quota Share segment and the remnants of the U.S. excess and surplus ("E&S") business have been separated and included in a category captioned "Other". Financial data relating to our two segments is included in Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and in "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Note 3. Segment Information" included under Item 8 "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" of this Form 10-K.

The tables below compare net premiums written and earned, by reportable segment, reconciled to the total net premiums written and earned, for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013:

For the Year Ended December 31,	2015		,	2014		2013			
	Net			Net		Net			
	Premiums	% of Tot	al	Premiums	% of Tota	ıl	Premiums	% of To	otal
	Written W		Written			Written			
	(\$ in			(\$ in		(\$ in			
	Millions)			Millions)			Millions)		
Diversified Reinsurance	\$734.8	29.2	%	\$850.0	34.6	%	\$763.4	36.4	%
AmTrust Reinsurance	1,779.3	70.8	%	1,610.5	65.5	%	1,169.9	55.8	%
Total - reportable segments	2,514.1	100.0	%	2,460.5	100.1	%	1,933.3	92.2	%
Other			%	(2.4)	(0.1	)%	163.0	7.8	%
Total	\$2,514.1	100.0	%	\$2,458.1	100.0	%	\$2,096.3	100.0	%
For the Year Ended December 31,	2015			2014			2013		
	Net			Net			Net		
	Premiums	% of To	tal	Premiums % of Total			Premiums	% of To	otal
	Earned			Earned			Earned		
	(\$ in			(\$ in			(\$ in		
	Millions)			Millions)			Millions)		
Diversified Reinsurance	\$744.9	30.7	%	\$854.0	37.9	%	\$753.2	37.6	%
AmTrust Reinsurance	1,684.2	69.3	%	1,378.3	61.2	%	988.9	49.4	%
Total - reportable segments	2,429.1	100.0		2,232.3	99.1	%	1,742.1	87.0	%
Other	<u></u>	_		19.4	0.9		258.8	13.0	%

Total \$2,429.1 100.0 % \$2,251.7 100.0 % \$2,000.9 100.0 %

The majority of our gross premiums written is generated by quota share reinsurance contracts. For the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, 91.0%, 88.2% and 83.1% respectively, of our consolidated gross premiums written was derived from quota share reinsurance contracts. This significant concentration of quota share reinsurance, combined with our focus on lines of business which are inherently less volatile, results in a less capital intensive business which enables the Company to target higher returns on equity for its shareholders.

Financial data relating to the geographical areas in which we operate and relating to our principal products may be found in "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Note 3. Segment Information" included under Item 8 "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" of this Form 10-K.

In a quota share reinsurance arrangement (also known as pro-rata reinsurance, proportional reinsurance or participating reinsurance), the reinsurer shares a proportional part of the original premiums of the reinsured. In return, the reinsurer assumes a proportional share of the losses incurred by the cedant. The reinsurer pays the company a ceding commission, which is generally based on the ceding company's cost of acquiring the business being reinsured (including broker commissions, premium taxes, assessments and miscellaneous administrative expenses) and may also include a profit sharing arrangement. Under quota share arrangements, ceding commission can be adjustable based upon loss experience which potentially reduces earnings volatility under such arrangements.

Excess of loss (or non-proportional) reinsurance indemnifies the reinsured against all or a specified portion of losses on underlying insurance policies in excess of a specified amount, which is called a level, retention or attachment point. Excess of loss business is written in layers and a reinsurer or group of reinsurers accepts a band of coverage up to a specified amount. The total coverage purchased by the cedant is referred to as a program.

Facultative reinsurance (proportional or non-proportional) is the reinsurance of individual risks. The reinsurer separately rates and underwrites each risk rather than assuming all or a portion of a class of risks as in the case of treaty reinsurance.

#### Diversified Reinsurance

#### General

Maiden US writes treaties, on a quota share or excess of loss basis, and facultative risks, marketed through third-party intermediaries and on a direct basis. Maiden Bermuda also provides quota share reinsurance support to Maiden US and Maiden LF through intercompany reinsurance arrangements. The net premiums written under the Diversified Reinsurance segment by our operating subsidiaries, after intercompany reinsurance, for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 were as follows:

For the Year Ended December 31,	2015 Net			2014 Net				2013 Net		
	Premiums	% of Tota	Premiums	S	% of Tota	al	Premiums	% of To	tal	
	Written			Written				Written		
	(\$ in			(\$ in				(\$ in		
	Millions)			Millions)				Millions)		
Maiden US	\$416.4	56.7	%	\$438.7		51.6	%	\$387.9	50.8	%
Maiden Bermuda	312.4	42.5	%	403.9		47.6	%	365.7	47.9	%
Maiden LF	6.0	0.8	%	8.0		0.9	%	8.1	1.1	%
Maiden Specialty		_	%	(0.6	)	(0.1	)%	1.7	0.2	%
Total	\$734.8	100.0	%	\$850.0		100.0	%	\$763.4	100.0	%

The net premiums written were impacted by the Company entering into a retrocessional quota share agreement with a highly rated global insurer entered into effective January 1, 2015. There was no such retrocessional quota share agreement in force during 2014.

A combination of general market and competitive conditions, along with their underlying financial performance and capital levels including those considered by rating agencies and regulators, often influence reinsurance purchasing decisions of individual ceding companies. Historically, Maiden US has written greater amounts of quota share business than excess of loss business reflecting the needs of its clients. Please refer to Item 7. "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" for a discussion on the performance of our Diversified Reinsurance segment, of which Maiden US is the most significant component, for the years ended

December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013.

Maiden US began operating in 1983 through Maiden Re and since its inception, the business has focused on developing a portfolio of assumed reinsurance with an emphasis on relatively predictable reinsurance with low limits of participation on both a treaty and facultative basis. By design, the underwriting portfolio was developed to mitigate volatility and generate stable operating performance. Our underwriting strategy has de-emphasized property catastrophe reinsurance and participations in more volatile U.S. casualty lines such as Directors and Officers ("D&O") and Professional Liability.

Regional and specialty oriented property and casualty treaty reinsurance business represents the bulk of the portfolio, but accident and health and facultative are also important product offerings. In recent years we have added enhanced automation to the facultative platform and have added a turn-key Umbrella Liability product offering for our core regional customers.

We employ sophisticated risk management, disciplined actuarially-based pricing and strong technical underwriting in developing and maintaining these portfolios. We use both proprietary and vendor developed technology systems to administer and manage the portfolio. The business has been carefully developed under the active management of multi-functional underwriting teams with performance accountability.

For most U.S. clients, we provide enhanced security in the form of an internally developed dedicated trust agreement for the reinsurance balances payable to that client. We believe this reinsurance security provides us with a sustainable competitive advantage that is both attractive to new clients and improves retention of existing ones. The trust accounts are funded on an individual client basis with cash and other fixed maturity securities. We can actively manage the cash and investments in the trust accounts and the interest earned is ours. The balances are adjusted regularly to correspond to the liabilities owed to the client, including individually computed Incurred But Not Reported ("IBNR") reserves. Our clients can withdraw assets from the trusts under contractually limited circumstances. At December 31, 2015, we had cash and fixed maturity securities totaling \$980.0 million in these trusts, which is part of the \$3.7 billion restricted assets disclosed in "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Note 4. Investments" included under Item 8 "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" of this Form 10-K.

The business associated with the IIS Acquisition ("IIS business") consists of quota share contracts, which are underwritten and reinsured by Maiden Bermuda, with the exception of business written through Maiden LF, which is underwritten on a primary basis. This business is marketed primarily through Maiden Global's business development teams who partner with automobile manufacturers and local primary insurers to design and implement point of sale insurance programs which generate revenue for the auto manufacturer and insurance premiums for the primary insurer. Typically the primary insurer agrees to reinsure an agreed upon percentage of the underlying business to Maiden Bermuda as part of the overall arrangement. Maiden Bermuda is generally not obligated to underwrite the original equipment automobile manufacturers' (the "OEM's") programs that Maiden Global designs. Traditionally, security is provided to clients in the form of letters of credit for IIS business, however, for new international clients, Maiden Bermuda provides enhanced security in the form of an internally developed dedicated trust agreement for the reinsurance balances payable to that client. At December 31, 2015, we had cash and fixed maturity securities totaling \$29.7 million in these trusts, which is part of the \$3.7 billion restricted assets disclosed in "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Note 4. Investments" included under Item 8 "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" of this Form 10-K.

Net premiums written for the IIS business were written in the following countries:

For the Year Ended December 31,	2015	2015			2014				
	Net			Net			Net		
	Premiums	% of Tota	ıl	Premiums	% of Tot	al	Premiums	% of To	tal
	Written	Written W		Written			Written		
	(\$ in		(				(\$ in		
	Millions)			Millions)			Millions)		
Germany	\$35.0	47.2	%	\$46.4	40.2	%	\$47.0	43.2	%
United Kingdom	12.5	16.9	%	19.7	17.1	%	15.0	13.7	%
Australia	10.3	13.8	%	7.6	6.6	%	7.0	6.4	%
Canada	5.6	7.6	%	6.4	5.6	%	5.9	5.4	%
Sweden	3.4	4.5	%	5.6	4.8	%	5.5	5.0	%
All other	7.3	10.0	%	29.7	25.7	%	28.6	26.3	%
Total	\$74.1	100.0	%	\$115.4	100.0	%	\$109.0	100.0	%

The breakdown of IIS business by line of business was as follows:

For the Year Ended December 31,	2015 Net		2014 Net		2013 Net				
	Premiums Written	% of Total	Premiums Written	% of Total	Premiums Written	% of Total			
	(\$ in Millions)		(\$ in Millions)		(\$ in Millions)				
Personal Auto	\$61.6	83.1	\$81.4	70.6	6 \$71.8	65.9 %			

Credit Life	12.5	16.9	% 34.0	29.4	% 37.2	34.1	%
Total	\$74.1	100.0	% \$115.4	100.0	% \$109.0	100.0	%

We also generate fee income when Maiden Global participates in transactions and collects a fee for designing and facilitating the sale of insurance programs. Our fee income is primarily generated by OVS in Germany and Austria through its point of sale producers in select OEM's dealerships. We seek to expand these fee generating arrangements through the Maiden Global business development teams' contacts with automobile manufacturers globally. For the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, the fee income was earned in the following locations:

For the Year Ended December 31,	2015		2014		2013				
	Fee Income	Fee Income % of Total		Fee Income % of Total			Fee Income % of Total		
	(\$ in		(\$ in			(\$ in			
	Millions)			Millions)			Millions)		
Germany	\$8.9	77.1	%	\$8.8	66.0	%	\$9.1	64.3	%
Australia	0.8	7.3	%	0.9	7.0	%	0.1	0.4	%
Russia	0.7	5.8	%	1.9	14.2	%	2.8	19.9	%
Other	1.1	9.8	%	1.8	12.8	%	2.2	15.4	%
Total	\$11.5	100.0	%	\$13.4	100.0	%	\$14.2	100.0	%

## Strategy

Maiden Bermuda and Maiden US are specialty reinsurers with an efficient operating platform that target lines of business and types of contracts that are more predictable than the market as a whole, allowing stability of earnings over time. Most business is written as reinsurance which is insurance of other insurance companies. We offer reinsurance on both a quota share and excess of loss basis. Our primary focus is regional and specialty clients who rely on reinsurance for capital support and/or to reduce their risk. The majority of our clients are regional or super-regional insurance companies or specialty insurers. With these customers, we believe it is possible to develop long term relationships which not only survive insurance market cycles, but provide benefits to both reinsurer and customer during turbulent times. We also utilize a partnership concept developed over Maiden Re's thirty two year operating history to develop long-term customer relationships. This concept entails the offer to our clients of our expertise in underwriting, claims, actuarial, marketing and accounting, through tailored services which support their businesses and goals.

In our Diversified Reinsurance segment, we reinsure property and casualty lines of business, but de-emphasize lines of business such as professional liability, which we consider more volatile, and we do not offer traditional catastrophe reinsurance on a stand-alone basis. We occasionally provide limited catastrophe coverage to clients that purchase other reinsurance from us.

We are primarily a lead reinsurer, meaning that we develop our own terms rather than accepting a small share of another reinsurer's program in a subscription market. We prefer to be the primary, if not sole, reinsurer for our clients. Our pricing and underwriting of this business considers the economics of the individual customer and therefore is less susceptible to large increases and decreases following market cycles. We are able to attract preferred clients because we offer a secure product and an emphasis on client service. By maintaining significant relationships with clients, we are able to develop strong economies of scale and maintain highly competitive operating efficiencies, a critical element of our business strategy.

We believe that our policy of providing our clients security for our reinsurance obligations through collateral trusts gives us a competitive advantage. In the current economic climate, we also believe that reinsurance brokers and insurers, as well as rating agencies, are scrutinizing the credit-worthiness of reinsurers more closely than in the recent past and recognize that our collateral trust product offers a high level of security.

#### **AmTrust Reinsurance**

#### General

AmTrust is our largest client and is a multinational specialty property and casualty insurance holding company with operations in the U.S., Europe and Bermuda. AmTrust's principal operating subsidiaries are rated "A" (Excellent) with a stable outlook by A.M. Best, which rating is the third highest of 16 rating levels.

Michael Karfunkel, George Karfunkel and Barry Zyskind are our Founding Shareholders. Michael Karfunkel is the non-executive chairman of the board of AmTrust, George Karfunkel is a director of AmTrust, and Barry Zyskind is the president, chief executive officer and director of AmTrust. The Founding Shareholders, including Leah Karfunkel (wife of Michael Karfunkel), own or control approximately 47.9% of the outstanding voting shares of AmTrust.

Through our reinsurance agreements with AmTrust, we reinsure specific lines of business within the following AmTrust business segments:

Small commercial business insurance, which includes U.S. workers' compensation, commercial package and other property and casualty insurance products;

Specialty risk and extended warranty coverage for consumer and commercial goods and custom designed coverages, such as accidental damage plans and payment protection plans offered in connection with the sale of consumer and commercial goods, in the U.S., United Kingdom ("U.K.") and certain other European countries, European Hospital Liability; and

Specialty program which includes package products, general liability, commercial auto liability, excess and surplus lines programs and other specialty commercial property and casualty insurance to a narrowly defined, homogeneous group of small and middle market companies.

# Reinsurance Agreement

Under our Reinsurance Agreement with AmTrust's Bermuda reinsurance subsidiary, AII, effective July 1, 2007, we reinsure 40% of AmTrust's written premium, net of commissions, in the case of AmTrust's U.K. subsidiary, and net of reinsurance with unaffiliated reinsurers, relating to all lines of business that existed on the effective date. We also have the option to reinsure additional programs, in addition to the original lines of business entered into by AmTrust since the effective date of the Reinsurance Agreement. As AmTrust has expanded into new lines of business, pursuant to the terms of the Reinsurance Agreement, we have selectively added some of those lines and opted not to participate in others. Consequently our share of AmTrust's overall gross premiums written has declined below 40% over time.

Maiden and AII entered into an agreement to commute certain lines of business as of December 31, 2015. The commuted reserve value of \$107 million represents full and final settlement of all liabilities related to this business and as a result of this agreement, this business will be excluded prospectively.

#### European Hospital Liability Quota Share

On April 1, 2011, as amended on January 1, 2012, Maiden Bermuda entered into the European Hospital Liability Quota Share with AEL and AIUL, respectively, to cover those entities' medical liability business in Europe, in particular, Italy and France. Maiden Bermuda pays a ceding commission of 5.0%. The European Hospital Liability Quota Share has a term of one year and automatically renews for further one year terms thereafter, unless either party notifies the other of its election in writing not to renew not less than four months prior to the end of any such term. Effective January 1, 2012, the Company's maximum limit of liability is 40% of €10 million, previously 40% of €5 million, per original claim for any one original policy.

#### Risk Management

#### General

Central to the reinsurance business is the assumption and management of risk. Our risk management discipline therefore focuses on both quantitative and qualitative elements as the means to reduce volatility of shareholder returns through a balanced analysis and assessment of these elements. The quantitative aspect of our risk management practice focuses on understanding and controlling a broad array of risk parameters in order to achieve desired returns. Our business model further mitigates the risk inherent in our business by focusing on lines of business which are less volatile and thus, require less capital to support the exposures generated by those lines of business. The qualitative aspect of our risk management practice focuses on identifying and assessing risks, and taking the necessary steps to reduce or mitigate risks that could threaten the achievement of our business objectives.

We believe that we have developed a strong risk management culture within Maiden through the establishment of various processes and controls which focus on our risk exposures. We are continually reviewing and enhancing these processes and developing additional processes that may be necessary to achieve our business strategies and objectives within our risk management practice.

