

CATERPILLAR INC
Form 11-K
June 28, 2016

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

FORM 11-K

(Mark
One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF
1934
For the transition period from _____ to _____.

Commission File No. 1-768

CATERPILLAR INC.
TAX DEFERRED SAVINGS PLAN
(Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below)

CATERPILLAR INC.
100 NE Adams Street, Peoria, Illinois 61629
(Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office)

Caterpillar Inc.
Tax Deferred Savings Plan
Financial Statements
December 31, 2015 and 2014

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and
Disclosure
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the
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have
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they
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not
applicable.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Plan Administrator of the
Caterpillar Inc. Tax Deferred Savings Plan

In our opinion, the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Caterpillar Inc. Tax Deferred Savings Plan (the "Plan") at December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2015 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the Plan was merged into the Caterpillar Inc. Tax Deferred Retirement Plan effective December 31, 2015.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Peoria, Illinois
June 28, 2016

Caterpillar Inc.
 Tax Deferred Savings Plan
 Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

December 31, 2015 and 2014

(in thousands of dollars)	2015	2014
Investments		
Interest in the Master Trust	\$	—\$320,663
Other investments – participant directed brokerage accounts	—	7,317
Total investments	—	327,980
Receivables		
Notes receivable from participants	—	5,538
Receivables for securities sold – participant directed brokerage accounts	—	480
Total receivables	—	6,018
Cash	—	42
Total assets	—	334,040
Liabilities		
Payables for securities purchased – participant directed brokerage accounts	—	(424)
Net assets available for benefits	\$	—\$333,616

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Caterpillar Inc.
 Tax Deferred Savings Plan
 Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
 Year Ended December 31, 2015

(in thousands of dollars)	2015
Investment income (loss)	
Plan interest in net investment income (loss) of the Master Trust	\$(22,353)
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments from participant directed brokerage accounts	(688)
Net investment income (loss)	(23,041)
Interest and dividend income	
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	187
Interest and dividend income from participant directed brokerage accounts	142
Total interest and dividend income	329
Contributions	
Participant	5,244
Deductions	
Participant withdrawals	(36,585)
Administrative expenses	(423)
Total deductions	(37,008)
Increase (decrease) in net assets available for benefits	(54,476)
Transfers	
Transfers from (to) other plans, net (Note 1)	(279,140)
Net increase (decrease) in net assets available for benefits	(333,616)
Net assets available for benefits	
Beginning of year	333,616
End of year	\$—

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Caterpillar Inc.
Tax Deferred Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015 and 2014

1. Plan Description

The following description of the Caterpillar Inc. Tax Deferred Savings Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan documents for more complete information regarding the Plan.

Effective December 31, 2015, the Plan was merged with and into the Caterpillar Inc. Tax Deferred Retirement Plan ("TDRP"). As a result, \$279 million of net assets available for benefits were transferred to TDRP.

General

The Plan provides a tax-deferred method for savings and investment under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") and is an "employee stock ownership plan", within the meaning of IRC Section 4975(e)(7). The Plan is maintained by Caterpillar Inc. (the "Company") for eligible employees of the Company and its subsidiaries that adopt the Plan (the "participating employers"). The Plan is governed by the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, as amended ("ERISA").

Participation

Employees of the participating employers who are covered under collective bargaining agreements to which the Plan is extended and who meet certain age, service and citizenship or residency requirements are eligible to participate in the Plan. Generally, participants of the Plan were hired prior to a specific date which varies by union (primarily January 10, 2005). Participation commences upon an eligible employee initiating the enrollment process promulgated by the Plan Administrator. Participating eligible employees (the "participants") elect to defer a portion of their eligible compensation until retirement through pre-tax and after-tax contributions.

Plan Amendment

On February 28, 2011, the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America ("UAW") and the Company reached a new six-year labor agreement that will expire on March 1, 2017. As a result of the agreement, effective December 31, 2015 the Plan was merged with and into TDRP and Plan participants that were eligible for the Non-Contributory Pension plan ("NCP") and the Plan became eligible for various provisions of TDRP including employee salary deferrals, employer matching contributions and an annual employer non-elective contribution.

