

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC

Form 10-Q

November 06, 2015

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

Quarterly Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the Quarterly Period Ended September 30, 2015

Commission File No. 1-13653

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

Incorporated under the Laws of Ohio

301 East Fourth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

(513) 579-2121

IRS Employer I.D. No. 31-1544320

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, and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

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

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

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

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

As of November 1, 2015, there were 87,349,107 shares of the Registrant's Common Stock outstanding, excluding 14.9 million shares owned by subsidiaries.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|---|-----------|
| <u>Part I — Financial Information</u> | |
| <u>Item 1 — Financial Statements:</u> | |
| <u>Consolidated Balance Sheet</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statement of Earnings</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income</u> | <u>4</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity</u> | <u>5</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows</u> | <u>6</u> |
| <u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u> | <u>7</u> |
| <u>Item 2 — Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | <u>36</u> |
| <u>Item 3 — Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure about Market Risk</u> | <u>87</u> |
| <u>Item 4 — Controls and Procedures</u> | <u>87</u> |
| | |
| <u>Part II — Other Information</u> | |
| <u>Item 2 — Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u> | <u>87</u> |
| <u>Item 6 — Exhibits</u> | <u>88</u> |
| <u>Signature</u> | <u>88</u> |

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

PART I

ITEM I — FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (UNAUDITED)

(Dollars in Millions)

| | September 30, 2015 | December 31, 2014 |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 894 | \$ 1,343 |
| Investments: | | |
| Fixed maturities, available for sale at fair value (amortized cost — \$31,868 and \$29,074) | 33,114 | 30,734 |
| Fixed maturities, trading at fair value | 269 | 266 |
| Equity securities, available for sale at fair value (cost — \$1,590 and \$1,283) | 1,658 | 1,501 |
| Equity securities, trading at fair value | 173 | 195 |
| Mortgage loans | 994 | 1,117 |
| Policy loans | 221 | 228 |
| Real estate and other investments | 809 | 826 |
| Total cash and investments | 38,132 | 36,210 |
| Recoverables from reinsurers | 3,151 | 3,238 |
| Prepaid reinsurance premiums | 604 | 469 |
| Agents' balances and premiums receivable | 976 | 889 |
| Deferred policy acquisition costs | 993 | 821 |
| Assets of managed investment entities | 3,613 | 3,108 |
| Other receivables | 1,241 | 910 |
| Variable annuity assets (separate accounts) | 595 | 662 |
| Other assets | 1,051 | 1,027 |
| Goodwill | 201 | 201 |
| Total assets | \$ 50,557 | \$ 47,535 |
| Liabilities and Equity: | | |
| Unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses | \$ 8,061 | \$ 7,872 |
| Unearned premiums | 2,238 | 1,956 |
| Annuity benefits accumulated | 26,026 | 23,764 |
| Life, accident and health reserves | 2,159 | 2,175 |
| Payable to reinsurers | 724 | 645 |
| Liabilities of managed investment entities | 3,287 | 2,819 |
| Long-term debt | 880 | 1,061 |
| Variable annuity liabilities (separate accounts) | 595 | 662 |
| Other liabilities | 1,681 | 1,527 |
| Total liabilities | 45,651 | 42,481 |
| Shareholders' equity: | | |
| Common Stock, no par value | | |
| — 200,000,000 shares authorized | 87 | 88 |
| — 87,327,172 and 87,708,793 shares outstanding | | |
| Capital surplus | 1,195 | 1,152 |
| Retained earnings: | | |
| Appropriated — managed investment entities | — | (2) |
| Unappropriated | 2,981 | 2,914 |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax | 461 | 727 |
| Total shareholders' equity | 4,724 | 4,879 |
| Noncontrolling interests | 182 | 175 |
| Total equity | 4,906 | 5,054 |
| Total liabilities and equity | \$ 50,557 | \$ 47,535 |

2

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF EARNINGS (UNAUDITED)

(In Millions, Except Per Share Data)

| | Three months ended September 30, | | Nine months ended September 30, | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Property and casualty insurance net earned premiums | \$1,173 | \$1,132 | \$3,104 | \$2,817 |
| Life, accident and health net earned premiums | 28 | 27 | 80 | 82 |
| Net investment income | 425 | 377 | 1,217 | 1,117 |
| Realized gains (losses) on: | | | | |
| Securities (*) | (16 |) 13 | 2 | 44 |
| Subsidiaries | 5 | — | (157 |) — |
| Income (loss) of managed investment entities: | | | | |
| Investment income | 40 | 29 | 112 | 84 |
| Loss on change in fair value of assets/liabilities | (11 |) (25 |) (16 |) (35 |
| Other income | 40 | 28 | 177 | 75 |
| Total revenues | 1,684 | 1,581 | 4,519 | 4,184 |
| Costs and Expenses: | | | | |
| Property and casualty insurance: | | | | |
| Losses and loss adjustment expenses | 825 | 784 | 2,002 | 1,815 |
| Commissions and other underwriting expenses | 336 | 302 | 987 | 869 |
| Annuity benefits | 208 | 157 | 543 | 491 |
| Life, accident and health benefits | 31 | 37 | 96 | 119 |
| Annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses | 46 | 46 | 148 | 122 |
| Interest charges on borrowed money | 18 | 18 | 57 | 53 |
| Expenses of managed investment entities | 28 | 19 | 80 | 60 |
| Other expenses | 93 | 73 | 251 | 219 |
| Total costs and expenses | 1,585 | 1,436 | 4,164 | 3,748 |
| Earnings before income taxes | 99 | 145 | 355 | 436 |
| Provision for income taxes | 33 | 54 | 115 | 155 |
| Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests | 66 | 91 | 240 | 281 |
| Less: Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests | 3 | (25 |) 17 | (44 |
| Net Earnings Attributable to Shareholders | \$63 | \$116 | \$223 | \$325 |
| Earnings Attributable to Shareholders per Common Share: | | | | |
| Basic | \$0.72 | \$1.30 | \$2.54 | \$3.64 |
| Diluted | \$0.71 | \$1.28 | \$2.49 | \$3.56 |
| Average number of Common Shares: | | | | |
| Basic | 87.5 | 89.0 | 87.6 | 89.4 |
| Diluted | 89.3 | 90.9 | 89.4 | 91.4 |
| Cash dividends per Common Share | \$0.25 | \$0.22 | \$0.75 | \$0.66 |
| (*) Consists of the following: | | | | |
| Realized gains before impairments | \$19 | \$24 | \$71 | \$57 |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|---|------|---|-----|---|------|---|
| Losses on securities with impairment | (35 |) | (11 |) | (69 |) | (13 |) |
| Non-credit portion recognized in other comprehensive income (loss) | — | | — | | — | | — | |
| Impairment charges recognized in earnings | (35 |) | (11 |) | (69 |) | (13 |) |
| Total realized gains (losses) on securities | \$(16 |) | \$13 | | \$2 | | \$44 | |

3

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (UNAUDITED)
(In Millions)

| | Three months ended | | Nine months ended | | |
|--|--------------------|--------|-------------------|---------|---|
| | September 30, | | September 30, | | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | |
| Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests | \$66 | \$91 | \$240 | \$281 | |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax: | | | | | |
| Net unrealized gains (losses) on securities: | | | | | |
| Unrealized holding gains (losses) on securities arising during the period | (110 |) (73 |) (255 |) 194 | |
| Reclassification adjustment for realized (gains) losses included in net earnings | 10 | (8 |) (3 |) (28 |) |
| Total net unrealized gains (losses) on securities | (100 |) (81 |) (258 |) 166 | |
| Net unrealized gains on cash flow hedges | 2 | — | 2 | — | |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | (7 |) (2 |) (15 |) (5 |) |
| Pension and other postretirement plans adjustments | 1 | — | 1 | — | |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax | (104 |) (83 |) (270 |) 161 | |
| Total comprehensive income (loss), net of tax | (38 |) 8 | (30 |) 442 | |
| Less: Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests | 1 | (27 |) 13 | (41 |) |
| Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to shareholders | \$(39 |) \$35 | \$(43 |) \$483 | |

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY (UNAUDITED)
(Dollars in Millions)

| | Common Shares | Shareholders' Equity | | | | Accumulated Other Comp Total | Noncon- trolling Interests | Total Equity |
|---|------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| | | Common Stock and Capital Surplus | Retained Earnings Approp. | Unapprop. | Inc. (Loss) | | | |
| Balance at December 31, 2014 | 87,708,793 | \$ 1,240 | \$(2) | \$ 2,914 | \$ 727 | \$ 4,879 | \$ 175 | \$ 5,054 |
| Cumulative effect of accounting change | — | — | 2 | — | — | 2 | — | 2 |
| Net earnings | — | — | — | 223 | — | 223 | 17 | 240 |
| Other comprehensive loss | — | — | — | — | (266) | (266) | (4) | (270) |
| Dividends on Common Stock | — | — | — | (66) | — | (66) | — | (66) |
| Shares issued: | | | | | | | | |
| Exercise of stock options | 1,157,288 | 46 | — | — | — | 46 | — | 46 |
| Other benefit plans | 268,947 | 6 | — | — | — | 6 | — | 6 |
| Dividend reinvestment plan | 10,359 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Stock-based compensation expense | — | 14 | — | — | — | 14 | — | 14 |
| Shares acquired and retired | (1,767,240) | (25) | — | (88) | — | (113) | — | (113) |
| Shares exchanged — benefit plans | (33,795) | — | — | (2) | — | (2) | — | (2) |
| Forfeitures of restricted stock | (17,180) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other | — | — | — | — | — | — | (6) | (6) |
| Balance at September 30, 2015 | 87,327,172 | \$ 1,282 | \$— | \$ 2,981 | \$ 461 | \$ 4,724 | \$ 182 | \$ 4,906 |
| Balance at December 31, 2013 | 89,513,386 | \$ 1,213 | \$ 49 | \$ 2,777 | \$ 560 | \$ 4,599 | \$ 170 | \$ 4,769 |
| Net earnings | — | — | — | 325 | — | 325 | (44) | 281 |
| Other comprehensive income | — | — | — | — | 158 | 158 | 3 | 161 |
| Allocation of losses of managed investment entities | — | — | (47) | — | — | (47) | 47 | — |
| Dividends on Common Stock | — | — | — | (59) | — | (59) | — | (59) |
| Shares issued: | | | | | | | | |
| Exercise of stock options | 972,847 | 34 | — | — | — | 34 | — | 34 |
| Other benefit plans | 227,782 | 7 | — | — | — | 7 | — | 7 |
| Dividend reinvestment plan | 9,749 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| | — | 14 | — | — | — | 14 | — | 14 |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

Stock-based compensation
expense

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|---------|-------|----------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| Shares acquired and retired (2,209,007) | (31) | — | (96) | — | (127) | — | (127) | |
| Shares exchanged — benefit plans (23,790) | — | — | (1) | — | (1) | — | (1) | |
| Other | — | — | — | — | — | (2) | (2) | |
| Balance at September 30, 2014 | 88,490,967 | \$1,238 | \$2 | \$ 2,946 | \$ 718 | \$4,904 | \$174 | \$5,078 |

5

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (UNAUDITED)

(In Millions)

| | Nine months ended September 30, | |
|--|------------------------------------|---------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Operating Activities: | | |
| Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests | \$240 | \$281 |
| Adjustments: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 118 | 95 |
| Annuity benefits | 543 | 491 |
| Realized (gains) losses on investing activities | 90 | (48) |
| Net purchases of trading securities | (9) | (39) |
| Deferred annuity and life policy acquisition costs | (164) | (144) |
| Change in: | | |
| Reinsurance and other receivables | (468) | (459) |
| Other assets | 68 | (38) |
| Insurance claims and reserves | 491 | 505 |
| Payable to reinsurers | 79 | 162 |
| Other liabilities | (45) | (92) |
| Managed investment entities' assets/liabilities | (53) | (44) |
| Other operating activities, net | 17 | 4 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 907 | 674 |
| Investing Activities: | | |
| Purchases of: | | |
| Fixed maturities | (5,395) | (5,358) |
| Equity securities | (449) | (356) |
| Mortgage loans | (105) | (355) |
| Real estate, property and equipment | (65) | (34) |
| Businesses | — | (267) |
| Proceeds from: | | |
| Maturities and redemptions of fixed maturities | 2,426 | 2,252 |
| Repayments of mortgage loans | 231 | 74 |
| Sales of fixed maturities | 235 | 262 |
| Sales of equity securities | 193 | 97 |
| Sales of real estate, property and equipment | 96 | 11 |
| Cash and cash equivalents of businesses acquired | — | 1,078 |
| Managed investment entities: | | |
| Purchases of investments | (1,167) | (1,075) |
| Proceeds from sales and redemptions of investments | 685 | 1,153 |
| Other investing activities, net | (100) | 83 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (3,415) | (2,435) |
| Financing Activities: | | |
| Annuity receipts | 3,333 | 2,725 |
| Annuity surrenders, benefits and withdrawals | (1,487) | (1,289) |
| Net transfers from variable annuity assets | 32 | 36 |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | |
|---|-------|---------|---|
| Additional long-term borrowings | — | 145 | |
| Reductions of long-term debt | (182) | (1) |) |
| Issuances of managed investment entities' liabilities | 693 | 538 | |
| Retirements of managed investment entities' liabilities | (192) | (571) |) |
| Issuances of Common Stock | 47 | 35 | |
| Repurchases of Common Stock | (113) | (127) |) |
| Cash dividends paid on Common Stock | (65) | (59) |) |
| Other financing activities, net | (7) | — | |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | 2,059 | 1,432 | |
| Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents | (449) | (329) |) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | 1,343 | 1,639 | |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | \$894 | \$1,310 | |

6

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INDEX TO NOTES

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| A. | Accounting Policies | H. | Managed Investment Entities |
| B. | Acquisitions and Sale of Businesses | I. | Goodwill and Other Intangibles |
| C. | Segments of Operations | J. | Long-Term Debt |
| D. | Fair Value Measurements | K. | Shareholders' Equity |
| E. | Investments | L. | Income Taxes |
| F. | Derivatives | M. | Contingencies |
| G. | Deferred Policy Acquisition Costs | | |

A. Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation The accompanying consolidated financial statements for American Financial Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries (“AFG”) are unaudited; however, management believes that all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring accruals unless otherwise disclosed herein) necessary for fair presentation have been made. The results of operations for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results to be expected for the year. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the instructions to Form 10-Q and, therefore, do not include all information and footnotes necessary to be in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”).

Certain reclassifications have been made to prior periods to conform to the current year’s presentation. All significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated. The results of operations of companies since their formation or acquisition are included in the consolidated financial statements. Events or transactions occurring subsequent to September 30, 2015, and prior to the filing of this Form 10-Q, have been evaluated for potential recognition or disclosure herein.

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Changes in circumstances could cause actual results to differ materially from those estimates.

Fair Value Measurements Accounting standards define fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. The standards establish a hierarchy of valuation techniques based on whether the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability (“inputs”) are observable or unobservable. Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs reflect AFG’s assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Other than recording an estimated loss on the pending sale of its long-term care business (see Note B — “Acquisitions and Sale of Businesses”), AFG did not have any significant nonrecurring fair value measurements in the first nine months of 2015.

Investments Fixed maturity and equity securities classified as “available for sale” are reported at fair value with unrealized gains and losses included in accumulated other comprehensive income (“AOCI”) in AFG’s Balance Sheet. Fixed maturity and equity securities classified as “trading” are reported at fair value with changes in unrealized holding gains or losses during the period included in net investment income. Mortgage and policy loans are carried primarily at the aggregate unpaid balance.

Premiums and discounts on fixed maturity securities are amortized using the interest method. Mortgage-backed securities (“MBS”) are amortized over a period based on estimated future principal payments, including prepayments. Prepayment assumptions are reviewed periodically and adjusted to reflect actual prepayments and changes in expectations.

Gains or losses on securities are determined on the specific identification basis. When a decline in the value of a specific investment is considered to be other-than-temporary at the balance sheet date, a provision for impairment is charged to earnings (included in realized gains (losses) on securities) and the cost basis of that investment is reduced. If management can assert that it does not intend to sell an impaired fixed maturity security and it is not more likely than not that it will have to sell the security before recovery of its amortized cost basis, then the other-than-temporary impairment is separated into two components: (i) the amount related to credit losses (recorded in earnings) and (ii) the amount related to all other factors (recorded in other comprehensive income). The credit-related portion of an other-than-temporary impairment is measured by comparing a security’s amortized cost to the present value of its current expected cash flows discounted at its effective yield prior to the

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

impairment charge. Both components are shown in the Statement of Earnings. If management intends to sell an impaired security, or it is more likely than not that it will be required to sell the security before recovery, an impairment charge to earnings is recorded to reduce the amortized cost of that security to fair value.

Derivatives Derivatives included in AFG's Balance Sheet are recorded at fair value. Changes in fair value of derivatives are included in earnings, unless the derivatives are designated and qualify as highly effective cash flow hedges. Derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting under GAAP consist primarily of (i) components of certain fixed maturity securities (primarily interest-only MBS) and (ii) the equity-based component of certain annuity products (included in annuity benefits accumulated) and related call options (included in other investments) designed to be consistent with the characteristics of the liabilities and used to mitigate the risk embedded in those annuity products.

To qualify for hedge accounting, at the inception of a derivative contract, AFG formally documents the relationship between the terms of the hedge and the hedged items and its risk management objective. This documentation includes defining how hedge effectiveness and ineffectiveness will be measured on a retrospective and prospective basis.

Changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualify as highly effective cash flow hedges are recorded in AOCI and are reclassified into earnings when the variability of the cash flows from the hedged items impacts earnings. Any hedge ineffectiveness is immediately recorded in current period earnings. When the change in the fair value of a qualifying cash flow hedge is included in earnings, it is included in the same line item in the Consolidated Statement of Earnings as the cash flows from the hedged item. AFG uses interest rate swaps that qualify as highly effective cash flow hedges to mitigate interest rate risk related to certain floating-rate securities included in AFG's portfolio of fixed maturity securities.

For derivatives that are designated and qualify as highly effective fair value hedges, changes in the fair value of the derivative, along with changes in the fair value of the hedged item attributable to the hedged risk, are recognized in current period earnings. AFG has entered into an interest rate swap that qualifies as a highly effective fair value hedge to mitigate the interest rate risk associated with fixed-rate long-term debt by economically converting certain fixed-rate debt obligations to floating-rate obligations. Since the terms of the swap match the terms of the hedged debt, changes in the fair value of the swap are offset by changes in the fair value of the hedged debt attributable to changes in interest rates. Accordingly, the net impact on AFG's current period earnings is that the interest expense associated with the hedged debt is effectively recorded at the floating rate.

Goodwill Goodwill represents the excess of cost of subsidiaries over AFG's equity in their underlying net assets. Goodwill is not amortized, but is subject to an impairment test at least annually. An entity is not required to complete the quantitative annual goodwill impairment test on a reporting unit if the entity elects to perform a qualitative analysis and determines that it is more likely than not that the reporting unit's fair value exceeds its carrying amount.

Reinsurance Amounts recoverable from reinsurers are estimated in a manner consistent with the claim liability associated with the reinsured policies. AFG's property and casualty insurance subsidiaries report as assets (i) the estimated reinsurance recoverable on paid and unpaid losses, including an estimate for losses incurred but not reported, and (ii) amounts paid or due to reinsurers applicable to the unexpired terms of policies in force. Payable to reinsurers includes ceded premiums due to reinsurers as well as ceded premiums retained by AFG's property and casualty insurance subsidiaries under contracts to fund ceded losses as they become due. AFG's insurance subsidiaries also assume reinsurance from other companies. Earnings on reinsurance assumed is recognized based on information received from ceding companies.

A subsidiary cedes life insurance policies to a third party on a funds withheld basis whereby the subsidiary retains the assets (securities) associated with the reinsurance contract. Interest is credited to the reinsurer based on the actual investment performance of the retained assets. This reinsurance contract is considered to contain an embedded derivative (that must be adjusted to fair value) because the yield on the payable is based on a specific block of the ceding company's assets, rather than the overall creditworthiness of the ceding company. AFG determined that changes in the fair value of the underlying portfolio of fixed maturity securities is an appropriate measure of the value of the embedded derivative. The securities related to this contract are classified as "trading." The adjustment to fair value on the embedded derivative offsets the investment income recorded on the adjustment to fair value of the related trading portfolio.

Deferred Policy Acquisition Costs ("DPAC") Policy acquisition costs (principally commissions, premium taxes and certain underwriting and policy issuance costs) directly related to the successful acquisition or renewal of an insurance contract are deferred. DPAC also includes capitalized costs associated with sales inducements offered to fixed annuity policyholders such as enhanced interest rates and premium and persistency bonuses.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

For the property and casualty companies, DPAC is limited based upon recoverability without any consideration for anticipated investment income and is charged against income ratably over the terms of the related policies. A premium deficiency is recognized if the sum of expected claims costs, claims adjustment expenses and unamortized acquisition costs exceed the related unearned premiums. A premium deficiency is first recognized by charging any unamortized acquisition costs to expense to the extent required to eliminate the deficiency. If the premium deficiency is greater than unamortized acquisition costs, a liability is accrued for the excess deficiency and reported with unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses.

DPAC related to annuities is deferred to the extent deemed recoverable and amortized, with interest, in relation to the present value of actual and expected gross profits on the policies. Expected gross profits consist principally of estimated future investment margin (estimated future net investment income less interest credited on policyholder funds) and surrender, mortality, and other life and annuity policy charges, less death, annuitization and guaranteed withdrawal benefits in excess of account balances and estimated future policy administration expenses. To the extent that realized gains and losses result in adjustments to the amortization of DPAC related to annuities, such adjustments are reflected as components of realized gains (losses) on securities.

DPAC related to traditional life and health insurance is amortized over the expected premium paying period of the related policies, in proportion to the ratio of annual premium revenues to total anticipated premium revenues. See “Life, Accident and Health Reserves” below for details on the impact of loss recognition on the accounting for traditional life and health insurance contracts.

DPAC includes the present value of future profits on business in force of annuity and life, accident and health insurance companies acquired (“PVFP”). PVFP represents the portion of the costs to acquire companies that is allocated to the value of the right to receive future cash flows from insurance contracts existing at the date of acquisition. PVFP is amortized with interest in relation to expected gross profits of the acquired policies for annuities and universal life products and in relation to the premium paying period for traditional life and health insurance products.

DPAC and certain other balance sheet amounts related to annuity, long-term care and life businesses are also adjusted, net of tax, for the change in expense that would have been recorded if the unrealized gains (losses) from securities had actually been realized. These adjustments are included in unrealized gains (losses) on marketable securities, a component of AOCI in AFG’s Balance Sheet.

Managed Investment Entities A company is considered the primary beneficiary of, and therefore must consolidate, a variable interest entity (“VIE”) based primarily on its ability to direct the activities of the VIE that most significantly impact that entity’s economic performance and the obligation to absorb losses of, or receive benefits from, the entity that could potentially be significant to the VIE.

AFG manages, and has investments in, collateralized loan obligations (“CLOs”) that are VIEs (see Note H — “Managed Investment Entities”). Both the management fees (payment of which is subordinate to other obligations of the CLOs) and the investments in the CLOs are considered variable interests. AFG has determined that it is the primary beneficiary of the CLOs because (i) its role as asset manager gives it the power to direct the activities that most significantly impact the economic performance of the CLOs and (ii) it has exposure to CLO losses (through its investments in the CLO debt tranches) and the right to receive benefits (through its subordinated management fees and returns on its investments), both of which could potentially be significant to the CLOs.

In February 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) 2015-02, which amends certain consolidation accounting guidance, including the VIE guidance that applies to collateralized financing entities such as CLOs. The new guidance, which AFG intends to adopt effective January 1, 2016, will affect how fee arrangements with CLO asset managers impact the determination of the primary beneficiary of these entities. Due to the significance of AFG’s investments in the CLOs that it manages, management does not expect the new guidance to impact the consolidation of its currently outstanding CLOs. The new guidance also impacts the consolidation analysis that applies to limited partnerships and similar entities. Management does not expect this guidance to impact the accounting for AFG’s existing investments in those entities.

Because AFG has no right to use the CLO assets and no obligation to pay the CLO liabilities, the assets and liabilities of the CLOs are shown separately in AFG’s Balance Sheet. AFG has elected the fair value option for reporting on the CLO assets and liabilities to improve the transparency of financial reporting related to the CLOs. The net gain or loss from accounting for the CLO assets and liabilities at fair value is presented separately in AFG’s Statement of Earnings.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

Effective January 1, 2015, AFG adopted (on a modified retrospective basis) ASU 2014-13, which addresses the diversity in practice regarding the accounting for assets and liabilities of a consolidated collateralized financing entity (such as a CLO) when an election has been made to account for that entity's assets and liabilities at fair value. The fair values of a CLO's assets may differ from the separately measured fair values of its liabilities even though the CLO liabilities only have recourse to the CLO assets. Under the new guidance, AFG has elected to set the carrying value of the CLO liabilities equal to the fair value of the CLO assets (which have more observable fair values) as an alternative to reporting those liabilities at a separately measured fair value. CLO earnings attributable to AFG's shareholders continue to be measured by the change in the fair value of AFG's investments in the CLOs and management fees earned.

Prior to the adoption of this guidance, measuring both the CLO assets and CLO liabilities at separately determined fair values resulted in a difference between the carrying value of the CLO assets and the carrying value of the CLO liabilities that was not attributable to AFG's ownership interest in the CLOs and CLO earnings (losses) that were not attributable to AFG's shareholders. Accordingly, in periods prior to 2015, the difference between the fair value of the CLO assets and the fair value of the CLO liabilities was recorded as "appropriated retained earnings — managed investment entities" in AFG's Balance Sheet and the earnings (losses) that were not attributable to AFG's shareholders were included in net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests in AFG's Statement of Earnings.

Under the guidance adopted in 2015, there is no longer any excess carrying value of CLO assets over the carrying value of CLO liabilities to be reported as "appropriated retained earnings — managed investment entities" in AFG's Balance Sheet or any CLO earnings to be attributed to noncontrolling interests in AFG's Statement of Earnings. In accordance with the guidance, the amount reported as "appropriated retained earnings — managed investment entities" at December 31, 2014 was reclassified to "liabilities of managed investment entities" on January 1, 2015 as the cumulative effect of an accounting change. While the new guidance impacted the presentation of individual CLO-related line items in AFG's Statement of Earnings, it had no overall impact on AFG's Net Earnings Attributable to Shareholders.

At September 30, 2015, assets and liabilities of managed investment entities included \$92 million in assets and \$77 million in liabilities of a temporary warehousing entity that was established in connection with the formation of a new CLO that is expected to close in the first quarter of 2016. Upon closing, all warehoused assets are expected to be transferred to the new CLO and the liabilities will be repaid.

Unpaid Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses The net liabilities stated for unpaid claims and for expenses of investigation and adjustment of unpaid claims represent management's best estimate and are based upon (i) the accumulation of case estimates for losses reported prior to the close of the accounting period on direct business written; (ii) estimates received from ceding reinsurers and insurance pools and associations; (iii) estimates of unreported losses (including possible development on known claims) based on past experience; (iv) estimates based on experience of expenses for investigating and adjusting claims; and (v) the current state of the law and coverage litigation. Establishing reserves for asbestos, environmental and other mass tort claims involves considerably more judgment than other types of claims due to, among other things, inconsistent court decisions, an increase in bankruptcy filings as a result of asbestos-related liabilities, novel theories of coverage, and judicial interpretations that often expand theories of recovery and broaden the scope of coverage.

Loss reserve liabilities are subject to the impact of changes in claim amounts and frequency and other factors. Changes in estimates of the liabilities for losses and loss adjustment expenses are reflected in the Statement of Earnings in the period in which determined. Despite the variability inherent in such estimates, management believes

that the liabilities for unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses are adequate.

Annuity Benefits Accumulated Annuity receipts and benefit payments are recorded as increases or decreases in annuity benefits accumulated rather than as revenue and expense. Increases in this liability for interest credited are charged to expense and decreases for policy charges are credited to other income.