Our Enterprise Risk Management ("ERM") Committee monitors and oversees the risk environment and provides direction to mitigate, to an acceptable level, the most significant and material risks that may adversely affect the Company's ability to achieve its goals. The Committee facilitates a culture of continuous improvement of the Company's capabilities around managing its strategic risks. The ERM Committee establishes appropriate risk parameters and tolerances, performs risk assessments, continually reviews factors that may impact our organizational risk and develops and implements strategies and action plans to mitigate key risks.

Maiden's ERM program is designed to achieve the following:

- •Establish a process to assess strategies and business decisions on a risk/reward basis;
- •Establish a risk governance structure with clearly defined roles and responsibilities;
- •Identify and assess all material risks from internal and external sources;
- •Manage risks within Maiden's risk appetite; and
- •Effective review and reporting of major loss events.

Specific risk management practices that have been or are being developed to meet our risk management goals include:

- •Scenario/stress testing to assess the level of a specific risk and mitigation effects;
- •Setting risk tolerances that we use to monitor and limit risk;
- •Tracking expected portfolio volatility over time;

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- •Identifying risk mitigation opportunities and implementing them as appropriate;
- •Understanding the capital required to support the underwriting portfolio and individual contracts;
- •Monitoring and managing exposure by line of business and geographic concentration;
- •Monitoring and limiting catastrophe aggregates and concentrations;
- •Monitoring and limiting terrorism aggregates and concentrations;
- •Monitoring and managing operational risks across the organization;
- •Monitoring and managing the Company's exposure to cyber threats; and
- •Identifying, monitoring and managing emerging risks as they develop.

Maiden's ERM framework reflects the 'three lines of defense' approach to risk management, which involves risk owners having responsibility for identifying and managing risks, the ERM Committee providing global tools and policies, and internal audit performing independent reviews. The Maiden Board of Directors has overall responsibility for oversight of the ERM program.

Maiden has a strong risk management culture set by the tone at the top, the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO"), which is then established entity wide through various processes and controls which focus on our risk exposures. Maiden continually develops, reviews, and enhances these processes which we believe to be necessary to achieve our business strategies and objectives within our risk management practice.

There is involvement from all Maiden employees and risk owners are required to assist with the identification of risks, creation of appropriate responses to risks, and maintain them within the risk appetite and tolerances that the ERM Committee believes are necessary to achieve our business strategies and objectives.

The ERM Committee focuses primarily on identifying interactions among our primary categories of risk, developing metrics to assess our overall risk appetite, establishing appropriate risk parameters and tolerances, monitoring those tolerances, establishing and determining actions, if deemed necessary, in the event of a tolerance breach, performing ongoing risk assessment and continually reviewing factors that may impact our organizational risk. Maiden's internal audit department assesses the adequacy and effectiveness of our risk management framework and mitigating controls and coordinates risk-based audits to evaluate and address risk within targeted areas of our business.

This risk governance structure is complemented by our internal audit department. The core functions of this department are 1) assess the adequacy and effectiveness of our internal control systems; 2)coordinates risk-based audits and compliance reviews; and 3) carry out other initiatives to evaluate and address risk within targeted areas of our business. Our ERM is dynamic and constantly evolving to reflect changes to our organizational processes, global economic environment as well as implementing the latest industry standards.

Our management's internal ERM efforts are overseen by the Company's Audit Committee. This Committee, comprised solely of independent directors, assesses whether management is addressing risk issues in a timely and appropriate manner. Internal controls and ERM can provide a reasonable but not absolute assurance that our control objectives will be met. The possibility of material financial loss remains in spite of our ERM efforts.

**Underwriting Risk Management** 

Internal underwriting controls are established by our underwriting executives who are the Chief Underwriting Officer of Maiden Bermuda, and the President of Maiden US, working in close coordination with our CEO, our Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") and the President of Maiden Bermuda. Underwriting authority is delegated to the managers in each business segment and to underwrite in accordance with prudent practice and an understanding of each underwriter's capabilities. In accordance with our underwriting guidelines, underwriting authorities are delegated to underwriting teams as well as individual underwriters. Our targeted performance goals and guidelines are regularly reviewed by management to reflect changes in market conditions, interest rates, capital requirements and market-expected returns.

We have a disciplined approach to underwriting and risk management that relies heavily upon the collective underwriting expertise of our management and staff. This expertise is in turn guided by the following underwriting principles:

we will underwrite and accept only those risks we know and understand;

we will perform our own independent pricing and risk review on all risks we accept; and

we will accept only those risks that are expected to earn an appropriate risk-adjusted return on capital.

Before developing a reinsurance proposal, we consider the appropriateness of the client, including the quality of its management, its financial stability and its risk management strategy. In addition, we require each program to include significant information on

the nature of the perils to be included and detailed exposure and loss information, including rate changes and changes in underwriting and claims handling guidelines over time. Whenever possible, we conduct an on-site audit of the client's operations prior to quoting. If the customer and business meets our underwriting criteria, we then develop a proposal which contemplates the prospective client's needs, that account's risk/reward profile, as well as our corporate risk objectives. We have fully integrated our internal claims, underwriting and actuarial pricing staff into the underwriting and decision making process. We use in-depth actuarial, claims and exposure analyses to evaluate contracts prior to quoting. We underwrite and accept property and casualty reinsurance business, accident and health reinsurance business and credit life insurance business. In general, we underwrite reinsurance business that historically is lower in volatility and more predictable than other classes of reinsurance business such as catastrophe reinsurance, which we generally avoid. As part of our risk management process, we track exposures that we believe are most likely to deliver excessive accumulations to a particular type of event.

In addition to the above technical and analytical practices, our underwriters use a variety of means, including specific contract terms, to manage our exposure to loss. Specific terms include occurrence limits, adjustable ceding commissions and premiums, aggregate limits, reinstatement provisions and other loss sensitive features. Additionally, our underwriters use appropriate exclusions, terms and conditions to further eliminate or reduce particular risks or exposures that our underwriting teams deem to be outside of the intent of the coverage we are willing to offer.

In limited cases, the risks assumed by us are partially reinsured with other third party reinsurers. Reinsurance ceded varies by segment and line of business based on a number of factors, including market conditions. The benefits of ceding risks include reducing exposure on individual risks and/or enhancing our capital position. Reinsurance ceded does not relieve the Company of its obligations to the policyholders. We remain liable to the extent that any reinsurance company fails to meet its obligations. In the event that one or more of the reinsurers are unable to meet their obligations under these reinsurance agreements, the Company would not realize the full value of the reinsurance recoverable balances.

Maiden's risk appetite and tolerances have been formally approved by our Audit Committee. Our Audit Committee also reviews the Group Solvency Self-Assessment ("GSSA") which is required to be filed with the Bermuda Monetary Authority ("BMA") and used to understand current and prospective risks and the associated capital requirements. The GSSA is an integral part of our risk management framework and reflects our risk tolerance and overall business strategy. The GSSA documents our internal self-assessment of capital which is determined using our internal model. Our internal model quantifies the level of capital needed to meet our liabilities within our specified confidence level. The major risks are insurance related - both premium risk and reserve risk, reflecting the possibility that our pricing may be too low and/or our reserving levels may not be sufficient. Catastrophe Risk Management

While we generally avoid catastrophe exposed reinsurance risks, certain risks we reinsure are exposed to catastrophic loss events. Our tolerance is that our modeled one-in-250 year catastrophe occurrence loss must be less than 50% of our operating income and our aggregate loss must be less than 75% of our operating income. At December 31, 2015, our one-in-250 year catastrophe exposure on a per occurrence and aggregate basis is \$36.4 million and \$77.8 million, respectively, within these stated tolerances.

To achieve our catastrophe risk management objectives, we utilize commercially available modeling tools to quantify and monitor the various risks we accept. We have licensed catastrophe modeling software from one of the principal modeling firms, Applied Insurance Research ("AIR"). These software tools use exposure data provided by our ceding company clients to simulate catastrophic losses. We take an active role in the evaluation of these commercial catastrophe models, providing feedback to AIR to improve the efficiencies and accuracy of their models. We use modeling not only for the underwriting of individual transactions but also to optimize the total return and risk of our underwriting portfolio. We have high standards for the quality and levels of detailed exposure data provided by our

clients and have an expressed preference for the most detailed location information available, including data at the zip code or postal code level or finer. Data output from the software described above is incorporated into our proprietary pricing models. Our proprietary systems include those for modeling risks associated with property catastrophe, property and U.S. workers' compensation business, various casualty and specialty pricing models. These systems allow us to monitor our pricing and risk on a contract by contract basis in each of our segments and business lines.

#### Retrocessions

We use retrocessional agreements to mitigate volatility and to reduce our exposure on certain specialty reinsurance risks and to provide capital support. We remain liable to our cedants to the extent that the retrocessionaires do not meet their obligations under retrocessional agreements, so we retain credit risk in all cases and to aggregate loss limits in certain cases. We maintain a credit risk review process that identifies authorized acceptable reinsurers and retrocessionaires and have no impaired balances. At December 31, 2015, we had approximately \$71.2 million of reinsurance recoverable under such agreements, of which \$35.0 million or 49.2% relates to reinsurance claims from Superstorm Sandy.

# Competition

The reinsurance industry is mature and highly competitive. Reinsurance companies compete on the basis of many factors, including premium rates, company and underwriter relationships, general reputation and perceived financial strength, the terms and conditions of the products offered, ratings assigned by independent rating agencies, speed of claims payments, reputation and experience in risks underwritten, capacity and coverages offered and various other factors. These factors operate at the individual market participant level and generally in the aggregate across the reinsurance industry. In addition, underlying economic conditions

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and variations in the reinsurance buying practices of ceding companies, by participant and in the aggregate, contribute to cyclical movements in rates, terms and conditions and may impact industry aggregate results and subsequently the level of completion in the reinsurance industry.

Both Maiden US and Maiden Bermuda compete with a wide variety of major reinsurers including those based in Bermuda. In our Diversified Reinsurance segment, we compete with reinsurers that provide property and casualty-based lines of reinsurance such as: General Reinsurance Corporation, Hannover Re Group, Munich Reinsurance America, Inc., PartnerRe Ltd., Swiss Reinsurance Company Ltd., and Transatlantic Reinsurance Company.

Many of these entities have significantly more capital, higher ratings from rating agencies and more employees than we do; in addition, these entities have established long-term and continuing business relationships throughout the industry, which can be significant competitive advantages. However, we believe the enhanced security that we offer our clients through collateral trusts, our niche specialist orientation, our operating efficiency and our careful relationship management capabilities help offset these advantages and allow us to effectively compete for profitable business.

In addition, in recent years, significant increases in the use of risk-linked securities and derivative and other non-traditional risk transfer mechanisms and vehicles are being developed and offered by other parties, including entities other than insurance and reinsurance companies. The availability of both these non-traditional products and sources of capital could reduce the demand for traditional insurance and reinsurance.

A number of new, proposed or potential industry or legislative developments could also further increase competition in our industry. New competition from these developments may result in fewer contracts written, lower premium rates, increased expenses for customer acquisition and retention and less favorable policy terms and conditions, which could have a material adverse impact on our growth and profitability.

More recently, January 1, 2016 reinsurance renewals show competitive pricing conditions. While these conditions have been most pronounced in severity related placements, particularly in property catastrophe contracts which are more acutely feeling the impact of capital inflows, we also see an elevated level of competition in our higher frequency/lower severity business as well. While the business we write as part of our business model is somewhat more insulated from these competitive conditions, we are experiencing some pricing pressures as a result of broader industry conditions.

As market conditions continue to develop, we continue to maintain our adherence to disciplined underwriting by declining business when pricing terms and conditions do not meet our underwriting standards. We believe that we are well positioned to take advantage of market conditions should the pricing environment become more favorable.

### Our Financial Strength Ratings

Ratings are an important factor in establishing the competitive position of insurance and reinsurance companies and are important to our ability to market and sell our products. We believe that the primary users of such ratings include brokers, ceding companies and investors. Periodically, rating agencies evaluate us to confirm that we continue to meet their criteria for the ratings assigned to us by them.

A.M. Best and S&P have each developed a rating system to provide an opinion of an insurer's or reinsurer's financial strength and ability to meet ongoing obligations to its policyholders. Each rating reflects that rating agency's independent opinion of the capitalization, management and sponsorship of the entity to which it relates, and is neither an evaluation directed to investors in our common shares nor a recommendation to buy, sell or hold our common

shares. A.M. Best maintains a letter scale rating system ranging from "A++" (Superior) to "F" (In Liquidation). S&P maintains a letter scale rating system ranging from "AAA" (Extremely Strong) to "R" (Under Regulatory Supervision).

Our subsidiaries, Maiden Bermuda and Maiden US, each currently has a financial strength rating of "A-" (Excellent, the fourth highest out of sixteen rating levels) with a positive outlook from A.M. Best, and "BBB+" (Good, the eighth highest out of twenty-two rating levels) with a stable outlook from S&P.

#### Distribution of Our Reinsurance Products

We market our Diversified Reinsurance segment through third party intermediaries, as well as directly through our own marketing efforts. Our direct marketing activities are generally focused on insurers with a demonstrated preference and propensity to utilize direct distribution reinsurers. We believe this combination affords us flexibility and efficiency.

In the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, the sources of gross premiums written in our Diversified Reinsurance segment were as follows:

% of Gross Premiums Written for the Year Ended December 31,	2015	2014	2013	
Brokers	54.6	% 57.1	% 57.7	%
Direct	45.4	% 42.9	% 42.3	%
Total	100.0	% 100.0	% 100.0	%

In the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013, our top three brokers represented approximately 36.9%, 31.6% and 29.9%, respectively, of gross premiums written in our Diversified Reinsurance segment. A further breakdown of the gross premiums written by our Diversified Reinsurance segment by broker for December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 were as follows:

% of Gross Premiums Written for the Year Ended December 31,	2015	2014	2013	
Broker				
Aon Benfield Inc.	17.3	% 15.8	% 11.9	%
Marsh & McLennan Companies (including Guy Carpenter)	12.2	% 12.0	% 12.6	%
U.S. RE Corporation	7.4	% 1.4	% 1.0	%
Risk & Insurance Services Consulting, LLC	4.6	% 2.7	% 3.2	%
All Other Brokers	13.1	% 25.2	% 29.0	%
Total Broker	54.6	% 57.1	% 57.7	%
Direct	45.4	% 42.9	% 42.3	%
Total	100.0	% 100.0	% 100.0	%

Reserve for Loss and Loss Adjustment Expenses

#### General

We are required by applicable insurance laws and regulations in Bermuda, the U.S., Sweden and by U.S. GAAP to establish loss reserves to cover our estimated liability for the payment of all loss and loss adjustment expenses ("LAE") incurred with respect to premiums earned on the policies and treaties that we write. These reserves are balance sheet liabilities representing estimates of loss and LAE which we are ultimately required to pay for insured or reinsured claims that have occurred as of or before the balance sheet date. It is our policy to establish these losses and LAE reserves using prudent actuarial methods after reviewing all information known to us at the date they are recorded.

These amounts include case reserves and provisions for IBNR reserves. Case reserves are established for losses that have been reported to us, and not yet paid. IBNR reserves represent the estimated cost of losses that have occurred but have not been reported to us and include a provision for additional development on case reserves. We establish case reserves based on information from the ceding company, reinsurance intermediaries, and when appropriate, consultations with independent legal counsel. The IBNR reserves are established by management based on reported losses and LAE and actuarially determined estimates of ultimate loss and LAE.

A variety of standard actuarial methods are calculated to estimate ultimate loss and LAE. The majority of our business is reserved individually by cedant and line of business, with the remainder reserved in homogeneous groupings. Ultimate loss selections are accumulated across the reserve segments, and appropriate actuarial judgment is applied to determine the final selection of estimated ultimate losses. Ultimate losses are converted to IBNR reserves by subtracting inception to date paid losses and case reserves from those amounts. The combined total of case and IBNR results in indicated reserves which are the basis for the carried reserves for financial statements. Ultimate losses are also used to estimate premium and commission accruals for accounts with adjustable features.

Loss reserves do not represent an exact calculation of liability; rather, loss reserves are estimates of what we expect the ultimate resolution and administration of claims will cost. These estimates are based on actuarial and statistical

projections and on our assessment of currently available data, as well as estimates of trends in claims severity and frequency, judicial theories of liability and other factors. Loss reserve estimates are refined as experience develops and as claims are reported and resolved. Establishing an appropriate level of loss reserves is an inherently uncertain process. In addition, the relatively long reporting periods between when a loss occurs and when it may be reported to our claims department for our casualty lines of business also increase the uncertainties of our reserve estimates in such lines. To assist us in establishing appropriate reserves for loss and LAE, we analyze a significant amount of internal data and external insurance industry information with respect to the pricing environment and loss settlement patterns. In combination with our individual account pricing analyses and our internal loss settlement patterns, this industry information is used to guide our loss and LAE estimates. These estimates are reviewed quarterly, at a high level of detail, and any adjustments are reflected in earnings in the periods in which they are determined.