In addition, the Company agreed to make a one-time contribution of \$8 million to TDRP in 2016. The contribution will be allocated equally among former Plan participants covered by the new labor agreement that are actively employed and are not eligible to retire under the terms of NCP on January 1, 2016. This one-time contribution was made by the Company in February 2016. Plan participants covered by other labor agreements were not impacted by the new UAW agreement.

Contributions

Participant contributions are made through a pre-tax deferral arrangement and an after-tax Roth 401(k) arrangement as elected by each participant. Participants who are at least 50 years old by the end of the calendar year are allowed to make a catch-up contribution for that year. Contributions are subject to certain limitations set by the IRC. Participants do not receive Company matching contributions.

Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan as discussed in Note 3. Participants generally may change their contribution elections and prospective investment elections on a daily basis and reallocate the investment of their existing account balance either daily or every seven business days (if subject to applicable trading restrictions) depending on the investment.

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Participant Accounts

Accounts are separately maintained for each participant. The participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, Plan earnings/losses and charged with administrative expenses. Participants are entitled to the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting and Distribution Provisions

Participants are fully vested in their participant contributions and the earnings thereon. Upon termination of employment for any reason, including death or retirement, the balance in participants' accounts is distributable in a single lump sum cash payment unless the participant (or beneficiary) elects to receive periodic withdrawals. Participants also have the option to leave their vested account balance in the Plan, subject to certain limitations. A participant also may elect to receive a distribution of Company shares up to the amount of the participant's balance in the Caterpillar Stock Fund. The value of any full or fractional shares paid in cash will be based upon the average price per share the Trustee receives from sales of Company shares for the purpose of making the distribution.

Notes Receivable from Participants

The Plan provides for participant loans against eligible participant account balances. Eligible participants obtain loans by filing a loan application with the Plan's recordkeeper and receiving all requisite approvals. Loan amounts are generally limited to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50 percent of the individual participant's vested account balance, with certain regulatory restrictions. Each loan specifies a repayment period that cannot extend beyond five years. However, the five-year limit shall not apply to any loan used to acquire any dwelling unit which within a reasonable time is to be used (determined at the time the loan is made) as the principal residence of the participant. Loans bear interest at the prime interest rate plus 1 percent, as determined at the time of loan origination. Loans that transferred to the Plan due to acquisitions are based upon the terms of the plan agreement in effect at the time of loan origination. Repayments, including interest, are made through payroll deductions and are credited to the individual participant's account balance. Participant loans are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest.

Administration

The Plan is administered by the Company. Pursuant to procedures adopted by the Company, responsibility for the Plan's non-financial matters has been delegated to the U.S. Benefits Manager and responsibility for the Plan's financial matters has been delegated to the Caterpillar Inc. Benefit Funds Committee. The Company and the Benefit Funds Committee have entered into a trust agreement with The Northern Trust Company (the "Trustee") to receive contributions, administer the assets of the Plan and distribute withdrawals pursuant to the Plan. The Company has retained Aon Hewitt to provide recordkeeping and administrative services as part of the administration of the Plan.

Plan Termination

The Company has the right under the Plan at any time to terminate the Plan, subject to provisions of ERISA and subject to the terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement. In the event of Plan termination, Plan assets will be distributed in accordance with the provisions of the Plan.

Plan Qualification

The Plan obtained its latest determination letter on March 16, 2015, in which the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") stated that the Plan and related trust, as then designed, were in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC. Although the Plan has been amended subsequent to the period covered by the determination letter, the Plan Administrator and the Plan's counsel believe that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC, and therefore, believe that the Plan is qualified and the related trust is tax-exempt.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Company has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan and has concluded that, as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress. The Company believes the Plan is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2007.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

New Accounting Guidance

Disclosures for Investments in Certain Entities That Calculate Net Asset Value per Share (or Its Equivalent) - In May 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued accounting guidance on disclosures for investments for which fair value is measured at net asset value (or its equivalent) using the practical expedient. The guidance removes the requirement to categorize in the fair value hierarchy investments for which fair value is measured at net asset value using the practical expedient. This guidance is effective for the Plan year ending December 31, 2016, with early adoption permitted. The Plan's management has elected to early adopt the new guidance effective December 31, 2015 and has applied it retrospectively. The adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on the Plan's financial statements.

Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contracts, Plan Investment Disclosures and Measurement Date Practical Expedient - In July 2015, the FASB issued a three-part update focused on reducing the complexity in employee benefit plan accounting. Part I designates contract value as the only required measure for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts and removes the requirement to disclose an adjustment to reconcile contract value to fair value. Part II removed the requirements for plans to disclose individual investments that represent 5 percent or more of net assets available for benefits and the net appreciation or depreciation for investments by general type (will still be required to be disclosed in aggregate). In addition, the update requires that investments only need to be grouped by general type, eliminating the need to disaggregate investments in multiple ways. Finally, Part II removes the requirement to provide the plan's investment strategy for investment funds that are measured using the net asset value per share practical expedient and file a U.S. Department of Labor Form 5500 as a direct filing entity. Part III is not applicable to the Plan. All parts of this guidance are effective for the Plan year ending December 31, 2016, with early adoption permitted. The Plan's management has elected to early adopt Part I and Part II of the new guidance effective December 31, 2015, and have applied them retrospectively. The adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on the Plan's financial statements.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Investments

The Plan's interest in the Master Trust and investments included in the participant directed brokerage accounts are valued as described in Note 4. Interest on investments is recorded as earned. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis.

Administrative Expenses

The Plan charges a \$5 per month per participant fee, which is transferred monthly from the Caterpillar Investment Trust into a holding account to pay expenses as they come due. The amount accumulated in the holding account is used to pay certain administrative expenses that have been approved by the Benefit Funds Committee including recordkeeping fees, trustee fees, plan education and audit fees. The Company pays any administrative expenses,

excluding applicable expenses paid directly from participant accounts described below, which exceed amounts collected from participants annually by the Plan. If amounts collected from participants exceed certain administrative expenses, the Company determines whether a corrective action is appropriate which could include a reallocation of funds back to participant accounts or a structural change to the participant fees.

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In addition, certain administrative expenses are paid directly from participant accounts. These administrative expenses include quarterly fees for participants invested in the participant directed brokerage option, quarterly fees for participants that utilize managed account services and processing fees for qualified domestic relations orders.

Participant Withdrawals

Participant withdrawals are recorded when paid.

Transfers

As discussed in Note 1, the Plan was merged with and into TDRP and as a result \$279 million of net assets available for benefits were transferred to TDRP.

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The Company believes the techniques and assumptions used in establishing these amounts are appropriate.

Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in a combination of stocks, bonds, fixed income securities, common collective trusts, mutual funds and other investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities could occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participant account balances and the amounts reported in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

3. Investment Programs

Investment options that are currently available to participants consist of three main categories: Target Retirement Funds, core investment options (including the Caterpillar Stock Fund) and a participant directed brokerage option.

The Target Retirement Funds are portfolios created primarily from the Plan's core investment options. The goal of these funds is to give participants investment options that provide an age appropriate asset allocation. Each Target Retirement Fund contains a blend of stock and bond investments. The proportion of stocks and bonds in each fund is based on an anticipated retirement date and will change over time. These funds automatically change the asset allocation over time to maintain an appropriate level of risk for the retirement horizon. Below are the Target Retirement Funds for participants based upon their birth year with the assumption that participants will retire at the age of 65.

Target Retirement Funds	Birth Years	Asset Allocation
Target Retirement Income Fund	Before 1954	37% stocks, 53% bonds and 10% cash equivalents
Target Retirement 2020 Fund	1954-1958	51% stocks, 47% bonds and 2% cash equivalents
Target Retirement 2025 Fund	1959-1963	63% stocks and 37% bonds
Target Retirement 2030 Fund	1964-1968	73% stocks and 27% bonds
Target Retirement 2035 Fund	1969-1973	80% stocks and 20% bonds
Target Retirement 2040 Fund	1974-1978	85% stocks and 15% bonds
Target Retirement 2045 Fund	1979-1983	86% stocks and 14% bonds
Target Retirement 2050 Fund	1984-1988	86% stocks and 14% bonds
Target Retirement 2055 Fund	After 1988	86% stocks and 14% bonds

In addition to the Target Retirement Funds, the Plan also provides participants with core investment options which are made up of actively managed investment funds and index funds. The following table provides the current lineup of investment funds and index funds that are currently available to participants.