For certain products, annuity benefits accumulated also includes reserves for accrued persistency and premium bonuses, guaranteed withdrawals and excess benefits expected to be paid on future deaths and annuitizations (“EDAR”). The liabilities for EDAR and guaranteed withdrawals are accrued for and modified using assumptions consistent with those used in determining DPAC and DPAC amortization, except that amounts are determined in relation to the present value of total expected assessments. Total expected assessments consist principally of estimated future investment margin, surrender, mortality, and other life and annuity policy charges, and unearned revenues once they are recognized as income.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

Annuity benefits accumulated also includes amounts advanced from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

Unearned Revenue Certain upfront policy charges on annuities are deferred as unearned revenue (included in other liabilities) and recognized in net earnings using the same assumptions and estimated gross profits used to amortize DPAC.

Life, Accident and Health Reserves Liabilities for future policy benefits under traditional life, accident and health policies are computed using the net level premium method. Computations are based on the original projections of investment yields, mortality, morbidity and surrenders and include provisions for unfavorable deviations unless a loss recognition event (premium deficiency) occurs. Claim reserves and liabilities established for accident and health claims are modified as necessary to reflect actual experience and developing trends.

For long-duration contracts (such as traditional life and long-term care policies), loss recognition occurs when, based on current expectations as of the measurement date, existing contract liabilities plus the present value of future premiums (including reasonably expected rate increases) are not expected to cover the present value of future claims payments and related settlement and maintenance costs (excluding overhead) as well as unamortized acquisition costs. If a block of business is determined to be in loss recognition, a charge is recorded in earnings in an amount equal to the excess of the present value of expected future claims costs and unamortized acquisition costs over existing reserves plus the present value of expected future premiums (with no provision for adverse deviation). The charge is recorded first to reduce unamortized acquisition costs and then as an additional reserve (if unamortized acquisition costs have been reduced to zero).

In addition, reserves for traditional life and long-term care policies are subject to adjustment for loss recognition charges that would have been recorded if the unrealized gains from securities had actually been realized. This adjustment is included in unrealized gains (losses) on marketable securities, a component of AOCI in AFG's Balance Sheet.

Variable Annuity Assets and Liabilities Separate accounts related to variable annuities represent the fair value of deposits invested in underlying investment funds on which AFG earns a fee. Investment funds are selected and may be changed only by the policyholder, who retains all investment risk.

AFG's variable annuity contracts contain a guaranteed minimum death benefit ("GMDB") to be paid if the policyholder dies before the annuity payout period commences. In periods of declining equity markets, the GMDB may exceed the value of the policyholder's account. A GMDB liability is established for future excess death benefits using assumptions together with a range of reasonably possible scenarios for investment fund performance that are consistent with DPAC capitalization and amortization assumptions.

Premium Recognition Property and casualty premiums are earned generally over the terms of the policies on a pro rata basis. Unearned premiums represent that portion of premiums written which is applicable to the unexpired terms of policies in force. On reinsurance assumed from other insurance companies or written through various underwriting organizations, unearned premiums are based on information received from such companies and organizations. For traditional life, accident and health products, premiums are recognized as revenue when legally collectible from policyholders. For interest-sensitive life and universal life products, premiums are recorded in a policyholder account, which is reflected as a liability. Revenue is recognized as amounts are assessed against the policyholder account for mortality coverage and contract expenses.

Noncontrolling Interests For Balance Sheet purposes, noncontrolling interests represents the interests of shareholders other than AFG in consolidated entities. In the Statement of Earnings, net earnings and losses attributable to noncontrolling interests represents such shareholders' interest in the earnings and losses of those entities.

Income Taxes Deferred income taxes are calculated using the liability method. Under this method, deferred income tax assets and liabilities are determined based on differences between financial reporting and tax bases and are measured using enacted tax rates. A valuation allowance is established to reduce total deferred tax assets to an amount that will more likely than not be realized.

AFG recognizes the tax benefits of uncertain tax positions only when the position is more likely than not to be sustained under examination by the appropriate taxing authority. Interest and penalties on AFG's reserve for uncertain tax positions are recognized as a component of tax expense.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

Stock-Based Compensation All share-based grants are recognized as compensation expense on a straight-line basis over their vesting periods based on their calculated fair value at the date of grant. AFG uses the Black-Scholes pricing model to measure the fair value of employee stock options. See Note K — “Shareholders’ Equity” for further information.

Benefit Plans AFG provides retirement benefits to qualified employees of participating companies through the AFG 401(k) Retirement and Savings Plan, a defined contribution plan. AFG makes all contributions to the retirement fund portion of the plan and matches a percentage of employee contributions to the savings fund. Company contributions are expensed in the year for which they are declared. AFG and many of its subsidiaries provide health care and life insurance benefits to eligible retirees. AFG also provides postemployment benefits to former or inactive employees (primarily those on disability) who were not deemed retired under other company plans. The projected future cost of providing these benefits is expensed over the period employees earn such benefits.

Earnings Per Share Although basic earnings per share only considers shares of common stock outstanding during the period, the calculation of diluted earnings per share includes the following adjustments to weighted average common shares related to stock-based compensation plans: third quarter of 2015 and 2014 — 1.8 million and 1.9 million; first nine months of 2015 and 2014 — 1.8 million and 2.0 million, respectively.

AFG’s weighted average diluted shares outstanding excludes the following anti-dilutive potential common shares related to stock compensation plans: third quarter of 2015 and 2014 — 0.9 million and 1.2 million; first nine months of 2015 and 2014 — 1.2 million and 1.0 million, respectively. Adjustments to net earnings attributable to shareholders in the calculation of diluted earnings per share were nominal in the 2015 and 2014 periods.

Statement of Cash Flows For cash flow purposes, “investing activities” are defined as making and collecting loans and acquiring and disposing of debt or equity instruments and property and equipment. “Financing activities” include obtaining resources from owners and providing them with a return on their investments, borrowing money and repaying amounts borrowed. Annuity receipts, surrenders, benefits and withdrawals are also reflected as financing activities. All other activities are considered “operating.” Short-term investments having original maturities of three months or less when purchased are considered to be cash equivalents for purposes of the financial statements.

B. Acquisitions and Sale of Businesses

Acquisition of Summit Holding Southeast, Inc. On April 1, 2014, AFG acquired Summit Holding Southeast, Inc. and its related companies (“Summit”), from Liberty Mutual Insurance for \$259 million using cash on hand at the parent company. Immediately following the acquisition, AFG made a capital contribution of \$140 million, bringing its total capital investment in the Summit business to \$399 million. Summit, which is based in Lakeland, Florida and is a leading provider of specialty workers’ compensation solutions in the southeastern United States, generated \$539 million in net written premiums in 2014, including \$410 million after the acquisition date. Summit continues to operate under the Summit brand as a member of AFG’s Great American Insurance Group. Summit is included in the Specialty casualty sub-segment and generated \$128 million and \$386 million in net earned premiums in the third quarter and first nine months of 2015, respectively.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

Expenses related to the acquisition were less than \$1 million and were expensed as incurred. The purchase price was allocated to the acquired assets and liabilities of Summit based on management's best estimate of fair value as of the acquisition date. The allocation of the purchase price is shown in the table below (in millions):

| | | |
|---|---------|-------|
| Total purchase price | | \$259 |
| Tangible assets acquired: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$1,078 | |
| Fixed maturities, available for sale | 92 | |
| Recoverables from reinsurers | 116 | |
| Agents' balances and premiums receivable | 41 | |
| Deferred tax assets, net (a) | 67 | |
| Other receivables | 21 | |
| Other assets | 11 | |
| Total tangible assets acquired | | 1,426 |
| Liabilities acquired: | | |
| Unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses | 1,142 | |
| Unearned premiums | 3 | |
| Payable to reinsurers | 3 | |
| Other liabilities | 66 | |
| Total liabilities acquired | | 1,214 |
| Net tangible assets acquired, at fair value | | 212 |
| Excess purchase price over net tangible assets acquired | | \$47 |
| Allocation of excess purchase price: | | |
| Intangible assets acquired (b) | \$47 | |
| Deferred tax on intangible assets acquired (a) | (16 |) |
| Goodwill | 16 | |
| | | \$47 |

(a) AFG's net deferred tax assets are included in Other assets in AFG's Consolidated Balance Sheet at September 30, 2015.

(b) Included in Other assets in AFG's Consolidated Balance Sheet.

Acquisition of Renewal Rights On March 27, 2014, AFG completed a renewal rights agreement with Selective Insurance Company of America to acquire Selective's pooled public entity book of business for \$8 million. At the acquisition date, this book of business had approximately \$38 million in in-force gross written premiums. The acquired business generated \$33 million of gross written premiums and \$23 million of net written premiums in 2014.

Sale of Long-term Care Business AFG ceased new sales of long-term care insurance, which is included in the run-off long-term care and life segment, in January 2010. AFG has continued to service and accept renewal premiums on its outstanding policies, which are guaranteed renewable. On April 13, 2015, AFG reached an agreement to sell substantially all of its run-off long-term care insurance business to HC2 Holdings, Inc. ("HC2") for an initial payment of \$7 million in cash and HC2 securities (subject to adjustment based on certain items, including operating results through the closing date). AFG may also receive up to \$13 million of additional proceeds from HC2 in the future based on the release of certain statutory liabilities of the legal entities sold by AFG. The legal entities involved in the

transaction, United Teacher Associates Insurance Company and Continental General Insurance Company, contain substantially all of AFG's long-term care insurance reserves, as well as smaller blocks of annuity and life insurance business. The transaction is expected to close before the end of 2015, subject to customary conditions, including receipt of required regulatory approvals.

Including the significant tax benefit from the sale, AFG expects to receive after-tax proceeds of between \$105 million and \$115 million from the transaction (based on final proceeds received and final net assets at closing), excluding any potential additional proceeds from the release of statutory liabilities.

Based on the status of ongoing negotiations at the end of the first quarter, management determined that the potential sale of the run-off long-term care business met the GAAP "held for sale" criteria as of March 31, 2015. Accordingly, AFG recorded a loss

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

in the first quarter of 2015 to establish a liability (included in other liabilities in AFG's Balance Sheet) equal to the excess of the net carrying value of the assets and liabilities to be disposed over the estimated net sale proceeds. The loss may be adjusted at the closing date based on the final proceeds received and final net assets disposed. At March 31, 2015, and September 30, 2015, the carrying value of the assets and liabilities to be disposed represented approximately 4% of both AFG's assets and liabilities and are detailed in the table below.

Under accounting guidance effective on January 1, 2015, only disposals of components of an entity that represent a strategic shift and that have a major effect on a reporting entity's operations and financial results are reported as discontinued operations. Due to the run-off nature of the business and the immaterial expected impact on AFG's results of operations, the pending sale of AFG's long-term care insurance business has not been reported as a discontinued operation.

The estimated impact of the pending sale of the run-off long-term care insurance business, which was recorded in AFG's financial statements as of March 31, 2015, is shown below (in millions):

| | | |
|---|--|----------|
| Estimated sale proceeds (*) | | \$14 |
| Assets of businesses sold: | | |
| Cash and investments | | \$1,397 |
| Recoverables from reinsurers | | 603 |
| Deferred policy acquisition costs | | 15 |
| Other receivables | | 14 |
| Other assets | | 7 |
| Goodwill | | 2 |
| Total assets | | 2,038 |
| Liabilities of businesses sold: | | |
| Annuity benefits accumulated | | 270 |
| Life, accident and health reserves | | 1,537 |
| Other liabilities | | 27 |
| Total liabilities | | 1,834 |
| Reclassify net unrealized gain on marketable securities | | 28 |
| Net assets of businesses sold | | \$176 |
| Pretax loss on subsidiaries recorded in the first quarter of 2015 | | \$(162) |

(*) Includes fair value of the potential additional consideration and is shown net of estimated expenses.

Revenues, costs and expenses, and earnings before income taxes for the subsidiaries to be sold were (in millions):

| | Three months ended | | Nine months ended | |
|--|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|------|
| | September 30, 2015 | 2014 | September 30, 2015 | 2014 |
| Life, accident and health net earned premiums: | | | | |
| Long-term care | \$19 | \$18 | \$56 | \$56 |
| Life operations | 3 | 3 | 8 | 8 |
| Net investment income | 19 | 18 | 56 | 57 |
| Realized gains (losses) on securities and other income | (4) | (1) | (6) | 1 |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|------|-----|
| Total revenues | 37 | 38 | 114 | 122 |
| Annuity benefits | 2 | 2 | 6 | 6 |
| Life, accident and health benefits: | | | | |
| Long-term care | 21 | 27 | 67 | 84 |
| Life operations | 3 | 3 | 8 | 9 |
| Annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses | 3 | 3 | 9 | 10 |
| Other expenses | 4 | 3 | 13 | 10 |
| Total costs and expenses | 33 | 38 | 103 | 119 |
| Earnings before income taxes | \$4 | \$— | \$11 | \$3 |

14

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

C. Segments of Operations

AFG manages its business as four segments: (i) Property and casualty insurance, (ii) Annuity, (iii) Run-off long-term care and life and (iv) Other, which includes holding company costs and the operations attributable to the noncontrolling interests of the managed investment entities.

AFG reports its property and casualty insurance business in the following Specialty sub-segments: (i) Property and transportation, which includes physical damage and liability coverage for buses, trucks and recreational vehicles, inland and ocean marine, agricultural-related products and other property coverages, (ii) Specialty casualty, which includes primarily excess and surplus, general liability, executive liability, professional liability, umbrella and excess liability, specialty coverage in targeted markets, customized programs for small to mid-sized businesses and workers' compensation insurance, and (iii) Specialty financial, which includes risk management insurance programs for leasing and financing institutions (including collateral and lender-placed mortgage property insurance), surety and fidelity products and trade credit insurance. Premiums and underwriting profit included under Other specialty represent business assumed by AFG's internal reinsurance program from the operations that make up AFG's other Specialty sub-segments and amortization of deferred gains on retroactive reinsurance transactions related to the sales of businesses in prior years. AFG's annuity business markets traditional fixed and fixed-indexed annuities in the retail, financial institutions and education markets. AFG's reportable segments and their components were determined based primarily upon similar economic characteristics, products and services.

The following tables (in millions) show AFG's revenues and earnings before income taxes by segment and sub-segment.

| | Three months ended | | Nine months ended | |
|---|--------------------|-------|-------------------|---------|
| | September 30, | | September 30, | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Revenues | | | | |
| Property and casualty insurance: | | | | |
| Premiums earned: | | | | |
| Specialty | | | | |
| Property and transportation | \$517 | \$504 | \$1,157 | \$1,129 |
| Specialty casualty | 503 | 486 | 1,496 | 1,266 |
| Specialty financial | 131 | 115 | 380 | 348 |
| Other specialty | 22 | 27 | 71 | 74 |
| Total premiums earned | 1,173 | 1,132 | 3,104 | 2,817 |
| Net investment income | 83 | 76 | 245 | 219 |
| Other income (*) | 2 | 4 | 61 | 8 |
| Total property and casualty insurance | 1,258 | 1,212 | 3,410 | 3,044 |
| Annuity: | | | | |
| Net investment income | 317 | 287 | 915 | 851 |
| Other income | 22 | 20 | 68 | 57 |
| Total annuity | 339 | 307 | 983 | 908 |
| Run-off long-term care and life | 49 | 48 | 144 | 147 |
| Other | 49 | 1 | 137 | 41 |
| Total revenues before realized gains (losses) | 1,695 | 1,568 | 4,674 | 4,140 |
| Realized gains (losses) on securities | (16 |) 13 | 2 | 44 |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Realized gain (loss) on subsidiaries | 5 | — | (157 |) — |
| Total revenues | \$1,684 | \$1,581 | \$4,519 | \$4,184 |

(*) Includes pretax income of \$51 million (before noncontrolling interest) from the sale of the Le Pavillon Hotel in the second quarter of 2015.

15

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

| | Three months ended September 30, | | Nine months ended September 30, | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|---------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Earnings Before Income Taxes | | | | |
| Property and casualty insurance: | | | | |
| Underwriting: | | | | |
| Specialty | | | | |
| Property and transportation | \$20 | \$11 | \$14 | \$(1) |
| Specialty casualty | 31 | 32 | 96 | 100 |
| Specialty financial | 26 | 21 | 72 | 46 |
| Other specialty | 7 | 6 | 13 | 13 |
| Other lines (a) | (69) |) (24) |) (70) |) (25) |
| Total underwriting | 15 | 46 | 125 | 133 |
| Investment and other income, net (b) | 75 | 64 | 272 | 180 |
| Total property and casualty insurance | 90 | 110 | 397 | 313 |
| Annuity | 67 | 86 | 230 | 243 |
| Run-off long-term care and life | 6 | 1 | 14 | (3) |
| Other (c) | (53) |) (65) |) (131) |) (161) |
| Total earnings before realized gains (losses) and income taxes | 110 | 132 | 510 | 392 |
| Realized gains (losses) on securities | (16) |) 13 | 2 | 44 |
| Realized gain (loss) on subsidiaries | 5 | — | (157) |) — |
| Total earnings before income taxes | \$99 | \$145 | \$355 | \$436 |

(a) Includes special charges of \$67 million and \$24 million in the third quarter of 2015 and 2014, respectively, to increase asbestos and environmental (“A&E”) reserves.

(b) Includes pretax income of \$51 million (before noncontrolling interest) from the sale of the Le Pavillon Hotel in the second quarter of 2015.

Primarily holding company expenses, including a \$4 million loss on retirement of debt in the third quarter of 2015 and special charges of \$12 million and \$6 million in the third quarters of 2015 and 2014, respectively, to increase A&E reserves related to AFG’s former railroad and manufacturing operations. Also includes losses of managed (c) investment entities attributable to noncontrolling interest of \$29 million for the third quarter and \$47 million for the first nine months of 2014. Following the adoption of new guidance in the first quarter of 2015, there are no longer earnings (losses) of managed investment entities that are attributable to noncontrolling interests. See Note A — “Accounting Policies — Managed Investment Entities.”

D. Fair Value Measurements

Accounting standards for measuring fair value are based on inputs used in estimating fair value. The three levels of the hierarchy are as follows:

Level 1 — Quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets (markets in which transactions occur with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis). AFG’s Level 1 financial instruments consist primarily of publicly traded equity securities and highly liquid government bonds for which quoted market prices in active markets are available and short-term investments of managed investment entities.

Level 2 — Quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets (markets in which there are few transactions, the prices are not current, price quotations

vary substantially over time or among market makers, or in which little information is released publicly); and valuations based on other significant inputs that are observable in active markets. AFG's Level 2 financial instruments include separate account assets, corporate and municipal fixed maturity securities, mortgage-backed securities ("MBS") and investments of managed investment entities priced using observable inputs. Level 2 inputs include benchmark yields, reported trades, corroborated broker/dealer quotes, issuer spreads and benchmark securities. When non-binding broker quotes can be corroborated by comparison to similar securities priced using observable inputs, they are classified as Level 2.

Level 3 — Valuations derived from market valuation techniques generally consistent with those used to estimate the fair values of Level 2 financial instruments in which one or more significant inputs are unobservable or when the market for a security

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

exhibits significantly less liquidity relative to markets supporting Level 2 fair value measurements. The unobservable inputs may include management's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use based on the best information available in the circumstances. AFG's Level 3 is comprised of financial instruments whose fair value is estimated based on non-binding broker quotes or internally developed using significant inputs not based on, or corroborated by, observable market information, and prior to 2015 certain liabilities of the CLOs.

Under new guidance adopted in the first quarter of 2015, discussed in Note A — “Accounting Policies — Managed Investment Entities,” AFG has elected to set the carrying value of the CLO liabilities equal to the fair value of the CLO assets (which have more observable fair values) as an alternative to reporting those liabilities at separately measured fair values. Following the adoption of the new guidance, the CLO liabilities are categorized within the fair value hierarchy on the same basis (proportionally) as the related CLO assets. Since the portion of the CLO liabilities allocated to Level 3 is derived from the fair value of the CLO assets, beginning with the first quarter of 2015, these amounts are excluded from the progression of Level 3 financial instruments.

AFG's management is responsible for the valuation process and uses data from outside sources (including nationally recognized pricing services and broker/dealers) in establishing fair value. AFG's internal investment professionals are a group of approximately 20 analysts whose primary responsibility is to manage AFG's investment portfolio. These professionals monitor individual investments as well as overall industries and are active in the financial markets on a daily basis. The group is led by AFG's chief investment officer, who reports directly to one of AFG's Co-CEOs. Valuation techniques utilized by pricing services and prices obtained from external sources are reviewed by AFG's internal investment professionals who are familiar with the securities being priced and the markets in which they trade to ensure the fair value determination is representative of an exit price. To validate the appropriateness of the prices obtained, these investment managers consider widely published indices (as benchmarks), recent trades, changes in interest rates, general economic conditions and the credit quality of the specific issuers. In addition, the Company communicates directly with the pricing service regarding the methods and assumptions used in pricing, including verifying, on a test basis, the inputs used by the service to value specific securities.

In April 2015, AFG reached an agreement to sell all of its run-off long-term care insurance business. As discussed in Note B — “Acquisitions and Sale of Businesses,” AFG recorded a loss in the first quarter of 2015 to write down the net carrying value of the assets and liabilities to be disposed to the estimated net sale proceeds of \$14 million (estimated fair value less costs to sell). The estimate of fair value was derived using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3).

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

Assets and liabilities measured and carried at fair value in the financial statements are summarized below (in millions):

| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
|---|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| September 30, 2015 | | | | |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Available for sale (“AFS”) fixed maturities: | | | | |
| U.S. Government and government agencies | \$115 | \$205 | \$15 | \$335 |
| States, municipalities and political subdivisions | — | 7,073 | 93 | 7,166 |
| Foreign government | — | 166 | — | 166 |
| Residential MBS | — | 3,585 | 294 | 3,879 |
| Commercial MBS | — | 2,252 | 45 | 2,297 |
| Asset-backed securities (“ABS”) | — | 4,252 | 449 | 4,701 |
| Corporate and other | 48 | 13,876 | 646 | 14,570 |
| Total AFS fixed maturities | 163 | 31,409 | 1,542 | 33,114 |
| Trading fixed maturities | 13 | 256 | — | 269 |
| Equity securities | 1,473 | 235 | 123 | 1,831 |
| Assets of managed investment entities (“MIE”) | 155 | 3,432 | 26 | 3,613 |
| Variable annuity assets (separate accounts) (*) | — | 595 | — | 595 |
| Other investments — derivatives | — | 122 | — | 122 |
| Other assets — derivatives | — | 8 | — | 8 |
| Total assets accounted for at fair value | \$1,804 | \$36,057 | \$1,691 | \$39,552 |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Liabilities of managed investment entities | \$141 | \$3,123 | \$23 | \$3,287 |
| Derivatives in annuity benefits accumulated | — | — | 1,198 | 1,198 |
| Derivatives in long-term debt | — | (7 |) — | (7 |
| Other liabilities — derivatives | — | 9 | — | 9 |
| Total liabilities accounted for at fair value | \$141 | \$3,125 | \$1,221 | \$4,487 |
| December 31, 2014 | | | | |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Available for sale fixed maturities: | | | | |
| U.S. Government and government agencies | \$164 | \$174 | \$15 | \$353 |
| States, municipalities and political subdivisions | — | 6,647 | 100 | 6,747 |
| Foreign government | — | 194 | — | 194 |
| Residential MBS | — | 4,142 | 300 | 4,442 |
| Commercial MBS | — | 2,407 | 44 | 2,451 |
| Asset-backed securities | — | 3,661 | 226 | 3,887 |
| Corporate and other | 36 | 12,078 | 546 | 12,660 |
| Total AFS fixed maturities | 200 | 29,303 | 1,231 | 30,734 |
| Trading fixed maturities | 12 | 254 | — | 266 |
| Equity securities | 1,306 | 297 | 93 | 1,696 |
| Assets of managed investment entities | 174 | 2,903 | 31 | 3,108 |
| Variable annuity assets (separate accounts) (*) | — | 662 | — | 662 |
| Other investments — derivatives | — | 322 | — | 322 |
| Total assets accounted for at fair value | \$1,692 | \$33,741 | \$1,355 | \$36,788 |
| Liabilities: | | | | |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|---|-------|------|---------|---------|
| Liabilities of managed investment entities | \$118 | \$— | \$2,701 | \$2,819 |
| Derivatives in annuity benefits accumulated | — | — | 1,160 | 1,160 |
| Other liabilities — derivatives | — | 13 | — | 13 |
| Total liabilities accounted for at fair value | \$118 | \$13 | \$3,861 | \$3,992 |

(*) Variable annuity liabilities equal the fair value of variable annuity assets.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

Transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 for all periods presented were a result of increases or decreases in trade frequency.

During the third quarter of 2015, there was one common stock with a fair value of less than \$1 million transferred from Level 2 to Level 1. During the first nine months of 2015, there were seven common stocks, four perpetual preferred stocks and one mandatory redeemable preferred stock with aggregate fair values of \$80 million, \$19 million and \$10 million, respectively, that transferred from Level 2 to Level 1. During the third quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2014, there were fourteen perpetual preferred stocks with an aggregate fair value of \$96 million transferred from Level 2 to Level 1.

During the third quarter and first nine months of 2015, seven perpetual preferred stocks with a fair value of \$31 million were transferred from Level 1 to Level 2. During the third quarter ended September 30, 2014, there were no transfers from Level 1 to Level 2. During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, nine perpetual preferred stocks with an aggregate fair value of \$55 million were transferred from Level 1 to Level 2.

Approximately 4% of the total assets carried at fair value on September 30, 2015, were Level 3 assets. Approximately 71% (\$1.20 billion) of the Level 3 assets were priced using non-binding broker quotes, for which there is a lack of transparency as to the inputs used to determine fair value. Details as to the quantitative inputs are neither provided by the brokers nor otherwise reasonably obtainable by AFG. Since internally developed Level 3 asset fair values represent approximately 1% of the total assets measured at fair value and approximately 8% of AFG's shareholders' equity, changes in unobservable inputs used to determine internally developed fair values would not have a material impact on AFG's financial position.

The only significant Level 3 assets or liabilities carried at fair value in the financial statements that were not measured using broker quotes are the derivatives embedded in AFG's fixed-indexed annuity liabilities, which are measured using a discounted cash flow approach and had a fair value of \$1.20 billion at September 30, 2015. The following table presents information about the unobservable inputs used by management in determining fair value of these embedded derivatives. See Note F — "Derivatives."

| Unobservable Input | Range |
|---|--|
| Adjustment for insurance subsidiary's credit risk | 0.30% – 2.60% over the risk free rate |
| Risk margin for uncertainty in cash flows | 0.52% reduction in the discount rate |
| Surrenders | 4% – 16% of indexed account value |
| Partial surrenders | 2% – 10% of indexed account value |
| Annuity payments | 1% – 1.5% of indexed account value |
| Deaths | 1.5% – 3.0% of indexed account value |
| Budgeted option costs | 2.25% – 3.50% of indexed account value |

The range of adjustments for insurance subsidiary's credit risk reflects credit spread variations across the yield curve. The range of projected surrender rates reflects the specific surrender charges and other features of AFG's individual fixed-indexed annuity products with an expected range of 5% to 11% in the majority of future calendar years (4% to 16% over all periods). Increasing the budgeted option cost or risk margin for uncertainty in cash flows assumptions in the table above would increase the fair value of the fixed-indexed annuity embedded derivatives, while increasing any of the other unobservable inputs in the table above would decrease the fair value of the embedded derivatives.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

Changes in balances of Level 3 financial assets and liabilities carried at fair value during the third quarter and first nine months of 2015 and 2014 are presented below (in millions). The transfers into and out of Level 3 were due to changes in the availability of market observable inputs. All transfers are reflected in the table at fair value as of the end of the reporting period.

| | Balance at June 30, 2015 | Total realized/unrealized gains (losses) included in | | | | | | Balance at September 30, 2015 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | Net income | Other comprehensive income (loss) | Purchases and issuances | Sales and settlements | Transfer into Level 3 | Transfer out of Level 3 | |
| AFS fixed maturities: | | | | | | | | |
| U.S. government agency | \$ 15 | \$— | \$ — | \$— | \$ — | \$— | \$— | \$ 15 |
| State and municipal | 84 | — | 1 | 9 | (1) | — | — | 93 |
| Residential MBS | 296 | (3) | (1) | — | (8) | 10 | — | 294 |
| Commercial MBS | 48 | — | (1) | — | (1) | — | (1) | 45 |
| Asset-backed securities | 332 | — | — | 110 | (3) | 20 | (10) | 449 |
| Corporate and other | 597 | — | 7 | 24 | (13) | 31 | — | 646 |
| Equity securities | 118 | — | (2) | 7 | — | — | — | 123 |
| Assets of MIE | 29 | (3) | — | — | — | — | — | 26 |
| Embedded derivatives | (1,258) | 130 | — | (88) | 18 | — | — | (1,198) |

| | Balance at June 30, 2014 | Total realized/unrealized gains (losses) included in | | | | | | Balance at September 30, 2014 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | Net income | Other comprehensive income (loss) | Purchases and issuances | Sales and settlements | Transfer into Level 3 | Transfer out of Level 3 | |
| AFS fixed maturities: | | | | | | | | |
| U.S. government agency | \$ 15 | \$— | \$ — | \$— | \$ — | \$— | \$— | \$ 15 |
| State and municipal | 61 | (1) | (1) | — | — | 7 | — | 66 |
| Residential MBS | 256 | — | (1) | 8 | (8) | 20 | (12) | 263 |
| Commercial MBS | 28 | (1) | — | — | — | — | — | 27 |
| Asset-backed securities | 204 | — | (3) | 8 | (7) | — | (23) | 179 |
| Corporate and other | 313 | (1) | 1 | 51 | (13) | 91 | — | 442 |
| Equity securities | 81 | — | (2) | 2 | — | — | — | 81 |
| Assets of MIE | 27 | — | — | 3 | (1) | — | — | 29 |
| Liabilities of MIE (*) | (2,322) | 5 | — | (135) | 69 | — | — | (2,383) |
| Embedded derivatives | (1,026) | (21) | — | (51) | 13 | — | — | (1,085) |

(*) Total realized/unrealized gains (losses) included in net income includes gains of \$6 million related to liabilities outstanding as of September 30, 2014. See Note H — “Managed Investment Entities.”