#### Analysis of Consolidated Loss Reserves Development

The following table shows the development of gross and net reserves for unpaid loss and LAE for our business for calendar years 2013 through 2015. The table does not present accident or policy year development data. The table begins by showing the initial reported year-end gross and net reserves, including IBNR reserves, recorded at the balance sheet date for each of the three years presented.

For the Year Ended December 31,	2015	2014	2013
	(\$ in Millions)		
Gross unpaid loss and LAE reserves - January 1	\$2,271.3	\$1,957.8	\$1,740.3
Less: reinsurance recoverable - January 1	75.9	84.0	110.9
Net loss and LAE reserves - January 1	2,195.4	1,873.8	1,629.4
Net incurred losses related to:			
Current year	1,558.7	1,479.4	1,351.0
Prior years	74.9	18.8	(1.4)
	1,633.6	1,498.2	1,349.6
Net paid losses related to:			
Current year	(457.5)	(430.4	(517.6)
Prior years	(892.9)	(705.4	(598.5)
	(1,350.4)	(1,135.8	(1,116.1)
Effect of foreign exchange movement	(39.7)	(40.8	10.9
Net loss and LAE reserves - December 31	2,438.9	2,195.4	1,873.8
Reinsurance recoverable - December 31	71.2	75.9	84.0
Gross unpaid loss and LAE reserves - December 31	\$2,510.1	\$2,271.3	\$1,957.8

During 2015, the Company recorded estimated net adverse development, primarily from U.S. commercial auto business, on prior year loss reserves of \$74.9 million or 3.3% of prior year net loss and LAE reserves compared to net unfavorable development \$18.8 million or 1.0% in 2014 and net favorable development of \$1.4 million or 0.1% in 2013.

Due to loss sensitive features of certain contracts, favorable (or unfavorable) loss reserve development does not necessarily result in a commensurate amount of additional (or reduced) underwriting income as ceding commission may be adjusted proportionally to the amount of loss development, pursuant to the terms of the individual contracts.

Analysis of Gross and Net Unpaid Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses and Net Re-estimated Liability

The tables below show the re-estimated amount of the initial reported gross and net reserves for up to seven subsequent years, based on experience at the end of each subsequent year. The re-estimated gross and net liabilities reflect additional information, received from cedants or obtained through reviews of industry trends, regarding claims incurred prior to the end of the preceding financial year. A (redundancy) or deficiency arises when the re-estimation of reserves is (lower) or greater than its estimation at the preceding year-end. The cumulative redundancies (or deficiencies) reflect cumulative differences between the initial reported net reserves and the currently re-estimated net reserves. Annual changes in the estimates are reflected in the income statement for each year as the liabilities are re-estimated.

The lower section of the tables shows the portion of the initial year-end net reserves that was paid as of the end of subsequent years. This section of the tables provides an indication of the portion of the re-estimated gross and net liability that is settled and is unlikely to develop in the future.

Development	of Reser	ve for Loss	and LAE - G	ross					
For the Year Ended December 31.	2007	2008(1)	2009	2010 <sup>(1)</sup>	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Gross	'(\$ in M	illions)							
As originally estimated	\$38.5	\$897.7	\$1,002.7	\$1,226.8	\$1,398.4	\$1,740.3	\$1,957.8	\$2,271.3	\$2,510.1
Liability									
re-estimated: One Year	<b>426</b>	<b>.</b>	40.62.4	<b>4.22</b> 00	<b>4.106</b>	<b>4.55</b> 00	<b>*</b>	<b>4.2.22</b>	
later	\$36.7	\$886.3	\$963.1	\$1,238.9	\$1,426.5	\$1,750.0	\$1,944.6	\$2,326.0	
Two Years later	37.3	869.8	972.1	1,247.3	1,424.9	1,812.2	2,001.8		
Three Years	37.9	852.9	975.9	1,242.0	1,454.3	1,846.0			
later Four Years	41.3	842.6	975.1	1,255.5	1,479.7				
later Five Years	41.3	842.0	973.1	1,233.3	1,4/9./				
later	40.5	838.5	985.0	1,272.9					
Six Years later	40.5	842.7	992.4						
Seven Years	44.0	847.1							
later Eight Years	44.0	047.1							
later	45.3								
Cumulative deficiency	\$6.8	\$(50.6)	\$(10.3)	\$46.1	\$81.3	\$105.7	\$44.0	\$54.7	
(redundancy)	φυ.σ	\$(50.0)	\$(10.5)	φ40.1	ψ01.5	φ103.7	ψ44.0	φ <i>5</i> 4.7	
Less: Cumulative									
deficiency	_	_		(7.3)	(5.4)	(14.8)	(45.5)	(25.4)	
(redundancy) due to foreign				(7.5)	(3.4 )	(14.0 )	(43.3 )	(23.4 )	
exchange	L								
Cumulative deficiency									
(redundancy)									
excluding the impact of	\$6.8	\$(50.6)	\$(10.3)	\$53.4	\$86.7	\$120.5	\$89.5	\$80.1	
foreign									
exchange Cumulative									
claims paid:									
One Year later	\$16.6	\$303.2	\$266.0	\$452.7	\$592.8	\$672.8	\$712.9	\$883.4	
Two Years	33.7	402.4	457.8	746.1	914.7	1,127.2	1,074.8		
later Three Years							1,071.0		
later	34.1	542.2	607.0	940.7	1,146.7	1,325.5			

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Four Years	27.6	((5.0)		702.4		1.066.2		1 272 0							
later	37.6	665.0		703.4		1,066.3		1,272.9							
Five Years later	38.0	725.2		753.6		1,152.7									
Six Years later	40.2	764.9		805.1											
Seven Years later	42.8	797.0													
Eight Years later	45.2														
Liability re-estimated:															
One Year later	95.4 %	98.7	%	96.0	%	101.0	%	102.0	%	100.6	%	99.3	%	102.4	%
Two Years later	96.8 %	96.9	%	96.9	%	101.7	%	101.9	%	104.1	%	102.2	%		
Three Years later	98.5 %	95.0	%	97.3	%	101.2	%	104.0	%	106.1	%				
Four Years later	107.2 %	93.9	%	97.2	%	102.3	%	105.8	%						
Five Years later	105.3 %	93.4	%	98.2	%	103.8	%								
Six Years later	105.2 %	93.9	%	99.0	%										
Seven Years later	114.3 %	94.4	%												
Eight Years later	117.7 %	)													
Cumulative	177 0	(5.6	) 01	(1.0	\ 04	2.0	07	<b>5</b> 0	01	<i>C</i> 1	64	2.2	01	2.4	01
deficiency (redundancy)	17.7 %	(5.6	)%	(1.0	)%	3.8	%	5.8	%	6.1	%	2.2	%	2.4	%
Less: Cumulative															
deficiency	07.	· —	0%		0%	(0.6	0%	(0.4	)0%	(0.9	)0%	(2.3	)0%	(1.1	)%
(redundancy) due to foreign			70	_	70	(0.0)	) 10	(0.4	) 10	(0.9	) 10	(2.3	) 10	(1.1	) 10
exchange															
Cumulative															
deficiency (redundancy)															
excluding the	17.7 %	(5.6	)%	(1.0	)%	4.4	%	6.2	%	7.0	%	4.5	%	3.5	%
impact of															
foreign exchange															
Gross loss															
and LAE															
cumulative															
paid as a															
percentage of															
originally estimated															
Commateu															

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liability								
One Year	43.1 % 33.8	% 26.5	% 36.9	% 42.4	% 38.7	% 36.4	% 38.9	%
later Two Years	0= 6 0 110	~	~	~ ~ ~ .	~ ~ ~ ~ ~	~ ~.	~	
later	87.6 % 44.8	% 45.7	% 60.8	% 65.4	% 64.8	% 54.9	%	
Three Years later	88.6 % 60.4	% 60.5	% 76.7	% 82.0	% 76.2	%		
Four Years later	97.7 % 74.1	% 70.2	% 86.9	% 91.0	%			
Five Years later	98.8 % 80.8	% 75.2	% 94.0	%				
Six Years later	104.4 % 85.2	% 80.3	%					
Seven Years later	111.2 % 88.8	%						
Eight Years later	117.4 %							
14								

Development of Reserve for Loss and LAE - Net														
For the Year Ended December 31,	2007	2008(1)	2009	2010 <sup>(1)</sup>	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015					
Net of reinsurance	(\$ in M	(\$ in Millions)												
As Originally Estimated Liability	\$38.5	\$897.7	\$994.3	\$1,220.1	\$1,378.1	\$1,629.4	\$1,873.8	\$2,195.4	\$2,438.9					
Re-estimated: One Year later	r \$36.7	\$886.3	\$961.4	\$1,233.3	\$1,403.1	\$1,635.0	\$1,862.8	\$2,245.1						
Two Years	37.3	869.8	969.5	1,230.6	1,383.7	1,697.9	1,909.1	+ - <del>,</del> =						
later Three Years	37.3	007.0	<i>707.5</i>	1,230.0	1,303.7	1,007.0	1,505.1							
later	37.9	852.9	967.8	1,220.9	1,424.9	1,733.6								
Four Years	41.3	842.6	965.3	1,234.2	1,442.7									
later Five Years			, , , , ,	-,	-,									
later	40.7	838.5	975.0	1,246.7										
Six Years	40.5	842.7	982.4											
later Seven Years														
later	44.0	847.1												
Eight Years	45.3													
later Cumulative														
net deficiency	\$6.8	\$(50.6)	\$(11.9)	\$26.6	\$64.6	\$104.2	\$35.3	\$49.7						
(redundancy) Less:														
Cumulative														
net deficiency				(7.0)	(5.4)	(14.9)	(44.8)	(25.2)						
(redundancy)				(7.0)	(3.4 )	(14.)	(11.0 )	(23.2						
due to foreign exchange														
Cumulative														
net deficiency														
(redundancy) excluding the	\$6.8	\$(50.6)	\$(11.9)	\$33.6	\$70.0	\$119.1	\$80.1	\$74.9						
impact of	Ψ 0.0	φ (ε σ.σ )	Ψ(111)	φεεισ	Ψ / 0.0	<b>411711</b>	Ψ 00.1	Ψ />						
foreign														
exchange Cumulative														
claims paid:														
One Year later	r \$16.6	\$303.2	\$266.0	\$423.9	\$530.3	\$598.5	\$669.1	\$865.1						
Two Years later	33.7	402.4	444.3	682.9	827.1	1,020.7	1,004.9							
Three Years later	34.1	542.2	575.1	901.8	1,072.5	1,213.8								
14101														

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Four Years later	37.6		665.0		662.5		978.0		1,165.0							
Five Years later	38.0		725.2		710.9		1,062.3									
Six Years later	40.2		764.9		761.8											
Seven Years later	42.8		797.0													
Eight Years later	45.2															
Liability																
Re-estimated:	05.4	01	00.7	07	067	07	101.1	O.	101.0	O7	100.2	07	00.4	07	102.2	07
One Year later	95.4	%	98.7	%	96.7	%	101.1	%	101.8	%	100.3	%	99.4	%	102.3	%
Two Years later	96.8	%	96.9	%	97.5	%	100.9	%	100.4	%	104.2	%	101.9	%		
Three Years later	98.5	%	95.0	%	97.3	%	100.1	%	103.4	%	106.4	%				
Four Years later	107.2	%	93.9	%	97.1	%	101.2	%	104.7	%						
Five Years later	105.8	%	93.4	%	98.1	%	102.2	%								
Six Years later	105.2	%	93.9	%	98.8	%										
Seven Years later	114.3	%	94.4	%												
Eight Years later	117.7	%														
Cumulative net deficiency	17.7	%	(5.6	)%	(1.2	)%	2.2	%	4.7	%	6.4	%	1.9	%	2.3	%
(redundancy) Less: Cumulative																
net deficiency	_	%	_	%	_	%	(0.6	)%	(0.4	)%	(0.9	)%	(2.4	)%	(1.1	)%
(redundancy) due to foreign exchange																
Cumulative net deficiency																
(redundancy) excluding the	17.7	%	(5.6	)%	(1.2	)%	2.8	%	5.1	%	7.3	%	4.3	%	3.4	%
impact of foreign		, -	(2.2	,,-	(	,,-	_,,	,-		,-	,			,-		,-
exchange Net loss and																
LAE cumulative																
paid as a percentage of																
originally estimated																
liability																

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One Year later	43.1 % 33.8	% 26.7	% 34.7	% 38.5	% 36.7	% 35.7	% 39.4	%
Two Years later	87.6 % 44.8	% 44.7	% 56.0	% 60.0	% 62.6	% 53.6	%	
Three Years later	88.6 % 60.4	% 57.8	% 73.9	% 77.8	% 74.5	%		
Four Years later	97.7 % 74.1	% 66.6	% 80.2	% 84.5	%			
Five Years later	98.8 % 80.8	% 71.5	% 87.1	%				
Six Years later	104.4 % 85.2	% 76.6	%					
Seven Years later	111.2 % 88.8	%						
Eight Years later	117.4 %							

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Reserve for loss and LAE include the reserves for loss and LAE of \$755.6 million, from the GMAC Acquisition, (1) which were acquired in October 2008 and \$98.8 million from the IIS Acquisition, which were acquired in November 2010.

For additional information concerning our reserves, see Item 7,"Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Critical Accounting Policies — Reserve for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expense" for further information regarding the specific actuarial models we utilize and the uncertainties in establishing the reserve for loss and LAE.

#### Our Employees

As of December 31, 2015, we had a total of 204 full-time employees who are located in Bermuda, the U.S., the U.K., Germany, Austria, Russia, Netherlands, Ireland and Australia. We may increase our staff over time commensurate with the expansion of operations. We believe that our employee relations are good. None of our employees are subject to collective bargaining agreements.

### Regulatory Matters

#### General

The insurance and reinsurance industry are subject to regulatory and legislative oversight and regulation in various markets we operate in.

### Bermuda Insurance Regulation

Maiden Bermuda is regulated as a registered Class 3B general business insurer under the Insurance Act 1978 of Bermuda, as amended, and related regulations (together, the "Insurance Act"), which regulates the insurance business of Bermuda registered insurers and provides that no person shall carry on any insurance business in or from within Bermuda unless that person has been registered under the Insurance Act by the BMA. The BMA is responsible for the day-to-day supervision of insurers and insurance groups in respect of which it is the group supervisor. Under the Insurance Act, insurance business includes reinsurance business. The registration of an applicant as an insurer is subject to its complying with the terms of its registration and such other conditions as the BMA may impose from time to time.

The Insurance Act imposes solvency and liquidity standards as well as auditing and reporting requirements on Bermuda insurance companies and grants to the BMA powers to supervise, investigate and intervene in the affairs of insurance companies. The Insurance Act also imposes certain regulatory requirements on insurance groups where the BMA has determined that it should act as group supervisor. Certain significant aspects of the Bermuda insurance regulatory framework are set forth below.

Cancellation of Insurer's Registration: An insurer's registration may be canceled by the BMA on certain grounds specified in the Insurance Act, including failure of the insurer to comply with its obligations under the Insurance Act or if, in the opinion of the BMA, the insurer has not been carrying on business in accordance with sound insurance principles. We believe that we are in compliance with applicable regulations under the Insurance Act.

Principal Office and Principal Representative: An insurer is required to maintain a principal office in Bermuda and to appoint and maintain a principal representative in Bermuda. It is the duty of the principal representative, upon reaching the view that there is a likelihood of the insurer for which the principal representative acts becoming insolvent, to the principal representative's knowledge, occurred or is believed to have occurred, to immediately notify

the BMA and to make a report in writing to the BMA within 14 days of the prior notification setting out all the particulars of the case that are available to the principal representative.

Annual Financial Statements, Annual Statutory Financial Return and Annual Capital and Solvency Return: Maiden Bermuda must prepare annual statutory financial statements as prescribed in the Insurance Act with respect to its general business. The statutory financial return for a Class 3B insurer includes, among other things, a report of the approved independent auditor on the statutory financial statement of such insurer, declaration of the statutory ratios, solvency certificates, the statutory financial statements for the general business, the opinion of the loss reserve specialist, a schedule of reinsurance ceded and a statutory declaration in the matter of the Insurance Code of Conduct as described below. Maiden Bermuda is also required to file audited U.S. GAAP annual financial statements, which must be available to the public. In addition, Maiden Bermuda is required to file a capital and solvency return, which shall include the company's Bermuda Solvency Capital Requirement ("BSCR") model (described below), a commercial insurer's solvency self-assessment ("CISSA"), a catastrophe risk return and a schedule of loss triangles or reconciliation of net loss reserves and a schedule of eligible capital.