Menu of Core Investment Options

U.S. Large Cap Equity Funds	Capital Preservation Funds
1 Caterpillar Stock Fund	8 Stable Principal Fund
2 U.S. Large Cap Equity Fund	9 Money Market Fund
3 U.S. Large Cap Equity Index Fund	
U.S. Small/Mid Cap Equity Funds	Fixed Income Fund
4 U.S. Small/Mid Cap Equity Fund	10 Bond Fund
5 U.S. Small/Mid Cap Index Fund	11 Bond Index Fund
International Equity Funds	
6 International Equity Fund	
7 International Equity Index Fund	

The Caterpillar Stock Fund consists of Caterpillar Inc. common stock and a small amount of cash and/or cash equivalents.

The participant directed brokerage option allows participants to invest outside of the standard Plan options. Hewitt Financial Services is the custodian for funds invested through this participant directed brokerage option. The types of investments offered through the participant directed brokerage option are individual company stocks (excluding Caterpillar Inc. common stock), exchange traded funds, registered investment companies and fixed income securities such as bonds.

Participants also have the option to enroll in professional account management through the Plan's recordkeeper for additional, separately charged fees.

4. Master Trust

Substantially all of the Plan's investments are held in the Caterpillar Investment Trust, which was established for the investment of the Plan and other Company sponsored retirement plans. The Northern Trust Company is the Trustee of the Caterpillar Investment Trust and the custodian for funds invested through the core investments and the Target Retirement Funds (the funds invested through the core investments and the Target Retirement Funds are referred to as the "Master Trust" herein). The Plan and the other Company sponsored retirement plans pool their investments in the Master Trust in exchange for a percentage of participation in the Master Trust.

The percentage of the Plan's participation in the Master Trust was determined based on the December 31, 2015 and 2014 net asset values for the investment fund options chosen by participants of each plan. As disclosed in Note 1, the Plan's assets were transferred to TDRP, and therefore, the Plan's interest in the net assets of the Master Trust at December 31, 2015 was zero. At December 31, 2014, the Plan's interest in the net assets of the Master Trust was 3.68 percent.

The following table presents the net assets of the Master Trust as of December 31, 2015 and 2014.

(in thousands of dollars)	2015	2014
ASSETS		
Investments, at fair value		
Caterpillar Inc. common stock	\$1,792,897	\$2,402,654
Common stocks	2,003,873	2,185,040
Preferred stocks	10,973	13,512
Preferred corporate bonds and notes	15,958	143,578
Other corporate bonds and notes	517,205	390,430
U.S. government securities	444,729	541,224
Common collective trusts	2,690,638	2,626,444
Registered investment companies	825	37,832
Interest bearing cash	28,653	105,007
Other investments, net	106,204	98,038
	7,611,955	8,543,759
Investments, at contract value		
Fully benefit-responsive synthetic guaranteed investment contracts	502,144	333,209
Other assets		
Cash	1,073	978
Receivables for securities sold	66,531	81,521
Accrued income	13,339	11,895
	80,943	94,394
Total Master Trust assets	8,195,042	8,971,362
LIABILITIES		
Payables for securities purchased	(114,968)	(244,917)
Net Master Trust assets	\$8,080,074	\$8,726,445
Plan's interest in net Master Trust assets with fully benefit-responsive synthetic guaranteed investment contracts at contract value	\$—	\$320,663

As the Plan has a specific interest in the Master Trust, the below table provides the investment risk specific to the Plan based upon the investment programs available to participants as of December 31, 2015 and 2014.

Investment Program	2015	2014
Caterpillar Stock Fund	—	29.4%
U.S. Large Cap Equity Funds	—	9.3%
U.S. Small / Mid Cap Equity Funds	—	3.0%
International Equity Funds	—	4.5%
Capital Preservation Funds	—	9.4%
Fixed Income Funds	—	6.7%
Target Retirement Funds	—	37.7%

The fully benefit-responsive synthetic guaranteed investment contracts are valued at contract value as described in the Investment Contracts section of Note 4. All other investments are stated at fair value and are valued as described below:

Common and preferred stocks: Primarily valued at quoted market prices.