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

| | Balance at December 31, 2014 | Impact of accounting change (*) | Total realized/unrealized gains (losses) included in | | | | | | Balance at September 30, 2015 |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | Net income | Other comprehensive income (loss) | Purchases and issuances | Sales and settlements | Transfer into Level 3 | Transfer out of Level 3 | |
| AFS fixed maturities: | | | | | | | | | |
| U.S. government agency | \$15 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$15 |
| State and municipal | 100 | — | — | (1) | 34 | (1) | — | (39) | 93 |
| Residential MBS | 300 | — | (5) | — | — | (24) | 67 | (44) | 294 |
| Commercial MBS | 44 | — | — | (1) | — | (1) | 4 | (1) | 45 |
| Asset-backed securities | 226 | — | 1 | — | 230 | (51) | 53 | (10) | 449 |
| Corporate and other | 546 | — | (3) | (4) | 103 | (37) | 41 | — | 646 |
| Equity securities | 93 | — | (4) | (1) | 52 | — | — | (17) | 123 |
| Assets of MIE | 31 | — | (9) | — | 4 | — | — | — | 26 |
| Liabilities of MIE | (2,701) | 2,701 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Embedded derivatives | (1,160) | — | 99 | — | (183) | 46 | — | — | (1,198) |

(*) The impact of implementing new guidance adopted in 2015, as discussed above and in Note A — “Accounting Policies — Managed Investment Entities.”

| | Balance at December 31, 2013 | | Total realized/unrealized gains (losses) included in | | | | | | Balance at September 30, 2014 |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|---|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | Net income | Other comprehensive income (loss) | Purchases and issuances | Sales and settlements | Transfer into Level 3 | Transfer out of Level 3 | |
| AFS fixed maturities: | | | | | | | | | |
| U.S. government agency | \$15 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$15 |
| State and municipal | 61 | — | (1) | (1) | — | — | 7 | — | 66 |
| Residential MBS | 316 | — | 3 | 5 | 8 | (23) | 58 | (104) | 263 |
| Commercial MBS | 28 | — | (1) | — | — | — | — | — | 27 |
| Asset-backed securities | 75 | — | 3 | (2) | 68 | (23) | 81 | (23) | 179 |
| Corporate and other | 335 | — | 4 | 4 | 72 | (59) | 91 | (5) | 442 |
| Equity securities | 31 | — | 1 | 2 | 48 | (9) | 22 | (14) | 81 |
| Assets of MIE | 30 | — | (2) | — | 3 | (2) | — | — | 29 |
| Liabilities of MIE (*) | (2,411) | — | (3) | — | (335) | 366 | — | — | (2,383) |
| Embedded derivatives | (804) | — | (153) | — | (162) | 34 | — | — | (1,085) |

(*) Total realized/unrealized gains (losses) included in net income includes gains of \$12 million related to liabilities outstanding as of September 30, 2014. See Note H — “Managed Investment Entities.”

21

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

Fair Value of Financial Instruments The carrying value and fair value of financial instruments that are not carried at fair value in the financial statements are summarized below (in millions):

| | Carrying Value | Fair Value | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
|---|----------------|------------|---------|---------|----------|
| September 30, 2015 | | | | | |
| Financial assets: | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$894 | \$894 | \$894 | \$— | \$— |
| Mortgage loans | 994 | 1,005 | — | — | 1,005 |
| Policy loans | 221 | 221 | — | — | 221 |
| Total financial assets not accounted for at fair value | \$2,109 | \$2,120 | \$894 | \$— | \$1,226 |
| Financial liabilities: | | | | | |
| Annuity benefits accumulated (*) | \$25,825 | \$25,083 | \$— | \$— | \$25,083 |
| Long-term debt | 887 | 987 | — | 962 | 25 |
| Total financial liabilities not accounted for at fair value | \$26,712 | \$26,070 | \$— | \$962 | \$25,108 |
| December 31, 2014 | | | | | |
| Financial assets: | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$1,343 | \$1,343 | \$1,343 | \$— | \$— |
| Mortgage loans | 1,117 | 1,124 | — | — | 1,124 |
| Policy loans | 228 | 228 | — | — | 228 |
| Total financial assets not accounted for at fair value | \$2,688 | \$2,695 | \$1,343 | \$— | \$1,352 |
| Financial liabilities: | | | | | |
| Annuity benefits accumulated (*) | \$23,561 | \$23,187 | \$— | \$— | \$23,187 |
| Long-term debt | 1,061 | 1,180 | — | 1,106 | 74 |
| Total financial liabilities not accounted for at fair value | \$24,622 | \$24,367 | \$— | \$1,106 | \$23,261 |

(*) Excludes \$201 million and \$203 million of life contingent annuities in the payout phase at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively.

The carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents approximates fair value. Fair values for mortgage loans are estimated by discounting the future contractual cash flows using the current rates at which similar loans would be made to borrowers with similar credit ratings. The fair value of policy loans is estimated to approximate carrying value; policy loans have no defined maturity dates and are inseparable from insurance contracts. The fair value of annuity benefits was estimated based on expected cash flows discounted using forward interest rates adjusted for the Company's credit risk and includes the impact of maintenance expenses and capital costs. Fair values of long-term debt are based primarily on quoted market prices.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

E. Investments

Available for sale fixed maturities and equity securities at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, consisted of the following (in millions):

| | September 30, 2015 | | | | December 31, 2014 | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|
| | Amortized Cost | Fair Value | Gross Gains | Unrealized Losses | Amortized Cost | Fair Value | Gross Gains | Unrealized Losses |
| Fixed maturities: | | | | | | | | |
| U.S. Government and government agencies | \$329 | \$335 | \$8 | \$(2) | \$347 | \$353 | \$8 | \$(2) |
| States, municipalities and political subdivisions | 6,874 | 7,166 | 321 | (29) | 6,393 | 6,747 | 364 | (10) |
| Foreign government | 157 | 166 | 9 | — | 184 | 194 | 10 | — |
| Residential MBS | 3,540 | 3,879 | 354 | (15) | 4,046 | 4,442 | 411 | (15) |
| Commercial MBS | 2,185 | 2,297 | 112 | — | 2,294 | 2,451 | 158 | (1) |
| Asset-backed securities | 4,673 | 4,701 | 47 | (19) | 3,872 | 3,887 | 37 | (22) |
| Corporate and other | 14,110 | 14,570 | 606 | (146) | 11,938 | 12,660 | 751 | (29) |
| Total fixed maturities | \$31,868 | \$33,114 | \$1,457 | \$(211) | \$29,074 | \$30,734 | \$1,739 | \$(79) |
| Common stocks | \$1,147 | \$1,204 | \$151 | \$(94) | \$885 | \$1,087 | \$227 | \$(25) |
| Perpetual preferred stocks | \$443 | \$454 | \$18 | \$(7) | \$398 | \$414 | \$21 | \$(5) |

The non-credit related portion of other-than-temporary impairment charges is included in other comprehensive income. Cumulative non-credit charges taken for securities still owned at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively, were \$213 million and \$220 million. Gross unrealized gains on such securities at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014 were \$143 million and \$151 million, respectively. Gross unrealized losses on such securities at both September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014 were \$8 million. These amounts represent the non-credit other-than-temporary impairment charges recorded in AOCI adjusted for subsequent changes in fair values and nearly all relate to residential MBS.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

The following tables show gross unrealized losses (dollars in millions) on fixed maturities and equity securities by investment category and length of time that individual securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014.

| | Less Than Twelve Months | | | Twelve Months or More | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------|
| | Unrealized Loss | Fair Value | % of Cost | Unrealized Loss | Fair Value | % of Cost |
| September 30, 2015 | | | | | | |
| Fixed maturities: | | | | | | |
| U.S. Government and government agencies States, municipalities and political subdivisions | \$— (27) | \$2 1,197 | 100 % 98 % | \$(2 (2) | \$15 58 | 88 % 97 % |
| Residential MBS | (6) | 347 | 98 % | (9) | 223 | 96 % |
| Commercial MBS | — | 23 | 100 % | — | 31 | 100 % |
| Asset-backed securities | (12) | 1,315 | 99 % | (7) | 414 | 98 % |
| Corporate and other | (124) | 3,197 | 96 % | (22) | 132 | 86 % |
| Total fixed maturities | \$(169) | \$6,081 | 97 % | \$(42) | \$873 | 95 % |
| Common stocks | \$(94) | \$590 | 86 % | \$— | \$— | — % |
| Perpetual preferred stocks | \$(4) | \$127 | 97 % | \$(3) | \$26 | 90 % |
| December 31, 2014 | | | | | | |
| Fixed maturities: | | | | | | |
| U.S. Government and government agencies States, municipalities and political subdivisions | \$— (2) | \$39 222 | 100 % 99 % | \$(2 (8) | \$15 408 | 88 % 98 % |
| Residential MBS | (4) | 298 | 99 % | (11) | 209 | 95 % |
| Commercial MBS | (1) | 38 | 97 % | — | 11 | 100 % |
| Asset-backed securities | (11) | 1,389 | 99 % | (11) | 622 | 98 % |
| Corporate and other | (16) | 588 | 97 % | (13) | 433 | 97 % |
| Total fixed maturities | \$(34) | \$2,574 | 99 % | \$(45) | \$1,698 | 97 % |
| Common stocks | \$(25) | \$260 | 91 % | \$— | \$— | — % |
| Perpetual preferred stocks | \$(1) | \$45 | 98 % | \$(4) | \$55 | 93 % |

At September 30, 2015, the gross unrealized losses on fixed maturities of \$211 million relate to approximately 950 securities. Investment grade securities (as determined by nationally recognized rating agencies) represented approximately 76% of the gross unrealized loss and 85% of the fair value.

AFG analyzes its MBS securities for other-than-temporary impairment each quarter based upon expected future cash flows. Management estimates expected future cash flows based upon its knowledge of the MBS market, cash flow projections (which reflect loan to collateral values, subordination, vintage and geographic concentration) received from independent sources, implied cash flows inherent in security ratings and analysis of historical payment data. In the first nine months of 2015, AFG recorded approximately \$3 million in other-than-temporary impairment charges related to its residential MBS.

In the first nine months of 2015, AFG recorded approximately \$25 million and \$4 million in other-than-temporary impairment charges related to corporate bonds and municipal bonds, respectively.

AFG recorded \$48 million other-than-temporary impairment charges on common stocks in the first nine months of 2015. At September 30, 2015, the gross unrealized losses on common stocks of \$94 million relate to 76 securities, none of which has been in an unrealized loss position for more than 12 months.

At September 30, 2015, the gross unrealized losses on preferred stocks of \$7 million relate to 25 securities. Of the preferred stocks that have been in an unrealized loss position for 12 months or more (4 securities), 93% of the unrealized loss relates to investment grade securities.

Management believes AFG will recover its cost basis in the securities with unrealized losses and that AFG has the ability to hold the securities until they recover in value and had no intent to sell them at September 30, 2015.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

A progression of the credit portion of other-than-temporary impairments on fixed maturity securities for which the non-credit portion of an impairment has been recognized in other comprehensive income is shown below (in millions):

| | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Balance at June 30 | \$166 | \$175 |
| Additional credit impairments on: | | |
| Previously impaired securities | — | — |
| Securities without prior impairments | 2 | — |
| Reductions due to sales or redemptions | (2 |) (2 |
| Balance at September 30 | \$166 | \$173 |
| | | |
| Balance at January 1 | \$170 | \$194 |
| Additional credit impairments on: | | |
| Previously impaired securities | 1 | — |
| Securities without prior impairments | 2 | — |
| Reductions due to sales or redemptions | (7 |) (21 |
| Balance at September 30 | \$166 | \$173 |

The table below sets forth the scheduled maturities of available for sale fixed maturities as of September 30, 2015 (dollars in millions). Securities with sinking funds are reported at average maturity. Actual maturities may differ from contractual maturities because certain securities may be called or prepaid by the issuers.

| Maturity | Amortized Cost | Fair Value Amount | % | |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|-----|---|
| One year or less | \$1,016 | \$1,032 | 3 | % |
| After one year through five years | 5,300 | 5,604 | 17 | % |
| After five years through ten years | 10,439 | 10,679 | 32 | % |
| After ten years | 4,715 | 4,922 | 15 | % |
| | 21,470 | 22,237 | 67 | % |
| ABS (average life of approximately 5 years) | 4,673 | 4,701 | 14 | % |
| MBS (average life of approximately 4-1/2 years) | 5,725 | 6,176 | 19 | % |
| Total | \$31,868 | \$33,114 | 100 | % |

Certain risks are inherent in connection with fixed maturity securities, including loss upon default, price volatility in reaction to changes in interest rates, and general market factors and risks associated with reinvestment of proceeds due to prepayments or redemptions in a period of declining interest rates.

There were no investments in individual issuers that exceeded 10% of Shareholders' Equity at September 30, 2015 or December 31, 2014.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

Net Unrealized Gain on Marketable Securities In addition to adjusting equity securities and fixed maturity securities classified as “available for sale” to fair value, GAAP requires that deferred policy acquisition costs and certain other balance sheet amounts related to annuity, long-term care and life businesses be adjusted to the extent that unrealized gains and losses from securities would result in adjustments to those balances had the unrealized gains or losses actually been realized. The following table shows (in millions) the components of the net unrealized gain on securities that is included in AOCI in AFG’s Balance Sheet.

| | Pretax | Deferred Tax and Amounts Attributable | Net to Noncontrolling Interests |
|---|---------|---|---------------------------------------|
| September 30, 2015 | | | |
| Unrealized gain on: | | | |
| Fixed maturities — annuity segment (*) | \$868 | \$ (304) | \$564 |
| Fixed maturities — all other | 378 | (140) | 238 |
| Equity securities | 68 | (24) | 44 |
| Deferred policy acquisition costs — annuity segment | (391) |) 137 | (254) |
| Annuity benefits accumulated | (112) |) 39 | (73) |
| Life, accident and health reserves | (67) |) 24 | (43) |
| Unearned revenue | 20 | (7) | 13 |
| | \$764 | \$ (275) | \$489 |
| December 31, 2014 | | | |
| Unrealized gain on: | | | |
| Fixed maturities — annuity segment (*) | \$1,157 | \$ (405) | \$752 |
| Fixed maturities — all other | 503 | (185) | 318 |
| Equity securities | 218 | (79) | 139 |
| Deferred policy acquisition costs — annuity segment | (531) |) 186 | (345) |
| Annuity benefits accumulated | (112) |) 39 | (73) |
| Life, accident and health reserves | (104) |) 36 | (68) |
| Unearned revenue | 31 | (11) | 20 |
| | \$1,162 | \$ (419) | \$743 |

(*)Unrealized gains on fixed maturity investments supporting AFG’s annuity benefits accumulated.

Net Investment Income The following table shows (in millions) investment income earned and investment expenses incurred.

| | Three months ended | | Nine months ended | |
|--|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------|
| | September 30, 2015 | 2014 | September 30, 2015 | 2014 |
| Investment income: | | | | |
| Fixed maturities | \$370 | \$342 | \$1,082 | \$1,007 |
| Equity securities | 20 | 16 | 54 | 48 |
| Equity in earnings of partnerships and similar investments | 18 | 2 | 26 | 15 |
| Other | 22 | 20 | 69 | 56 |
| Gross investment income | 430 | 380 | 1,231 | 1,126 |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---|
| Investment expenses | (5 |) (3 |) (14 |) (9 |) |
| Net investment income | \$425 | \$377 | \$1,217 | \$1,117 | |

26

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

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

| | Fixed Maturities | Equity Securities | Mortgage Loans and Other Investments | Other (a) | Total Pretax | Tax Effects | Noncon- trolling Interests | Total |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---|-----------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|--------|
| Quarter ended September 30, 2015 | | | | | | | | |
| Realized before impairments | \$ 7 | \$ 13 | \$— | \$ (1) | \$ 19 | \$ (7) | \$ (1) | \$ 11 |
| Realized — impairments | (17) | (23) | — | 5 | (35) | 13 | 1 | (21) |
| Change in unrealized | (9) | (135) | — | (11) | (155) | 55 | 2 | (98) |
| Quarter ended September 30, 2014 | | | | | | | | |
| Realized before impairments | \$ 10 | \$ 16 | \$ (1) | \$ (1) | \$ 24 | \$ (10) | \$— | \$ 14 |
| Realized — impairments | (9) | (5) | — | 3 | (11) | 5 | — | (6) |
| Change in unrealized | (145) | (40) | — | 60 | (125) | 44 | 2 | (79) |
| Nine months ended September 30, 2015 | | | | | | | | |
| Realized before impairments | \$ 17 | \$ 59 | \$ (2) | \$ (3) | \$ 71 | \$ (25) | \$ (1) | \$ 45 |
| Realized — impairments | (32) | (48) | — | 11 | (69) | 25 | 1 | (43) |
| Change in unrealized | (414) | (150) | — | 166 | (398) | 140 | 4 | (254) |
| Nine months ended September 30, 2014 | | | | | | | | |
| Realized before impairments | \$ 32 | \$ 26 | \$— | \$ (1) | \$ 57 | \$ (21) | \$ (1) | \$ 35 |
| Realized — impairments | (10) | (6) | — | 3 | (13) | 5 | — | (8) |
| Change in unrealized | 466 | 3 | — | (213) | 256 | (90) | (3) | 163 |

(a) Primarily adjustments to deferred policy acquisition costs and reserves related to annuities and long-term care business.

Gross realized gains and losses (excluding impairment write-downs and mark-to-market of derivatives) on available for sale fixed maturity and equity security investment transactions included in the Statement of Cash Flows consisted of the following (in millions):

| | Nine months ended September 30, | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Fixed maturities: | | |
| Gross gains | \$ 24 | \$ 28 |
| Gross losses | — | (2) |
| Equity securities: | | |
| Gross gains | 59 | 27 |
| Gross losses | — | — |

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

F. Derivatives

As discussed under “Derivatives” in Note A — “Accounting Policies” to the financial statements, AFG uses derivatives in certain areas of its operations.

Derivatives That Do Not Qualify for Hedge Accounting The following derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting under GAAP are included in AFG’s Balance Sheet at fair value (in millions):

| Derivative | Balance Sheet Line | September 30, 2015 | | December 31, 2014 | |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| | | Asset | Liability | Asset | Liability |
| MBS with embedded derivatives | Fixed maturities | \$162 | \$— | \$158 | \$— |
| Public company warrants | Equity securities | — | — | 19 | — |
| Fixed-indexed annuities (embedded derivative) | Annuity benefits accumulated | — | 1,198 | — | 1,160 |
| Equity index call options | Other investments | 122 | — | 322 | — |
| Reinsurance contracts (embedded derivative) | Other liabilities | — | 9 | — | 13 |
| | | \$284 | \$1,207 | \$499 | \$1,173 |

The MBS with embedded derivatives consist primarily of interest-only MBS with interest rates that float inversely with short-term rates. AFG records the entire change in the fair value of these securities in earnings. These investments are part of AFG’s overall investment strategy and represent a small component of AFG’s investment portfolio.

Warrants to purchase shares of publicly traded companies, which represent a small component of AFG’s overall investment portfolio, are considered to be derivatives that must be marked to market through earnings. AFG exercised its most significant warrant position in the first quarter of 2015.

AFG’s fixed-indexed annuities, which represented approximately 60% of annuity benefits accumulated at September 30, 2015, provide policyholders with a crediting rate tied, in part, to the performance of an existing stock market index. AFG attempts to mitigate the risk in the index-based component of these products through the purchase of call options on the appropriate index. AFG receives collateral from its counterparties to support its purchased call option assets. This collateral (\$88 million at September 30, 2015) is included in other assets in AFG’s Balance Sheet with an offsetting liability to return the collateral, which is included in other liabilities. AFG’s strategy is designed so that an increase in the liabilities, due to an increase in the market index, will be generally offset by unrealized and realized gains on the call options purchased by AFG. Both the index-based component of the annuities and the related call options are considered derivatives. Fluctuations in interest rates and the stock market, among other factors, can cause volatility in the periodic measurement of fair value of the embedded derivative that management believes can be inconsistent with the long-term economics of these products.

As discussed under “Reinsurance” in Note A to the financial statements, certain reinsurance contracts are considered to contain embedded derivatives.

The following table summarizes the gain (loss) included in the Statement of Earnings for changes in the fair value of derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting for the third quarter and first nine months of 2015 and 2014 (in millions):

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| Derivative | Statement of Earnings Line | Three months ended | | Nine months ended | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|----------|
| | | September 30, 2015 | 2014 | September 30, 2015 | 2014 |
| MBS with embedded derivatives | Realized gains on securities | \$ (4) | \$ — | \$ (7) | \$ 7 |
| Public company warrants | Realized gains on securities | — | — | — | (2) |
| Interest rate swaptions | Realized gains on securities | — | — | — | (2) |
| Fixed-indexed annuities (embedded derivative) | Annuity benefits | 130 | (21) | 99 | (153) |
| Equity index call options | Annuity benefits | (167) | 19 | (144) | 112 |
| Reinsurance contracts (embedded derivative) | Net investment income | 1 | 1 | 4 | (2) |
| | | \$ (40) | \$ (1) | \$ (48) | \$ (40) |

Derivatives Designated and Qualifying as Cash Flow Hedges In the second quarter of 2015, AFG entered into two interest rate swaps (a five-year, \$195 million notional amount swap and a fifteen-year, \$132 million notional amount swap) under which AFG receives fixed-rate interest payments in exchange for variable interest payments based on three-month LIBOR. In the third

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

quarter of 2014, AFG entered into a five-year \$431 million notional amount interest rate swap under which AFG receives fixed-rate interest payments in exchange for variable interest payments based on one-month LIBOR. The purpose of each of these swaps is to effectively convert a portion of AFG's floating rate fixed maturity securities to fixed rates by offsetting the variability in cash flows attributable to changes in LIBOR.

The notional amounts amortize down over each swap's respective life in anticipation of an expected decline in AFG's portfolio of fixed maturity securities with floating interest rates based on LIBOR (\$644 million and \$401 million total notional amounts at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively). The fair value of the effective portion of the interest rate swaps, which were all in an asset position and included in other assets, was \$8 million and less than \$1 million at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively. The net unrealized gain or loss on cash flow hedges is included in AOCI, net of DPAC and tax. During the third quarter and first nine months of 2015, \$2 million and \$4 million, respectively, was reclassified from AOCI to net investment income. There was no ineffectiveness recorded in Net Earnings during these periods.

Derivative Designated and Qualifying as a Fair Value Hedge In June 2015, AFG entered into an interest rate swap to mitigate the interest rate risk associated with its fixed-rate 9-7/8% Senior Notes due June 2019 by effectively converting the interest rate on those notes to a floating rate of three-month LIBOR plus 8.099% (8.4362% at September 30, 2015). Since the terms of the interest rate swap match the terms of the hedged debt, changes in the fair value of the interest rate swap are offset by changes in the fair value of the hedged debt attributable to changes in interest rates. The fair value of the interest rate swap (an asset of \$7 million at September 30, 2015) and the offsetting adjustment to the carrying value of the 9-7/8% Senior Notes are both included in long-term debt on AFG's Balance Sheet. Accordingly, the net impact on AFG's current period earnings is that the interest expense associated with the hedged debt is effectively recorded at the floating rate. The net reduction in interest expense from the swap for both the third quarter and first nine months of 2015 was \$1 million.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

G. Deferred Policy Acquisition Costs

A progression of deferred policy acquisition costs is presented below (in millions):

| | P&C | | Annuity and Run-off Long-term Care and Life | | | | Consolidated Total |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|------|------------|--------|-----------------------|
| | Deferred Costs | Deferred Costs | Deferred Sales Inducements | PVFP | Unrealized | Total | |
| Balance at June 30, 2015 | \$223 | \$934 | \$ 123 | \$68 | \$ (383) | \$742 | \$965 |
| Additions | 138 | 74 | 3 | — | — | 77 | 215 |
| Amortization: | | | | | | | |
| Periodic amortization | (132) | (36) | (6) | (3) | — | (45) | (177) |
| Included in realized gains | — | 3 | — | — | — | 3 | 3 |
| Foreign currency translation | (2) | — | — | — | — | — | (2) |
| Change in unrealized | — | — | — | — | (11) | (11) | (11) |
| Balance at September 30, 2015 | \$227 | \$975 | \$ 120 | \$65 | \$ (394) | \$766 | \$993 |
| Balance at June 30, 2014 | \$219 | \$918 | \$ 141 | \$79 | \$ (551) | \$587 | \$806 |
| Additions | 129 | 42 | 1 | — | — | 43 | 172 |
| Amortization: | | | | | | | |
| Periodic amortization | (127) | (38) | (7) | (3) | — | (48) | (175) |
| Included in realized gains | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| Foreign currency translation | (2) | — | — | — | — | — | (2) |
| Change in unrealized | — | — | — | — | 55 | 55 | 55 |
| Balance at September 30, 2014 | \$219 | \$923 | \$ 136 | \$76 | \$ (496) | \$639 | \$858 |
| Balance at December 31, 2014 | \$221 | \$925 | \$ 132 | \$74 | \$ (531) | \$600 | \$821 |
| Additions | 396 | 164 | 7 | — | — | 171 | 567 |
| Amortization: | | | | | | | |
| Periodic amortization | (388) | (120) | (20) | (9) | — | (149) | (537) |
| Included in realized gains | — | 6 | 1 | — | — | 7 | 7 |
| Foreign currency translation | (2) | — | — | — | — | — | (2) |
| Change in unrealized | — | — | — | — | 137 | 137 | 137 |
| Balance at September 30, 2015 | \$227 | \$975 | \$ 120 | \$65 | \$ (394) | \$766 | \$993 |
| Balance at December 31, 2013 | \$211 | \$875 | \$ 149 | \$85 | \$ (345) | \$764 | \$975 |
| Additions | 380 | 144 | 6 | — | — | 150 | 530 |
| Amortization: | | | | | | | |
| Periodic amortization | (371) | (98) | (20) | (9) | — | (127) | (498) |
| Included in realized gains | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | 3 | 3 |
| Foreign currency translation | (1) | — | — | — | — | — | (1) |
| Change in unrealized | — | — | — | — | (151) | (151) | (151) |
| Balance at September 30, 2014 | \$219 | \$923 | \$ 136 | \$76 | \$ (496) | \$639 | \$858 |

The present value of future profits (“PVFP”) amounts in the table above are net of \$218 million and \$209 million of accumulated amortization at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

H. Managed Investment Entities

AFG is the investment manager and its subsidiaries have investments ranging from 15.0% to 51.2% of the most subordinate debt tranche of thirteen collateralized loan obligation entities or “CLOs,” which are considered variable interest entities. AFG’s subsidiaries also own portions of the senior debt tranches of certain of these CLOs. Upon formation between 2004 and 2015, these entities issued securities in various senior and subordinate classes and invested the proceeds primarily in secured bank loans, which serve as collateral for the debt securities issued by each particular CLO. None of the collateral was purchased from AFG. AFG’s investments in the subordinate debt tranches of these entities receive residual income from the CLOs only after the CLOs pay expenses (including management fees to AFG), and interest on and returns of capital to senior levels of debt securities. There are no contractual requirements for AFG to provide additional funding for these entities. AFG has not provided and does not intend to provide any financial support to these entities.