Minimum Liquidity Ratio: The Insurance Act requires all general business insurers to maintain the value of its relevant assets at not less than 75% of the amount of its relevant liabilities. Relevant assets include cash and time deposits, quoted investments, unquoted bonds and debentures, first liens on real estate, investment income due and accrued, accounts and premiums receivable, reinsurance balances receivable and funds held by ceding reinsurers. There are certain categories of assets which, unless specifically permitted by the BMA, do not automatically qualify as relevant assets, such as unquoted equity securities, investments in and advances to affiliates and real estate and collateral loans. The relevant liabilities are total general business insurance reserves and total other liabilities less deferred income tax and sundry liabilities (by interpretation, those not specifically defined) and letters of credit and guarantees.

Minimum Solvency Margin, Enhanced Capital Requirement and Restrictions on Dividends and Distributions: Under the Insurance Act, Maiden Bermuda must ensure that the value of its general business assets exceeds the amount of its general business liabilities by an amount greater than its prescribed minimum solvency margin ("MSM"). Maiden Bermuda is also required to maintain available statutory capital and surplus at least equal to its enhanced capital requirement ("ECR"). Maiden Bermuda is prohibited from declaring or paying dividends of more than 25% of its total statutory capital and surplus, as shown in its previous financial year statutory balance sheet, unless at least seven days before payment of the dividends it files with the BMA an affidavit that it will continue to meet its minimum capital requirements as described above. In addition, Maiden Bermuda must obtain the BMA's prior approval before reducing its total statutory capital, as shown in its previous financial year statutory balance sheet, by 15% or more.

Fit and Proper Controllers: The BMA maintains supervision over the controllers of all registered insurers in Bermuda. A controller includes (i) the managing director of the registered insurer or its parent company; (ii) the chief executive of the registered insurer or of its parent company; (iii) a shareholder controller; and (iv) any person in accordance with whose directions or instructions the directors of the registered insurer or of its parent company are accustomed to act.

Notification by Registered Person of Change of Controllers and Officers: All registered insurers are required to give written notice to the BMA of the fact that a person has become, or ceased to be, a controller or officer of the registered insurer within 45 days of becoming aware of such fact. An officer in relation to a registered insurer means a director, chief executive or senior executive performing duties of underwriting, actuarial, risk management, compliance, internal audit, finance or investment matters.

Notification of Material Changes: All registered insurers are required to give 14 days' notice to the BMA of certain matters that are likely to be of material significance (a "Material Change" within the meaning of the Insurance Act).

Code of Conduct: Maiden Bermuda is required to comply with the Insurance Code of Conduct of the Authority ("Code") which prescribes the duties and standards which must be complied with to ensure it implements sound corporate governance, risk management and internal controls. Failure to comply with the requirements under the Code will be a factor taken into account by the BMA in determining whether an insurer is conducting its business in a sound and prudent manner as prescribed by the Insurance Act. Such failure to comply with the requirements of the Code could result in the BMA exercising its powers of intervention (see BMA's Powers of Intervention, Obtaining Information, Reports and Documents and Providing Information to other Regulatory Authorities below). We believe that we are in compliance with the Code.

Group Supervision: The BMA acts as group supervisor of the Company and has designated Maiden Bermuda to be the designated insurer. As group supervisor, the BMA will perform a number of supervisory functions including (i) coordinating the gathering and dissemination of information which is of importance for the supervisory task of other competent authorities; (ii) carrying out a supervisory review and assessment of the insurance group; (iii) carrying out an assessment of the insurance group's compliance with the rules on solvency, risk concentration, intra-group transactions and good governance procedures; (iv) planning and coordinating, through regular meetings with other competent authorities, supervisory activities in respect of the insurance group, both as a going concern and in emergency situations; (v) coordinating any enforcement action that may need to be taken against the insurance group or any of its members; and (vi) planning and coordinating meetings of colleges of supervisors in order to facilitate the carrying out of the functions described above. In carrying out its group supervisory functions, the BMA may make rules for (i) assessing the financial situation and the solvency position of the insurance group and/or its members and (ii) regulating intra group transactions, risk concentration, governance procedures, risk management and regulatory reporting and disclosure.

Group MSM and Group ECR: The Designated Insurer must ensure that the value of the insurance group's assets exceeds the amount of the group's liabilities by the aggregate minimum margin of solvency of each qualifying

member of the group ("Group MSM"). A member is a qualifying member of the insurance group if it is subject to solvency requirements in the jurisdiction in which it is registered. Beginning on December 31, 2013, we are required to maintain available group capital and surplus at a level equal to or in excess of the Group Enhanced Capital Requirement ("Group ECR") which is established by reference to either the Group BSCR model or an approved group internal capital model. The Group ECR will be phased-in over 5 years; for the year ended December 31, 2015, it is set at 70% of the amount calculated using the Group BSCR model and thereafter it will increase in increments of 10% per year through year-end 2018.

Designated Insurer Notification Obligations: The Designated Insurer must notify the BMA upon reaching a view that there is a likelihood of the insurance group or any member of the group becoming insolvent or that a reportable "event" has, to the Designated Insurer's knowledge, occurred or is believed to have occurred. Within 30 days of such notification to the BMA, the Designated Insurer must furnish the BMA with a written report setting out all the particulars of the case that are available to it and within 45 days it must furnish a group capital and solvency return that reflects the Group ECR that has been prepared using post-loss data and unaudited financial statements for such period as the BMA shall require together with a declaration of solvency in respect thereof.

BMA's Powers of Intervention, Obtaining Information, Reports and Documents and Providing Information to other Regulatory Authorities: The BMA has certain powers of investigation and intervention relating to insurers and their holding companies, subsidiaries and other affiliates, which it may exercise in the interest of such insurer's policyholders or if there is any risk of insolvency or of a breach of the Insurance Act or the insurer's license conditions. The BMA's prudential framework for (re)insurance and group supervision has been recognized by the European Commission's Delegated Act as being fully equivalent to regulatory standards applied to European reinsurance companies and insurance groups in accordance

with the requirements of the Solvency II Directive. The Delegated Act is subject to review, and once it comes into force, the equivalence decision will be applied retroactively to January 1, 2016. There are planned changes to Bermuda's regulatory regime that have been communicated to the industry. Certain significant aspects of the planned changes are set forth below. The BMA is implementing an Economic Balance Sheet ("EBS") framework which will be used as the basis to determine the ECR of insurers and group. The new regulations come into operation on January 1, 2016 and apply to financial years beginning on or after January 1, 2016. The BMA is also implementing new public disclosure rules that require all insurers and insurance groups to prepare and publish a Financial Condition Report ("FCR"). The FCR is intended to provide additional information to the public in relation to the insurer's and group's business model, whereby they may make an informed assessment on whether the business is run in a prudent manner. The new rules come into operation on January 1, 2016 and apply to financial years beginning on or after January 1, 2016.

#### Certain Bermuda Law Considerations

Maiden Holdings and Maiden Bermuda have been designated as non-resident for exchange control purposes by the BMA and are required to obtain the permission of the BMA for the issue and transfer of all of their shares. The BMA has given its consent for:

the issue and transfer of Maiden Holdings' common shares, up to the amount of its authorized capital from time to time, to and among persons that are non-residents of Bermuda for exchange control purposes; and

the issue and transfer of up to 20% of Maiden Holdings' common shares in issue from time to time to and among persons resident in Bermuda for exchange control purposes.

Transfers and issues of Maiden Holdings' common shares to any resident in Bermuda for exchange control purposes may require specific prior approval under the Exchange Control Act 1972. Maiden Bermuda's common shares cannot be issued or transferred without the consent of the BMA. Because we are designated as non-resident for Bermuda exchange control purposes, we are allowed to engage in transactions, and to pay dividends to Bermuda non-residents who are holders of our common shares, in currencies other than the Bermuda Dollar. United States

Maiden US, domiciled in Missouri, is an accredited reinsurer in six states and an authorized insurer in forty-five jurisdictions. Regulatory, supervisory and administrative authority is primarily delegated to the states with the exception of federal authority over boycott, coercion and intimidation, federal antitrust laws and where federal law is enacted specifically to regulate the business of insurance. Among other things, state insurance departments regulate insurer solvency standards, insurer and agent licensing, authorized investments, loss and expense reserves and provisions for unearned premiums, and deposits of securities for the benefit of policyholders. Maiden US is required to file detailed financial statements and other reports with the departments of insurance in all states in which they are licensed to transact business. These financial statements are subject to the supervision, regulation and periodic examination by the Missouri department of insurance ("DOI").

### **State Insurance Department Examinations**

Maiden US is subject to the financial supervision and regulation of the state in which it is domiciled. As part of their regulatory oversight process, state insurance departments conduct periodic detailed examinations of the financial reporting of insurance companies domiciled in their states, generally once every three to five years. Examinations may be carried out in cooperation with the insurance departments of other states under guidelines promulgated by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners ("NAIC").

**Statutory Accounting Principles** 

Statutory accounting principles ("SAP") are a basis of accounting developed to assist insurance regulators in monitoring and regulating the solvency of insurance companies. SAP is primarily concerned with measuring an insurer's surplus to policyholders. Accordingly, statutory accounting focuses on valuing assets and liabilities of insurers at financial reporting dates in accordance with appropriate insurance law and regulatory provisions applicable in each insurer's domiciliary state.

U.S. GAAP is concerned with a company's solvency, but is also concerned with other financial measurements, principally income and cash flows. Accordingly, U.S. GAAP gives more consideration to appropriate matching of revenue and expenses and accounting for management's stewardship of assets than does SAP. As a direct result, different assets and liabilities and different amounts of assets and liabilities will be reflected in financial statements prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP compared to SAP. Statutory accounting practices established by the NAIC and adopted in part by Missouri will determine, among other things, the amount of statutory surplus and statutory net income of Maiden US, and thus determine, in part, the amount of funds that are available to pay dividends to Maiden NA.

### Holding Company Regulation

Maiden US is subject to the U.S. statutory holding company laws of its state of domicile. The insurance holding company laws and regulations apply directly to individual insurers, indirectly to non-insurance entities, and provide regulators the ability to look

at any entity within an insurance holding company system. State regulations generally provide that each insurance company in an insurance holding company system must register with the insurance department of its state of domicile. These laws vary from state to state, but each state has enacted legislation which requires licensed insurers that are subsidiaries of insurance holding companies to register and file with state regulatory authorities certain reports including information concerning their capital structure, ownership, financial condition and general business operations. All transactions involving the insurers in a holding company system and their affiliates must be fair and reasonable and, if material, require prior notice and approval or non-disapproval by the state insurance department of their domicile.

Further, state insurance holding company laws typically place limitations on the amounts of dividends or other distributions payable by insurers. Payment of ordinary dividends by Maiden US requires prior approval of the Director of the Missouri DOI unless dividends will be paid out of "earned surplus". Earned surplus is an amount equal to the unassigned funds of an insurer as set forth in the most recent annual statement of the insurer including all or part of the surplus arising from unrealized capital gains or revaluation of assets. Extraordinary dividends generally require 30 days prior notice to and non-disapproval of the Missouri DOI before being paid. An extraordinary dividend includes any dividend whose fair market value together with that of other dividends or distributions made within the preceding 12 months exceeds the greater of: (1) 10% of the insurer's surplus as regards policyholders as of December 31 of the prior year, or (2) the net income of the insurer, not including realized capital gains, for the 12 month period ending December 31 of the prior year, but does not include pro rata distributions of any class of the insurer's own securities.

State insurance holding company laws also require prior notice and state insurance department approval of changes in control of an insurer or its holding company. "Control" is generally defined as the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of the company, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract (except a commercial contract for goods or non-management services) or otherwise. Maiden US is domiciled in Missouri where any beneficial owner of 10% or more of the outstanding voting securities of an insurance company or its holding company is presumed to have acquired control, unless this presumption is rebutted. Therefore, an investor who intends to acquire beneficial ownership of 10% or more of our outstanding voting securities may need to comply with these laws and would be required to file notices and reports with the Missouri DOI and receive approval from the Missouri DOI or rebut the presumption of control before such acquisition.

## Risk-Based Capital

U.S. insurers are also subject to risk-based capital ("RBC") guidelines that provide a method to measure the total adjusted capital (statutory capital and surplus plus other adjustments) of insurance companies taking into account the risk characteristics of a company's investments and products. The RBC formulas establish capital requirements for four categories of risk: asset risk, insurance risk, interest rate risk and business risk. For each category, the capital requirement is determined by applying factors to asset, premium and reserve items, with higher factors applied to items with greater underlying risk and lower factors for less risky items. Insurers that have less statutory capital than the RBC calculation required are considered to have inadequate capital and are subject to varying degrees of regulatory action depending upon the level of capital inadequacy. Maiden US has satisfied the RBC formula and has exceeded all recognized industry solvency standards. At December 31, 2015, Maiden US had adjusted capital in excess of amounts requiring company or regulatory action.

#### Reinsurance

The ability of an insurer to take credit for the reinsurance purchased from reinsurance companies is a significant component of reinsurance regulation. Typically, an insurer will only enter into a reinsurance agreement if it can obtain credit to its reserves on its statutory financial statements for the reinsurance ceded to the reinsurer. With respect to U.S. domiciled reinsurers that reinsure U.S. insurers, credit is usually granted when the reinsurer is licensed, certified or accredited in a state where the primary insurer is domiciled or, in some instances, in a state in which the primary insurer is licensed. States also generally permit primary insurers to take credit for reinsurance if the reinsurer is (i)

domiciled in a state with a credit for reinsurance law that is substantially similar to the standards in the primary insurer's state of domicile, and (ii) meets certain financial requirements. Credit for reinsurance purchased from a reinsurer that does not meet the foregoing conditions is generally allowed to the extent that such reinsurer secures its obligations with qualified collateral. Maiden is able to take credit for all reinsurance purchased and all cedents are able to take credit for reinsurance they purchase from Maiden.

### **NAIC Ratios**

The NAIC Insurance Regulatory Information System ("IRIS") was developed to help state regulators identify companies that may require special attention. IRIS is comprised of statistical and analytical phases consisting of key financial ratios whereby financial examiners review annual statutory basis statements and financial ratios. Each ratio has an established "usual range" of results and assists state insurance departments in executing their statutory mandate to oversee the financial condition of insurance companies. A ratio result falling outside the usual range of IRIS ratios is not considered a failing result; rather unusual values are viewed as part of the regulatory early monitoring system. Furthermore, in some years, it may not be unusual for financially sound companies to have several ratios with results outside the usual ranges. An insurance company may fall out of the usual range for one or more ratios because of specific transactions that are in themselves immaterial. Generally, an insurance company will become subject to regulatory scrutiny and may be subject to regulatory action if it falls outside the usual ranges of four or more of the ratios. At December 31, 2015, Maiden US did not have an IRIS ratio range warranting any regulatory action.

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### State Legislative and Regulatory Changes

From time to time, various regulatory and legislative changes are proposed in the insurance industry. Among the proposals that have in the past been or are at present being considered are proposals in various state legislatures (some of which proposals have been enacted) to conform portions of their insurance laws and regulations to various model acts adopted by the NAIC.

Regulatory changes within the NAIC model laws could affect Maiden US. The concept of "enterprise risk" within an insurance holding company is a proposal that Missouri adopted in 2015 as an amendment to the Insurance Holding Company System Regulatory Act and Regulation. The first enterprise risk report is due on May 1, 2016 and annually thereafter. Maiden maintains its own robust ERM framework and we believe that adoption of the NAIC model laws will not be onerous for the Company.

Under the 2011 revisions to the NAIC Credit for Reinsurance Model Law and Regulation, non-U.S. reinsurers from "qualified jurisdictions" can apply to become a "certified reinsurer". Certified reinsurers are eligible to post less than 100% collateral for reinsurance assumed from U.S. ceding companies. At this time, we are unable to determine whether any additional changes in the U.S. reinsurance regulatory framework will be implemented and what effect any changes would have on our operations or financial condition.

Our insurance subsidiaries are required to comply with a wide variety of laws and regulations applicable to insurance or reinsurance companies, both in the jurisdictions in which they are organized and where they sell their insurance and reinsurance products. The insurance and regulatory environment, in particular for offshore insurance and reinsurance companies, has become subject to increased scrutiny in many jurisdictions, including the U.S., various states within the U.S. and the EU. In the past, there have been Congressional and other initiatives in the U.S. regarding increased supervision and regulation of the insurance industry. It is not possible to predict the future impact of changes in laws and regulations on our operations. The cost of complying with any new legal requirements affecting our subsidiaries could have a material adverse effect on our business.