Preferred and other corporate bonds and notes: Valued based on matrices or models from reputable pricing vendors and may be determined by factors which include, but are not limited to market quotations, yields, maturities, call features, ratings, institutional size trading in similar groups of securities and developments related to specific securities.

U.S. government securities: Valued based on matrices or models from reputable pricing vendors.

Common collective trusts: Primarily stated at net asset value using the practical expedient, which represents the fair value of the underlying investments.

Registered investment companies: Valued at quoted market prices that represent the net asset value of shares held by the Master Trust.

Interest bearing cash: Stated at cost which approximates fair value.

Other investments, net: Primarily valued at quoted market prices, when available, or are valued based on matrices or models from reputable pricing vendors.

The preceding methods may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Company believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following tables summarize investments measured at fair value based on net asset value per share using the practical expedient that have unfunded commitments or redemption restrictions as of December 31, 2015 and 2014. (in thousands of dollars)

December 31, 2015	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Restrictions	Redemption Frequency (if currently eligible)	Redemption Notice Period
Common collective trusts:					
Stocks	\$1,944,244	—	None	Daily	None
Short-term investments	\$295,233	—	None	Daily	None
U.S. Government securities	\$419,900	—	None	Daily	None
Private placement - Mortgages	\$31,261	—	Yes ¹	Monthly ¹	Yes ¹

¹ Redemptions allowed once per month and are restricted to available cash on hand as determined by the trustee of the fund. A notice of redemptions required five days prior to the last business day of the month.

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(in thousands of dollars)

December 31, 2014	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Restrictions	Redemption Frequency (if currently eligible)	Redemption Notice Period
Common collective trusts:					
Stocks	\$1,858,738	—	None	Daily	None
Short-term investments	\$379,505	—	None	Daily	None
U.S. Government securities	\$366,017	—	None	Daily	None
Private placement - Mortgages	\$22,184	—	Yes ¹	Monthly ¹	Yes ¹

¹ Redemptions allowed once per month and are restricted to available cash on hand as determined by the trustee of the fund. A notice of redemptions required five days prior to the last business day of the month.

The following table presents the changes in net assets for the Master Trust for the year ended December 31, 2015.

(in thousands of dollars)	2015
Changes in Net Assets:	
Caterpillar Inc. common stock net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	\$(623,655)
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	(155,121)
Interest	50,777
Caterpillar Inc. common stock dividends	78,294
Dividends	40,797
Other income	2,835
Net investment income (loss)	(606,073)
Transfers, net ¹	(26,588)
Administrative expenses not directly allocated to the plans and other expenses ²	(13,710)
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(646,371)
Net assets	
Beginning of the year	8,726,445
End of the year	\$8,080,074

¹ Represents items recorded at the plan level such as contributions, benefit payments, plan transfers and plan specific administrative expenses.

² Primarily related to fees and expenses paid to professional money managers who manage the investment funds.

Dividend income is recorded as of the ex-dividend date. Interest is recorded daily as earned. The Master Trust presents in Net investment income (loss), the net appreciation (depreciation) in the fair value of its investments which consists of the realized gains (losses) and the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on those investments. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis.

Investment Contracts

As discussed in Note 2, the Plan's management has early adopted new accounting guidance related to the reporting of fully benefit responsive investment contracts. This new accounting guidance designates contract value as the only required measure for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts. Accordingly, the synthetic GICs have been reported at contract value in the Plan's Interest in the Master Trust in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

The Master Trust holds fixed income fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, referred to as synthetic guaranteed investment contracts ("synthetic GICs"), in which an investment contract is issued by an insurance company or a financial services institution (American General Life Insurance Company, Monumental Life Insurance Company and State Street Bank and Trust Company). The synthetic GICs, designed to help preserve principal and provide a stable crediting rate of interest, are fully benefit-responsive and provide that plan participant initiated withdrawals will be paid at contract value. The synthetic GICs are primarily backed by a portfolio of fixed income investments, which are effectively owned by the Plan. The assets underlying the synthetic GICs are maintained by a third party custodian, separate from the contract issuer's general assets. The synthetic GICs are obligated to provide an interest rate not less than zero. These contracts provide that realized and unrealized gains and losses of the underlying assets are not reflected immediately in the assets of the fund, but rather are amortized, usually over the duration of the underlying assets, through adjustments to the future interest crediting rate. The future interest crediting rate can be adjusted periodically and is primarily based on the current yield-to-maturity of the covered investment, plus or minus amortization of the difference between the market value and contract value of the covered investment over the duration of the covered investment at the time of computation. The issuers guarantee that all qualified participant withdrawals will occur at contract value. There are no reserves against contract value for credit risks of the contract issuers or otherwise.