AFG’s maximum exposure to economic loss on its CLOs is limited to its investment in the CLOs, which had an aggregate fair value of \$326 million (including \$93 million invested in the most subordinate debt tranches) at September 30, 2015, and \$289 million at December 31, 2014.

In May 2015, AFG formed a new CLO, which issued \$511 million face amount of liabilities (including \$45 million face amount purchased by subsidiaries of AFG). During the first nine months of 2014, AFG subsidiaries purchased \$8 million face amount of senior debt tranches of existing CLOs for \$8 million. During the first nine months of 2015 and 2014, AFG subsidiaries received redemption proceeds of \$1 million and \$57 million, respectively, from its CLO investments.

The revenues and expenses of the CLOs are separately identified in AFG’s Statement of Earnings, after the elimination of management fees and earnings attributable to shareholders of AFG as measured by the change in the fair value of AFG’s investments in the CLOs. See Note A — “Accounting Policies — Managed Investment Entities,” for a discussion of accounting guidance adopted on January 1, 2015 that impacts the measurement of the fair value of CLO liabilities.

Selected financial information related to the CLOs is shown below (in millions):

| | Three months ended | | Nine months ended | |
|---|--------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| | September 30, | | September 30, | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Gains (losses) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities (a): | | | | |
| Assets | \$(53 |) \$(30 |) \$(27 |) \$(32 |
| Liabilities | 42 | 5 | 11 | (3 |
| Management fees paid to AFG | 4 | 7 | 11 | 18 |
| CLO earnings (losses) attributable to (b): | | | | |
| AFG shareholders | (3 |) 7 | 5 | 18 |
| Noncontrolling interests | — | (29 |) — | (47 |

(a) Included in Revenues in AFG’s Statement of Earnings.

(b) Included in Earnings before income taxes in AFG’s Statement of Earnings.

The aggregate unpaid principal balance of the CLOs’ fixed maturity investments exceeded the fair value of the investments by \$118 million and \$83 million at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014. The aggregate unpaid principal balance of the CLOs’ debt exceeded its carrying value by \$164 million and \$131 million at those dates. The CLO assets include \$1 million and \$2 million in loans at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively, for which the CLOs are not accruing interest because the loans are in default (aggregate unpaid principal balance of

\$10 million and \$6 million at those dates, respectively).

I. Goodwill and Other Intangibles

There were no changes in the goodwill balance of \$201 million during the first nine months of 2015. Included in other assets in AFG's Balance Sheet is \$43 million at September 30, 2015 and \$49 million at December 31, 2014 in amortizable intangible assets related to property and casualty insurance acquisitions. These amounts are net of accumulated amortization of \$16 million and \$91 million, respectively. Amortization of intangibles was \$2 million and \$6 million in the third quarters and \$6 million and \$14 million in the first nine months of 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

J. Long-Term Debt

The carrying value of long-term debt consisted of the following (in millions):

| | September 30, 2015 | December 31, 2014 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Direct Senior Obligations of AFG: | | |
| 9-7/8% Senior Notes due June 2019 | \$ 350 | \$ 350 |
| 6-3/8% Senior Notes due June 2042 | 230 | 230 |
| 5-3/4% Senior Notes due August 2042 | 125 | 125 |
| 7% Senior Notes due September 2050 | — | 132 |
| Other | 3 | 3 |
| | 708 | 840 |
| Direct Subordinated Obligations of AFG: | | |
| 6-1/4% Subordinated Debentures due September 2054 | 150 | 150 |
| Subsidiaries: | | |
| Notes payable secured by real estate due 2015 through 2016 | 10 | 59 |
| National Interstate bank credit facility | 12 | 12 |
| | 22 | 71 |
| | \$ 880 | \$ 1,061 |

To achieve a desired balance between fixed and variable rate debt, AFG entered into an interest rate swap in June 2015, which effectively converts its 9-7/8% Senior Notes to a floating rate of three-month LIBOR plus 8.099% (8.4362% at September 30, 2015). The fair value of the interest rate swap (an asset of \$7 million at September 30, 2015) and the offsetting adjustment to the carrying value of the notes are both included in the carrying value of the 9-7/8% Senior Notes in the table above.

On September 30, 2015, AFG used cash on hand to redeem the \$132 million in outstanding AFG 7% Senior Notes due September 2050 at par value. Scheduled principal payments on debt for the balance of 2015, the subsequent five years and thereafter were as follows: 2015 — less than \$1 million; 2016 — \$10 million; 2017 — \$12 million; 2018 — none; 2019 — \$350 million; 2020 — none and thereafter — \$508 million.

As shown below (in millions), the majority of AFG's long-term debt is unsecured obligations:

| | September 30, 2015 | December 31, 2014 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Senior unsecured obligations | \$ 720 | \$ 852 |
| Subordinated unsecured obligations | 150 | 150 |
| Obligations secured by real estate | 10 | 59 |
| | \$ 880 | \$ 1,061 |

AFG can borrow up to \$500 million under its revolving credit facility which expires in December 2016. Amounts borrowed under this agreement bear interest at rates ranging from 1.00% to 1.875% (currently 1.375%) over LIBOR based on AFG's credit rating. No amounts were borrowed under this facility at September 30, 2015 or December 31, 2014.

National Interstate can borrow up to \$100 million under its unsecured credit agreement, which expires in November 2017. At September 30, 2015, there was \$12 million outstanding under this agreement, bearing interest at 1.28% (six-month LIBOR plus 0.875%).

K. Shareholders' Equity

AFG is authorized to issue 12.5 million shares of Voting Preferred Stock and 12.5 million shares of Nonvoting Preferred Stock, each without par value.

Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income, Net of Tax ("AOCI") Comprehensive income is defined as all changes in Shareholders' Equity except those arising from transactions with shareholders. Comprehensive income includes net earnings

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

and other comprehensive income, which consists primarily of changes in net unrealized gains or losses on available for sale securities.

The progression of the components of accumulated other comprehensive income follows (in millions):

Other Comprehensive Income

| | AOCI Beginning Balance | Pretax | Tax | Net of tax | Attributable to noncontrolling interests | Attributable to shareholders | AOCI Ending Balance |
|--|------------------------------|---------|-------|------------------|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Quarter ended September 30, 2015 | | | | | | | |
| Net unrealized gains (losses) on securities: | | | | | | | |
| Unrealized holding gains (losses) on securities arising during the period | | \$(171) | \$61 | \$(110) | \$3 | \$(107) |) |
| Reclassification adjustment for realized (gains) losses included in net earnings (a) | | 16 | (6) |) 10 | (1) |) 9 | |
| Total net unrealized gains (losses) on securities (b) | \$587 | (155) |) 55 | (100) |) 2 | (98) |) \$489 |
| Net unrealized gains on cash flow hedges | — | 3 | (1) |) 2 | — | 2 | 2 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | (16) |) (5) |) (2) |) (7) | — | (7) |) (23) |
| Pension and other postretirement plans adjustments | (8) |) 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | (7) |
| Total | \$563 | \$(156) | \$52 | \$(104) | \$2 | \$(102) |) \$461 |
| Quarter ended September 30, 2014 | | | | | | | |
| Net unrealized gains (losses) on securities: | | | | | | | |
| Unrealized holding gains (losses) on securities arising during the period | | \$(111) | \$38 | \$(73) |) \$2 | \$(71) |) |
| Reclassification adjustment for realized (gains) losses included in net earnings (a) | | (14) |) 6 | (8) |) — | (8) |) |
| Total net unrealized gains (losses) on securities | \$805 | (125) |) 44 | (81) |) 2 | (79) |) \$726 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | (2) |) (2) |) — | (2) |) — | (2) |) (4) |
| Pension and other postretirement plans adjustments | (4) |) — | — | — | — | — | (4) |
| Total | \$799 | \$(127) | \$44 | \$(83) |) \$2 | \$(81) |) \$718 |
| Nine months ended September 30, 2015 | | | | | | | |
| Net unrealized gains (losses) on securities: | | | | | | | |
| Unrealized holding gains (losses) on securities arising during the period | | \$(394) | \$139 | \$(255) | \$5 | \$(250) |) |
| Reclassification adjustment for realized (gains) losses included in net earnings (a) | | (4) |) 1 | (3) |) (1) | (4) |) |
| Total net unrealized gains (losses) on securities (b) | \$743 | (398) |) 140 | (258) |) 4 | (254) |) \$489 |
| Net unrealized gains on cash flow hedges | — | 3 | (1) |) 2 | — | 2 | 2 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | (8) |) (11) |) (4) |) (15) | — | (15) |) (23) |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|---------|-------|---------|-----|---------|-------|
| Pension and other postretirement plans adjustments | (8) | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | (7) |
| Total | \$727 | \$(405) | \$135 | \$(270) | \$4 | \$(266) | \$461 |

Nine months ended September 30, 2014

Net unrealized gains on securities:

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|---------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| Unrealized holding gains (losses) on securities arising during the period | | \$300 | \$(106) | \$194 | \$(4) | \$190 | |
| Reclassification adjustment for realized (gains) losses included in net earnings (a) | | (44) | 16 | (28) | 1 | (27) | |
| Total net unrealized gains on securities | \$563 | 256 | (90) | 166 | (3) | 163 | \$726 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | 1 | (5) | — | (5) | — | (5) | (4) |
| Pension and other postretirement plans adjustments | (4) | — | — | — | — | — | (4) |
| Total | \$560 | \$251 | \$(90) | \$161 | \$(3) | \$158 | \$718 |

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

- (a) The reclassification adjustment out of net unrealized gains on securities affected the following lines in AFG's Consolidated Statement of Earnings:

| OCI component | Affected line in the Consolidated Statement of Earnings |
|--|--|
| Pretax | Realized gains (losses) on securities |
| Tax | Provision for income taxes |
| Attributable to noncontrolling interests | Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests |

- (b) Includes net unrealized gains of \$53 million at September 30, 2015, \$57 million at June 30, 2015 and \$58 million at December 31, 2014 related to securities for which only the credit portion of an other-than-temporary impairment has been recorded in earnings.

Stock Incentive Plans Under AFG's stock incentive plans, employees of AFG and its subsidiaries are eligible to receive equity awards in the form of stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock awards, restricted stock units and stock awards. In the first nine months of 2015, AFG issued 171,130 shares of restricted Common Stock (fair value of \$63.15 per share) and granted stock options for 716,818 shares of Common Stock (at an exercise price of \$63.15) under the Stock Incentive Plan. In addition, AFG issued 54,732 shares of Common Stock (fair value of \$62.55 per share) in the first quarter of 2015 under the Equity Bonus Plan.

AFG uses the Black-Scholes option pricing model to calculate the fair value of its option grants. The expected dividend yield is based on AFG's current dividend rate. To determine expected volatility, AFG considers its daily historical volatility as well as implied volatility on traded options. The expected term was estimated based on historical exercise patterns and post vesting cancellations. The risk-free rate for periods associated with the expected term is based upon the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect on the grant date.

| | Nine months ended | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------|---|---|
| | September 30, | | | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | | |
| Exercise price | \$63.15 | \$56.47 | | |
| Expected dividend yield | 1.6 | % 1.6 | % | % |
| Expected volatility | 25 | % 26 | % | % |
| Expected term (in years) | 7.25 | 7.25 | | |
| Risk-free rate | 1.88 | % 2.20 | % | % |
| Grant date fair value | \$15.29 | \$14.66 | | |

Total compensation expense related to stock incentive plans of AFG and its subsidiaries was \$5 million and \$4 million in the third quarter of 2015 and 2014, respectively, and \$18 million in both the first nine months of 2015 and 2014.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — CONTINUED

L. Income Taxes

The following is a reconciliation of income taxes at the statutory rate of 35% to the provision for income taxes as shown in the Statement of Earnings (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended September 30, | | | | Nine months ended September 30, | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| | 2015 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2014 | |
| | Amount | % of EBT | Amount | % of EBT | Amount | % of EBT | Amount | % of EBT |
| Earnings before income taxes (“EBT”) | \$99 | | \$145 | | \$355 | | \$436 | |
| Income taxes at statutory rate | \$34 | 35 % | \$51 | 35 % | \$124 | 35 % | \$153 | 35 % |
| Effect of: | | | | | | | | |
| Tax exempt interest | (6) | (6 %) | (6) | (4 %) | (20) | (6 %) | (18) | (4 %) |
| Change in valuation allowance | 8 | 8 % | (1) | (1 %) | 8 | 2 % | 2 | 1 % |
| Losses of managed investment entities | — | — % | 10 | 7 % | — | — % | 16 | 4 % |
| Subsidiaries not in AFG’s tax return | — | — % | 1 | 1 % | 2 | 1 % | — | — % |
| Other | (3) | (4 %) | (1) | (1 %) | 1 | — % | 2 | — % |
| Provision for income taxes as shown in the Statement of Earnings | \$33 | 33 % | \$54 | 37 % | \$115 | 32 % | \$155 | 36 % |

During the first nine months of 2015, there were no material changes to AFG’s liability for uncertain tax positions.

M. Contingencies

As discussed in Note B — “Acquisitions and Sale of Businesses,” AFG recorded a \$162 million pretax loss in the first quarter of 2015 to establish a liability (included in other liabilities in AFG’s Balance Sheet) that effectively reduces the net carrying value of the assets and liabilities to be disposed in the pending sale of its run-off long-term care business to equal the estimated net sale proceeds from the sale. There have been no significant changes to the matters discussed and referred to in Note M — “Contingencies” of AFG’s 2014 Form 10-K, which covers property and casualty insurance reserves for claims related to environmental exposures, asbestos and other mass tort claims, as well as environmental and occupational injury and disease claims of former subsidiary railroad and manufacturing operations.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

ITEM 2

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

INDEX TO MD&A

| | Page | | Page |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| <u>Forward-Looking Statements</u> | <u>36</u> | <u>Results of Operations — Third Quarter</u> | <u>49</u> |
| <u>Overview</u> | <u>37</u> | <u>Segmented Statement of Earnings</u> | <u>49</u> |
| <u>Critical Accounting Policies</u> | <u>37</u> | <u>Property and Casualty Insurance</u> | <u>50</u> |
| <u>Liquidity and Capital Resources</u> | <u>38</u> | <u>Annuity</u> | <u>59</u> |
| <u>Ratios</u> | <u>38</u> | <u>Run-off Long-Term Care and Life</u> | <u>64</u> |
| <u>Condensed Consolidated Cash Flows</u> | <u>38</u> | <u>Holding Company, Other and Unallocated</u> | <u>65</u> |
| <u>Parent and Subsidiary Liquidity</u> | <u>39</u> | <u>Results of Operations — First Nine Months</u> | <u>68</u> |
| <u>Investments</u> | <u>40</u> | <u>Segmented Statement of Earnings</u> | <u>68</u> |
| <u>Uncertainties</u> | <u>44</u> | <u>Property and Casualty Insurance</u> | <u>69</u> |
| <u>Managed Investment Entities</u> | <u>44</u> | <u>Annuity</u> | <u>78</u> |
| <u>Results of Operations</u> | <u>48</u> | <u>Run-off Long-Term Care and Life</u> | <u>83</u> |
| <u>General</u> | <u>48</u> | <u>Holding Company, Other and Unallocated</u> | <u>84</u> |
| | | <u>Recent and Pending Accounting Standards</u> | <u>86</u> |

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides a safe harbor for forward-looking statements. Some of the forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words such as “anticipates”, “believes”, “expects”, “projects”, “estimates”, “intends”, “plans”, “seeks”, “could”, “may”, “should”, “will” or the negative version of those words or other comparable terminology. Such forward-looking statements include statements relating to: expectations concerning market and other conditions and their effect on future premiums, revenues, earnings and investment activities; recoverability of asset values; expected losses and the adequacy of reserves for long-term care, asbestos, environmental pollution and mass tort claims; rate changes; and improved loss experience.

Actual results and/or financial condition could differ materially from those contained in or implied by such forward-looking statements for a variety of reasons including but not limited to:

- changes in financial, political and economic conditions, including changes in interest and inflation rates, currency fluctuations and extended economic recessions or expansions in the U.S. and/or abroad;
- performance of securities markets;
- AFG's ability to estimate accurately the likelihood, magnitude and timing of any losses in connection with investments in the non-agency residential mortgage market;
- new legislation or declines in credit quality or credit ratings that could have a material impact on the valuation of securities in AFG's investment portfolio;
- the availability of capital;
- the possibility that the pending sale of AFG's run-off long-term care business is not consummated;
- regulatory actions (including changes in statutory accounting rules);
- changes in the legal environment affecting AFG or its customers;
- tax law and accounting changes;
- levels of natural catastrophes and severe weather, terrorist activities (including any nuclear, biological, chemical or radiological events), incidents of war or losses resulting from civil unrest and other major losses;
- development of insurance loss reserves and establishment of other reserves, particularly with respect to amounts associated with asbestos and environmental claims and AFG's run-off long-term care business;
- availability of reinsurance and ability of reinsurers to pay their obligations;

trends in persistency, mortality and morbidity;
competitive pressures, including those in the annuity distribution channels;
the ability to obtain adequate rates and policy terms; and
changes in AFG's credit ratings or the financial strength ratings assigned by major ratings agencies to AFG's operating subsidiaries.

36

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

The forward-looking statements herein are made only as of the date of this report. The Company assumes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements.

OVERVIEW

Financial Condition

AFG is organized as a holding company with almost all of its operations being conducted by subsidiaries. AFG, however, has continuing cash needs for administrative expenses, the payment of principal and interest on borrowings, shareholder dividends, and taxes. Therefore, certain analyses are most meaningfully presented on a parent only basis while others are best done on a total enterprise basis. In addition, because most of its businesses are financial in nature, AFG does not prepare its consolidated financial statements using a current-noncurrent format. Consequently, certain traditional ratios and financial analysis tests are not meaningful.

Results of Operations

Through the operations of its subsidiaries, AFG is engaged primarily in property and casualty insurance, focusing on specialized commercial products for businesses and in the sale of fixed and fixed-indexed annuities in the retail, financial institutions and education markets.

Net earnings attributable to AFG's shareholders for the third quarter and first nine months of 2015 were \$63 million (\$0.71 per share, diluted) and \$223 million (\$2.49 per share, diluted), respectively, compared to \$116 million (\$1.28 per share, diluted) and \$325 million (\$3.56 per share, diluted) reported in the same periods of 2014, reflecting:

- lower core net operating earnings in the annuity segment due to the impact of fair value accounting for fixed-indexed annuities,

- higher core underwriting profit and net investment income in the property and casualty insurance segment,
- higher special A&E charges recorded in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter of 2014,
- higher core net operating earnings in the run-off long-term care and life segment,
- the second quarter 2015 gain on the sale of Le Pavillon Hotel, and
- the first quarter 2015 loss on the pending sale of AFG's run-off long-term care business.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Significant accounting policies are summarized in Note A — "Accounting Policies" to the financial statements. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") requires management to make estimates and assumptions that can have a significant effect on amounts reported in the financial statements. As more information becomes known, these estimates and assumptions change and, thus, impact amounts reported in the future. The areas where management believes the degree of judgment required to determine amounts recorded in the financial statements is most significant are as follows:

- the establishment of insurance reserves, especially asbestos and environmental-related reserves and reserves for AFG's closed block of long-term care insurance,
- the recoverability of reinsurance,
- the recoverability of deferred acquisition costs,
- the establishment of asbestos and environmental reserves of former railroad and manufacturing operations, and
- the valuation of investments, including the determination of "other-than-temporary" impairments.

For a discussion of these policies, see Management's Discussion and Analysis — "Critical Accounting Policies" in AFG's 2014 Form 10-K.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Ratios AFG's debt to total capital ratio on a consolidated basis is shown below (dollars in millions):

| | September 30, | | December 31, | |
|---|---------------|---------|--------------|---|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | |
| Long-term debt | \$880 | \$1,061 | \$913 | |
| Total capital | 5,341 | 5,513 | 5,192 | |
| Ratio of debt to total capital: | | | | |
| Including subordinated debt and debt secured by real estate | 16.5 | % 19.2 | % 17.6 | % |
| Excluding subordinated debt and debt secured by real estate | 13.5 | % 15.6 | % 16.6 | % |

The ratio of debt to total capital is a non-GAAP measure that management believes is useful for investors, analysts and independent ratings agencies to evaluate AFG's financial strength and liquidity and to provide insight into how AFG finances its operations. The ratio is calculated by dividing AFG's long-term debt by its total capital, which includes long-term debt, noncontrolling interests and shareholders' equity (excluding unrealized gains (losses) related to fixed maturity investments and appropriated retained earnings related to managed investment entities).

AFG's ratio of earnings to fixed charges, including annuity benefits as a fixed charge, was 1.54 for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 1.90 for the year ended December 31, 2014. Excluding annuity benefits, this ratio was 5.48 and 7.95, respectively. Although the ratio excluding annuity benefits is not required or encouraged to be disclosed under Securities and Exchange Commission rules, it is presented because interest credited to annuity policyholder accounts is not always considered a borrowing cost for an insurance company.

Condensed Consolidated Cash Flows AFG's principal sources of cash include insurance premiums, income from its investment portfolio and proceeds from the maturities, redemptions and sales of investments. Insurance premiums in excess of acquisition expenses and operating costs are invested until they are needed to meet policyholder obligations or made available to the parent company through dividends to cover debt obligations and corporate expenses, and to provide returns to shareholders through share repurchases and dividends. AFG's cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities as detailed in its Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows are shown below (in millions):

| | Nine months ended | |
|---|-------------------|----------|
| | September 30, | |
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | \$907 | \$674 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (3,415) | (2,435) |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | 2,059 | 1,432 |
| Net change in cash and cash equivalents | \$(449) | \$(329) |

Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities AFG's property and casualty insurance operations typically produce positive net operating cash flows as premiums collected and investment income exceed policy acquisition costs, claims payments and operating expenses. AFG's net cash provided by operating activities is impacted by the level and timing of property and casualty premiums, claim and expense payments and recoveries from reinsurers. AFG's annuity operations typically produce positive net operating cash flows as investment income exceeds acquisition costs and operating expenses. Interest credited on annuity policyholder funds is a non-cash increase in AFG's annuity benefits accumulated liability and annuity premiums, benefits and withdrawals are considered financing activities due to the deposit-type nature of annuities. Net cash provided by operating activities was \$907 million for the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$674 million in the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$233 million.

Net Cash Used in Investing Activities AFG's investing activities consist primarily of the investment of funds provided by its property and casualty and annuity products. Net cash used in investing activities was \$3.42 billion for the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$2.44 billion in the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$980 million. The \$406 million increase in net cash flows from annuity policyholders in the first nine months of 2015 as compared to the 2014 period (discussed below under net cash provided by financing activities) increased the amount of cash available for investment in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the 2014 period. However, cash on hand in the annuity and run-off long-term care and life segments decreased by \$143 million during the first nine months of 2015 as the investment of funds outpaced the net cash flows received from annuity

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

policyholders compared to a \$179 million decrease in cash on hand in these segments during the first nine months of 2014. The change in net cash used in investing activities also reflects the impact of investing the property and casualty segment's cash flows from operating activities, which were higher in the first nine months of 2015 as compared to the 2014 period. In addition to the investment of funds provided by the insurance operations, investing activities also include the purchase and disposal of managed investment entity investments (collateralized loan obligations), which are presented separately in AFG's Balance Sheet. Net investment activity in the managed investment entities was a \$482 million use of cash in the first nine months of 2015 compared to a \$78 million source of cash in the 2014 period. See Note A — "Accounting Policies — Managed Investment Entities" and Note H — "Managed Investment Entities" to the financial statements.

Net Cash Provided by Financing Activities AFG's financing activities consist primarily of transactions with annuity policyholders, issuances and retirements of long-term debt, repurchases of common stock and dividend payments. Net cash provided by financing activities was \$2.06 billion for the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$1.43 billion in the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$627 million. Annuity receipts exceeded annuity surrenders, benefits, withdrawals and transfers by \$1.88 billion in the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$1.47 billion in the first nine months of 2014, resulting in a \$406 million increase in net cash provided by financing activities in the 2015 period compared to the 2014 period. Redemptions of long-term debt was a \$182 million use of cash in the first nine months of 2015 compared to net proceeds of \$145 million from the issuance of long-term debt in the first nine months of 2014 accounting for a \$327 million decrease in cash provided by financing activities in the 2015 period compared to the 2014 period. During the first nine months of 2015, AFG repurchased \$113 million of its Common Stock compared to \$127 million repurchased in the first nine months of 2014, which accounted for a \$14 million increase in net cash provided by financing activities in the 2015 period compared to the 2014 period. Financing activities also include the issuance and retirement of managed investment entity liabilities, which are nonrecourse to AFG and presented separately in AFG's Balance Sheet. The issuances of managed investment entity liabilities exceeded retirements by \$501 million in the first nine months of 2015 compared to retirements exceeding issuances by \$33 million in the first nine months of 2014, accounting for a \$534 million increase in net cash provided by financing activities in the 2015 period compared to the 2014 period. See Note A — "Accounting Policies" and Note H — "Managed Investment Entities" to the financial statements.

Parent and Subsidiary Liquidity

Parent Holding Company Liquidity Management believes AFG has sufficient resources to meet its liquidity requirements. If funds generated from operations, including dividends, tax payments and borrowings from subsidiaries, are insufficient to meet fixed charges in any period, AFG would be required to utilize parent company cash and marketable securities or to generate cash through borrowings, sales of other assets, or similar transactions.

AFG can borrow up to \$500 million under its revolving credit facility which expires in December 2016. Amounts borrowed under this agreement bear interest at rates ranging from 1.00% to 1.875% (currently 1.375%) over LIBOR based on AFG's credit rating. There were no borrowings under the agreement, or under any other parent company short-term borrowing arrangements, during 2014 or the first nine months of 2015. In September 2015, AFG redeemed its \$132 million of 7% Senior Notes due September 2050 at par value using cash on hand at the parent company.

In April 2014, AFG completed the purchase of Summit Holding Southeast, Inc. and its related companies ("Summit") from Liberty Mutual Insurance for \$259 million using cash on hand at the parent company. In addition, AFG made a capital contribution of approximately \$140 million, bringing its capital investment in the Summit business to \$399 million. Summit's results of operations are included in AFG's consolidated results beginning in April 2014.

During the first nine months of 2015, AFG repurchased 1.8 million shares of its Common Stock for \$113 million. During 2014, AFG repurchased 3.3 million shares of its Common Stock for \$191 million.

Under a tax allocation agreement with AFG, its 80%-owned U.S. subsidiaries generally pay taxes to (or recover taxes from) AFG based on each subsidiary's contribution to amounts due under AFG's consolidated tax return.

Subsidiary Liquidity Great American Life Insurance Company ("GALIC"), a wholly-owned annuity subsidiary, is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati ("FHLB"). The FHLB makes advances and provides other banking services to member institutions, which provides the annuity operations with a substantial additional source of liquidity. These advances further the FHLB's mission of improving access to housing by increasing liquidity in the residential mortgage-backed securities market. At September 30, 2015, GALIC had \$740 million in outstanding advances from the FHLB (included in annuity benefits accumulated), bearing interest at rates ranging from 0.02% to 0.23% over LIBOR (average rate of 0.44% at September 30,

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

2015). While these advances must be repaid between 2016 and 2020, GALIC has the option to prepay all or a portion of the advances. GALIC has invested the proceeds from the advances in fixed maturity securities for the purpose of earning a spread over the interest payments due to the FHLB. At September 30, 2015, GALIC estimated that it had additional borrowing capacity of approximately \$800 million from the FHLB.

National Interstate Corporation, a 51%-owned property and casualty insurance subsidiary, can borrow up to \$100 million under its unsecured credit agreement, which expires in November 2017. There was \$12 million borrowed under this agreement at September 30, 2015, bearing interest at 1.28% (six-month LIBOR plus 0.875%).