In addition, our subsidiaries may not always be able to obtain or maintain necessary licenses, permits, authorizations or accreditations. They also may not be able to fully comply with, or to obtain appropriate exemptions from, the laws and regulations applicable to them. Any failure to comply with applicable law or to obtain appropriate exemptions could result in restrictions on either the ability of the company in question, as well as potentially its affiliates, to do business in one or more of the jurisdictions in which they operate or on brokers on which we rely to produce business for us. In addition, any such failure to comply with applicable laws or to obtain appropriate exemptions could result in the imposition of fines or other sanctions. Any of these sanctions could have a material adverse effect on our business. To date, no material fine, penalty or restriction has been imposed on us for failure to comply with any insurance law or regulation.

# **International Standards**

U.S. federal and state regulators have committed in principle to adopting international standards with respect to basic regulatory issues such as accounting, risk management and corporate governance. International regulatory considerations are increasingly being deliberated by the NAIC and could increase regulatory burdens for Maiden US and have the potential to negatively impact all U.S. insurers, regardless of size. Various trade associations and industry participants are aggressively working to impact the NAIC adoption of these standards. However, the final outcome of these deliberations is unknown at this time.

### Federal

Although the regulation of the business of insurance and reinsurance is predominantly performed by the states, federal initiatives, such as the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("Dodd-Frank"), often have an

impact on the insurance industry. From time to time, various federal regulatory and legislative changes have been proposed in the insurance and reinsurance industry. Turmoil in the financial markets has increased the likelihood of changes in the way the financial services industry is regulated. While we cannot predict the exact nature, timing or scope of possible governmental initiatives, there may be increased regulatory intervention in our industry in the future.

The Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2015

Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 ("TRIA"), which was previously amended and extended in 2005, 2007 and again in 2015 by the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2015 ("TRIPRA 2015"), was enacted to ensure the availability of insurance coverage for terrorist acts in the U.S. The TRIPRA 2015 was signed into law by President Obama on January 12, 2015. This law renewed the prior federal terrorism risk insurance program. It was extended through December 31, 2020 with certain modifications in the provisions of the expiring program.

There is no assurance that TRIA will be extended beyond 2020 on either a temporary or permanent basis and its expiration (or renewal on a substantially modified basis) could have an adverse effect on our clients, the industry or us. TRIA does not apply to reinsurers directly but does apply directly to insurers and to excess and surplus lines insurers. The TRIPRA 2015 has had some impact on our reinsurance clients, but not all due to the lines of business covered by Terrorism Risk Insurance Act. Also, in general, our reinsurance contracts contain inuring language regarding any potential recoveries from TRIA.

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

### Taxation of the Company and its Subsidiaries

The following summary of the taxation of Maiden Holdings and its subsidiaries is based upon current law. Legislative, judicial or administrative changes may be forthcoming that could affect this summary. Certain subsidiaries of ours are subject to taxation related to operations in Australia, Germany, Russia, Sweden, the U.K. and the U.S. The discussion below covers the principal locations for which the Company or its subsidiaries are subject to taxation.

### Bermuda

Maiden Holdings and Maiden Bermuda have each received from the Minister of Finance an assurance under The Exempted Undertakings Tax Protection Act, 1966 to the effect that in the event that there is any legislation enacted in Bermuda imposing tax computed on profits or income, or computed on any capital asset, gain or appreciation, or any tax in the nature of estate duty or inheritance tax, then the imposition of any such tax shall not be applicable to Maiden Holdings or Maiden Bermuda or to any of their operations or the shares, debentures or other obligations of Maiden Holdings or Maiden Bermuda until March 31, 2035. These assurances are subject to the proviso that they are not construed to prevent the application of any tax or duty to such persons as are ordinarily resident in Bermuda (Maiden Holdings and Maiden Bermuda are not currently so designated) or to prevent the application of any tax payable in accordance with the provisions of The Land Tax Act, 1967 of Bermuda or otherwise payable in relation to the property leased to Maiden.

## Germany

AVS Automotive VersicherungsService GmbH ("AVS Germany") formerly known as Maiden Germany GmbH or "Maiden Germany", which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Maiden Global, is the majority shareholder of OVS. AVS Germany is subject to German corporate income tax of 15.0% plus a solidarity surcharge of 5.5% thereon (in the aggregate, a rate of 15.825%). In addition, a German municipal trade tax of 14.7% resulting from the registered seat of the company in Russelsheim is paid.

AVS Germany has been able to engage in general commerce as of October 21, 2015 and owns 90% of the shares in OVS. AVS Germany and OVS implemented a tax unity for corporate income and trade tax purposes by entering into a profit and loss pooling agreement with a retroactive effect from January 1, 2011, accordingly all profits and losses generated by OVS are attributed to AVS Germany. The non-affiliated shareholder that holds the remaining 10% stake in OVS receives a fixed annual dividend of €45,000 from AVS Germany, since all income is attributed to AVS Germany as a result of the tax unity.

OVS, also with its registered seat in Russelsheim, is subject to the same German corporate income tax of 15% plus solidarity surcharge of 5.5% thereon (in the aggregate, a rate of 15.825%) and German trade tax of 14.70%. OVS is engaged in general commerce as an insurance agency. The taxable income of a German corporate entity is in principle, absent a Treaty exemption, the total amount of worldwide income (current profits, capital gains) after deduction of business expenses. In general, income from capital gains arising upon the sale of shares in corporate entities are, in principle, fully tax exempt. The same applies to income from dividend if the stake in the dividend paying corporation is at least 10% (for corporate income tax purposes), respectively 15% (for trade tax purposes) at the beginning of the respective calendar year (for dividends received from companies resident outside Germany, the 15% stake in the non-resident corporation must be held as from the beginning of the calendar year). However, a lump sum of 5% of the dividend / capital gains is added back to the taxable income, representing non-deductible business expenses. Since there is a tax unity in place between AVS Germany and OVS, the tax exemption for dividends received by OVS is (due to the tax unity) not granted to OVS, but rather to AVS Germany, the 90% shareholder. Any income generated by OVS is directly attributable to AVS Germany under the profit and loss pooling agreement and

therefore taxed at the level of AVS Germany. Thus, no dividend payment by OVS to AVS Germany is required. However, 20/17ths of the amount of the guaranteed dividend to the non-affiliated shareholder is taxed to OVS as its own taxable income.

Maiden Global has obtained a withholding tax exemption certificate from the Federal Central Tax Office such that any dividend from AVS Germany to Maiden Global is exempt from German withholding tax. There is no German withholding tax on (non-profit related) interest payments to corporate shareholders. Other than AVS Germany and OVS, we believe that the Company has operated and will continue to operate its business in a manner that will not cause its affiliates to be treated as engaged in a trade or business within Germany. A trade or business in Germany requires a permanent establishment either in the form of a fixed place of business or by having a permanent representative on German ground. A subsidiary may qualify as permanent representative if it carries out business activities of its shareholder or an affiliate in Germany.

### Sweden

Maiden LF is subject to Swedish taxation on net profits irrespective of whether the profits are generated through business in general or capital. To the extent that net profits are generated, profits are taxed at a rate of 22%. Foreign entities are subject to tax in Sweden only to the extent they have a permanent establishment in Sweden or if the income is related to certain types of assets, typically real estate, or partnership income. Dividends paid to foreign shareholders may be subject to withholding tax with a maximum of 30% although in many cases tax is reduced as a result of a tax treaty or under domestic legislation. A foreign entity is deemed to have a permanent establishment in Sweden under the rules very similar to those applied by OECD. Other than Maiden LF, we believe that Maiden has operated and will continue to operate its business in a manner that will not cause it to be treated as having a permanent establishment in Sweden. There is no withholding tax on interest paid by a Swedish borrower to a foreign lender.

### United Kingdom

Maiden Global is tax resident in the U.K. and is currently subject to corporation tax in the U.K. on its trading and other taxable profits. The main rate of U.K. corporation tax is 20% with effect from April 1, 2015. Non-U.K. resident corporations are within the charge to corporation tax in the U.K. if they carry on a trade in the U.K. through a permanent establishment. Reinsurance business developed by Maiden Global is underwritten by Maiden Bermuda in Bermuda. Other than in respect of Maiden Global, we believe that the Company has operated and will continue to operate its business in a manner that will not cause it to be treated as carrying on a trade within the U.K.

U.K. source income of non-U.K. resident corporations may be subject to U.K. withholding tax, subject to the availability of treaty relief or any other applicable exemptions. Dividends paid by Maiden Global are not subject to U.K. withholding tax. Interest paid by Maiden Global may be subject to U.K. withholding tax at a rate of up to 20%, subject to the availability of treaty relief or any other applicable exemptions.

### **United States**

Maiden NA and its subsidiaries, including Maiden US, (collectively, the Maiden NA Companies), transact business in and are subject to taxation in the U.S. Other than the Maiden NA Companies, we believe that we have operated and will continue to operate our business in a manner that will not cause us to be treated as engaged in a trade or business within the U.S. On this basis, other than the Maiden NA Companies, we do not expect to be required to pay U.S. corporate income taxes (other than withholding and excise taxes as described below). The maximum federal tax rate is currently 35% for a corporation's income that is effectively connected with a trade or business in the U.S. In addition, U.S. branches of foreign corporations may be subject to the branch profits tax, which imposes a tax on U.S. branch after-tax earnings that are deemed repatriated out of the U.S., for a potential maximum effective federal tax rate of approximately 54% on the net income connected with a U.S. trade or business.

Foreign corporations not engaged in a trade or business in the U.S. are subject to U.S. income tax, effected through withholding by the payer, on certain fixed or determinable annual or periodic gains, profits and income derived from sources within the U.S. as enumerated in Section 881(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, such as dividends and interest on certain investments.

The U.S. also imposes an excise tax on insurance and reinsurance premiums paid to foreign insurers or reinsurers with respect to risks located in the U.S. The rate of tax applicable to reinsurance premiums paid to Maiden Bermuda is 1% of gross premiums.

### Where You Can Find More Information

We maintain our principal website at www.maiden.bm. The information on our websites is not incorporated by reference in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

We make available, free of charge through our principal website, our financial information, including the information contained in our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish such material to, the SEC. We also make available, free of charge through our principal website, our Audit Committee Charter, Compensation Committee Charter, Nominating & Corporate Governance Committee Charter, and Code of Business Conduct and Ethics. Such information is also available in print for any shareholder who sends a request to Maiden Holdings, Ltd., Maiden House, 131 Front Street, Hamilton HM 12, Bermuda, Attention: Secretary. Reports and other information we file with the SEC may also be viewed at the SEC's website at

www.sec.gov or viewed or obtained at the SEC Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. Information on the operation of the SEC Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the SEC at 800-SEC-0330.

Item 1A. Risk Factors.

### Introduction

Investing in our securities carries risk. Managing risk effectively is critical to our success, and our organization is built around intelligent risk assumptions and prudent risk management. We have identified what we believe reflect key significant risks to the organization, and in turn to our shareholders, which are outlined below. Any of the risks described below could result in a significant or material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition. In addition to these enumerated risks, we face numerous other strategic, operational and emerging risks that could in the aggregate lead to shortfalls to our long-term goals or add to short-term volatility in our earnings. The following review of important risk factors should not be construed as exhaustive and should be read in conjunction with other cautionary statements that are included herein or elsewhere. The words or phrases believe, anticipate, estimate, project, plan, expect, intend, hope, forecast, evaluate, will likely result or will continue or words or phrases of similar import generally involve forward-looking statements. All of the risks that may affect our financial or operating performance may not be material at this time but may become material in the future. As used in these Risk Factors, the terms "we", "our" or "us" may, depending upon the context, refer to the Company, to one or more of the Company's consolidated subsidiaries or to all of them taken as a whole.

#### **Business**

Our business model is different than other Bermuda reinsurers.

Unlike many other publicly traded Bermuda reinsurance companies, we do not write property catastrophe reinsurance, nor do we maintain substantial primary insurance operations. As a result, you may not be able to compare our business's performance or prospects to other Bermuda-domiciled publicly traded reinsurers, who have very different strategies and balance sheet structures than us.

We have engaged in a series of significant transactions that may affect comparability and make it difficult for investors to evaluate our performance.

We began underwriting reinsurance transactions in July 2007. As a result, there is limited historical information available to help investors evaluate our performance. In addition, in light of a series of significant transactions during that time, including (but not limited to) the GMAC Acquisition in 2008, NGHC Quota Share in March 2010 (currently in run-off effective August 1, 2013), the IIS Acquisition in November 2010, and in 2013, selling the primary insurance business written on a surplus lines basis by Maiden Specialty (as noted in Item 1 Business, on November 4, 2015, Maiden US finalized the sale of its wholly owned subsidiary, Maiden Specialty, to Clear Blue), our historical financial statements are not necessarily meaningful for evaluating the potential of our future operations over a long term basis.

We may not be able to manage our growth effectively.

Since our inception, our business has grown at a compound annual growth rate of 25.8%, with growth of 6.2% in 2015. We expect our business to grow in the future as we continue our relationships with existing clients while seeking opportunities to reinsure other insurance companies operating in similar niches. We are targeting a 10% annual growth rate for 2016. Expansion of our business at a rate faster than we anticipate could require additional resources including capital and possibly personnel.

While we believe we have demonstrated our ability to effectively manage growth to date, and believe we have additional measures at our disposal to effectively manage growth, both anticipated and unanticipated, we cannot assure you that we will be able to meet our capital needs, expand our systems effectively, allocate our human resources optimally, identify and hire qualified employees or incorporate effectively the components of any businesses we may acquire. The failure to manage our growth effectively could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Additional measures available to us include but are not limited to, additional capital offerings including debt, equity and hybrid-based, the use of retrocessional reinsurance and the application of other reinsurance mechanisms that reduce or limit the amount of exposure we assume. There can be no guarantee, however, that such measures can be implemented on terms and conditions that do not have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Ongoing economic uncertainty could materially and adversely affect our business, our liquidity and financial condition.

Global economies and financial markets have experienced significant weakness and volatility since 2008, although the most extreme of these circumstances have abated since that time. In addition, U.S. federal and state governments continue to experience significant structural fiscal deficits, creating uncertainty as to levels of taxation, inflation,

regulation and other economic fundamentals that may impact future growth prospects. Significantly greater economic, fiscal and monetary uncertainty remains in Europe, due to the combination of poor economic growth, high unemployment and significant sovereign deficits which have called into question the future of the common currency used across most of Europe. European economic activity appears likely to remain volatile in the near future and to potentially have a continuing impact on the U.S. economy. Continuation of these conditions may potentially affect (among other aspects of our business) the demand for and claims made under our products, the ability of clients, counterparties and others to establish or maintain their relationships with us, our ability to access and efficiently use internal and external capital resources and our investment performance. In the event that these conditions persist and result in a prolonged period of economic uncertainty, our results of operations, our financial condition and/or liquidity, and our prospects could be materially and adversely affected.

If continuing opportunities for writing reinsurance through Maiden US do not materialize, our financial condition and results of operations may be materially adversely affected.

We believe that there will be opportunities to renew existing business and write new reinsurance and insurance through Maiden US. We cannot assure you, however, that Maiden US will retain its clients or write new business as we may expect. However, market conditions have been competitive for an extended period of time and are expected to remain competitive for the foreseeable future, particularly as new market participants with business objectives different from Maiden's influence the competitive environment. In addition, other companies may continue to offer reinsurance and insurance products on more competitive terms than we can provide. Under these circumstances, we might not be able to expand our reinsurance business and the failure to do so may have a material adverse effect on our ability to fully implement our business strategy, as well as on our financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

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Our actual losses may be greater than our reserve for loss and LAE, which would negatively impact our financial condition and results of operations.

We expect that our success will depend upon our ability to assess accurately the risks associated with the businesses that we will reinsure. Significant periods of time often elapse between the occurrence of an insured loss, the reporting of the loss to an insurer and the reporting of the loss by the insurer to its reinsurer and the ultimate disposition of that loss. The reserves we establish represent estimates of amounts needed to pay reported losses and unreported losses and the related loss adjustment expense. Loss reserves are only an estimate of what an insurer or reinsurer anticipates the ultimate costs of claims to be and do not represent an exact calculation of liability. Estimating loss reserves is a difficult and complex process involving many variables and subjective judgments. As part of our reserving process, we review historical data as well as actuarial and statistical projections and consider the impact of various factors such as:

trends in claim frequency and severity;

changes in operations;

emerging economic and social trends;

inflation; and

changes in the regulatory and litigation environments.