Employer initiated events, if material, may affect the underlying economics of the investment contracts. These events include plant closings, layoffs, plan termination, bankruptcy or reorganization, merger, early retirement incentive programs, tax disqualification of a trust or other events. The occurrence of one or more employer initiated events could limit the Plan's ability to transact at contract value with the issuers. Except for the employer initiated events above, the synthetic GICs do not permit the issuers to terminate the agreement prior to the scheduled maturity date at an amount different from contract value. As of December 31, 2015, the Company does not believe that the occurrence of an event that would limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the issuers is probable.

Fair Value Measurements

The guidance on fair value measurements defines fair value as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. This guidance also specifies a fair value hierarchy based upon the observability of inputs used in valuation techniques. Observable inputs (highest level) reflect market data obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs (lowest level) reflect internally-developed market assumptions. In accordance with this guidance, fair value measurements are classified under the following hierarchy:

Level 1 - Quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets.

Level 2 - Quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs or significant value-drivers are observable in active markets.

Level 3 - Model-derived valuations in which one or more significant inputs or significant value-drivers are unobservable.

When available, quoted market prices are used to determine fair value and such measurements are classified within Level 1. In some cases where market prices are not available, observable market based inputs are used to calculate fair

value, in which case the measurements are classified within Level 2. If quoted or observable market prices are not available, fair value is based upon internally developed models that use, where possible, current market-based parameters such as interest rates, yield curves and currency rates. These measurements are classified within Level 3.

Fair value measurements are classified according to the lowest level input or value-driver that is significant to the valuation. A measurement may therefore be classified within Level 3 even though there may be significant inputs that are readily observable.

The availability of observable market data is monitored to assess the appropriate classification of financial instruments within the fair value hierarchy. Changes in economic conditions or model-based valuation techniques may require the transfer of financial instruments from one fair value level to another. In such instances, the transfer is reported at the end of the reporting period.

The significance of transfers between levels was evaluated based upon the nature of the financial instrument and size of the transfer relative to total net Master Trust assets. For the year ended December 31, 2015, there were no transfers into or out of Levels 1, 2 or 3.

Master Trust assets that are measured at fair value as of December 31, 2015 and 2014 are summarized below. Investments measured at net asset value per share using the practical expedient have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy, but are presented in order to permit reconciliation to the table that presents the net assets of the Master Trust.

(in thousands of dollars)	Fair Value Measurements as of December 31, 2015			
	Level 1	Level 2	Measured at NAV	Total
Stocks	\$3,804,452	\$3,291	\$—	\$3,807,743
Corporate bonds and notes	—	533,163	—	533,163
U.S. government securities	—	444,729	—	444,729
Common collective trusts	—	—	2,690,638	2,690,638
Registered investment companies	825	—	—	825
Interest bearing cash	28,653	—	—	28,653
Other investments, net	63,373	42,831	—	106,204
Total assets	\$3,897,303	\$1,024,014	\$2,690,638	\$7,611,955

(in thousands of dollars)	Fair Value Measurements as of December 31, 2014			
	Level 1	Level 2	Measured at NAV	Total
Stocks	\$4,599,050	\$2,156	\$—	\$4,601,206
Corporate bonds and notes	—	534,008	—	534,008
U.S. government securities	—	541,224	—	541,224
Common collective trusts	—	—	2,626,444	2,626,444
Registered investment companies	37,832	—	—	37,832
Interest bearing cash	105,007	—	—	105,007
Other investments, net	43,610	54,428	—	98,038
Total assets	\$4,785,499	\$1,131,816	\$2,626,444	\$8,543,759