The liquidity requirements of AFG's insurance subsidiaries relate primarily to the liabilities associated with their products as well as operating costs and expenses, payments of dividends and taxes to AFG and contributions of capital to their subsidiaries. Historically, cash flows from premiums and investment income have generally provided more than sufficient funds to meet these requirements. Funds received in excess of cash requirements are generally invested in additional marketable securities. In addition, the insurance subsidiaries generally hold a significant amount of highly liquid, short-term investments.

The excess cash flow of AFG's property and casualty group allows it to extend the duration of its investment portfolio somewhat beyond that of its claim reserves.

In the annuity business, where profitability is largely dependent on earning a spread between invested assets and annuity liabilities, the duration of investments is generally maintained close to that of liabilities. In a rising interest rate environment, significant protection from withdrawals exists in the form of temporary and permanent surrender charges on AFG's annuity products. With declining rates, AFG receives some protection (from spread compression) due to the ability to lower crediting rates, subject to contractually guaranteed minimum interest rates ("GMIRs"). AFG began selling policies with GMIRs below 2% in 2003; almost all new business since late 2010 has been issued with a 1% GMIR. At September 30, 2015, AFG could reduce the average crediting rate on approximately \$19 billion of traditional fixed and fixed-indexed deferred annuities without guaranteed withdrawal benefits by 69 basis points (on a weighted average basis).

AFG believes its insurance subsidiaries maintain sufficient liquidity to pay claims and benefits and operating expenses. In addition, these subsidiaries have sufficient capital to meet commitments in the event of unforeseen events such as reserve deficiencies, inadequate premium rates or reinsurer insolvencies. Nonetheless, changes in statutory accounting rules, significant declines in the fair value of the insurance subsidiaries' investment portfolios or significant ratings downgrades on these investments, could create a need for additional capital.

Investments AFG's investment portfolio at September 30, 2015, contained \$33.11 billion in fixed maturity securities and \$1.66 billion in equity securities classified as available for sale and carried at fair value with unrealized gains and losses included in a separate component of shareholders' equity on an after-tax basis. In addition, \$269 million in fixed maturities and \$173 million in equity securities were classified as trading with changes in unrealized holding gains or losses included in net investment income.

Fair values for AFG's portfolio are determined by AFG's internal investment professionals using data from nationally recognized pricing services as well as non-binding broker quotes. Fair values of equity securities are generally based on published closing prices. For mortgage-backed securities ("MBS"), which comprise approximately 19% of AFG's fixed maturities, prices for each security are generally obtained from both pricing services and broker quotes. For the remainder of AFG's fixed maturity portfolio, approximately 80% are priced using pricing services and the balance is

priced primarily by using non-binding broker quotes. When prices obtained for the same security vary, AFG's internal investment professionals select the price they believe is most indicative of an exit price.

The pricing services use a variety of observable inputs to estimate fair value of fixed maturities that do not trade on a daily basis. Based upon information provided by the pricing services, these inputs include, but are not limited to, recent reported trades, benchmark yields, issuer spreads, bids or offers, reference data, and measures of volatility. Included in the pricing of MBS are estimates of the rate of future prepayments and defaults of principal over the remaining life of the underlying collateral. Due to the lack of transparency in the process that brokers use to develop prices, valuations that are based on brokers' prices are classified as Level 3 in the GAAP hierarchy unless the price can be corroborated, for example, by comparison to similar securities priced using observable inputs.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Valuation techniques utilized by pricing services and prices obtained from external sources are reviewed by AFG's internal investment professionals who are familiar with the securities being priced and the markets in which they trade to ensure the fair value determination is representative of an exit price. To validate the appropriateness of the prices obtained, these investment managers consider widely published indices (as benchmarks), recent trades, changes in interest rates, general economic conditions and the credit quality of the specific issuers. In addition, AFG communicates directly with pricing services regarding the methods and assumptions used in pricing, including verifying, on a test basis, the inputs used by the services to value specific securities.

In general, the fair value of AFG's fixed maturity investments is inversely correlated to changes in interest rates. The following table demonstrates the sensitivity of such fair values to reasonably likely changes in interest rates by illustrating the estimated effect on AFG's fixed maturity portfolio and accumulated other comprehensive income that an immediate increase of 100 basis points in the interest rate yield curve would have at September 30, 2015 (dollars in millions). Effects of increases or decreases from the 100 basis points illustrated would be approximately proportional.

| | | |
|---|----------|----|
| Fair value of fixed maturity portfolio | \$33,383 | |
| Percentage impact on fair value of 100 bps increase in interest rates | (5.0 | %) |
| Pretax impact on fair value of fixed maturity portfolio | \$(1,669 |) |
| Offsetting adjustments to deferred policy acquisition costs and other balance sheet amounts | 750 | |
| Estimated pretax impact on accumulated other comprehensive income | (919 |) |
| Deferred income tax | 322 | |
| Noncontrolling interests | 13 | |
| Estimated after-tax impact on accumulated other comprehensive income | \$(584 |) |

Approximately 88% of the fixed maturities held by AFG at September 30, 2015, were rated "investment grade" (credit rating of AAA to BBB) by nationally recognized rating agencies. Investment grade securities generally bear lower yields and lower degrees of risk than those that are unrated and non-investment grade. Management believes that the high quality investment portfolio should generate a stable and predictable investment return.

MBS are subject to significant prepayment risk due to the fact that, in periods of declining interest rates, mortgages may be repaid more rapidly than scheduled as borrowers refinance higher rate mortgages to take advantage of lower rates. Although interest rates have been low in recent years, tighter lending standards have resulted in fewer buyers being able to refinance the mortgages underlying much of AFG's non-agency residential MBS portfolio.

Summarized information for AFG's MBS (including those classified as trading) at September 30, 2015, is shown in the table below (dollars in millions). Agency-backed securities are those issued by a U.S. government-backed agency; Alt-A mortgages are those with risk profiles between prime and subprime. The majority of the Alt-A securities and substantially all of the subprime securities are backed by fixed-rate mortgages. The average life of the residential and commercial MBS is approximately 5 years and 3 years, respectively.

| Collateral type | Amortized Cost | Fair Value | Fair Value as % of Cost | Unrealized Gain (Loss) | % Rated Investment Grade |
|------------------|----------------|------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Residential: | | | | | |
| Agency-backed | \$294 | \$306 | 104 | % \$12 | 100 |
| Non-agency prime | 1,624 | 1,807 | 111 | % 183 | 40 |
| Alt-A | 848 | 940 | 111 | % 92 | 17 |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | |
|------------|---------|---------|-----|---------|-----|---|
| Subprime | 780 | 832 | 107 | % 52 | 17 | % |
| Commercial | 2,185 | 2,297 | 105 | % 112 | 100 | % |
| | \$5,731 | \$6,182 | 108 | % \$451 | 58 | % |

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (“NAIC”) assigns creditworthiness designations on a scale of 1 to 6 with 1 being the highest quality and 6 being the lowest quality. The NAIC retains third-party investment management firms to assist in the determination of appropriate NAIC designations for mortgage-backed securities based not only on the probability of loss (which is the primary basis of ratings by the major ratings firms), but also on the severity of loss and statutory carrying value.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

At September 30, 2015, 98% (based on statutory carrying value of \$5.66 billion) of AFG's MBS securities had a NAIC designation of 1 or 2.

Municipal bonds represented approximately 22% of AFG's fixed maturity portfolio at September 30, 2015. AFG's municipal bond portfolio is high quality, with 98% of the securities rated investment grade at that date. The portfolio is well diversified across the states of issuance and individual issuers. At September 30, 2015, approximately 74% of the municipal bond portfolio was held in revenue bonds, with the remaining 26% held in general obligation bonds. General obligation securities of California, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York and Puerto Rico collectively represented approximately 1% of this portfolio.

Summarized information for the unrealized gains and losses recorded in AFG's Balance Sheet at September 30, 2015, is shown in the following table (dollars in millions). Approximately \$540 million of available for sale fixed maturity securities and \$85 million of available for sale equity securities had no unrealized gains or losses at September 30, 2015.

| | Securities With Unrealized Gains | | Securities With Unrealized Losses | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| Available for Sale Fixed Maturities | | | | |
| Fair value of securities | \$25,620 | | \$6,954 | |
| Amortized cost of securities | \$24,163 | | \$7,165 | |
| Gross unrealized gain (loss) | \$1,457 | | \$(211) |) |
| Fair value as % of amortized cost | 106 | % | 97 | % |
| Number of security positions | 4,356 | | 950 | |
| Number individually exceeding \$2 million gain or loss | 81 | | 12 | |
| Concentration of gains (losses) by type or industry (exceeding 5% of unrealized): | | | | |
| Mortgage-backed securities | \$466 | | \$(15) |) |
| States and municipalities | 321 | | (29) |) |
| Banks, savings and credit institutions | 119 | | (18) |) |
| Gas and electric services | 98 | | (15) |) |
| Asset-backed securities | 47 | | (19) |) |
| Oil and gas extraction | 10 | | (34) |) |
| Metal mining | 6 | | (19) |) |
| Percentage rated investment grade | 88 | % | 85 | % |
| Available for Sale Equity Securities | | | | |
| Fair value of securities | \$830 | | \$743 | |
| Cost of securities | \$661 | | \$844 | |
| Gross unrealized gain (loss) | \$169 | | \$(101) |) |
| Fair value as % of cost | 126 | % | 88 | % |
| Number of security positions | 153 | | 101 | |
| Number individually exceeding \$2 million gain or loss | 25 | | 17 | |

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

The table below sets forth the scheduled maturities of AFG's available for sale fixed maturity securities at September 30, 2015, based on their fair values. Securities with sinking funds are reported at average maturity. Actual maturities may differ from contractual maturities because certain securities may be called or prepaid by the issuers.

| | Securities With Unrealized Gains | | Securities With Unrealized Losses | |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| Maturity | | | | |
| One year or less | 4 | % | — | % |
| After one year through five years | 20 | % | 8 | % |
| After five years through ten years | 30 | % | 40 | % |
| After ten years | 14 | % | 18 | % |
| | 68 | % | 66 | % |
| Asset-backed securities (average life of approximately 5 years) | 11 | % | 25 | % |
| Mortgage-backed securities (average life of approximately 4-1/2 years) | 21 | % | 9 | % |
| | 100 | % | 100 | % |

The table below (dollars in millions) summarizes the unrealized gains and losses on fixed maturity securities by dollar amount:

| | Aggregate Fair Value | Aggregate Unrealized Gain (Loss) | Fair Value as % of Cost Basis | |
|--|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| Fixed Maturities at September 30, 2015 | | | | |
| Securities with unrealized gains: | | | | |
| Exceeding \$500,000 (891 securities) | \$10,615 | \$958 | 110 | % |
| \$500,000 or less (3,465 securities) | 15,005 | 499 | 103 | % |
| | \$25,620 | \$1,457 | 106 | % |
| Securities with unrealized losses: | | | | |
| Exceeding \$500,000 (102 securities) | \$1,299 | \$(122) | 91 | % |
| \$500,000 or less (848 securities) | 5,655 | (89) | 98 | % |
| | \$6,954 | \$(211) | 97 | % |

The following table (dollars in millions) summarizes the unrealized losses for all securities with unrealized losses by issuer quality and the length of time those securities have been in an unrealized loss position:

| | Aggregate Fair Value | Aggregate Unrealized Loss | Fair Value as % of Cost Basis | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Securities with Unrealized Losses at September 30, 2015 | | | | |
| Investment grade fixed maturities with losses for: | | | | |
| Less than one year (633 securities) | \$5,314 | \$(139) | 97 | % |
| One year or longer (117 securities) | 619 | (22) | 97 | % |
| | \$5,933 | \$(161) | 97 | % |
| Non-investment grade fixed maturities with losses for: | | | | |
| Less than one year (129 securities) | \$767 | \$(30) | 96 | % |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|--|---------|-------|------|---|
| One year or longer (71 securities) | 254 | (20 |) 93 | % |
| | \$1,021 | \$(50 |) 95 | % |
| Common equity securities with losses for: | | | | |
| Less than one year (76 securities) | \$590 | \$(94 |) 86 | % |
| One year or longer (none) | — | — | — | % |
| | \$590 | \$(94 |) 86 | % |
| Perpetual preferred equity securities with losses for: | | | | |
| Less than one year (21 securities) | \$127 | \$(4 |) 97 | % |
| One year or longer (4 securities) | 26 | (3 |) 90 | % |
| | \$153 | \$(7 |) 96 | % |

43

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

When a decline in the value of a specific investment is considered to be “other-than-temporary,” a provision for impairment is charged to earnings (accounted for as a realized loss) and the cost basis of that investment is reduced by the amount of the charge. The determination of whether unrealized losses are “other-than-temporary” requires judgment based on subjective as well as objective factors as detailed in AFG’s 2014 Form 10-K under Management’s Discussion and Analysis — “Investments.”

Based on its analysis, management believes AFG will recover its cost basis in the securities with unrealized losses and that AFG has the ability to hold the securities until they recover in value and had no intent to sell them at September 30, 2015. Although AFG has the ability to continue holding its investments with unrealized losses, its intent to hold them may change due to deterioration in the issuers’ creditworthiness, decisions to lessen exposure to a particular issuer or industry, asset/liability management decisions, market movements, changes in views about appropriate asset allocation or the desire to offset taxable realized gains. Should AFG’s ability or intent change with regard to a particular security, a charge for impairment would likely be required. While it is not possible to accurately predict if or when a specific security will become impaired, charges for other-than-temporary impairment could be material to results of operations in future periods. Significant declines in the fair value of AFG’s investment portfolio could have a significant adverse effect on AFG’s liquidity.

Uncertainties Management believes that the areas posing the greatest risk of material loss are the adequacy of its insurance reserves and contingencies arising out of its former railroad and manufacturing operations. See Management’s Discussion and Analysis — “Uncertainties” in AFG’s 2014 Form 10-K.

MANAGED INVESTMENT ENTITIES

Accounting standards require AFG to consolidate its investments in collateralized loan obligation (“CLO”) entities that it manages and owns an interest in (in the form of debt). See Note A — “Accounting Policies — Managed Investment Entities” and Note H — “Managed Investment Entities” to the financial statements. The effect of consolidating these entities is shown in the tables below (in millions). The “Before CLO Consolidation” columns include AFG’s investment and earnings in the CLOs on an unconsolidated basis.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING BALANCE SHEET

| | Before CLO Consolidation | Managed Investment Entities | Consol. Entries | | Consolidated As Reported |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| September 30, 2015 | | | | | |
| Assets: | | | | | |
| Cash and investments | \$38,456 | \$— | \$(324) | (a) | \$ 38,132 |
| Assets of managed investment entities | — | 3,613 | — | | 3,613 |
| Other assets | 8,814 | — | (2) | (a) | 8,812 |
| Total assets | \$47,270 | \$3,613 | \$(326) | | \$ 50,557 |
| Liabilities: | | | | | |
| Unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses and unearned premiums | \$10,299 | \$— | \$— | | \$ 10,299 |
| Annuity, life, accident and health benefits and reserves | 28,185 | — | — | | 28,185 |
| Liabilities of managed investment entities | — | 3,598 | (311) | (a) | 3,287 |
| Long-term debt and other liabilities | 3,880 | — | — | | 3,880 |
| Total liabilities | 42,364 | 3,598 | (311) | | 45,651 |
| Shareholders' equity: | | | | | |
| Common Stock and Capital surplus | 1,282 | 15 | (15) | | 1,282 |
| Retained earnings | 2,981 | — | — | | 2,981 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax | 461 | — | — | | 461 |
| Total shareholders' equity | 4,724 | 15 | (15) | | 4,724 |
| Noncontrolling interests | 182 | — | — | | 182 |
| Total equity | 4,906 | 15 | (15) | | 4,906 |
| Total liabilities and equity | \$47,270 | \$3,613 | \$(326) | | \$ 50,557 |
| December 31, 2014 | | | | | |
| Assets: | | | | | |
| Cash and investments | \$36,499 | \$— | \$(289) | (a) | \$ 36,210 |
| Assets of managed investment entities | — | 3,108 | — | | 3,108 |
| Other assets | 8,219 | — | (2) | (a) | 8,217 |
| Total assets | \$44,718 | \$3,108 | \$(291) | | \$ 47,535 |
| Liabilities: | | | | | |
| Unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses and unearned premiums | \$9,828 | \$— | \$— | | \$ 9,828 |
| Annuity, life, accident and health benefits and reserves | 25,939 | — | — | | 25,939 |
| Liabilities of managed investment entities | — | 3,105 | (286) | (a) | 2,819 |
| Long-term debt and other liabilities | 3,895 | — | — | | 3,895 |
| Total liabilities | 39,662 | 3,105 | (286) | | 42,481 |
| Shareholders' equity: | | | | | |
| Common Stock and Capital surplus | 1,240 | 5 | (5) | | 1,240 |
| Retained earnings: | | | | | |
| Appropriated — managed investment entities | — | (2) | — | | (2) |
| Unappropriated | 2,914 | — | — | | 2,914 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax | 727 | — | — | | 727 |
| Total shareholders' equity | 4,881 | 3 | (5) | | 4,879 |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Noncontrolling interests | 175 | — | — | 175 |
| Total equity | 5,056 | 3 | (5) | 5,054 |
| Total liabilities and equity | \$44,718 | \$3,108 | \$(291) | \$47,535 |

(a) Elimination of the fair value of AFG's investment in CLOs and related accrued interest.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF EARNINGS

| | Before CLO Consolidation (a) | Managed Investment Entities | Consol. Entries | | Consolidated As Reported | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------------------------|---|
| Three months ended September 30, 2015 | | | | | | |
| Revenues: | | | | | | |
| Insurance net earned premiums | \$ 1,201 | \$— | \$— | | \$ 1,201 | |
| Net investment income | 422 | — | 3 | (b) | 425 | |
| Realized gains (losses) on: | | | | | | |
| Securities | (16 |) — | — | | (16 |) |
| Subsidiaries | 5 | — | — | | 5 | |
| Income (loss) of managed investment entities: | | | | | | |
| Investment income | — | 40 | — | | 40 | |
| Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities | — | (1 |) (10 |) (b) | (11 |) |
| Other income | 44 | — | (4 |) (c) | 40 | |
| Total revenues | 1,656 | 39 | (11 |) | 1,684 | |
| Costs and Expenses: | | | | | | |
| Insurance benefits and expenses | 1,446 | — | — | | 1,446 | |
| Expenses of managed investment entities | — | 39 | (11 |) (b)(c) | 28 | |
| Interest charges on borrowed money and other expenses | 111 | — | — | | 111 | |
| Total costs and expenses | 1,557 | 39 | (11 |) | 1,585 | |
| Earnings before income taxes | 99 | — | — | | 99 | |
| Provision for income taxes | 33 | — | — | | 33 | |
| Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests | 66 | — | — | | 66 | |
| Less: Net earnings attributable to noncontrolling interests | 3 | — | — | | 3 | |
| Net earnings attributable to shareholders | \$ 63 | \$— | \$— | | \$ 63 | |
| Three months ended September 30, 2014 | | | | | | |
| Revenues: | | | | | | |
| Insurance net earned premiums | \$ 1,159 | \$— | \$— | | \$ 1,159 | |
| Net investment income | 384 | — | (7 |) (b) | 377 | |
| Realized gains on securities | 13 | — | — | | 13 | |
| Income (loss) of managed investment entities: | | | | | | |
| Investment income | — | 29 | — | | 29 | |
| Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities | — | (23 |) (2 |) (b) | (25 |) |
| Other income | 35 | — | (7 |) (c) | 28 | |
| Total revenues | 1,591 | 6 | (16 |) | 1,581 | |
| Costs and Expenses: | | | | | | |
| Insurance benefits and expenses | 1,326 | — | — | | 1,326 | |
| Expenses of managed investment entities | — | 33 | (14 |) (b)(c) | 19 | |
| Interest charges on borrowed money and other expenses | 91 | — | — | | 91 | |
| Total costs and expenses | 1,417 | 33 | (14 |) | 1,436 | |
| Earnings before income taxes | 174 | (27 |) (2 |) | 145 | |
| Provision for income taxes | 54 | — | — | | 54 | |
| Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests | 120 | (27 |) (2 |) | 91 | |
| | 4 | — | (29 |) (d) | (25 |) |

Less: Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests

| | | | | |
|---|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Net earnings attributable to shareholders | \$ 116 | \$(27) | \$27 | \$ 116 |
|---|--------|---------|------|--------|

Includes (\$3 million) in the third quarter of 2015 and \$7 million in the third quarter of 2014, respectively, in net (a) investment income representing the change in fair value of AFG's CLO investments plus \$4 million and \$7 million in the third quarter of 2015 and 2014, respectively, in CLO management fees earned.

(b) Elimination of the change in fair value of AFG's investments in the CLOs, including \$7 million in both the third quarter of 2015 and 2014 in distributions recorded as interest expense by the CLOs.

(c) Elimination of management fees earned by AFG.

(d) Allocate losses of CLOs attributable to other debt holders to noncontrolling interests.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF EARNINGS

| | Before CLO Consolidation (a) | Managed Investment Entities | Consol. Entries | Consolidated As Reported |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Nine months ended September 30, 2015 | | | | |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Insurance net earned premiums | \$ 3,184 | \$— | \$— | \$ 3,184 |
| Net investment income | 1,222 | — | (5) (b) | 1,217 |
| Realized gains (losses) on: | | | | |
| Securities | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| Subsidiaries | (157) | — | — | (157) |
| Income (loss) of managed investment entities: | | | | |
| Investment income | — | 112 | — | 112 |
| Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities | — | 2 | (18) (b) | (16) |
| Other income | 188 | — | (11) (c) | 177 |
| Total revenues | 4,439 | 114 | (34) | 4,519 |
| Costs and Expenses: | | | | |
| Insurance benefits and expenses | 3,776 | — | — | 3,776 |
| Expenses of managed investment entities | — | 112 | (32) (b)(c) | 80 |
| Interest charges on borrowed money and other expenses | 308 | — | — | 308 |
| Total costs and expenses | 4,084 | 112 | (32) | 4,164 |
| Earnings before income taxes | 355 | 2 | (2) | 355 |
| Provision for income taxes | 115 | — | — | 115 |
| Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests | 240 | 2 | (2) | 240 |
| Less: Net earnings attributable to noncontrolling interests | 17 | — | — | 17 |
| Net earnings attributable to shareholders | \$ 223 | \$ 2 | \$(2) | \$ 223 |
| Nine months ended September 30, 2014 | | | | |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Insurance net earned premiums | \$ 2,899 | \$— | \$— | \$ 2,899 |
| Net investment income | 1,135 | — | (18) (b) | 1,117 |
| Realized gains on securities | 44 | — | — | 44 |
| Income (loss) of managed investment entities: | | | | |
| Investment income | — | 84 | — | 84 |
| Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities | — | (33) | (2) (b) | (35) |
| Other income | 93 | — | (18) (c) | 75 |
| Total revenues | 4,171 | 51 | (38) | 4,184 |
| Costs and Expenses: | | | | |
| Insurance benefits and expenses | 3,416 | — | — | 3,416 |
| Expenses of managed investment entities | — | 96 | (36) (b)(c) | 60 |
| Interest charges on borrowed money and other expenses | 272 | — | — | 272 |
| Total costs and expenses | 3,688 | 96 | (36) | 3,748 |
| Earnings before income taxes | 483 | (45) | (2) | 436 |
| Provision for income taxes | 155 | — | — | 155 |
| Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests | 328 | (45) | (2) | 281 |
| | 3 | — | (47) (d) | (44) |

Less: Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests

| | | | | |
|---|--------|---------|------|--------|
| Net earnings attributable to shareholders | \$ 325 | \$(45) | \$45 | \$ 325 |
|---|--------|---------|------|--------|

Includes \$5 million and \$18 million for the first nine months of 2015 and 2014, respectively, in net investment (a) income representing the change in fair value of AFG's CLO investments plus \$11 million and \$18 million in the first nine months 2015 and 2014, respectively, in CLO management fees earned.

(b) Elimination of the change in fair value of AFG's investments in the CLOs, including \$21 million and \$18 million in the first nine months of 2015 and 2014, respectively, in distributions recorded as interest expense by the CLOs.

(c) Elimination of management fees earned by AFG.

(d) Allocate losses of CLOs attributable to other debt holders to noncontrolling interests.

47

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

General AFG's net earnings attributable to shareholders, determined in accordance with GAAP, include certain items that may not be indicative of its ongoing core operations. The following table identifies such items and reconciles net earnings attributable to shareholders to core net operating earnings, a non-GAAP financial measure that AFG believes is a useful tool for investors and analysts in analyzing ongoing operating trends (in millions, except per share amounts):

| | Three months ended | | Nine months ended | |
|---|--------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| | September 30, | | September 30, | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Core net operating earnings | \$123 | \$127 | \$350 | \$317 |
| Loss on sale of long-term care business (*) | — | — | (105 |) — |
| Gain on sale of Le Pavillon Hotel (*) | — | — | 26 | — |
| Other realized gains (losses) (*) | (6 |) 8 | 6 | 27 |
| Special A&E charges (*) | (52 |) (19 |) (52 |) (19 |
| Loss on retirement of debt (*) | (2 |) — | (2 |) — |
| Net earnings attributable to shareholders | \$63 | \$116 | \$223 | \$325 |
| Diluted per share amounts: | | | | |
| Core net operating earnings | \$1.38 | \$1.40 | \$3.92 | \$3.47 |
| Loss on sale of long-term care business | — | — | (1.18 |) — |
| Gain on sale of Le Pavillon Hotel | — | — | 0.29 | — |
| Other realized gains (losses) | (0.06 |) 0.09 | 0.07 | 0.30 |
| Special A&E charges | (0.58 |) (0.21 |) (0.58 |) (0.21 |
| Loss on retirement of debt | (0.03 |) — | (0.03 |) — |
| Net earnings attributable to shareholders | \$0.71 | \$1.28 | \$2.49 | \$3.56 |

(*) The tax effects of reconciling items are shown below (in millions):

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|------|-------|
| Loss on sale of long-term care business | \$— | \$— | \$57 | \$— |
| Gain on sale of Le Pavillon Hotel | — | — | (19 |) — |
| Other realized gains (losses) | 4 | (5 |) (2 |) (16 |
| Special A&E charges | 27 | 11 | 27 | 11 |
| Loss on retirement of debt | 2 | — | 2 | — |

In addition, reconciling items are shown net of noncontrolling interests as follows (in millions):

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|------|-------|
| Gain on sale of Le Pavillon Hotel | \$— | \$— | \$(6 |) \$— |
| Other realized gains (losses) | 1 | — | 1 | (1 |

Net earnings attributable to shareholders decreased \$53 million in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 due primarily to higher special A&E charges and net realized losses on securities in the 2015 period compared to net realized gains on securities in the 2014 period. Core net operating earnings decreased \$4 million in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 due primarily to the impact of fair value accounting for fixed-indexed annuities, partially offset by higher core underwriting profit and net investment income in the property and casualty insurance segment and higher operating earnings in the run-off long-term care and life segment.

Net earnings attributable to shareholders decreased \$102 million in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 due primarily to the loss on the pending sale of AFG's run-off long-term care insurance business, higher special A&E charges and lower realized gains, partially offset by the gain on the sale of Le Pavillon Hotel and higher core net operating earnings. Core net operating earnings increased \$33 million in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 due primarily to higher core underwriting profit and net investment income in the property and casualty insurance segment and higher operating earnings in the run-off long-term care and life segment, partially offset by the impact of fair value accounting for fixed-indexed annuities.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS — QUARTERS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 AND 2014

Segmented Statement of Earnings AFG reports its business as four segments: (i) Property and casualty insurance (“P&C”), (ii) Annuity, (iii) Run-off long-term care and life and (iv) Other, which includes holding company costs and income and expenses related to the managed investment entities (“MIEs”).