This process assumes that past experience, adjusted for the effects of current developments and anticipated trends, is an appropriate basis for predicting future events. There is no precise method, however, for evaluating the impact of any specific factor on the adequacy of reserves, and actual results are likely to differ from original estimates. In addition, unforeseen losses, the type or magnitude of which we cannot predict, may emerge in the future. We will establish or adjust reserves for our insurance subsidiaries in part based upon loss data received from the ceding companies with which we do business, including AmTrust. There is a time delay that elapses between the receipt and recording of claims results by the ceding insurance companies and the receipt and recording of those results by us. Accordingly, establishment and adjustment of reserves for our insurance subsidiaries is dependent upon timely and accurately estimate reporting from cedants and agents.

While we believe that while our case reserves and IBNR reserves are sufficient to cover losses assumed by us, there can be no assurance that losses will not deviate from our reserves, possibly by material amounts. To the extent actual reported losses exceed estimated losses, the carried estimate of the ultimate losses will be increased, which represents unfavorable reserve development, and to the extent actual reported losses are less than our expectations, the carried estimate of ultimate losses will be reduced, which represents favorable reserve development.

The inherent uncertainty of models and the use of such models as a tool to evaluate risk may have an adverse impact on our financial results.

We use both our own proprietary models and widely accepted and industry-recognized third party vendor analytic and modeling capabilities to provide us with pricing, capital modeling and objective risk assessment relating to risks in our reinsurance portfolio. In addition, we also use widely accepted and industry-recognized third party vendor analytic and modeling capabilities to provide us with objective risk assessment relating to catastrophe risks in our reinsurance portfolio. These models help us control risk accumulation, inform management and other stakeholders of capital requirements and to improve the risk/return profile or minimize the amount of capital required to cover the risks in each reinsurance contract in our overall portfolio of reinsurance contracts. However, given the inherent uncertainty of

modeling techniques and the application of such techniques, these models and databases may not accurately address the emergence of a variety of matters which might be deemed to impact certain of our coverages. Accordingly, these models may understate the exposures we are assuming and our financial results may be adversely impacted, perhaps significantly.

For our property and casualty reinsurance underwriting, we depend on the policies, procedures and expertise of ceding companies; these companies may fail to accurately assess and price the risks they underwrite, which may lead us to inaccurately assess and price the risks we assume.

Our participation in property and casualty reinsurance markets means the success of our underwriting efforts depends, in part, upon the policies, procedures and expertise of the ceding companies making the original underwriting decisions. As is common among reinsurers, we do not separately evaluate each of the individual risks assumed under reinsurance treaties. We face the risk that these ceding companies may fail to accurately assess the risks that they assume initially, which, in turn, may lead us to inaccurately assess the risks we assume.

If we fail to establish and receive appropriate pricing or fail to contractually limit our exposure to such risks, we could face significant losses on these contracts, which could have a material adverse impact on our financial results.

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

Operational risks and losses can result from many sources including fraud, errors by employees, failure to document transactions properly or to obtain proper internal authorization, failure to comply with regulatory requirements or information technology failures.

We believe our modeling, underwriting and information technology and application systems are critical to our business and reputation. Moreover, our technology and applications have been an important part of our underwriting process and our ability to compete successfully. Such technology is and will continue to be a very important part of our underwriting process. We have also licensed certain systems and data from third parties. We cannot be certain that we will have access to these, or comparable service providers, or that our technology or applications will continue to operate as intended. In addition, we cannot be certain that we would be able to replace these service providers or consultants without slowing our underwriting response time. A major defect or failure in our internal controls or information technology and application systems could result in management distraction, harm to our reputation, a loss or delay of revenues or increased expense.

Our internal control and reporting systems might not be effective in the future, which could increase the risk that we would become subject to restatements of our financial results or to regulatory action or litigation or other developments that could adversely affect our business.

Our ability to produce accurate financial statements and comply with applicable laws, rules and regulations is largely dependent on our maintenance of internal control and reporting systems, as well as on our ability to attract and retain qualified management and accounting and actuarial personnel to further develop our internal accounting function and control policies. If we fail to effectively establish and maintain such reporting and accounting systems or fail to attract and retain personnel who are capable of designing and operating such systems, these failures will increase the likelihood that we may be required to restate our financial results to correct errors or that we will become subject to legal and regulatory infractions, which may entail civil litigation and investigations by regulatory agencies including the SEC. In addition, if our management or our independent registered public accounting firm were to conclude that our internal control over financial reporting was not effective, investors could lose confidence in our reported financial information, and our financial flexibility and the value of our common shares could be adversely impacted.

The occurrence of severe catastrophic events may have a material adverse effect on our financial results.

Although our business strategy generally precludes us from writing significant amounts of catastrophe exposed business in our reinsurance segment, most property reinsurance contains some exposure to catastrophic loss. Our Diversified Reinsurance segment includes only limited exposure to natural and man-made disasters, such as hurricane, typhoon, windstorm, flood, earthquake, acts of war, acts of terrorism and political instability. At December 31, 2015, our one-in-250 year catastrophe exposure on a per occurrence and aggregate basis is \$36.4 million and \$77.8 million, respectively.

While we attempt to carefully manage our aggregate exposure to catastrophes, modeling errors and the incidence and severity of catastrophes, such as hurricanes, windstorms, cyber attacks and large-scale terrorist attacks, are inherently unpredictable, and our losses from catastrophes could be substantial. Further, many scientists believe that the earth's atmospheric and oceanic temperatures are increasing and that, in recent years, changing climate conditions have increased the unpredictability, severity and frequency of natural disasters in certain parts of the world.

We may face substantial exposure to losses from terrorism, acts of war and political instability.

We have exposure to losses resulting from acts of terrorism, acts of war and political instability as a reinsurer of U.S. domiciled insurers. U.S. insurers are required by state and federal law to offer coverage for terrorism in certain commercial lines. In response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the U.S. Congress enacted legislation designed to ensure, among other things, the availability of insurance coverage for foreign terrorist acts, including the requirement that insurers offer such coverage in certain commercial lines. The TRIA requires commercial property and casualty insurance companies to offer coverage for certain acts of terrorism and established a federal assistance program through the end of 2005 to help such insurers cover claims related to future terrorism-related losses. The Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act ("TRIEA") extended the federal assistance program through 2007, but it also set a per-event threshold that had to be met before the federal program would become applicable and also increased insurers' statutory deductibles. The Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Revitalization Act ("TRIPRA") extended the federal assistance program through December 31, 2014. The program was reauthorized, with some adjustments to its provisions, for six years through December 31, 2020.

TRIPRA also expanded the definition of Act of Terrorism by removing the distinction between foreign and domestic acts of terrorism. While TRIPRA does not specifically cover losses Maiden may incur, recoveries that our clients receive generally inure to our benefit.

We may or may not use retrocessional and reinsurance coverage to limit our exposure to risks. Any retrocessional or reinsurance coverage that we obtain may be limited, and credit and other risks associated with our retrocessional and reinsurance arrangements may result in losses which could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

We will provide reinsurance to our clients and in turn we may or may not retrocede reinsurance we assume to other insurers and reinsurers. If we do not use retrocessional coverage or reinsurance, our exposure to losses will be greater than if we did obtain such coverage. If we do obtain retrocessional or reinsurance coverage, some of the insurers or reinsurers to whom we may retrocede

coverage or reinsure with may be domiciled in Bermuda or other non-U.S. locations. We would be subject to credit and other risks that depend upon the financial strength of these reinsurers. Further, we will be subject to credit risk with respect to any retrocessional or reinsurance arrangements because the ceding of risk to reinsurers and retrocessionaires would not relieve us of our liability to the clients or companies we insure or reinsure. Our failure to establish adequate reinsurance or retrocessional arrangements or the failure of any retrocessional arrangements to protect us from overly concentrated risk exposure could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operation. We may attempt to mitigate such risks by retaining collateral or trust accounts for premium and claims receivables, but nevertheless we cannot be assured that reinsurance will be fully collectable in the case of all potential claims outcomes.

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

As industry practices and legal, judicial, social and other environmental conditions change, unexpected issues related to claims and coverage may emerge. These issues may adversely affect our business by either extending coverage beyond our underwriting intent or by increasing the number or size of claims. In some instances, these changes may not become apparent until sometime after we have issued insurance or reinsurance contracts that are affected by the changes. As a result, the full extent of liability under our reinsurance contracts may not be known for many years after a contract is issued. Our exposure to these uncertainties could be exacerbated by an increase in insurance and reinsurance contract disputes, arbitration and litigation.

Our business is subject to risks related to litigation.

We may from time to time be subject to litigation in the ordinary course of business relating to our current and past business operations, including, but not limited to, disputes over coverage or claims adjudication, including claims alleging that we have acted in bad faith in the administration of claims by our policyholders, disputes with our agents, producers and termination of contracts and related claims and disputes with former employees. We also cannot determine with any certainty what new theories of recovery may evolve or what their impact may be on our business.

An adverse resolution of one or more lawsuits or arbitrations could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations in a particular fiscal quarter or year.

The integration of companies we acquire may not be as successful as we anticipate.

While we have had limited acquisition activity since our inception, we may periodically evaluate and undertake acquisitions. Acquisitions involve numerous risks, including operational, strategic, and financial risks such as potential liabilities associated with the acquired business. Difficulties in integrating an acquired company from a financial and operational standpoint may result in the acquired company performing differently than we currently expect or in our failure to realize anticipated expense-related efficiencies. Our existing businesses could also be negatively impacted by acquisitions.

Technology breaches or failures, including, but not limited to, those resulting from cyber-attacks on us or our business partners and service providers, could disrupt or otherwise negatively impact our business.

Information technology and application systems can streamline many business processes and ultimately reduce the cost of operations however technology initiatives present certain risks. Our business is dependent upon our employees and outsourcers ability to perform, in an efficient and uninterrupted fashion, necessary business functions. Like all companies, our information technology systems are vulnerable to data breaches, interruptions or failures due to events that may be beyond our control, including, but not limited to, natural disasters, theft, terrorist attacks, computer viruses, hackers and general technology failures. Our information technology systems include the Internet and

third-party hosted services. We use information systems to process financial information and results of operations for internal reporting purposes and for regulatory financial reporting, legal and tax requirements. We also use information systems for electronic communications with customers and our various locations.

A shutdown or inability to access one or more of our facilities, a power outage, a security breach, or a failure of one or more of our information technology, telecommunications or other systems could significantly impair our ability to perform such functions on a timely basis. These incidents could be caused by malicious or disruptive software, computer hackers, rogue employees, cyber-attacks, failures of telecommunications systems or other catastrophic events. If sustained or repeated, such a business interruption, system failure or service denial could result in a deterioration of our ability to write and process business, provide customer service, pay claims in a timely manner or perform other necessary business functions. Furthermore, a significant portion of the communications between our employees and our business, banking and investment partners depends on information technology and electronic information exchange. In addition, we may suffer financial and reputational damage because of lost or misappropriated confidential information belonging to us, and may become subject to legal action and increased regulatory oversight. We could also be required to spend significant financial and other resources to remedy any damage caused to repair or replace information systems.

We believe that we have established and implemented appropriate security measures, controls and procedures to safeguard our information technology systems and to prevent unauthorized access to such systems and any data processed and/or stored in such systems, and we periodically employ third parties to evaluate and test the adequacy of such systems, controls and procedures. In addition, we have established a business continuity plan which is designed to ensure that we are able to maintain all aspects of our key business processes functioning in the midst of certain disruptive events, including any disruptions to or breaches of our information technology systems. We continue to make investments in technologies, cyber-insurance and training. Our business

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continuity plans are tested and evaluated for adequacy. Despite these safeguards, disruptions to and breaches of our information technology systems are possible and may negatively impact our business.

Like most major corporations, Maiden's information systems are a target of attacks. Although we have experienced no known material or threatened cases involving unauthorized access to our information technology systems and data or unauthorized appropriation of such data to date, we have no assurance that such technology breaches will not occur in the future.

### Insurance and Reinsurance Markets

The property and casualty insurance and reinsurance industry is cyclical in nature, which may affect our overall financial performance.

Historically, the financial performance of the property and casualty insurance and reinsurance industry has tended to fluctuate in cyclical periods of price competition and excess capacity (known as a soft market) followed by periods of high premium rates and shortages of underwriting capacity (known as a hard market). Although the financial performance of an individual insurance or reinsurance company is dependent on its own specific business characteristics, the profitability of most property and casualty insurance and reinsurance companies tends to follow this cyclical market pattern.

In recent years, the market has been in a competitive environment in which underwriting capacity has expanded, risk selection became less discrete and price competition increased sharply. During that period, market participants' capital levels have continued to improve due to positive earnings and improved values of risk assets over that time. In addition, an influx of new market participants with different operating models than traditional reinsurers such as us, have entered the market place. While many of these new market participants specialize in property catastrophe oriented business and do not directly compete with us, they are influencing competitive conditions in the broader reinsurance market. This additional underwriting capacity resulted in increased competition from other insurance and reinsurance companies expanding the types or amounts of business they write, or from companies seeking to maintain or increase market share at the expense of underwriting discipline.

Because this cyclicality is due in large part to the actions of our competitors and general economic factors beyond our control, we cannot predict with certainty the timing or duration of changes in the market cycle. These cyclical patterns, the actions of our competitors, and general economic factors could cause our revenues and net income to fluctuate, which may cause the price of our common shares to be volatile. The ultimate outcome of these events and their market impact is not known at this time.

Negative developments in the U.S. workers' compensation insurance industry could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

In 2015, reinsurance of U.S. workers' compensation insurance was 42.9% of total net premiums written, which is our largest exposure to a particular line of business, and reflects the ongoing growth of our largest client, AmTrust. Nonetheless, negative developments in the economic, competitive or regulatory conditions affecting the U.S. workers' compensation insurance industry could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. For example, if legislators in our larger markets were to enact legislation to increase the scope or amount of benefits for employees under U.S. workers' compensation insurance policies without related premium increases or loss control measures, or if regulators made other changes to the regulatory system governing U.S. workers' compensation insurance, this could negatively affect the U.S. workers' compensation insurance industry in the affected markets.

In many states, including California, our largest state in terms of U.S. workers' compensation premium volume, there are active regulatory activities that oversee the level of rates that can be charged by individual insurers. As a result, there is a risk that our clients may not be able to implement needed rate increases to maintain sufficient levels of profitability on business we write.

We operate in a highly competitive industry.

The reinsurance industry is highly competitive. We compete with major U.S. and non-U.S. reinsurers, including other Bermuda-based reinsurers, on an international and regional basis. Many of these entities have significantly larger amounts of capital, higher ratings from rating agencies and more resources than us. Historically, periods of increased capacity levels in our industry have led to increased competition which puts pressure on reinsurance pricing.

In recent years, significant increases in the use of risk-linked securities and derivative and other non-traditional risk transfer mechanisms and vehicles are being developed and offered by other parties, including entities other than insurance and reinsurance companies. The availability of both these non-traditional products and sources of capital could reduce the demand for traditional insurance and reinsurance.

A number of new, proposed or potential industry or legislative developments could further increase competition in our industry. New competition from these developments may result in fewer contracts written, lower premium rates, increased expenses for customer acquisition and retention and less favorable policy terms and conditions, which could have a material adverse impact on our growth and profitability.

Our efforts to develop products, expand in targeted markets or modify our business and strategic plans may not be successful and may create enhanced risks.

A number of our planned business initiatives involve developing new products or expanding existing products in targeted markets. To develop new products or markets, we may need to make substantial capital and operating expenditures, which may negatively impact our results in the near term. In addition, the demand for new products or in new markets may not meet our expectations. To the extent we are able to market new products or expand in new markets, our risk exposures may change and the data and models we use to manage such exposures may not be as sophisticated as those we use in existing markets or with existing products. This, in turn, could lead to losses in excess of expectations. As part of our ongoing efforts to continually improve our performance, we regularly evaluate our business plans and strategies, which may result in changes to our business plans and initiatives, some of which may be material. We are subject to increasing risks related to our ability to successfully implement our evolving plans and strategies. Changing plans and strategies requires significant management time and effort, and may divert management's attention from our core operations and competencies. Moreover, modifications we undertake to our operations may not immediately result in improved financial performance. Therefore, risks associated with implementing or changing our business strategies and initiatives, including risks related to developing or enhancing the operations, controls and other infrastructure required for these strategies and initiatives, may not have a positive impact on our publicly reported results until many years after implementation. The risk that we may fail to have the ability to carry out our business plans may have an adverse effect on our long-term results of operations and financial condition.

Consolidation in the insurance and reinsurance industry and increased competition on premium rates could lead to lower margins for us and less demand for our products and services.

The insurance and reinsurance industry continues to undergo a process of consolidation as industry participants seek to enhance their product and geographic reach, client base, operating efficiency and general market power through merger and acquisition activities. It is possible that the larger combined entities resulting from these mergers and acquisition activities may seek to use the benefits of consolidation, including improved efficiencies and economies of scale, to, among other things, implement price reductions for their products and services to increase their market shares. Consolidation among primary insurance companies may also lead to reduced use of reinsurance as the resulting larger companies may be able to retain more risk and may also have bargaining power in negotiations with reinsurers. If competitive pressures compel us to reduce our prices, our operating margins will decrease.