The participant directed brokerage accounts Plan assets are not included in the Master Trust and are primarily related to investments in registered investment companies. The participant directed brokerage accounts assets that are measured at fair value as of December 31, 2015 and 2014 are summarized below:

	Fair Value Measurements as of December 31
Participant directed brokerage accounts (in thousands of dollars)	2015 2014
Level 1	\$ —\$ 6,039
Level 2	— 1,278
Total assets	\$ —\$ 7,317

Derivatives

Within the Master Trust, certain investment managers may use derivative financial instruments to meet fund objectives and manage exposure to foreign currency, interest rate and market fluctuations. The following is a description of the types of derivative contracts the Master Trust may use:

Credit contracts: Credit default swaps are used to manage exposure to credit risk. A credit default swap is a contract in which, for a fee, a protection seller agrees to pay a protection buyer an amount resulting from a credit event on a reference entity. If there is no credit default event or settlement trigger, as defined by the contract, then the protection seller makes no payment to the protection buyer and receives only the contractually specified fee. However, if a credit event occurs, the protection seller will be required to make a payment to the protection buyer.

Equity contracts: Equity index futures contracts are used by investment managers to invest excess cash into equity benchmarks, such as the MSCI EAFE and S&P 500. These contracts are settled in cash daily. Investment managers may also invest in equity rights and warrants which gives the holder the right to purchase securities from the issuer at a specific price within a certain time frame.

Foreign exchange contracts: Foreign currency exchange rate movements create a degree of risk by affecting the U.S. dollar value of instruments denominated in foreign currencies. Forward contracts are used by investment managers to manage foreign exchange rate risks associated with certain investments. These contracts are presented gross (buy side of the contract as a receivable and sell side of the contract as a payable) in the table that presents the net assets of the Master Trust.

Interest rate contracts: Interest rate movements create a degree of risk by affecting the amount of interest payments and the value of debt instruments. Investment managers use interest rate swaps, total return swaps, futures contracts, options and swaptions to manage interest rate risk.

The fair value of these derivative contracts are included in Other investments, net, Receivables for securities sold and Payables for securities purchased in the Net Master Trust assets. The related appreciation (depreciation) is included in Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments in the Net investment income (loss) of the Master Trust. As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, the fair value of these derivative financial instruments was \$1.1 million and \$0.5 million, respectively. In 2015, the effect of these derivatives on Net investment income (loss) of the Master Trust was \$2.5 million, which is primarily related to interest rate and foreign exchange contracts.

5. Parties-in-Interest

The Trustee is authorized, under contract provisions and by exemption under 29 CFR 408(b) of ERISA regulations, to invest in securities under its control and in securities of the Company.

The investment options available to the participants, as summarized in Note 3, include the Caterpillar Stock Fund. The Master Trust also invests in the U.S. Large Cap Equity Index Fund, U.S. Small/Mid Cap Index Fund, International Equity Index Fund, Money Market Fund, and the Bond Index Fund, which are sponsored and managed by The Northern Trust Company, the Trustee for the Master Trust. The Northern Trust Company also invests excess cash in equitization accounts and manages liquidity pools for the actively managed investment funds. The custodian of the funds invested in the participant directed brokerage option is Hewitt Financial Services, a subsidiary of Aon Hewitt which currently provides third party administrative and other plan related services to the Plan. These transactions, and related fees, as well as participant loans, qualify as exempt party-in-interest transactions.

6. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The following table reconciles the Net assets available for benefits per the audited financial statements to the Form 5500 Annual Report:

(in thousands of dollars)	2015	2014
Net assets available for benefits per financial statements	\$	—\$333,616
Certain deemed distributions of participant loans	—	(901)
Adjustment from contract value to fair value for fully benefit-responsive synthetic guaranteed investment contracts	—	79
Net assets per Form 5500	\$	—\$332,794

The following table reconciles the Plan's Increase (decrease) in net assets available for benefits per the audited financial statements to the Form 5500 Annual Report:

(in thousands of dollars)	2015
Plan's Increase (decrease) in net assets available for benefits per financial statements	\$(54,476)
Change in certain deemed distributions of participant loans	901
Change in adjustment from contract value to fair value for fully benefit-responsive synthetic guaranteed investment contracts	(79)
Net income (loss) per Form 5500	\$(53,654)

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
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23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
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