AFG's net earnings attributable to shareholders, determined in accordance with GAAP, include certain items that may not be indicative of its ongoing core operations. The following tables for the quarters ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 identify such items by segment and reconcile net earnings attributable to shareholders to core net operating earnings, a non-GAAP financial measure that AFG believes is a useful tool for investors and analysts in analyzing ongoing operating trends (in millions):

| | P&C | Annuity | Run-off long-term care and life | Consol. MIEs | Other Holding Co., other and unallocated | Total | Non-GAAP reclass | GAAP Total |
|---|---------|---------|---------------------------------|--------------|--|---------|------------------|------------|
| Quarter ended September 30, 2015 | | | | | | | | |
| Revenues: | | | | | | | | |
| Property and casualty insurance net earned premiums | \$1,173 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$1,173 | \$— | \$1,173 |
| Life, accident and health net earned premiums | — | — | 28 | — | — | 28 | — | 28 |
| Net investment income | 83 | 317 | 20 | 3 | 2 | 425 | — | 425 |
| Realized gains (losses) on: | | | | | | | | |
| Securities | — | — | — | — | — | — | (16) | (16) |
| Subsidiaries | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5 | 5 |
| Income (loss) of MIEs: | | | | | | | | |
| Investment income | — | — | — | 40 | — | 40 | — | 40 |
| Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities | — | — | — | (11) | — | (11) | — | (11) |
| Other income | 2 | 22 | 1 | (4) | 19 | 40 | — | 40 |
| Total revenues | 1,258 | 339 | 49 | 28 | 21 | 1,695 | (11) | 1,684 |
| Costs and Expenses: | | | | | | | | |
| Property and casualty insurance: | | | | | | | | |
| Losses and loss adjustment expenses | 758 | — | — | — | — | 758 | 67 | 825 |
| Commissions and other underwriting expenses | 333 | — | — | — | 3 | 336 | — | 336 |
| Annuity benefits | — | 208 | — | — | — | 208 | — | 208 |
| Life, accident and health benefits | — | — | 31 | — | — | 31 | — | 31 |
| Annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses | — | 42 | 4 | — | — | 46 | — | 46 |
| Interest charges on borrowed money | — | — | — | — | 18 | 18 | — | 18 |
| Expenses of MIEs | — | — | — | 28 | — | 28 | — | 28 |
| Other expenses | 10 | 22 | 8 | — | 37 | 77 | 16 | 93 |
| Total costs and expenses | 1,101 | 272 | 43 | 28 | 58 | 1,502 | 83 | 1,585 |
| Earnings before income taxes | 157 | 67 | 6 | — | (37) | 193 | (94) | 99 |
| Provision for income taxes | 54 | 22 | 2 | — | (12) | 66 | (33) | 33 |
| Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests | 103 | 45 | 4 | — | (25) | 127 | (61) | 66 |
| Less: Net earnings attributable to noncontrolling interests | 4 | — | — | — | — | 4 | (1) | 3 |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|-----|-----|-------|----|------|----------|--------|
| Core Net Operating Earnings | 99 | 45 | 4 | — | (25 |) | 123 | | |
| Non-core earnings attributable to shareholders (a): | | | | | | | | | |
| Realized gains (losses), net of tax and noncontrolling interests | — | — | — | — | (6 |) | (6 |) 6 — | |
| Special A&E charges, net of tax | (44 |) | — | — | — | (8 |) | (52 |) 52 — |
| Loss on retirement of debt, net of tax | — | — | — | — | (2 |) | (2 |) 2 — | |
| Net Earnings Attributable to Shareholders | \$55 | \$45 | \$4 | \$— | \$(41 |) | \$63 | \$— \$63 | |

49

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

| | P&C | Annuity and life | Run-off long-term care and MIEs | Other Consol. Co., other and unallocated | Total | Non-core reclass | GAAP Total | |
|---|---------|------------------------|---|---|---------|---------------------|---------------|---------|
| Quarter ended September 30, 2014 | | | | | | | | |
| Revenues: | | | | | | | | |
| Property and casualty insurance net earned premiums | \$1,132 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$1,132 | \$— | \$1,132 |
| Life, accident and health net earned premiums | — | — | 27 | — | — | 27 | — | 27 |
| Net investment income | 76 | 287 | 20 | (7) | 1 | 377 | — | 377 |
| Realized gains on securities | — | — | — | — | — | — | 13 | 13 |
| Income (loss) of MIEs: | | | | | | | | |
| Investment income | — | — | — | 29 | — | 29 | — | 29 |
| Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities | — | — | — | (25) | — | (25) | — | (25) |
| Other income | 4 | 20 | 1 | (7) | 10 | 28 | — | 28 |
| Total revenues | 1,212 | 307 | 48 | (10) | 11 | 1,568 | 13 | 1,581 |
| Costs and Expenses: | | | | | | | | |
| Property and casualty insurance: | | | | | | | | |
| Losses and loss adjustment expenses | 760 | — | — | — | — | 760 | 24 | 784 |
| Commissions and other underwriting expenses | 302 | — | — | — | — | 302 | — | 302 |
| Annuity benefits | — | 157 | — | — | — | 157 | — | 157 |
| Life, accident and health benefits | — | — | 37 | — | — | 37 | — | 37 |
| Annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses | — | 41 | 5 | — | — | 46 | — | 46 |
| Interest charges on borrowed money | 1 | — | — | — | 17 | 18 | — | 18 |
| Expenses of MIEs | — | — | — | 19 | — | 19 | — | 19 |
| Other expenses | 15 | 23 | 5 | — | 24 | 67 | 6 | 73 |
| Total costs and expenses | 1,078 | 221 | 47 | 19 | 41 | 1,406 | 30 | 1,436 |
| Earnings before income taxes | 134 | 86 | 1 | (29) | (30) | 162 | (17) | 145 |
| Provision for income taxes | 42 | 28 | — | — | (10) | 60 | (6) | 54 |
| Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests | 92 | 58 | 1 | (29) | (20) | 102 | (11) | 91 |
| Less: Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests | 4 | — | — | (29) | — | (25) | — | (25) |
| Core Net Operating Earnings | 88 | 58 | 1 | — | (20) | 127 | | |
| Non-core earnings attributable to shareholders (a): | | | | | | | | |
| Realized gains on securities, net of tax and noncontrolling interests | — | — | — | — | 8 | 8 | (8) | — |
| Special A&E charges, net of tax | (15) | — | — | — | (4) | (19) | 19 | — |
| Net Earnings Attributable to Shareholders | \$73 | \$58 | \$1 | \$— | \$(16) | \$116 | \$— | \$116 |

(a) See the reconciliation of core earnings to GAAP net earnings under “Results of Operations — General” for details on the tax and noncontrolling interest impacts of these reconciling items.

Property and Casualty Insurance Segment — Results of Operations Performance measures such as underwriting profit or loss and related combined ratios are often used by property and casualty insurers to help users of their financial

statements better understand the company's performance. Underwriting profitability is measured by the combined ratio, which is a sum of the ratios of losses and loss adjustment expenses, and commissions and other underwriting expenses to premiums. A combined ratio under 100% indicates an underwriting profit. The combined ratio does not reflect net investment income, other income, other expenses or federal income taxes.

AFG's property and casualty insurance operations contributed \$90 million in GAAP pretax earnings in the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$110 million in the third quarter of 2014, a decrease of \$20 million (18%). Property and casualty core pretax earnings were \$157 million in the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$134 million in the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$23 million (17%). The decrease in GAAP pretax earnings reflects higher special A&E charges in the third quarter of 2015

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

compared to the 2014 third quarter, partially offset by higher core earnings. The increase in core pretax earnings reflects higher underwriting profit in the Property and transportation and Specialty financial groups and higher net investment income.

The following table details AFG's GAAP and core earnings before income taxes from its property and casualty insurance operations for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------|------|--------|
| | September 30, | | | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | % | Change |
| Gross written premiums | \$1,962 | \$1,859 | 6 | % |
| Reinsurance premiums ceded | (643) | (617) | 4 | % |
| Net written premiums | 1,319 | 1,242 | 6 | % |
| Change in unearned premiums | (146) | (110) | 33 | % |
| Net earned premiums | 1,173 | 1,132 | 4 | % |
| Loss and loss adjustment expenses (*) | 758 | 760 | — | % |
| Commissions and other underwriting expenses | 333 | 302 | 10 | % |
| Core underwriting gain | 82 | 70 | 17 | % |
| Net investment income | 83 | 76 | 9 | % |
| Other income and expenses, net | (8) | (12) | (33) | % |
| Core earnings before income taxes | 157 | 134 | 17 | % |
| Pretax non-core special A&E charges | (67) | (24) | 179 | % |
| GAAP earnings before income taxes | \$90 | \$110 | (18) | % |

(*) Excludes pretax non-core special A&E charges of \$67 million and \$24 million in the third quarter of 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Combined Ratios:

| | | | Change | |
|--|------|--------|---------|---|
| Specialty lines | | | | |
| Loss and LAE ratio | 64.5 | % 67.1 | % (2.6) | % |
| Underwriting expense ratio | 28.4 | % 26.7 | % 1.7 | % |
| Combined ratio | 92.9 | % 93.8 | % (0.9) | % |
| Aggregate — including discontinued lines | | | | |
| Loss and LAE ratio | 70.3 | % 69.3 | % 1.0 | % |
| Underwriting expense ratio | 28.4 | % 26.7 | % 1.7 | % |
| Combined ratio | 98.7 | % 96.0 | % 2.7 | % |

While AFG desires and seeks to earn an underwriting profit on all of its business, it is not always possible to do so. As a result, AFG attempts to expand in the most profitable businesses and control growth or even reduce its involvement in the least profitable businesses.

AFG reports the underwriting performance of its Specialty property and casualty insurance business in the following sub-segments: (i) Property and transportation, (ii) Specialty casualty and (iii) Specialty financial.

To understand the overall profitability of particular lines, the timing of claims payments and the related impact of investment income must be considered. Certain “short-tail” lines of business (primarily property coverages) generally have quick loss payouts, which reduce the time funds are held, thereby limiting investment income earned thereon. In contrast, “long-tail” lines of business (primarily liability coverages and workers’ compensation) generally have payouts that are either structured over many years or take many years to settle, thereby significantly increasing investment income earned on related premiums received.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Gross Written Premiums

Gross written premiums (“GWP”) for AFG’s property and casualty insurance segment were \$1.96 billion for the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$1.86 billion for the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$103 million (6%). Detail of AFG’s property and casualty gross written premiums is shown below (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended September 30, | | 2014 | | % Change | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----|----------|---|
| | 2015 | | GWP | % | | |
| Property and transportation | \$1,064 | 54 | % \$995 | 54 | % 7 | % |
| Specialty casualty | 734 | 37 | % 707 | 38 | % 4 | % |
| Specialty financial | 164 | 9 | % 157 | 8 | % 4 | % |
| | \$1,962 | 100 | % \$1,859 | 100 | % 6 | % |

Reinsurance Premiums Ceded

Reinsurance premiums ceded (“Ceded”) for AFG’s property and casualty insurance segment were 33% of gross written premiums for the third quarter of 2015 and 2014. Detail of AFG’s property and casualty reinsurance premiums ceded is shown below (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended September 30, | | 2014 | | Change in % of GWP | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------|----------|-------------|-----------------------|----|
| | 2015 | | Ceded | % of GWP | | |
| Property and transportation | \$(456 |) 43 | % \$(439 |) 44 | % (1 | %) |
| Specialty casualty | (189 |) 26 | % (171 |) 24 | % 2 | %) |
| Specialty financial | (27 |) 16 | % (36 |) 23 | % (7 | %) |
| Other specialty | 29 | | 29 | | | |
| | \$(643 |) 33 | % \$(617 |) 33 | % — | %) |

Net Written Premiums

Net written premiums (“NWP”) for AFG’s property and casualty insurance segment were \$1.32 billion for the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$1.24 billion for the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$77 million (6%). Detail of AFG’s property and casualty net written premiums is shown below (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended September 30, | | 2014 | | % Change | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----|----------|---|
| | 2015 | | NWP | % | | |
| Property and transportation | \$608 | 46 | % \$556 | 45 | % 9 | % |
| Specialty casualty | 545 | 41 | % 536 | 43 | % 2 | % |
| Specialty financial | 137 | 10 | % 121 | 10 | % 13 | % |
| Other specialty | 29 | 3 | % 29 | 2 | % — | % |
| | \$1,319 | 100 | % \$1,242 | 100 | % 6 | % |

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Net Earned Premiums

Net earned premiums (“NEP”) for AFG’s property and casualty insurance segment were \$1.17 billion for the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$1.13 billion for the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$41 million (4%). Detail of AFG’s property and casualty net earned premiums is shown below (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended September 30, | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----|----------|---|
| | 2015 | | 2014 | | % Change | |
| | NEP | % | NEP | % | | |
| Property and transportation | \$517 | 44 | % \$504 | 45 | % 3 | % |
| Specialty casualty | 503 | 43 | % 486 | 43 | % 3 | % |
| Specialty financial | 131 | 11 | % 115 | 10 | % 14 | % |
| Other specialty | 22 | 2 | % 27 | 2 | % (19) | % |
| | \$1,173 | 100 | % \$1,132 | 100 | % 4 | % |

The \$103 million (6%) increase in gross written premiums for the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter of 2014 reflects growth in each of the Specialty property and casualty sub-segments. Overall average renewal rates were flat in the third quarter of 2015.

Property and transportation Gross written premiums increased \$69 million (7%) in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter of 2014. This increase was due primarily to growth in the transportation businesses, as a result of new accounts and organic growth in several product lines, as well as higher premiums in the agricultural businesses. Average renewal rates were up approximately 4% for this group in the third quarter of 2015, including a 5% increase in National Interstate’s renewal rates. Reinsurance premiums ceded as a percentage of gross written premiums declined 1 percentage point for the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter of 2014, reflecting a change in the mix of business.

Specialty casualty Gross written premiums increased \$27 million (4%) in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter of 2014. The majority of businesses in this group reported growth, particularly the excess and surplus businesses. This growth was partially offset by lower premiums in the general liability business, primarily the result of competitive market conditions, re-underwriting efforts within the Florida homebuilders market and the slowdown within the energy sector. Average renewal rates decreased approximately 2% for this group in the third quarter of 2015, due primarily to lower pricing in the workers’ compensation businesses. Excluding the workers’ compensation business, average renewal rates for this group increased approximately 1% during the quarter. Reinsurance premiums ceded as a percentage of gross written premiums increased 2 percentage points for the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter of 2014, reflecting a change in the mix of business.

Specialty financial Gross written premiums increased by \$7 million (4%) in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter of 2014 due primarily to growth and higher retentions in the financial institutions business. Average renewal rates for this group were flat in the third quarter of 2015. Reinsurance premiums ceded as a percentage of gross written premiums declined 7 percentage points for the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter of 2014, reflecting a decline in auto dealer business, which is heavily reinsured.

Other specialty The amounts shown as reinsurance premiums ceded represent business assumed by AFG’s internal reinsurance program from the operations that make up AFG’s other Specialty sub-segments.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Combined Ratio

The table below details the components of the combined ratio for AFG's property and casualty segment (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended September 30, | | Change | Three months ended September 30, | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | | 2015 | 2014 |
| Property and transportation | | | | | |
| Loss and LAE ratio | 75.7 | % 80.7 | % (5.0 | % | |
| Underwriting expense ratio | 20.5 | % 17.1 | % 3.4 | % | |
| Combined ratio | 96.2 | % 97.8 | % (1.6 | % | |
| Underwriting profit | | | | | \$20 \$11 |
| Specialty casualty | | | | | |
| Loss and LAE ratio | 64.2 | % 63.7 | % 0.5 | % | |
| Underwriting expense ratio | 29.6 | % 29.6 | % — | % | |
| Combined ratio | 93.8 | % 93.3 | % 0.5 | % | |
| Underwriting profit | | | | | \$31 \$32 |
| Specialty financial | | | | | |
| Loss and LAE ratio | 27.7 | % 27.7 | % — | % | |
| Underwriting expense ratio | 52.9 | % 53.9 | % (1.0 | % | |
| Combined ratio | 80.6 | % 81.6 | % (1.0 | % | |
| Underwriting profit | | | | | \$26 \$21 |
| Total Specialty | | | | | |
| Loss and LAE ratio | 64.5 | % 67.1 | % (2.6 | % | |
| Underwriting expense ratio | 28.4 | % 26.7 | % 1.7 | % | |
| Combined ratio | 92.9 | % 93.8 | % (0.9 | % | |
| Underwriting profit | | | | | \$84 \$70 |
| Aggregate — including discontinued lines | | | | | |
| Loss and LAE ratio | 70.3 | % 69.3 | % 1.0 | % | |
| Underwriting expense ratio | 28.4 | % 26.7 | % 1.7 | % | |
| Combined ratio | 98.7 | % 96.0 | % 2.7 | % | |
| Underwriting profit | | | | | \$15 \$46 |

The Specialty property and casualty insurance operations generated an underwriting profit of \$84 million in the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$70 million in the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$14 million (20%). The higher underwriting profit in the 2015 third quarter reflects higher underwriting profits in the Property and transportation and Specialty financial sub-segments.

Property and transportation Underwriting profit for this group was \$20 million for the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$11 million in the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$9 million (82%). Higher underwriting profit in the agricultural and transportation businesses was partially offset by lower underwriting profitability in the property and inland marine and ocean marine businesses.

Specialty casualty Underwriting profit for this group was \$31 million for the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$32 million in the third quarter of 2014, a decrease of \$1 million (3%). Higher underwriting profitability in the workers' compensation businesses was offset by lower underwriting results in the international business.

Specialty financial Underwriting profit for this group was \$26 million for the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$21 million in the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$5 million (24%). This increase was due primarily to higher underwriting profit in the financial institutions business.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Other specialty Underwriting profit for this group was \$7 million for the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$6 million in the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$1 million (17%). The increase reflects higher profitability in the business assumed by AFG's internal reinsurance program from the operations that make up AFG's other Specialty sub-segments.

Aggregate As discussed below in more detail under Net prior year reserve development, AFG recorded special charges to increase property and casualty A&E reserves (net of reinsurance) by \$67 million in the third quarter of 2015 and \$24 million in the third quarter of 2014.

Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses

AFG's overall loss and LAE ratio was 70.3% for the third quarter of 2015 compared to 69.3% for the third quarter of 2014, an increase of 1.0 percentage point. The components of AFG's property and casualty losses and LAE amounts and ratio are detailed below (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended September 30, | | | | Change in | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|-----------|--|--|--|
| | Amount | | Ratio | | Ratio | | | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | | | | |
| Property and transportation | | | | | | | | |
| Current year, excluding catastrophe losses | \$386 | \$411 | 74.6 % | 81.4 % | (6.8 %) | | | |
| Prior accident years development | (2) | (5) | (0.4 %) | (0.9 %) | 0.5 % | | | |
| Current year catastrophe losses | 7 | 1 | 1.5 % | 0.2 % | 1.3 % | | | |
| Property and transportation losses and LAE and ratio | \$391 | \$407 | 75.7 % | 80.7 % | (5.0 %) | | | |
| Specialty casualty | | | | | | | | |
| Current year, excluding catastrophe losses | \$319 | \$302 | 63.3 % | 62.0 % | 1.3 % | | | |
| Prior accident years development | 3 | 7 | 0.6 % | 1.3 % | (0.7 %) | | | |
| Current year catastrophe losses | 1 | 1 | 0.3 % | 0.4 % | (0.1 %) | | | |
| Specialty casualty losses and LAE and ratio | \$323 | \$310 | 64.2 % | 63.7 % | 0.5 % | | | |
| Specialty financial | | | | | | | | |
| Current year, excluding catastrophe losses | \$43 | \$42 | 32.9 % | 36.4 % | (3.5 %) | | | |
| Prior accident years development | (8) | (10) | (5.8 %) | (9.0 %) | 3.2 % | | | |
| Current year catastrophe losses | 1 | — | 0.6 % | 0.3 % | 0.3 % | | | |
| Specialty financial losses and LAE and ratio | \$36 | \$32 | 27.7 % | 27.7 % | — % | | | |
| Total Specialty | | | | | | | | |
| Current year, excluding catastrophe losses | \$760 | \$768 | 64.8 % | 67.8 % | (3.0 %) | | | |
| Prior accident years development | (14) | (11) | (1.2 %) | (1.0 %) | (0.2 %) | | | |
| Current year catastrophe losses | 10 | 3 | 0.9 % | 0.3 % | 0.6 % | | | |
| Total Specialty losses and LAE and ratio | \$756 | \$760 | 64.5 % | 67.1 % | (2.6 %) | | | |
| Aggregate — including discontinued lines | | | | | | | | |
| Current year, excluding catastrophe losses | \$760 | \$768 | 64.8 % | 67.8 % | (3.0 %) | | | |
| Prior accident years development | 55 | 13 | 4.6 % | 1.2 % | 3.4 % | | | |
| Current year catastrophe losses | 10 | 3 | 0.9 % | 0.3 % | 0.6 % | | | |
| Aggregate losses and LAE and ratio | \$825 | \$784 | 70.3 % | 69.3 % | 1.0 % | | | |

Current accident year losses and LAE, excluding catastrophe losses

The current accident year loss and LAE ratio, excluding catastrophe losses for AFG's Specialty property and casualty insurance operations was 64.8% for the third quarter of 2015 compared to 67.8% for the third quarter of 2014, an improvement of 3.0%.

Property and transportation The 6.8 percentage point decrease in the loss and LAE ratio for the current year, excluding catastrophe losses reflects an improvement in the loss and LAE ratio of the trucking and agricultural businesses in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter of 2014.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Specialty casualty The 1.3 percentage point increase in the loss and LAE ratio for the current year, excluding catastrophe losses reflects an increase in the loss and LAE ratio in the international, general liability and excess and surplus businesses, partially offset by a decrease in the loss and LAE ratio of the workers' compensation businesses.

Specialty financial The 3.5 percentage point decrease in the loss and LAE ratio for the current year, excluding catastrophe losses reflects an improvement in the loss and LAE ratio of the fidelity and equipment leasing businesses.

Net prior year reserve development

AFG's Specialty property and casualty insurance operations recorded net favorable reserve development related to prior accident years of \$14 million in the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$11 million in the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$3 million.

Property and transportation Net favorable reserve development of \$2 million in the third quarter of 2015 reflects lower than expected claim severity in the property and inland marine business, agricultural operations and a run-off book of homebuilders business, partially offset by higher than anticipated claim frequency in the ocean marine business and higher than expected claim frequency and severity in the trucking business. Net favorable reserve development of \$5 million in the third quarter of 2014 reflects lower than expected claim severity in commercial auto liability business written in the transportation businesses and lower than expected claim severity in the property and inland marine business.

Specialty casualty Net adverse reserve development of \$3 million in the third quarter of 2015 includes adverse reserve development in the international business and higher than anticipated claim severity and frequency in contractor claims, partially offset by lower than anticipated claim severity in workers' compensation business, lower than expected claim severity in directors and officers liability insurance and lower than anticipated claim severity and frequency in excess liability insurance. Net adverse reserve development of \$7 million in the third quarter of 2014 reflects higher than expected claim severity in contractor claims and in a run-off book of casualty business, partially offset by lower than anticipated claim severity in workers' compensation business, and favorable reserve development in the international business.

Specialty financial Net favorable reserve development of \$8 million in the third quarter of 2015 reflects lower than anticipated claim severity in the fidelity business, lower than expected claim frequency and severity in the surety business and lower than expected claim frequency in products for financial institutions, partially offset by higher than anticipated claim severity in the trade credit business. Net favorable reserve development of \$10 million in the third quarter of 2014 reflects lower than expected claim severity in the surety and fidelity businesses.

Other specialty In addition to the development discussed above, total Specialty prior year reserve development includes net favorable reserve development of \$7 million in the third quarter of 2015 and \$3 million in the third quarter of 2014 reflecting amortization of the deferred gain on the retroactive insurance transaction entered into in connection with the sale of businesses in 1998 and 2001 and reserve development associated with AFG's internal reinsurance program.

Special Asbestos and Environmental Reserve Charges During the third quarter of 2015, AFG completed a comprehensive external study of its asbestos and environmental exposures relating to the run-off operations of its property and casualty insurance segment and its exposures related to former railroad and manufacturing operations and sites. AFG has periodically conducted comprehensive external studies of its asbestos and environmental reserves with the aid of specialty actuarial, engineering and consulting firms and outside counsel, generally every two years,

with an in-depth internal review during the intervening years.

As a result of the 2015 external study, AFG's property and casualty insurance segment recorded a \$67 million pretax special charge to increase its asbestos reserves by \$25 million (net of reinsurance) and its environmental reserves by \$42 million (net of reinsurance). As the overall industry exposure to asbestos has matured, the focus of litigation has shifted to smaller companies and companies with ancillary exposures. AFG's insureds with these exposures have been the driver of the property and casualty segment's asbestos reserve increases in recent years; AFG has seen increased estimates for indemnity and defense compared to prior studies. The increase in property and casualty environmental reserves was attributed primarily to increased defense costs and a number of claims where the estimated costs of remediation have increased. As in past years, there were no new or emerging broad industry trends that were identified in this study.

At September 30, 2015, the property and casualty insurance segment's insurance reserves include A&E reserves of \$336 million, net of reinsurance recoverables. At September 30, 2015, the property and casualty insurance segment's three-year survival ratios, excluding amounts associated with the settlements of two large asbestos claims, were 15.3 times paid losses for

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

asbestos reserves, 8.2 times paid losses for environmental reserves and 11.5 times paid losses for total A&E reserves. These ratios compare favorably with data published by A.M. Best in October 2015, which indicate that industry survival ratios were 8.8 for asbestos, 6.3 for environmental, and 8.2 for total A&E reserves at December 31, 2014. In addition, the 2015 external study encompassed reserves for asbestos and environmental exposures of AFG's former railroad and manufacturing operations. For a discussion of the \$12 million charge recorded for those operations, see "Results of Operations — Holding Company, Other and Unallocated."

As a result of the 2014 internal review, AFG's property and casualty insurance segment recorded a \$24 million pretax special charge to increase its asbestos reserves by \$4 million (net of reinsurance) and its environmental reserves by \$20 million (net of reinsurance). The 2014 charge to increase property and casualty environmental reserves related primarily to AFG's increased defense costs and a number of claims where the estimated costs of remediation have increased. See Management's Discussion and Analysis — "Uncertainties — Asbestos and Environmental-related ("A&E") Insurance Reserves" and Management's Discussion and Analysis — "Results of Operations — Holding Company, Other and Unallocated" in AFG's 2014 Form 10-K.

Aggregate Aggregate net prior accident years reserve development for AFG's property and casualty segment includes the special A&E charges discussed above and adverse reserve development of \$2 million in the third quarter of 2015 related to business outside of the Specialty group that AFG no longer writes.

Catastrophe losses

AFG generally seeks to reduce its exposure to catastrophes through individual risk selection, including minimizing coastal and known fault-line exposures, and the purchase of reinsurance. Based on data available at December 31, 2014, AFG's exposure to a catastrophic earthquake or windstorm that industry models indicate could occur once in every 500 years (a "500-year event") is expected to be less than 3.5% of AFG's shareholders' equity. Catastrophe losses of \$7 million in the third quarter of 2015 in the Property and transportation group resulted primarily from multiple storms in the midwestern and central United States.

Commissions and Other Underwriting Expenses

AFG's property and casualty commissions and other underwriting expenses ("U/W Exp") were \$333 million in the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$302 million for the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$31 million (10%). AFG's underwriting expense ratio, calculated as commissions and other underwriting expenses divided by net premiums earned, was 28.4% for the third quarter of 2015 compared to 26.7% for the third quarter of 2014, an increase of 1.7 percentage points. Detail of AFG's property and casualty commissions and other underwriting expenses and underwriting expense ratios is shown below (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended September 30, | | | | Change in % of NEP | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|---------|----------|-----------------------|---|
| | 2015 | | 2014 | | | |
| | U/W Exp | % of NEP | U/W Exp | % of NEP | | |
| Property and transportation | \$106 | 20.5 % | \$86 | 17.1 % | 3.4 | % |
| Specialty casualty | 149 | 29.6 % | 144 | 29.6 % | — | % |
| Specialty financial | 69 | 52.9 % | 62 | 53.9 % | (1.0) | % |
| Other specialty | 9 | 37.9 % | 10 | 34.6 % | 3.3 | % |
| | \$333 | 28.4 % | \$302 | 26.7 % | 1.7 | % |

The overall increase of 1.7% in AFG's expense ratio in the third quarter of 2015 as compared to the third quarter of 2014 reflects a change in the mix of business, partially offset by the impact of higher premiums on the ratio.

Property and transportation Commissions and other underwriting expenses as a percentage of net earned premiums increased 3.4 percentage points in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter of 2014 reflecting higher profitability based commissions paid to agents and brokers and a change in the mix of business.

Specialty casualty Commissions and other underwriting expenses as a percentage of net earned premiums were comparable in the third quarter of 2015 and the third quarter of 2014.