As the insurance and reinsurance industry consolidates, competition may become more intense and the importance of acquiring and properly servicing each customer will become greater. We could incur greater expenses relating to customer acquisition and retention, which could reduce our operating margins.

When the property-casualty insurance industry has exhibited a greater degree of competition, premium rates have come under downward pressure as a result. Greater competition could result in reduced volumes of reinsurance written and could reduce our profitability.

### Financial Strength and Debt Ratings

Ratings downgrades of either Maiden Bermuda or Maiden US may adversely affect our competitive position and our ability to meet our financial goals and capital requirements.

Competition in the types of insurance business that we intend to reinsure is based on many factors, including the perceived financial strength of the insurer and ratings assigned by independent rating agencies. Maiden Bermuda and Maiden US have each received a financial strength rating of "A-" (Excellent) with a positive outlook from A.M. Best

and have also received a financial strength rating of "BBB+" (Good) with a stable outlook from S&P.

Ratings from these agencies are an opinion of our financial strength and ability to meet ongoing obligations to our future policyholders, and it is not an evaluation directed to our investors in our common shares, preference shares or senior notes, nor is it a recommendation to buy, sell or hold our common shares, preference shares or senior notes. Each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating.

The ratings of Maiden Bermuda and Maiden US are subject to periodic review by, and may be revised downward or revoked at any time at the sole discretion of A.M. Best and/or S&P. If A.M. Best were to downgrade Maiden Bermuda's rating below "A-", AII and other clients would have the right to terminate their respective reinsurance agreements. More generally, if A.M. Best or S&P were to downgrade Maiden Bermuda or Maiden US, our competitive position would suffer, and our ability to market our products, to obtain clients and to compete in the reinsurance industry would be adversely affected. A subsequent downgrade, therefore, could result in a substantial loss of business because our clients may move to other reinsurers with higher claims paying and financial strength ratings.

### Clients, Brokers and Financial Institutions

Our business is dependent upon reinsurance brokers and other producers, including third party administrators and financial institutions, and the failure to develop or maintain these relationships could materially adversely affect our ability to market our products and services.

We market a significant portion of products in our Diversified Reinsurance segment through brokers and expect that we will derive a significant portion of our business from a limited number of brokers. Our failure to further develop or maintain relationships with brokers from whom we expect to receive our business could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our reliance on brokers subjects us to their credit risk.

In accordance with industry practice, we anticipate that we will frequently pay amounts owed on claims under our reinsurance contracts to brokers, and these brokers in turn are required to pay and will pay these amounts over to the clients that have purchased reinsurance from us. If a broker fails to make such a payment, it is highly likely that we will be liable to the client for the deficiency under local laws or contractual obligations, notwithstanding the broker's obligation to make such payment. Likewise, when the client pays premiums for these policies to brokers for payment over to us, these premiums are considered to have been paid and, in most cases, the client will no longer be liable to us for those amounts, whether or not we actually receive the premiums from the brokers. Consequently, we will assume a degree of credit risk associated with brokers with whom we work with respect to most of our reinsurance business.

We could incur substantial losses and reduced liquidity if one of the financial institutions we use in our operations fails.

We have exposure to counterparties in many different industries and routinely execute transactions with counterparties in the financial services industry, including brokers and dealers, commercial banks, and other institutions. Many of these transactions expose us to credit risk in the event of default of our counterparty. In addition, with respect to secured transactions, our credit risk may be exacerbated when the collateral held by us cannot be realized or is liquidated at prices not sufficient to recover the full amount of the obligation.

We maintain cash balances, including restricted cash held in trust accounts, significantly in excess of the FDIC insurance limits at various depository institutions. We also maintain cash balances in foreign banks and institutions. If one or more of these financial institutions were to fail, our ability to access cash balances may be temporarily or permanently limited, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition or cash flows.

### Liquidity, Capital Resources and Investments

A significant amount of our invested assets are subject to changes in interest rates and market volatility. If we were unable to realize our investment objectives, our financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected.

Investment income is an important component of our net income. We currently plan to invest approximately 90-95% of our investments in high grade marketable fixed income securities, cash and cash equivalents, and up to approximately 5-10% in other securities which may include high-yield securities and equity securities. At December 31, 2015, the fixed income securities of \$4.1 billion in our investment portfolio represented 92.3% of our total cash and investments, of which \$11.8 million or 0.3% were in other investments, a combination of investments in limited partnerships and equity investments. As a result of market conditions prevailing at a particular time, the allocation of our portfolio to various asset types may vary from these targets at times. The fair market value of these assets and the investment income from these assets will fluctuate depending on general economic and market conditions. As we currently classify 85.2% of our fixed maturity investments as available-for-sale ("AFS"), changes in the market value of our securities are reflected in shareholders' equity. The remainder of our fixed maturity investments are held-to-maturity ("HTM") and carried at amortized cost.

Our Board of Directors has established our investment policies and our executive management is implementing our investment strategy with the assistance of AII Insurance Management Limited, our investment manager. Although these guidelines stress diversification and capital preservation, our investment results will be subject to a variety of risks, including risks related to changes in the business, financial condition or results of operations of the entities in which we invest, as well as changes in general economic conditions and overall market conditions, interest rate fluctuations and market volatility.

Our investment portfolio consists almost completely of interest rate-sensitive instruments, such as bonds, which may be adversely affected by changes in interest rates. Interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors, including governmental monetary policies and domestic and international economic and political conditions and other factors beyond our control. Changes in interest rates could have an adverse effect on the value of our investment portfolio and future investment income. For example, changes in interest rates can expose us to prepayment risks on mortgage-backed securities ("MBS") included in our investment portfolio (all U.S. government agency bonds are currently "AA+" rated by S&P). Increases in interest rates will decrease the value of our investments in fixed-income securities. If increases in interest rates occur during periods when we sell investments to satisfy liquidity needs, we may experience investment losses. If interest rates decline, reinvested funds will earn less than expected.

Certain categories of fixed income securities can experience significant price declines for reasons unrelated to interest rates. Since 2007, global financial markets and credit markets in particular have experienced unprecedented volatility due to the effects of global economic weakness and resulting fiscal and monetary crises. Both the U.S. and other sovereign governments, particularly in Europe, have enacted and continue to enact significant fiscal and monetary measures which have elevated levels of liquidity in the credit market in order to ensure economic stability and sustain recent limited economic growth. These measures have reduced interest rates to historically low levels and could continue to affect many types of fixed income securities, continuing the current

period of higher than average price volatility. Based on the statements of the U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks globally, this period of low interest rates is widely expected to continue for at least the next two years.

In order to limit our exposure to unexpected interest rate increases which would reduce the value of our fixed income securities and reduce our shareholders' equity, we attempt to maintain the duration of our fixed maturity investment portfolio combined with our cash and cash equivalents, both restricted and unrestricted, within a reasonable range of the duration of our loss reserves. At December 31, 2015 and 2014, these respective durations in years were as follows:

For the Year Ended December 31,	2015	2014
AFS fixed maturities and cash and cash equivalents	4.7	4.1
Reserve for loss and LAE	4.4	4.4

The differential in duration between these assets and liabilities may fluctuate over time and in the case of fixed maturities, is affected by factors such as market conditions, asset allocations and prepayment speeds in the case of MBS.

While we believe we have substantially mitigated our exposure to liquidity risk through prudent duration management and strong operating cash flow. However, if we do not structure our investment portfolio so that it is appropriately matched with our reinsurance liabilities or our operating cash flow declines, we may be forced to liquidate investments prior to maturity at a significant loss to cover such liabilities. For this or any of the other reasons discussed above, investment losses could significantly decrease our asset base, which would adversely affect our ability to conduct business. Any significant decline in our investment income would adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The determination of the fair values of the Company's investments and whether a decline in the fair value of an investment is other-than-temporary are based on management's judgment and may prove to be incorrect.

The Company holds a significant amount of assets without readily available, active, quoted market prices or for which fair value cannot be measured from actively quoted prices. These assets are generally deemed to require a higher degree of judgment used in measuring fair value. The assumptions used by management to measure fair values could turn out to be wrong and the actual amounts that may be realized in an orderly transaction with a willing market participant could be either lower or higher than the Company's estimates of fair value. The Company reviews its investment portfolio for factors that may indicate that a decline in the fair value of an investment is other-than-temporary. This evaluation is based on subjective factors, assumptions and estimates and may prove to be materially incorrect, which may result in the Company recognizing additional losses in the future as new information emerges or recognizing losses currently that may never materialize in the future in an orderly transaction with a willing market participant.

We may require additional capital in the future, which may not be available on favorable terms or at all.

Our future capital requirements will depend on many factors, including our growth and our ability to write new business successfully and to establish premium rates and reserves at levels sufficient to cover our losses. While we have been successful to date in raising the capital necessary to prudently manage our business, our business has grown rapidly and we may need to raise additional funds to further capitalize Maiden Bermuda and Maiden US, or expand our IIS business. We anticipate that any such additional funds would be raised through equity, debt, hybrid financings or entering into retrocession agreements. While we currently have no commitment from any lender with respect to a credit facility or a loan facility, we may enter into an unsecured revolving credit facility or a term loan facility with one or more syndicates of lenders. Any equity, debt or hybrid financing, if available at all, may be on terms that are not favorable to us. If we are able to raise capital through equity financings, the interest of shareholders in our Company would be diluted, and the securities we issue may have rights, preferences and privileges that are senior to

those of our common shares.

If our S&P rating is lowered beyond current levels, this could impact our ability to obtain additional debt or hybrid capital at reasonable terms. Similarly, our access to funds may be impaired if regulatory authorities take negative actions against us. Our internal sources of liquidity may prove to be insufficient, and in such case, we may not be able to successfully obtain additional financing on favorable terms, or at all.

In addition to company-specific factors, the availability of additional financing will depend on a variety of other factors such as market conditions, the general availability of capital, the volume of trading activities and the overall availability of capital to the financial services industry. As such, we may be forced to delay raising capital, issue shorter maturity securities than we prefer, or bear an unattractive cost of capital which could decrease our profitability and significantly reduce our financial flexibility. If we cannot obtain adequate capital, our business prospects, results of operations and financial condition could be adversely affected.

We have debt and preference shares outstanding that could adversely affect our financial flexibility.

In connection with the Senior Note Offerings, Maiden NA has issued Senior Notes in the principal amount of \$360.0 million, which is subject to a guarantee by Maiden Holdings. We have also issued \$480.0 million in Preference Shares since 2012, the dividends of which are required to be paid before common shareholders are eligible for dividend payments. We may also incur

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additional indebtedness in the future. The level of debt outstanding could adversely affect our financial flexibility. Our indebtedness could have adverse consequences, including:

limiting our ability to pay dividends to our common shareholders;

increasing our vulnerability to changing economic, regulatory and industry conditions;

limiting our ability to compete and our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and the industry;

4 imiting our ability to borrow additional funds;

requiring us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to payments on our debt, thereby, reducing funds available for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and other purposes; and

impacting rating agencies and regulators assessment of our capital position, adequacy and flexibility and therefore, the financial strength ratings of rating agencies and regulators assessment of our solvency.

Our failure to comply with restrictive covenants contained in the indentures governing our Senior Notes or any future credit facility could trigger prepayment obligations, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The indentures governing our Senior Notes contain covenants that impose restrictions on us and certain of our subsidiaries with respect to, among other things, the incurrence of liens and the disposition of capital stock of these subsidiaries. In addition, any future credit facility may require us and/or certain of our subsidiaries to comply with certain covenants, which may include the maintenance of a minimum consolidated net tangible worth and restrictions on the payment of dividends. Our failure to comply with these covenants could result in an event of default under the indentures or any future credit facility, which, if not cured or waived, could result in us being required to repay the notes or any amounts outstanding under such credit facility prior to maturity. As a result, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected. For more details on our indebtedness, see "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Note 7. Long-Term Debt" included under Item 8 "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" of this Form 10-K.

The Preference Shares are equity and are subordinate to our existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities.

The Preference Shares are equity interests and do not constitute indebtedness. As such, the Preference Shares will rank junior to all of our indebtedness and other non-equity claims of our creditors with respect to assets available to satisfy the claims during liquidation. At December 31, 2015, our total consolidated debt was \$360.0 million and our total consolidated liabilities were \$4.4 billion. We may incur additional debt and liabilities in the future. Our existing and future indebtedness may restrict payments of dividends on the Preference Shares. Additionally, unlike indebtedness, where principal and interest would customarily be payable on specified due dates, in the case of preference shares, dividends are payable only if declared by our Board of Directors (or a duly authorized committee of the Board).

The availability and cost of security arrangements for reinsurance transactions may materially impact our ability to provide reinsurance from Bermuda to insurers domiciled in the U. S.

Maiden Bermuda is not licensed, approved or accredited as a reinsurer anywhere in the U.S. and, therefore, under the terms of most of its contracts with U.S. ceding companies, it is required to provide collateral to its ceding companies for unpaid ceded liabilities, including when our obligations to these ceding companies exceed negotiated amounts, in a form acceptable to state insurance commissioners. Typically, this type of collateral takes the form of letters of credit issued by a bank, the establishment of a trust, or funds withheld. The amount of collateral we are required to provide

typically represents a portion of the obligations we may owe the ceding company, often including estimates of unpaid losses made by the ceding company. Since we may be required to provide collateral based on the ceding company's estimate, we may be obligated to provide collateral that exceeds our estimates of the ultimate liability to the ceding company. It is also unclear what, if any, the impact would be in the event of the liquidation of a ceding company with which we have a collateral arrangement. If these facilities are unavailable, not sufficient or if we are unable to arrange for other types of security on commercially acceptable terms, Maiden Bermuda's ability to provide reinsurance to U.S. based clients may be severely limited. At December 31, 2015, 90.7% of the collateral provided by Maiden Bermuda was in the form of trusts.

### **International Operations**

Our offices that operate in jurisdictions outside Bermuda and the U.S. are subject to certain limitations and risks that are unique to foreign operations.

Our international operations are regulated in various jurisdictions with respect to licensing requirements, currency, reserves, employees and other matters. International operations may be harmed by political developments in foreign countries, which may be hard to predict in advance. Regulations governing technical reserves and remittance balances in some countries may hinder remittance of profits and repatriation of assets.

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Foreign currency fluctuations may reduce our net income and our capital levels adversely affecting our financial condition.

We conduct business in a variety of non-U.S. currencies, the principal exposures being the euro, the British pound, the Canadian dollar and the Swedish krona. Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are exposed to changes in currency exchange rates. Our reporting currency is the U.S. dollar, and exchange rate fluctuations relative to the U.S. dollar may materially impact our results and financial position. Our principal exposure to foreign currency risk is our obligation to settle claims in foreign currencies. In addition, we maintain and expect to continue to maintain a portion of our investment portfolio in investments denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. While the Company may be able to match its foreign currency denominated assets against its net reinsurance liabilities both by currency and duration to protect the Company against foreign exchange and interest rate risks, a natural offset does not exist for all currencies.

We may employ various strategies (including hedging) to manage our exposure to foreign currency exchange risk. To the extent that these exposures are not fully hedged or the hedges are ineffective, our results or equity may be reduced by fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates that could materially adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. At December 31, 2015, no such hedges or hedging strategies were in force or had been entered into.

If the European common currency, the euro, were to be devalued, undergo structural changes or in an extreme scenario collapse, in its participating countries or the basis on which they participate, we could be impacted, potentially significantly by the subsequent effects of such a circumstance.

We conduct business in countries in which the euro is the local currency. We report our financial results in U.S. dollars and use widely reported exchange rates to convert this currency into U.S. dollars. Countries whose currency is the euro have experienced significant economic uncertainty in recent years, which continues through the present time. These circumstances are the cumulative result of the effect of excessive sovereign debt, deficits by numerous participating countries in the euro, uncertainty regarding the monetary policies of the EU and their underlying funding mechanisms and poor economic growth and prospects for the EU as a whole.

While economic policy measures and commitments have stabilized the currency's volatility, the EU's fiscal outlook remains negative, and permanent solutions to resolve these issues by participating countries and other institutions to stabilize the EU and improve its economic outlook have not been resolved.

Irrespective of the ultimate future of the currency, the impact of these efforts may cause a further deterioration in the value of the euro and consequently exacerbate instability in global credit markets, and increase credit concerns resulting in the widening of bond yield spreads. The impact of these developments, while potentially severe, remains extremely difficult to predict. However, should European governments default on their obligations, there will be a negative impact on government and non-government issued bonds, government guaranteed corporate bonds and bonds and equities issued by financial institutions and held within the country of default which in turn could adversely impact Euro-denominated assets held in our investment portfolio.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, 9.4% of our net premiums written and 11.2% of our reserve for loss and LAE is euro denominated. At December 31, 2015 our fixed income portfolio contains: (1) \$21.3 million of euro-denominated non-U.S. government and supranational bonds, which constitute 0.5% of the fixed income portfolio; and (2) \$278.0 million of euro-denominated corporate bonds, which constitutes 6.8% of the fixed income portfolio. Of the euro-denominated non-U.S. government bonds, 52.5% were from Germany and the State of Israel. We hold no sovereign bonds of Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal or Spain. Regulation

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

Our insurance subsidiaries are required to comply with a wide variety of laws and regulations applicable to insurance or reinsurance companies, both in the jurisdictions in which they are organized and where they sell their insurance and reinsurance products. The insurance and regulatory environment, in particular for offshore insurance and reinsurance companies, has become subject to increased scrutiny in many jurisdictions, including the U.S., various states within the U.S. and the EU. In the past, there have been Congressional and other initiatives in the U.S. regarding increased supervision and regulation of the insurance industry. It is not possible to predict the future impact of changes in laws and regulations on our operations. The cost of complying with any new legal requirements affecting our subsidiaries could have a material adverse effect on our business.

In addition, our subsidiaries may not always be able to obtain or maintain necessary licenses, permits, authorizations or accreditations. They also may not be able to fully comply with, or to obtain appropriate exemptions from, the laws and regulations applicable to them. Any failure to comply with applicable law or to obtain appropriate exemptions could result in restrictions on either the ability of the company in question, as well as potentially its affiliates, to do business in one or more of the jurisdictions in which they operate or on brokers on which we rely to produce business for us. In addition, any such failure to comply with applicable laws or to obtain appropriate exemptions could result in the imposition of fines or other sanctions. Any of these sanctions could have a material adverse effect on our business. To date, no fine, penalty or restriction has been imposed on us for failure to comply with any insurance law or regulation.

Insurance statutes and regulations in jurisdictions outside and inside the U.S. could affect our profitability and restrict our ability to operate.

Maiden Bermuda is licensed as a Bermuda insurance company and is subject to regulation and supervision in Bermuda. The applicable Bermuda statutes and regulations generally are designed to protect insureds and ceding insurance companies, not our shareholders. We do not intend Maiden Bermuda to be registered or licensed as an insurance company in any jurisdiction outside Bermuda or to conduct any insurance or reinsurance activities in the U.S. or elsewhere outside of Bermuda. Nevertheless, we expect that a large portion of the gross premiums written by Maiden Bermuda will be derived from (1) the Reinsurance Agreement with AII, and (2) from reinsurance contracts entered into with entities mostly domiciled in the U.S. and Europe. Inquiries into or challenges to the insurance activities of Maiden Bermuda may still be raised by U.S. or European insurance regulators in the future.

In addition, even if Maiden Bermuda, as a reinsurer, is not directly regulated by applicable laws and regulations governing insurance in the jurisdictions where its ceding companies operate, these laws and regulations, and changes in them, can affect the profitability of the business that is ceded to Maiden Bermuda, and thereby affect our results of operations. The laws and regulations applicable to direct insurers could indirectly affect us in other ways as well, such as collateral requirements in various U.S. states to enable such insurers to receive credit for reinsurance ceded to us.

In the past, there have been Congressional and other proposals in the U.S. regarding increased supervision and regulation of the insurance industry, including proposals to supervise and regulate reinsurers domiciled outside the U.S. Our exposure to potential regulatory initiatives could be heightened by the fact that Maiden Bermuda is intended to be domiciled in, and operate exclusively from, Bermuda. Bermuda is a small jurisdiction and may be disadvantaged when participating in global or cross-border regulatory matters compared with larger jurisdictions such as the U.S. or the leading EU countries.

If Maiden Bermuda were to become subject to any insurance laws and regulations of the U.S. or any U.S. state, which are generally more restrictive than Bermuda laws and regulations, at any time in the future, it might be required to post deposits or maintain minimum surplus levels and might be prohibited from engaging in lines of business or from writing specified types of policies or contracts. Complying with those laws could have a material adverse effect on our ability to conduct business and on our financial condition and results of operations.

In recent years, the state insurance regulatory framework in the U.S. has come under increased federal scrutiny, and some state legislatures have considered or enacted laws that may alter or increase state authority to regulate insurance and reinsurance companies and insurance holding companies. Further, the NAIC and state insurance regulators are re-examining existing laws and regulations, specifically focusing on modifications to holding company regulations, interpretations of existing laws and the development of new laws. Any proposed or future legislation or NAIC initiatives may be more restrictive than current regulatory requirements or may result in higher costs.

In 2008, the BMA introduced new risk-based capital standards for insurance companies as a tool to assist the BMA both in measuring risk and in determining appropriate levels of capitalization. The amended Bermuda insurance statutes and regulations pursuant to the new risk-based supervisory approach required additional filings by insurers to be made to the BMA. The required statutory capital and surplus of our Bermuda-based operating subsidiary increased under the BSCR. While our Bermuda-based operating subsidiary currently has adequate capital and surplus under these new requirements, there can be no assurance that such requirement or similar regulations, in their current form or as may be amended in the future, will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Europe

Within the EU, the EU Reinsurance Directive of November 2005 (the "Directive") was adopted. Member States of the EU and the European Economic Area ("EEA") were required to implement this by December 2007, however, several Member States were late in the implementation of the Directive and, in a few cases, further legislation is still necessary. The Directive requires member countries to lift barriers to trade within the EU for companies that are domiciled in an EU country, therefore, allowing reinsurers established in the EU to provide services to all EEA states. As a result, Maiden LF, being established in Sweden and regulated by the Swedish Finansinspektionen ("Swedish FSA"), is able, subject to regulatory notifications and there being no objection from the Swedish FSA and the Member States concerned, to provide insurance and reinsurance services in all EEA Member States.

The Directive also does not prohibit EEA insurers from obtaining reinsurance from reinsurers licensed outside the EEA. As such, and subject to the specific rules in particular Member States, Maiden Bermuda may do business from Bermuda with insurers in EEA Member States, but it may not directly operate its reinsurance business within the EEA. Currently, each individual EEA Member State may impose conditions on reinsurance provided by Bermuda based reinsurers which could restrict their future provision of reinsurance to the EEA Member State concerned. A number of EEA Member States currently restrict the extent to which Bermudian reinsurers may promote their services in those Member States, and a few have certain prohibitions on the purchase of insurance from reinsurers not authorized in the EEA.

Solvency II was adopted by the European Parliament in April of 2009. The EU's executive body, the European Commission ("EC") had previously scheduled January 1, 2014 for implementation of Solvency II but this has been delayed until a start date of January 1, 2016. Solvency II is a principles-based regulatory regime which seeks to promote financial stability, enhance transparency and facilitate harmonization among insurance and reinsurance companies within the EU. Solvency II employs a risk-based approach to setting capital requirements for insurers and reinsurers. The Solvency II directive proposes that EU and non-EU reinsurers shall be treated in the same way provided that the non-EU jurisdiction is found to have a regulatory regime "equivalence" to that of

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Solvency II. Our reinsurance subsidiaries are headquartered in non-EU countries. If the regulatory regimes of such countries are found not to be equivalent to that of Solvency II and if our reinsurance subsidiaries fall below a certain minimum credit rating, then cedants in the EU may be prevented from recognizing the reinsurance provided to them by our reinsurance subsidiaries for the purpose of meeting their capital requirements or we may be required to provide additional collateral for our obligations to EU insurers.

On November 26, 2015, the EC recognized the BMA's prudential framework for (re)insurance and group supervision as being fully equivalent to regulatory standards applied to European reinsurance companies and insurance groups in accordance with the requirements of the Solvency II Directive subject to a three month review by the EC. Once the review is finalized, the equivalence decision will be applied for an unlimited period retroactively from January 1, 2016.

#### **United States**

In the U.S., licensed reinsurers are highly regulated and must comply with financial supervision standards comparable to those governing primary insurers. For additional discussion of the regulatory requirements to which Maiden Holdings, as a holding company, and its subsidiaries are subject, see Item 1 "Business — Regulatory Matters" in this Form 10-K. Any failure to comply with applicable laws could result in the imposition of significant restrictions on our ability to do business, and could also result in fines and other sanctions, any or all of which could materially adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. In addition, these statutes and regulations may, in effect, restrict the ability of our subsidiaries to write new business or, as indicated below, distribute funds to Maiden Holdings. In recent years, some U.S. state legislatures have considered or enacted laws that may alter or increase state authority to regulate insurance companies and insurance holding companies. Moreover, the NAIC and state insurance regulators regularly re-examine existing laws and regulations and interpretations of existing laws and develop new laws. The new interpretations or laws may be more restrictive or may result in higher costs to us than current statutory requirements.

In addition, the federal government has undertaken initiatives, including Dodd-Frank, in several areas that may impact the reinsurance industry, including tort reform, corporate governance and the taxation of reinsurance companies. Dodd-Frank became effective on July 21, 2011. In addition to introducing sweeping reform of the U.S. financial services industry, Dodd-Frank has changed the regulation of reinsurance in the U.S. Dodd-Frank prohibits a state from denying credit for reinsurance if the state of domicile of the insurer purchasing the reinsurance recognizes credit for reinsurance. At present, it appears the changes specific to reinsurance in Dodd-Frank will not have a material adverse effect for non-U.S. reinsurers such as us, however, there is still significant uncertainty as to how these and other provisions of Dodd-Frank will be implemented in practice.

Applicable insurance laws regarding the change of control of insurance companies may limit the acquisition of our shares.

Under Bermuda law, for so long as Maiden Holdings has an insurance subsidiary registered under the Insurance Act, the BMA may at any time, by written notice, object to a person holding 10% or more of its common shares if it appears to the BMA that the person is not or is no longer fit and proper to be such a holder. In such a case, the BMA may require the shareholder to reduce its holding of common shares in Maiden Holdings and direct, among other things, that such shareholder's voting rights attaching to the common shares shall not be exercisable. A person who does not comply with such a notice or direction from the BMA will be guilty of an offense and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$25,000 (and to an additional fine of \$500 for each day on which the offense has continued), or, if convicted on indictment, to a fine of \$100,000 and/or two years in prison. In addition, a person holding 10% or more of the company's common shares is not permitted to reduce or dispose of its holdings such that the proportion of the voting rights held by the shareholder will reach or fall below 10%, 20%, 33% or 50%, as the case

may be, unless that shareholder has served on the BMA a notice in writing that it intends to do so. A person who has reduced or disposed of his holding in the company, where the proportion of the voting rights held by him will have reached or has fallen below 10%, 20%, 33% or 50%, as the case may be, without notifying the BMA of their intention to do so will be guilty of an offense and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$25,000. This may discourage potential acquisition proposals and may delay, deter or prevent a change of control of our Company, including through transactions, and in particular unsolicited transactions, that some or all of our shareholders might consider to be desirable.

In addition to the foregoing, we are subject to U.S. state statutes governing insurance holding companies, which generally require that any person or entity desiring to acquire direct or indirect control of any of our U.S. insurance company subsidiaries obtain prior regulatory approval. "Control" is generally defined as the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of the company, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract (except a commercial contract for goods or non-management services) or otherwise. Under the laws of most U.S. states, any beneficial owner of 10% or more of the outstanding voting securities of an insurance company or its holding company is presumed to have acquired control, unless this presumption is rebutted. These laws may also discourage potential acquisition proposals and may delay, deter or prevent a change of control of our company, including through transactions, and in particular unsolicited transactions, that some or all of our shareholders might consider to be desirable.

Any person having a shareholding of 10% or more of the issued share capital in Maiden Holdings would be considered to have an indirect holding in our U.S. insurance subsidiaries at or over the 10% limit. Any change that resulted in the indirect acquisition or disposal of a shareholding of greater than or equal to 10% in the share capital of Maiden Holdings may require approval of the relevant U.S. state insurance regulators prior to the transaction.

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Changes in accounting principles and financial reporting requirements could result in material changes to our reported results and financial condition.

U.S. GAAP and related financial reporting requirements are complex, continually evolving and may be subject to varied interpretation by the relevant authoritative bodies. Such varied interpretations could result from differing views related to specific facts and circumstances. Changes in U.S. GAAP and financial reporting requirements, or in the interpretation of U.S. GAAP or those requirements, could result in material changes to our reported results and financial condition.

### **Employee Issues**

We are dependent on our key executives. We may not be able to attract and retain key employees or successfully integrate our new management team to fully implement our newly formulated business strategy.

Our success depends largely on our senior management, which includes, among others, Arturo M. Raschbaum, our President and CEO, Karen L. Schmitt, our CFO, Thomas H. Highet, our President of Maiden US, Patrick J. Haveron, our Executive Vice President and President of Maiden Bermuda, and Lawrence F. Metz, our Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary. We have entered into employment agreements with each of these executive officers, as well as other key employees. Our inability to attract and retain additional personnel or the loss of the services of any of our senior executives or key employees could delay or prevent us from fully implementing our business strategy and could significantly and negatively affect our business.

Our business in Bermuda could be adversely affected by Bermuda employment restrictions.

Currently, we employ seventeen non-Bermudians in our Bermuda office including our President and CEO, our CFO, Maiden Bermuda's President and Maiden Bermuda's Chief Underwriting Officer. We may hire additional non-Bermudians as our business grows. Under Bermuda law, non-Bermudians (other than spouses of Bermudians, holders of permanent residents' certificates and holders of working residents' certificates) may not engage in any gainful occupation in Bermuda without a valid government work permit. A work permit may be granted or renewed upon showing that, after proper public advertisement, no Bermudian, spouse of a Bermudian, or holder of a permanent resident's or working resident's certificate who meets the minimum standards reasonably required by the employer has applied for the job. Work permits are issued with expiry dates that range from one, three, five, six or, in certain circumstances for key executives, ten years. We may not be able to use the services of one or more of our non-Bermudian employees if we are not able to obtain work permits for them, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

### Corporate Governance

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

Maiden Holdings is a holding company. As a result, we do not have, and will not have, any significant operations or assets other than our ownership of the shares of our subsidiaries.

We expect that dividends and other permitted distributions from Maiden Bermuda, Maiden Global (and its subsidiaries), Maiden LF and Maiden NA (and its subsidiaries) will be our sole source of funds to pay dividends to common and preference shareholders and meet ongoing cash requirements, including debt service payments, if any, and other expenses. The inability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends in an amount sufficient to enable us to meet our cash requirements at the holding company level could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial

condition and results of operations. We are also subject to Bermuda regulatory constraints that will affect our ability to pay dividends on our shares and make other payments. Under the Companies Act, we may declare or pay a dividend out of distributable reserves only if we have reasonable grounds for believing that we are, or would after the payment be, able to pay our liabilities as they become due and if the realizable value of our assets would thereby not be less than our liabilities.

Maiden Bermuda is prohibited from declaring or paying dividends of more than 25% of its total statutory capital and surplus, as shown in its previous financial year statutory balance sheet, unless at least seven days before payment of the dividends it files with the BMA an affidavit that it will continue to satisfy the required margins following declaration of those dividends, though there is no additional requirement for BMA approval. In addition, Maiden Bermuda must obtain the BMA's prior approval before reducing its total statutory capital, as shown in its previous financial year statutory balance sheet, by 15% or more, such application should consist of an affidavit signed by at least two directors and the principal representative stating that in their opinion the proposed reduction in capital will not cause Maiden Bermuda to fail to meet its relevant margins, and such other information as the BMA may require. Maiden Bermuda is also restricted in paying dividends that would result in Maiden Bermuda failing to comply with the ECR as calculated based on the BSCR or cause Maiden Bermuda to fail to meet its relevant margins. At December 31, 2015, Maiden Bermuda has the ability to pay dividends or distributions not exceeding \$322.3 million without prior regulatory approval.

The timing and amount of any cash dividends on our common shares are at the discretion of the Board of Directors and will depend upon result of operations and cash flows, our financial position and capital requirements, and any other factors that our Board of Directors deems relevant.

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The ability of Maiden US to pay dividends is regulated, and under certain circumstances, restricted, pursuant to applicable law. If Maiden US cannot pay dividends to Maiden NA, Maiden NA may not, in turn, be able to pay dividends to Maiden Holdings. At December 31, 2015, Maiden US currently cannot pay dividends to Maiden NA.

A few significant shareholders may influence or control the direction of our business. If the ownership of our common shares continues to be highly concentrated, it may limit your ability and the ability of other shareholders to influence significant corporate decisions.