Specialty financial Commissions and other underwriting expenses as a percentage of net earned premiums decreased 1.0 percentage point in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter of 2014 reflecting the impact of higher premiums on the ratio, partially offset by a decline in auto dealer business, which has a lower expense ratio than AFG's overall Specialty financial group.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Property and Casualty Net Investment Income

Net investment income in AFG's property and casualty operations was \$83 million for the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$76 million in the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$7 million (9%). In recent years, yields available in the financial markets on fixed maturity securities have generally declined, placing downward pressure on AFG's investment portfolio yield. The average invested assets and overall yield earned on investments held by AFG's property and casualty operations are provided below (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended September 30, | | Change | % Change | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------|--------|-------------|---|
| | 2015 | 2014 | | | |
| Net investment income | \$83 | \$76 | \$7 | 9 | % |
| Average invested assets (at amortized cost) | \$8,984 | \$8,360 | \$624 | 7 | % |
| Yield (net investment income as a % of average invested assets) | 3.70 | % 3.64 | % 0.06 | % | |
| Tax equivalent yield (*) | 4.28 | % 4.26 | % 0.02 | % | |

(*) Adjusts the yield on equity securities and tax-exempt bonds to the fully taxable equivalent yield.

The increase in average invested assets and net investment income in the property and casualty segment for the third quarter of 2015 as compared to the third quarter of 2014 is due primarily to growth in the property and casualty segment. The property and casualty segment's overall yield on investments (net investment income as a percentage of average invested assets) was 3.70% for the third quarter of 2015 compared to 3.64% for the third quarter of 2014, an increase of 0.06 percentage points, reflecting the impact of higher equity in the earnings of limited partnerships and similar investments, partially offset by lower yields available in the financial markets.

Property and Casualty Other Income and Expenses, Net

Other income and expenses, net for AFG's property and casualty operations was net expense of \$8 million for the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$12 million for the third quarter of 2014. The table below details the items included in other income and expenses, net for AFG's property and casualty operations (in millions):

| | Three months ended September 30, | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Other income | | |
| Income from the sale of real estate | \$— | \$2 |
| Other | 2 | 2 |
| Total other income | 2 | 4 |
| Other expenses | | |
| Amortization of intangibles | 2 | 6 |
| Other | 8 | 9 |
| Total other expenses | 10 | 15 |
| Interest expense | — | 1 |
| Other income and expenses, net | \$(8 |) \$(12) |

The lower amortization of intangibles in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter of 2014 reflects the impact of intangible assets related to two acquisitions that became fully amortized in 2014.

Interest expense for AFG's property and casualty operations includes interest charges on long-term debt within the property and casualty operations, primarily notes secured by real estate.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Annuity Segment — Results of Operations

AFG's annuity operations contributed \$67 million in pretax earnings in the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$86 million in the third quarter of 2014, a decrease of \$19 million (22%). While AFG's average annuity investments (at amortized cost) were 13% higher for the third quarter of 2015 as compared to the third quarter of 2014, the benefit of this growth was more than offset by the negative impact that the significant stock market decrease and lower than anticipated interest rates had on the fair value accounting for fixed-indexed annuities ("FIAs") and other annuity reserves during the third quarter of 2015.

The following table details AFG's earnings before income taxes from its annuity operations for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended September 30, | | % Change | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------|----------|---|
| | 2015 | 2014 | | |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Net investment income | \$317 | \$287 | 10 | % |
| Other income: | | | | |
| Guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees | 11 | 9 | 22 | % |
| Policy charges and other miscellaneous income | 11 | 11 | — | % |
| Total revenues | 339 | 307 | 10 | % |
| Costs and Expenses: | | | | |
| Annuity benefits (*) | 208 | 157 | 32 | % |
| Acquisition expenses | 42 | 41 | 2 | % |
| Other expenses | 22 | 23 | (4) | % |
| Total costs and expenses | 272 | 221 | 23 | % |
| Earnings before income taxes | \$67 | \$86 | (22) | % |

Detail of annuity earnings before income taxes (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended September 30, | | % Change | |
|---|-------------------------------------|------|----------|---|
| | 2015 | 2014 | | |
| Earnings before income taxes — before the impact of derivatives related to FIAs | \$89 | \$87 | 2 | % |
| Impact of derivatives related to FIAs | (22) | (1) | 2,100 | % |
| Earnings before income taxes | \$67 | \$86 | (22) | % |

(*) Annuity benefits consisted of the following (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended September 30, | | % Change | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------|----------|---|
| | 2015 | 2014 | | |
| Interest credited — fixed | \$135 | \$126 | 7 | % |
| Interest credited — fixed component of variable annuities | 2 | 2 | — | % |
| Change in expected death and annuitization reserve | 5 | 5 | — | % |
| Amortization of sales inducements | 6 | 7 | (14) | % |
| Change in guaranteed withdrawal benefit reserve | 20 | 12 | 67 | % |
| Change in other benefit reserves | 3 | 3 | — | % |
| Subtotal before impact of derivatives related to FIAs | 171 | 155 | 10 | % |

Derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities:

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|----|
| Embedded derivative mark-to-market | (130 |) 21 | (719 | %) |
| Equity option mark-to-market | 167 | (19 |) (979 | %) |
| Impact of derivatives related to FIAs | 37 | 2 | 1,750 | % |
| Total annuity benefits | \$208 | \$157 | 32 | % |

The profitability of a fixed annuity business is largely dependent on the ability of a company to earn income on the assets supporting the business in excess of the amounts credited to policyholder accounts plus expenses incurred (earning a “spread”). Performance measures such as net interest spread and net spread earned are often presented by annuity businesses to help users of their financial statements better understand the company’s performance.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Net Spread on Fixed Annuities (excludes variable annuity earnings)

The table below (dollars in millions) details the components of these spreads for AFG's fixed annuity operations (including fixed-indexed annuities):

| | Three months ended | | % Change | |
|---|--------------------|----------|----------|---|
| | September 30, | | | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | | |
| Average fixed annuity investments (at amortized cost) | \$25,642 | \$22,730 | 13 | % |
| Average fixed annuity benefits accumulated | 25,316 | 22,475 | 13 | % |
| As % of fixed annuity benefits accumulated (except as noted): | | | | |
| Net investment income (as % of fixed annuity investments) | 4.92 | % 5.01 | % | |
| Interest credited — fixed | (2.12 | %) (2.24 | %) | |
| Net interest spread | 2.80 | % 2.77 | % | |
| Policy charges and other miscellaneous income | 0.12 | % 0.14 | % | |
| Other annuity benefit expenses, net of guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees | (0.36 | %) (0.33 | %) | |
| Acquisition expenses | (0.61 | %) (0.69 | %) | |
| Other expenses | (0.34 | %) (0.37 | %) | |
| Change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities | (0.59 | %) (0.04 | %) | |
| Net spread earned on fixed annuities | 1.02 | % 1.48 | % | |

The table below illustrates the impact of fair value accounting for derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities on the annuity segment's net spread earned on fixed annuities:

| | Three months ended | | % Change | |
|--|--------------------|----------|----------|--|
| | September 30, | | | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | | |
| Net spread earned on fixed annuities — before impact of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities | 1.37 | % 1.50 | % | |
| Impact of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities (*) | (0.35 | %) (0.02 | %) | |
| Net spread earned on fixed annuities | 1.02 | % 1.48 | % | |

(*) Change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities offset by an estimate of the related acceleration/ deceleration of amortization of deferred sales inducements and deferred policy acquisition costs.

Annuity Net Investment Income

Net investment income for the third quarter of 2015 was \$317 million compared to \$287 million for the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$30 million (10%). This increase reflects primarily the growth in AFG's annuity business and continued strong investment performance, partially offset by the run-off of higher yielding investments. The overall yield earned on investments in AFG's annuity operations, calculated as net investment income divided by average investment balances (at amortized cost), declined by 0.09 percentage points in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter of 2014. This decline in net investment yield reflects (i) the investment of new premium dollars at lower yields as compared to the existing investment portfolio and (ii) the impact of the reinvestment of proceeds from the maturity and redemption of higher yielding investments at the lower yields available in the financial markets.

Annuity Interest Credited — Fixed

Interest credited — fixed for the third quarter of 2015 was \$135 million compared to \$126 million for the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$9 million (7%). The impact of growth in the annuity business was partially offset by lower interest crediting rates on new premiums as compared to the crediting rates on policyholder funds surrendered or withdrawn. The average interest rate credited to policyholders, calculated as interest credited divided by average fixed annuity benefits accumulated, decreased 0.12 percentage points in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter of 2014. During the third quarter of 2015, interest rates credited on new premiums generally ranged from 1.00% to 2.00%.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Excluding those annuities that have guaranteed withdrawal benefits, at September 30, 2015, AFG could reduce the average crediting rate on approximately \$19 billion of traditional fixed and fixed-indexed deferred annuities by an additional 0.69% (on a weighted average basis). Annuity policies are subject to Guaranteed Minimum Interest Rates ("GMIRs") at policy issuance. The table below shows the breakdown of annuity reserves by GMIR. The current interest crediting rates on substantially all of AFG's annuities with a GMIR of 3% or higher are at their minimum.

| GMIR | % of Reserves |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 — 1.99% | 64% |
| 2 — 2.99% | 8% |
| 3 — 3.99% | 15% |
| 4.00% and above | 13% |

Annuity Net Interest Spread

AFG's net interest spread increased 0.03 percentage points in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 due primarily to the impact of continued strong investment performance, partially offset by the run-off of higher yielding investments. In addition, features included in current annuity product offerings allow AFG to achieve its desired profitability at a lower net interest spread than historical product offerings. As a result of these two items, AFG expects its net interest spread to narrow in the future.

Annuity Policy Charges and Other Miscellaneous Income

Annuity policy charges and other miscellaneous income, which consist primarily of surrender charges, were \$11 million for both the third quarter of 2015 and 2014.

Other Annuity Benefits

Other annuity benefits, net of guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees, for the third quarter of 2015 were \$23 million compared to \$18 million for the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$5 million (28%). In addition to interest credited to policyholders' accounts and the change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities, annuity benefits expense also includes the following expenses (in millions, net of guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees):

| | Three months ended September 30, | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Change in expected death and annuitization reserve | \$5 | \$5 |
| Amortization of sales inducements | 6 | 7 |
| Change in guaranteed withdrawal benefit reserve | 20 | 12 |
| Change in other benefit reserves | 3 | 3 |
| Other annuity benefits | 34 | 27 |
| Offset guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees | (11 |) (9 |
| Other annuity benefits, net | \$23 | \$18 |

The \$5 million increase in other annuity benefits, net of guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees, for the third quarter of 2015 compared to the third quarter of 2014 reflects higher expenses related to products with guaranteed withdrawal benefit features. The guaranteed withdrawal benefit reserve related to FIAs is inversely impacted by the calculated FIA embedded derivative reserve as the value to policyholders of the guaranteed withdrawal benefits increases when the benefit of stock market participation decreases.

Annuity Acquisition Expenses

AFG's amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs ("DPAC") and commission expenses as a percentage of average fixed annuity benefits accumulated was 0.61% for the third quarter of 2015 compared to 0.69% for the third quarter of 2014 and has generally ranged between 0.70% and 0.80%. Variances from the general range relate primarily to the impact of (i) material changes in interest rates or the stock market on AFG's fixed-indexed annuity business, and (ii) differences in actual experience from actuarially projected estimates and assumptions. For example, the negative impact of the significant stock market decrease and lower interest rates during the third quarter of 2015 on the fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities (discussed below) resulted in a partially offsetting deceleration in the amortization of DPAC.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Annuity Other Expenses

Annuity other expenses for the third quarter of 2015 were \$22 million compared to \$23 million for the third quarter of 2014, a decrease of \$1 million (4%). Annuity other expenses represent primarily general and administrative expenses, as well as selling and issuance expenses that are not deferred. As a percentage of average fixed annuity benefits accumulated, these expenses decreased 0.03 percentage points for the third quarter of 2015 as compared to the third quarter of 2014. In general, this percentage is expected to decrease as AFG's annuity business grows and annuity other expenses remain relatively stable.

Change in Fair Value of Derivatives Related to Fixed-Indexed Annuities

AFG's fixed-indexed annuities, which represented approximately 60% of annuity benefits accumulated at September 30, 2015, provide policyholders with a crediting rate tied, in part, to the performance of an existing stock market index. AFG attempts to mitigate the risk in the index-based component of these products through the purchase of call options on the appropriate index. AFG's strategy is designed so that an increase in the liabilities, due to an increase in the market index, will generally be offset by unrealized and realized gains on the call options purchased by AFG. Both the index-based component of the annuities and the related call options are considered derivatives that must be marked-to-market through earnings each period. The fair values of these derivatives are impacted by actual and expected stock market performance and interest rates as well as other factors. For a list of other factors impacting the fair value of the index-based component of AFG's annuity benefits accumulated, see Note D — "Fair Value Measurements" to the financial statements. The net change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities increased annuity benefits by \$37 million in the third quarter of 2015, reflecting the negative impact of the significant stock market decrease and, to a lesser extent, lower than anticipated interest rates on these derivatives. The net change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities increased annuity benefits by \$2 million in the third quarter of 2014, reflecting the negative impact of slightly lower interest rates on these derivatives.

Fluctuations in interest rates and the stock market, among other factors, can cause volatility in the periodic measurement of fair value of the embedded derivative that management believes can be inconsistent with the long-term economics of these products. The table below illustrates the impact of fair value accounting for derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities on the annuity segment's earnings before income taxes (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended | | |
|--|--------------------|------|-----------|
| | September 30, | | % Change |
| | 2015 | 2014 | |
| Earnings before income taxes — before change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities | \$89 | \$87 | 2 % |
| Change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities | (37 |) (2 |) 1,750 % |
| Related impact on amortization of DPAC (*) | 15 | 1 | 1,400 % |
| Earnings before income taxes | \$67 | \$86 | (22 %) |

(*) An estimate of the related acceleration/deceleration of amortization of deferred sales inducements and deferred policy acquisition costs.

As illustrated in the table above, the change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities, net of the related impact on amortization of DPAC decreased the annuity segment's earnings before income taxes by \$22 million in the third quarter of 2015 and \$1 million in the third quarter of 2014.

Annuity Net Spread Earned on Fixed Annuities

AFG's net spread earned on fixed annuities decreased 0.46 percentage points in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 due primarily to the net impact of changes in the fair value of derivatives and related DPAC amortization offset discussed above and the impact of the decline in the stock market on guaranteed withdrawal benefit reserves.

Annuity Benefits Accumulated

Annuity premiums received and benefit payments are recorded as increases or decreases in annuity benefits accumulated rather than as revenue and expense. Increases in this liability for interest credited and other benefits are charged to expense and decreases for surrender and other policy charges are credited to other income.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

For certain products, annuity benefits accumulated also includes reserves for accrued persistency and premium bonuses, excess benefits expected to be paid on future deaths and annuitizations (“EDAR”) and guaranteed withdrawal benefits. Annuity benefits accumulated also includes amounts advanced from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati. The following table is a progression of AFG’s annuity benefits accumulated liability for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 (in millions):

| | Three months ended | |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| | September 30, | |
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Beginning fixed annuity reserves | \$24,906 | \$22,205 |
| Fixed annuity premiums (receipts) | 1,311 | 798 |
| Surrenders, benefits and other withdrawals | (526 |) (426 |
| Interest and other annuity benefit expenses: | | |
| Interest credited | 135 | 126 |
| Embedded derivative mark-to-market | (130 |) 21 |
| Change in other benefit reserves | 29 | 21 |
| Ending fixed annuity reserves | \$25,725 | \$22,745 |
| Reconciliation to annuity benefits accumulated per balance sheet: | | |
| Ending fixed annuity reserves (from above) | \$25,725 | \$22,745 |
| Impact of unrealized investment gains | 113 | 107 |
| Fixed component of variable annuities | 188 | 192 |
| Annuity benefits accumulated per balance sheet | \$26,026 | \$23,044 |

Statutory Annuity Premiums

AFG’s annuity operations generated statutory premiums of \$1.32 billion in the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$809 million in the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$512 million (63%). The following table summarizes AFG’s annuity sales (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended | | |
|---|--------------------|-------|----------|
| | September 30, | | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | % Change |
| Financial institutions single premium annuities — indexed | \$554 | \$333 | 66 % |
| Financial institutions single premium annuities — fixed | 71 | 62 | 15 % |
| Retail single premium annuities — indexed | 617 | 339 | 82 % |
| Retail single premium annuities — fixed | 22 | 18 | 22 % |
| Education market — fixed and indexed annuities | 47 | 46 | 2 % |
| Total fixed annuity premiums | 1,311 | 798 | 64 % |
| Variable annuities | 10 | 11 | (9 %) |
| Total annuity premiums | \$1,321 | \$809 | 63 % |

Management attributes the 63% increase in annuity premiums in the third quarter of 2015 as compared to the third quarter of 2014 to the significant rise of interest rates during the second quarter of 2015 from first quarter 2015 lows, allowing AFG to raise the crediting rates on its annuities and become more competitive in its markets.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Annuity Earnings before Income Taxes Reconciliation

The following table reconciles the net spread earned on AFG's fixed annuities to overall annuity pretax earnings for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 (in millions):

| | Three months ended September 30, | |
|---|-------------------------------------|------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Earnings on fixed annuity benefits accumulated | \$65 | \$83 |
| Earnings on investments in excess of fixed annuity benefits accumulated (*) | 4 | 3 |
| Variable annuity earnings (loss) | (2 |) — |
| Earnings before income taxes | \$67 | \$86 |

Net investment income (as a % of investments) of 4.92% and 5.01% for the three months ended September 30, (*)2015 and 2014, respectively, multiplied by the difference between average fixed annuity investments (at amortized cost) and average fixed annuity benefits accumulated in each period.

Run-off Long-Term Care and Life Segment — Results of Operations The following table details AFG's earnings before income taxes from its run-off long-term care and life operations for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended September 30, | | % Change | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|----------|----|
| | 2015 | 2014 | | |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Net earned premiums: | | | | |
| Long-term care | \$19 | \$18 | 6 | % |
| Life operations | 9 | 9 | — | % |
| Net investment income | 20 | 20 | — | % |
| Other income | 1 | 1 | — | % |
| Total revenues | 49 | 48 | 2 | % |
| Costs and Expenses: | | | | |
| Life, accident and health benefits: | | | | |
| Long-term care | 21 | 27 | (22 | %) |
| Life operations | 10 | 10 | — | % |
| Acquisition expenses | 4 | 5 | (20 | %) |
| Other expenses | 8 | 5 | 60 | % |
| Total costs and expenses | 43 | 47 | (9 | %) |
| Earnings before income taxes | \$6 | \$1 | 500 | % |

Higher long-term care and life earnings in the third quarter of 2015 as compared to the third quarter of 2014 reflects the favorable impact of lower claims and lower persistency.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Holding Company, Other and Unallocated — Results of Operations AFG's net GAAP pretax loss outside of its insurance operations (excluding realized gains) totaled \$53 million for the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$36 million for the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$17 million (47%). AFG's net core pretax loss outside of its insurance operations totaled \$37 million for the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$30 million for the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$7 million (23%).

The following table details AFG's GAAP and core loss before income taxes from operations outside of its insurance operations for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended | | % Change | |
|---|--------------------|---------|----------|---|
| | September 30, 2015 | 2014 | | |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Net investment income | \$2 | \$1 | 100 | % |
| Other income — P&C fees | 13 | — | — | % |
| Other income | 6 | 10 | (40) | % |
| Total revenues | 21 | 11 | 91 | % |
| Costs and Expenses: | | | | |
| Property and casualty insurance — commissions and other underwriting expenses | 3 | — | — | % |
| Interest charges on borrowed money | 18 | 17 | 6 | % |
| Other expense — expenses associated with P&C fees | 10 | — | — | % |
| Other expenses (*) | 27 | 24 | 13 | % |
| Total costs and expenses | 58 | 41 | 41 | % |
| Core loss before income taxes, excluding realized gains | (37 |) (30 |) 23 | % |
| Pretax non-core special A&E charges | (12 |) (6 |) 100 | % |
| Pretax non-core loss on retirement of debt | (4 |) — | — | % |
| GAAP loss before income taxes, excluding realized gains | \$(53 |) \$(36 |) 47 | % |

(*) Excludes pretax non-core special A&E charges of \$12 million and \$6 million for the third quarter of 2015 and 2014, respectively, and a pretax non-core loss on retirement of debt of \$4 million in the third quarter of 2015.

Holding Company and Other — Net Investment Income

AFG recorded net investment income on investments held outside of its insurance operations of \$2 million in the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$1 million in the third quarter of 2014.

Holding Company and Other — P&C Fees and Related Expenses

Summit, the workers' compensation insurance business that AFG acquired in April 2014, collects fees from a small group of unaffiliated insurers for providing underwriting, policy administration and claims services. In addition, certain of AFG's property and casualty businesses collect fees from customers for ancillary services such as workplace safety programs and premium financing. In the third quarter of 2015, AFG collected \$13 million in fees for these services. Management views this fee income, net of the \$10 million in expenses incurred to generate such fees, as a reduction in the cost of underwriting its property and casualty insurance policies. Consistent with internal management reporting, these fees and the related expenses are netted and recorded as a reduction of commissions and other underwriting expenses in AFG's segmented results. Beginning with the first quarter of 2015, these fees are shown in other income and the related expenses are shown in other expenses in AFG's Statement of Earnings.

Holding Company and Other — Other Income

Other income in the table above includes \$4 million and \$7 million in the third quarter of 2015 and 2014, respectively, in management fees paid to AFG by the AFG-managed CLOs (AFG's consolidated managed investment entities). The \$7 million in management fees in the third quarter of 2014 includes a \$5 million incentive management fee earned in connection with the liquidation of a CLO. The management fees are eliminated in consolidation — see the other income line in the Consolidate MIEs column under “Results of Operations — Segmented Statement of Earnings.” Excluding amounts eliminated in consolidation, AFG recorded other income outside of its insurance operations of \$2 million in the third quarter of 2015 and \$3 million in the third quarter of 2014.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Holding Company and Other — Interest Charges on Borrowed Money

AFG's holding companies and other operations outside of its insurance operations recorded interest expense of \$18 million and \$17 million in the third quarter of 2015 and 2014, respectively. The following table details AFG's long-term debt balances as of July 1, 2015 compared to July 1, 2014 (dollars in millions):

| | July 1, 2015 | July 1, 2014 | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|--|---|
| Direct obligations of AFG: | | | | |
| 9-7/8% Senior Notes due June 2019 (*) | \$350 | \$350 | | |
| 6-3/8% Senior Notes due June 2042 | 230 | 230 | | |
| 5-3/4% Senior Notes due August 2042 | 125 | 125 | | |
| 7% Senior Notes due September 2050 | 132 | 132 | | |
| 6-1/4% Subordinated Debentures due September 2054 | 150 | — | | |
| Other | 3 | 3 | | |
| Total Holding Company Debt | \$990 | \$840 | | |
| Weighted Average Interest Rate | 7.6 | % 7.8 | | % |

In June 2015, AFG entered into an interest rate swap to mitigate the interest rate risk associated with its fixed-rate (*)9-7/8% Senior Notes due June 2019 by effectively converting the interest rate on those notes to a floating rate of three-month LIBOR plus 8.099% (8.4362% at September 30, 2015).

AFG redeemed its \$132 million in outstanding 7% Senior Notes due September 2050 at par value on September 30, 2015. AFG issued \$150 million of 6-1/4% Subordinated Debentures in late September 2014. The impact of higher average indebtedness during the third quarter of 2015 as compared to the third quarter of 2014 was substantially offset by the favorable impact of the interest rate swap on the 9-7/8% Senior Notes due June 2019 that was entered into in June 2015.

Holding Company and Other — Special A&E Charges

As a result of the 2015 comprehensive external study and 2014 internal review of A&E exposures discussed under "Special Asbestos and Environmental Reserve Charges" under "Results of Operations — Property and Casualty Insurance," AFG's holding companies and other operations outside of its insurance operations recorded non-core special charges of \$12 million in the third quarter of 2015 and \$6 million in the third quarter of 2014 to increase liabilities related to the A&E exposures of AFG's former railroad and manufacturing operations. These charges related to slightly higher estimated costs at sites where remediation is underway, coupled with higher estimated cleanup costs at a limited number of sites.

Holding Company and Other — Loss on Retirement of Debt

AFG wrote off unamortized debt issuance costs of \$4 million related to the redemption of its \$132 million outstanding 7% Senior Notes due 2050 at par value on September 30, 2015.

Holding Company and Other — Other Expenses

Excluding the non-core special A&E charges and the non-core loss on retirement of debt, AFG's holding companies and other operations outside of its insurance operations recorded other expenses of \$27 million in the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$24 million in the third quarter of 2014, an increase of \$3 million (13%).

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Consolidated Realized Gains on Securities AFG's consolidated realized gains (losses) on securities, which are not allocated to segments, were losses of \$16 million in the third quarter of 2015 compared to gains of \$13 million in the third quarter of 2014, a change of \$29 million (223%). Realized gains (losses) on securities consisted of the following (in millions):

| | Three months ended September 30, | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Realized gains (losses) before impairments: | | |
| Disposals | \$24 | \$25 |
| Change in the fair value of derivatives | (4 |) — |
| Adjustments to annuity deferred policy acquisition costs and related items | (1 |) (1 |
| | 19 | 24 |
| Impairment charges: | | |
| Securities | (40 |) (14 |
| Adjustments to annuity deferred policy acquisition costs and related items | 5 | 3 |
| | (35 |) (11 |
| Realized gains (losses) on securities | \$(16 |) \$13 |

AFG's impairment charges on securities for the third quarter of 2015 consist of \$23 million on equity securities and \$17 million on fixed maturities. Approximately \$17 million of the charges are on energy related investments, \$7 million are related to real estate related investments and \$7 million are on investments in metal mining companies.

Consolidated Realized Gains (Losses) on Subsidiaries The \$5 million pretax realized gain on subsidiaries in the third quarter of 2015 represents an adjustment to the previously recognized loss on a small property and casualty subsidiary sold several years ago.

Consolidated Income Taxes AFG's consolidated provision for income taxes was \$33 million for the third quarter of 2015 compared to \$54 million for the third quarter of 2014, a decrease of \$21 million (39%). See Note L — "Income Taxes" to the financial statements for an analysis of items affecting AFG's effective tax rate.

Consolidated Noncontrolling Interests AFG's consolidated net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests was earnings of \$3 million for the third quarter of 2015 compared to a loss of \$25 million for the third quarter of 2014. The following table details net earnings (loss) in consolidated subsidiaries attributable to holders other than AFG (dollars in millions):

| | Three months ended September 30, | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | % Change |
| National Interstate | \$2 | \$4 | (50 %) |
| Managed Investment Entities | — | (29 |) (100 %) |
| Other | 1 | — | — % |
| Earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests | \$3 | \$(25 |) (112 %) |

The losses of Managed Investment Entities for the third quarter of 2014 represent CLO losses that ultimately inure to holders of the CLO debt. See Note A — "Accounting Policies — Managed Investment Entities" to the financial statements for a discussion of accounting guidance adopted in 2015 that affects the measurement of the fair value of CLO liabilities. Under the new guidance, there are no longer any CLO earnings or losses to be attributed to noncontrolling

interests in AFG's Statement of Earnings.

67

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS — NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 AND 2014

Segmented Statement of Earnings AFG reports its business as four segments: (i) Property and casualty insurance (“P&C”), (ii) Annuity, (iii) Run-off long-term care and life and (iv) Other, which includes holding company costs and income and expenses related to the managed investment entities (“MIEs”).

AFG's net earnings attributable to shareholders, determined in accordance with GAAP, include certain items that may not be indicative of its ongoing core operations. The following tables for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 identify such items by segment and reconcile net earnings attributable to shareholders to core net operating earnings, a non-GAAP financial measure that AFG believes is a useful tool for investors and analysts in analyzing ongoing operating trends (in millions):

| | P&C | Annuity | Run-off long-term care and life | Other Consol. MIEs | Holding Co., other and unallocated | Total | Non-GAAP reclass | Total |
|---|---------|---------|---|--------------------------|--|---------|---------------------|---------|
| Nine months ended September 30, 2015 | | | | | | | | |
| Revenues: | | | | | | | | |
| Property and casualty insurance net earned premiums | \$3,104 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$3,104 | \$— | \$3,104 |
| Life, accident and health net earned premiums | — | — | 80 | — | — | 80 | — | 80 |
| Net investment income | 245 | 915 | 61 | (5) | 1 | 1,217 | — | 1,217 |
| Realized gains (losses) on: | | | | | | | | |
| Securities | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| Subsidiaries | — | — | — | — | — | — | (157) | (157) |
| Income (loss) of MIEs: | | | | | | | | |
| Investment income | — | — | — | 112 | — | 112 | — | 112 |
| Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities | — | — | — | (16) | — | (16) | — | (16) |
| Other income | 10 | 68 | 3 | (11) | 56 | 126 | 51 | 177 |
| Total revenues | 3,359 | 983 | 144 | 80 | 57 | 4,623 | (104) | 4,519 |
| Costs and Expenses: | | | | | | | | |
| Property and casualty insurance: | | | | | | | | |
| Losses and loss adjustment expenses | 1,935 | — | — | — | — | 1,935 | 67 | 2,002 |
| Commissions and other underwriting expenses | 977 | — | — | — | 10 | 987 | — | 987 |
| Annuity benefits | — | 543 | — | — | — | 543 | — | 543 |
| Life, accident and health benefits | — | — | 96 | — | — | 96 | — | 96 |
| Annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses | — | 136 | 12 | — | — | 148 | — | 148 |
| Interest charges on borrowed money | 1 | — | — | — | 56 | 57 | — | 57 |
| Expenses of MIEs | — | — | — | 80 | — | 80 | — | 80 |
| Other expenses | 33 | 74 | 22 | — | 106 | 235 | 16 | 251 |
| Total costs and expenses | 2,946 | 753 | 130 | 80 | 172 | 4,081 | 83 | 4,164 |
| Earnings before income taxes | 413 | 230 | 14 | — | (115) | 542 | (187) | 355 |
| Provision for income taxes | 135 | 79 | 5 | — | (39) | 180 | (65) | 115 |
| Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests | 278 | 151 | 9 | — | (76) | 362 | (122) | 240 |
| Less: Net earnings attributable to noncontrolling interests | 10 | — | — | — | 2 | 12 | 5 | 17 |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|---------|-----|---------|--------|-----------|
| Core Net Operating Earnings | 268 | 151 | 9 | — | (78) | 350 | |
| Non-core earnings attributable to shareholders (a): | | | | | | | |
| Realized gains on securities, net of tax and noncontrolling interests | — | — | — | — | 6 | 6 | (6) — |
| Realized loss on subsidiaries, net of tax | — | — | (105) | — | — | (105) | 105 — |
| Gain on sale of Le Pavillon Hotel, net of tax and noncontrolling interests | 26 | — | — | — | — | 26 | (26) — |
| Special A&E charges, net of tax | (44) | — | — | — | (8) | (52) | 52 — |
| Loss on retirement of debt, net of tax | — | — | — | — | (2) | (2) | 2 — |
| Net Earnings Attributable to Shareholders | \$250 | \$151 | \$(96) | \$— | \$(82) | \$223 | \$— \$223 |

68

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

| | P&C | Annuity | Run-off long-term are and life | Other Consol. MIEs | Holding Co., other and unallocated | Total | Non-GAAP reclass | GAAP Total |
|---|---------|---------|--|--------------------------|--|---------|---------------------|---------------|
| Nine months ended September 30, 2014 | | | | | | | | |
| Revenues: | | | | | | | | |
| Property and casualty insurance net earned premiums | \$2,817 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$2,817 | \$— | \$2,817 |
| Life, accident and health net earned premiums | — | — | 82 | — | — | 82 | — | 82 |
| Net investment income | 219 | 851 | 62 | (18) | 3 | 1,117 | — | 1,117 |
| Realized gains on securities | — | — | — | — | — | — | 44 | 44 |
| Income (loss) of MIEs: | | | | | | | | |
| Investment income | — | — | — | 84 | — | 84 | — | 84 |
| Gain (loss) on change in fair value of assets/liabilities | — | — | — | (35) | — | (35) | — | (35) |
| Other income | 8 | 57 | 3 | (18) | 25 | 75 | — | 75 |
| Total revenues | 3,044 | 908 | 147 | 13 | 28 | 4,140 | 44 | 4,184 |
| Costs and Expenses: | | | | | | | | |
| Property and casualty insurance: | | | | | | | | |
| Losses and loss adjustment expenses | 1,791 | — | — | — | — | 1,791 | 24 | 1,815 |
| Commissions and other underwriting expenses | 869 | — | — | — | — | 869 | — | 869 |
| Annuity benefits | — | 491 | — | — | — | 491 | — | 491 |
| Life, accident and health benefits | — | — | 119 | — | — | 119 | — | 119 |
| Annuity and supplemental insurance acquisition expenses | — | 109 | 13 | — | — | 122 | — | 122 |
| Interest charges on borrowed money | 3 | — | — | — | 50 | 53 | — | 53 |
| Expenses of MIEs | — | — | — | 60 | — | 60 | — | 60 |
| Other expenses | 44 | 65 | 18 | — | 86 | 213 | 6 | 219 |
| Total costs and expenses | 2,707 | 665 | 150 | 60 | 136 | 3,718 | 30 | 3,748 |
| Earnings before income taxes | 337 | 243 | (3) | (47) | (108) | 422 | 14 | 436 |
| Provision for income taxes | 104 | 83 | (1) | — | (36) | 150 | 5 | 155 |
| Net earnings, including noncontrolling interests | 233 | 160 | (2) | (47) | (72) | 272 | 9 | 281 |
| Less: Net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests | 2 | — | — | (47) | — | (45) | 1 | (44) |
| Core Net Operating Earnings | 231 | 160 | (2) | — | (72) | 317 | — | 317 |
| Non-core earnings attributable to shareholders (a): | | | | | | | | |
| Realized gains on securities, net of tax and noncontrolling interests | — | — | — | — | 27 | 27 | (27) | — |
| Special A&E charges, net of tax | (15) | — | — | — | (4) | (19) | 19 | — |
| Net Earnings Attributable to Shareholders | \$216 | \$160 | \$(2) | \$— | \$(49) | \$325 | \$— | \$325 |

(a) See the reconciliation of core earnings to GAAP net earnings under "Results of Operations — General" for details on the tax and noncontrolling interest impacts of these reconciling items.

Property and Casualty Insurance Segment — Results of Operations AFG's property and casualty insurance operations contributed \$397 million in GAAP pretax earnings in the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$313 million in the

first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$84 million (27%). Property and casualty core pretax earnings were \$413 million in the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$337 million in the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$76 million (23%). The increase in GAAP and core pretax earnings reflects higher underwriting profit in the Specialty financial group, improved results in the Property and transportation group and higher net investment income (due primarily to the investment of cash acquired in the Summit acquisition on April 1, 2014). The increase in GAAP pretax earnings in the first nine months of 2015 also reflects a \$51 million pretax non-core gain on the sale of Le Pavillon Hotel, partially offset by higher non-core special A&E charges in 2015 as compared to 2014.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

The following table details AFG's GAAP and core earnings before income taxes from its property and casualty operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 (dollars in millions):

| | Nine months ended | | | % Change |
|---|-------------------|----------|------|----------|
| | September 30, | | | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | | |
| Gross written premiums | \$4,476 | \$4,174 | 7 | % |
| Reinsurance premiums ceded | (1,205) | (1,179) | 2 | % |
| Net written premiums | 3,271 | 2,995 | 9 | % |
| Change in unearned premiums | (167) | (178) | (6) | % |
| Net earned premiums | 3,104 | 2,817 | 10 | % |
| Loss and loss adjustment expenses (a) | 1,935 | 1,791 | 8 | % |
| Commissions and other underwriting expenses | 977 | 869 | 12 | % |
| Core underwriting gain | 192 | 157 | 22 | % |
| Net investment income | 245 | 219 | 12 | % |
| Other income and expenses, net (b) | (24) | (39) | (38) | % |
| Core earnings before income taxes | 413 | 337 | 23 | % |
| Pretax non-core gain on sale of Le Pavillon Hotel | 51 | — | — | % |
| Pretax non-core special A&E charges | (67) | (24) | 179 | % |
| GAAP earnings before income taxes | \$397 | \$313 | 27 | % |

(a) Excludes pretax non-core special A&E charges of \$67 million and \$24 million in the third quarter of 2015 and 2014, respectively.

(b) Excludes the \$51 million pretax non-core gain on the sale of Le Pavillon Hotel in the second quarter of 2015.

Combined Ratios:

| | | | Change | |
|--|------|--------|---------|---|
| Specialty lines | | | | |
| Loss and LAE ratio | 62.2 | % 63.6 | % (1.4) | % |
| Underwriting expense ratio | 31.5 | % 30.8 | % 0.7 | % |
| Combined ratio | 93.7 | % 94.4 | % (0.7) | % |
| Aggregate — including discontinued lines | | | | |
| Loss and LAE ratio | 64.5 | % 64.4 | % 0.1 | % |
| Underwriting expense ratio | 31.5 | % 30.8 | % 0.7 | % |
| Combined ratio | 96.0 | % 95.2 | % 0.8 | % |

AFG reports the underwriting performance of its Specialty property and casualty insurance business in the following sub-segments: (i) Property and transportation, (ii) Specialty casualty and (iii) Specialty financial.

Gross Written Premiums

Gross written premiums ("GWP") for AFG's property and casualty insurance segment were \$4.48 billion for the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$4.17 billion for the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$302 million (7%).

Detail of AFG's property and casualty gross written premiums is shown below (dollars in millions):

| | Nine months ended September 30, | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|------|---|----------|
| | 2015 | | 2014 | | % Change |
| | GWP | % | GWP | % | |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----|---|---------|-----|---|----|---|
| Property and transportation | \$1,940 | 43 | % | \$1,860 | 45 | % | 4 | % |
| Specialty casualty | 2,078 | 46 | % | 1,869 | 45 | % | 11 | % |
| Specialty financial | 458 | 11 | % | 445 | 10 | % | 3 | % |
| | \$4,476 | 100 | % | \$4,174 | 100 | % | 7 | % |

70

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Reinsurance Premiums Ceded

Reinsurance premiums ceded (“Ceded”) for AFG’s property and casualty insurance segment were 27% of gross written premiums for the first nine months of 2015 compared to 28% for the first nine months of 2014, a decrease of 1 percentage point. Detail of AFG’s property and casualty reinsurance premiums ceded is shown below (dollars in millions):

| | Nine months ended September 30, 2015 | | 2014 | | Change in | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-----|
| | Ceded | % of GWP | Ceded | % of GWP | % of GWP | |
| Property and transportation | \$ (682) |) 35 % | \$ (667) |) 36 % | (1 |) % |
| Specialty casualty | (529) |) 25 % | (503) |) 27 % | (2 |) % |
| Specialty financial | (70) |) 15 % | (88) |) 20 % | (5 |) % |
| Other specialty | 76 | | 79 | | | |
| | \$ (1,205) |) 27 % | \$ (1,179) |) 28 % | (1 |) % |

Net Written Premiums

Net written premiums (“NWP”) for AFG’s property and casualty insurance segment were \$3.27 billion for the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$3.00 billion for the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$276 million (9%). Detail of AFG’s property and casualty net written premiums is shown below (dollars in millions):

| | Nine months ended September 30, 2015 | | 2014 | | Change | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------|----------|-------|----------|---|
| | NWP | % | NWP | % | % Change | |
| Property and transportation | \$ 1,258 | 38 % | \$ 1,193 | 40 % | 5 | % |
| Specialty casualty | 1,549 | 47 % | 1,366 | 46 % | 13 | % |
| Specialty financial | 388 | 12 % | 357 | 12 % | 9 | % |
| Other specialty | 76 | 3 % | 79 | 2 % | (4) | % |
| | \$ 3,271 | 100 % | \$ 2,995 | 100 % | 9 | % |

Net Earned Premiums

Net earned premiums (“NEP”) for AFG’s property and casualty insurance segment were \$3.10 billion for the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$2.82 billion for the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$287 million (10%). Detail of AFG’s property and casualty net earned premiums is shown below (dollars in millions):

| | Nine months ended September 30, 2015 | | 2014 | | Change | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------|----------|-------|----------|---|
| | NEP | % | NEP | % | % Change | |
| Property and transportation | \$ 1,157 | 37 % | \$ 1,129 | 40 % | 2 | % |
| Specialty casualty | 1,496 | 48 % | 1,266 | 45 % | 18 | % |
| Specialty financial | 380 | 12 % | 348 | 12 % | 9 | % |
| Other specialty | 71 | 3 % | 74 | 3 % | (4) | % |
| | \$ 3,104 | 100 % | \$ 2,817 | 100 % | 10 | % |

The \$302 million (7%) increase in gross written premiums for the first nine months of 2015 compared to the first nine months of 2014 reflects \$390 million in premiums from Summit (acquired in April 2014) in the 2015 period compared to \$270 million in the 2014 period as well as significant growth in other businesses within the Specialty casualty and Property and transportation groups. Excluding premiums from Summit, gross written premiums increased by 5%

compared to the first nine months of 2014. Overall average renewal rates increased approximately 1% in the first nine months of 2015.

Property and transportation Gross written premiums increased \$80 million (4%) in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. Higher gross written premiums in the transportation businesses due primarily to new accounts and higher gross written premiums in the agricultural businesses were partially offset by lower gross written premiums in the property and inland marine businesses. Average renewal rates were up approximately 4% for this group in the first nine months of 2015, including a 6% increase in National Interstate's renewal rates. Reinsurance premiums ceded as a percentage of gross written premiums declined 1 percentage point for the first nine months of 2015 compared to the first nine months of 2014, reflecting a change in the mix of business.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Specialty casualty Gross written premiums increased \$209 million (11%) in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the first nine months of 2014 reflecting \$390 million in gross written premiums from Summit (acquired in April 2014) in the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$270 million in the first nine months of 2014. Excluding premiums from Summit, gross written premiums increased 6% in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the first nine months of 2014. While most of the businesses in this group reported growth, the workers' compensation, excess and surplus lines and targeted markets businesses were primary drivers of the higher premiums, partially offset by lower premiums in the general liability and international businesses. Broadening opportunities to write business and additional premiums from start-up businesses were contributing factors. Average renewal rates for this group were down 1% in the first nine months of 2015 due primarily to lower pricing in workers' compensation businesses. Excluding the workers' compensation business, average renewal rates in this group increased 1% during the first nine months of 2015. Reinsurance premiums ceded as a percentage of gross written premiums declined 2 percentage points for the first nine months of 2015 compared to the first nine months of 2014 reflecting the impact of the acquisition of Summit, which cedes only about 1% of its premiums.

Specialty financial Gross written premiums increased \$13 million (3%) in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the first nine months of 2014 due primarily to higher gross written premiums in the surety, financial institutions and equipment leasing businesses. Average renewal rates for this group were flat in the first nine months of 2015. Reinsurance premiums ceded as a percentage of gross written premiums declined 5 percentage points for the first nine months of 2015 compared to the first nine months of 2014, reflecting a decline in auto dealer business, which is heavily reinsured.

Other specialty The amounts shown as reinsurance premiums ceded represent business assumed by AFG's internal reinsurance program from the operations that make up AFG's other Specialty sub-segments.

Combined Ratio

The table below details the components of the combined ratio for AFG's property and casualty segment for the first nine months of 2015 compared to the first nine months of 2014 (dollars in millions):

| | Nine months ended | | Change | Nine months ended | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
| | September 30, 2015 | 2014 | | September 30, 2015 | 2014 |
| Property and transportation | | | | | |
| Loss and LAE ratio | 72.7 | % 75.8 | % (3.1 | % | |
| Underwriting expense ratio | 26.0 | % 24.3 | % 1.7 | % | |
| Combined ratio | 98.7 | % 100.1 | % (1.4 | % | |
| Underwriting profit (loss) | | | | \$14 | \$(1) |
| Specialty casualty | | | | | |
| Loss and LAE ratio | 63.5 | % 61.8 | % 1.7 | % | |
| Underwriting expense ratio | 30.1 | % 30.3 | % (0.2 | % | |
| Combined ratio | 93.6 | % 92.1 | % 1.5 | % | |
| Underwriting profit | | | | \$96 | \$100 |
| Specialty financial | | | | | |
| Loss and LAE ratio | 28.5 | % 33.6 | % (5.1 | % | |
| Underwriting expense ratio | 52.5 | % 53.1 | % (0.6 | % | |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|---|------|---|------|----|-------|-------|
| Combined ratio | 81.0 | % | 86.7 | % | (5.7 | %) | | |
| Underwriting profit | | | | | | | \$72 | \$46 |
| Total Specialty | | | | | | | | |
| Loss and LAE ratio | 62.2 | % | 63.6 | % | (1.4 | %) | | |
| Underwriting expense ratio | 31.5 | % | 30.8 | % | 0.7 | %) | | |
| Combined ratio | 93.7 | % | 94.4 | % | (0.7 | %) | | |
| Underwriting profit | | | | | | | \$195 | \$158 |
| Aggregate — including discontinued lines | | | | | | | | |
| Loss and LAE ratio | 64.5 | % | 64.4 | % | 0.1 | %) | | |
| Underwriting expense ratio | 31.5 | % | 30.8 | % | 0.7 | %) | | |
| Combined ratio | 96.0 | % | 95.2 | % | 0.8 | %) | | |
| Underwriting profit | | | | | | | \$125 | \$133 |

72

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

The Specialty property and casualty insurance operations generated an underwriting profit of \$195 million for the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$158 million for the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$37 million (23%). The higher underwriting profit in the first nine months of 2015 reflects higher underwriting profit in the Specialty financial group and improved underwriting results in the Property and transportation group, partially offset by lower underwriting profit in the Specialty casualty group.

Property and transportation Underwriting profit for this group was \$14 million for the first nine months of 2015 compared to an underwriting loss of \$1 million for the first nine months of 2014, an improvement of \$15 million. Improved year-over-year underwriting results from National Interstate and higher profits in the agricultural businesses were partially offset by lower profitability in the property and inland marine, ocean marine and other transportation businesses.

Specialty casualty Underwriting profit for this group was \$96 million for the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$100 million for the first nine months of 2014, a decrease of \$4 million (4%). This decrease is due primarily to higher adverse prior year reserve development in the international and general liability businesses and lower favorable prior year reserve development in the excess and surplus and executive liability businesses, partially offset by higher current year underwriting profit in the workers' compensation and public sector businesses.

Specialty financial Underwriting profit for this group was \$72 million for the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$46 million for the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$26 million (57%). This increase was driven by higher favorable prior year reserve development across the group and higher current year underwriting profitability in the fidelity and financial institutions businesses.

Other specialty Underwriting profit for this group was \$13 million for the first nine months of 2015 and 2014.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses

AFG's overall loss and LAE ratio was 64.5% for the first nine months of 2015 compared to 64.4% for the first nine months of 2014, an increase of 0.1 percentage points. The components of AFG's property and casualty losses and LAE amounts and ratio are detailed below (dollars in millions):

| | Nine months ended September 30, | | | | Change in Ratio | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|--|
| | Amount | | Ratio | | | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | | |
| Property and transportation | | | | | | |
| Current year, excluding catastrophe losses | \$817 | \$825 | 70.6 % | 73.0 % | (2.4 %) | |
| Prior accident years development | 7 | 13 | 0.5 % | 1.2 % | (0.7 %) | |
| Current year catastrophe losses | 18 | 18 | 1.6 % | 1.6 % | — % | |
| Property and transportation losses and LAE and ratio | \$842 | \$856 | 72.7 % | 75.8 % | (3.1 %) | |
| Specialty casualty | | | | | | |
| Current year, excluding catastrophe losses | \$951 | \$800 | 63.5 % | 63.2 % | 0.3 % | |
| Prior accident years development | (4) | (21) | (0.2 %) | (1.7 %) | 1.5 % | |
| Current year catastrophe losses | 3 | 3 | 0.2 % | 0.3 % | (0.1 %) | |
| Specialty casualty losses and LAE and ratio | \$950 | \$782 | 63.5 % | 61.8 % | 1.7 % | |
| Specialty financial | | | | | | |
| Current year, excluding catastrophe losses | \$129 | \$127 | 33.9 % | 36.6 % | (2.7 %) | |
| Prior accident years development | (25) | (13) | (6.5 %) | (3.9 %) | (2.6 %) | |
| Current year catastrophe losses | 4 | 3 | 1.1 % | 0.9 % | 0.2 % | |
| Specialty financial losses and LAE and ratio | \$108 | \$117 | 28.5 % | 33.6 % | (5.1 %) | |
| Total Specialty | | | | | | |
| Current year, excluding catastrophe losses | \$1,938 | \$1,794 | 62.4 % | 63.7 % | (1.3 %) | |
| Prior accident years development | (32) | (29) | (1.0 %) | (1.0 %) | — % | |
| Current year catastrophe losses | 26 | 25 | 0.8 % | 0.9 % | (0.1 %) | |
| Total Specialty losses and LAE and ratio | \$1,932 | \$1,790 | 62.2 % | 63.6 % | (1.4 %) | |
| Aggregate — including discontinued lines | | | | | | |
| Current year, excluding catastrophe losses | \$1,938 | \$1,794 | 62.4 % | 63.7 % | (1.3 %) | |
| Prior accident years development | 38 | (4) | 1.3 % | (0.2 %) | 1.5 % | |
| Current year catastrophe losses | 26 | 25 | 0.8 % | 0.9 % | (0.1 %) | |
| Aggregate losses and LAE and ratio | \$2,002 | \$1,815 | 64.5 % | 64.4 % | 0.1 % | |

Current accident year losses and LAE, excluding catastrophe losses

The current accident year loss and LAE ratio, excluding catastrophe losses for AFG's Specialty property and casualty insurance operations was 62.4% for the first nine months of 2015 compared to 63.7% for the first nine months of 2014, a decrease of 1.3%.

Property and transportation The 2.4 percentage point decrease in the loss and LAE ratio for the current year, excluding catastrophe losses in the first nine months of 2015 as compared to the first nine months of 2014 reflects an improvement of the loss and LAE ratio of the trucking and agricultural businesses, partially offset by increased severity in commercial auto claims in the transportation businesses and higher current year losses in the property and

inland marine business in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the first nine months of 2014.

Specialty casualty The 0.3 percentage point increase in the loss and LAE ratio for the current year, excluding catastrophe losses reflects an increase in the loss and LAE ratio in the international business and the inclusion of Summit following its acquisition in April 2014, which has a higher loss and LAE ratio than AFG's overall Specialty casualty group, partially offset by higher profitability in the workers' compensation businesses.

Specialty financial The 2.7 percentage point decrease in the loss and LAE ratio for the current year, excluding catastrophe losses reflects an improvement in the loss and LAE ratio of the financial institutions, fidelity and equipment leasing businesses.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Net prior year reserve development

AFG's Specialty property and casualty insurance operations recorded net favorable reserve development related to prior accident years of \$32 million in the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$29 million in the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$3 million (10%).

Property and transportation Net adverse reserve development of \$7 million in the first nine months of 2015 reflects higher than expected claim severity and frequency in the transportation businesses and higher than anticipated claim frequency in the ocean marine business, partially offset by lower than expected claim severity in the property and inland marine business, agricultural operations and a run-off book of homebuilders business. Net adverse reserve development of \$13 million in the first nine months of 2014 reflects higher than expected severity in commercial auto liability losses written in the transportation businesses, partially offset by lower than expected claim frequency in the agribusiness, property and inland marine and ocean marine businesses.

Specialty casualty Net favorable reserve development of \$4 million in the first nine months of 2015 includes lower than anticipated claim severity in workers' compensation business, lower than anticipated claim severity and frequency in excess liability insurance and lower than expected claim severity in directors and officers liability insurance, partially offset by higher than anticipated severity and frequency in contractor claims and adverse reserve development in the international business. Net favorable reserve development of \$21 million in the first nine months of 2014 reflects lower than expected claim severity in directors and officers liability insurance, lower than expected claim severity and frequency in excess liability insurance and lower than anticipated claim severity in specialty workers' compensation business, partially offset by higher than expected claim severity in contractor claims and in a run-off book of casualty business.

Specialty financial Net favorable reserve development of \$25 million in the first nine months of 2015 reflects lower than anticipated claim frequency and severity in the trade credit business, surety business and products for financial institutions and lower than expected claim severity in the fidelity business. Net favorable reserve development of \$13 million in the first nine months of 2014 reflects lower than expected claim severity in the surety and fidelity businesses and lower than expected claim frequency and severity in the foreign credit business and products for financial institutions.

Other specialty In addition to the development discussed above, total Specialty prior year reserve development includes net favorable reserve development of \$10 million in the first nine months of 2015 and \$8 million in the first nine months of 2014, reflecting amortization of the deferred gain on the retroactive insurance transaction entered into in connection with the sale of businesses in 1998 and 2001 and reserve development associated with AFG's internal reinsurance program.

Special Asbestos and Environmental Reserve Charges See "Net prior year reserve development" under "Results of Operations — Property and Casualty Insurance" for the quarters ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 for a discussion of the \$67 million and \$24 million special A&E charges recorded in the third quarter of 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Aggregate Aggregate net prior accident years reserve development for AFG's property and casualty segment includes the special A&E charges mentioned above and adverse reserve development of \$3 million in the first nine months of 2015 and \$1 million in the first nine months of 2014 related to business outside of the Specialty group that AFG no longer writes.

Catastrophe losses

AFG generally seeks to reduce its exposure to catastrophes through individual risk selection, including minimizing coastal and known fault-line exposures, and the purchase of reinsurance. The \$18 million in catastrophe losses in the Property and transportation group in the first nine months of 2015 resulted primarily from winter storms in the first quarter of 2015 and multiple storms in the midwestern and central United States in the second and third quarters of 2015. The \$18 million in catastrophe losses in the Property and transportation group in the first nine months of 2014 were primarily from winter storms in the month of January and multiple storms in the midwestern and central United States in the second quarter of 2014.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Commissions and Other Underwriting Expenses

AFG's property and casualty commissions and other underwriting expenses ("U/W Exp") were \$977 million in the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$869 million for the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$108 million (12%). AFG's underwriting expense ratio was 31.5% for the first nine months of 2015 compared to 30.8% for the first nine months of 2014, an increase of 0.7 percentage points. Detail of AFG's property and casualty commissions and other underwriting expenses and underwriting expense ratios is shown below (dollars in millions):

| | Nine months ended September 30, | | | Change in | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|-------|-----------|----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | | % of NEP | % of NEP |
| Property and transportation | \$301 | 26.0 % | \$274 | 24.3 % | 1.7 % |
| Specialty casualty | 450 | 30.1 % | 384 | 30.3 % | (0.2 %) |
| Specialty financial | 200 | 52.5 % | 185 | 53.1 % | (0.6 %) |
| Other specialty | 26 | 36.1 % | 26 | 34.8 % | 1.3 % |
| | \$977 | 31.5 % | \$869 | 30.8 % | 0.7 % |

The \$108 million increase in commissions and other underwriting expenses reflects the acquisition of Summit in April 2014. The overall increase of 0.7% in AFG's expense ratio for the first nine months of 2015 as compared to the first nine months of 2014 reflects a change in the mix of business, partially offset by the impact of higher premiums on the ratio.

Property and transportation Commissions and other underwriting expenses as a percentage of net earned premiums increased 1.7 percentage points in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the first nine months of 2014 reflecting higher profitability based commissions paid to agents and brokers and a change in the mix of business.

Specialty casualty Commissions and other underwriting expenses as a percentage of net earned premiums decreased 0.2 percentage points in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the first nine months of 2014 due primarily to the impact of higher premiums on the ratio, partially offset by a charge of \$6 million in the second quarter of 2015 to write off certain previously capitalized project costs.

Specialty financial Commissions and other underwriting expenses as a percentage of net earned premiums decreased 0.6 percentage points in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the first nine months of 2014 reflecting the impact of higher premiums on the ratio.

Property and Casualty Net Investment Income

Net investment income in AFG's property and casualty operations was \$245 million for the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$219 million in the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$26 million (12%). In recent years, yields available in the financial markets on fixed maturity securities have generally declined, placing downward pressure on AFG's investment portfolio yield. The average invested assets and overall yield earned on investments held by AFG's property and casualty operations are provided below (dollars in millions):

| | Nine months ended | | Change | % Change | |
|---|-------------------|---------|---------|----------|---|
| | 2015 | 2014 | | | |
| Net investment income | \$245 | \$219 | \$26 | 12 | % |
| Average invested assets (at amortized cost) | \$8,880 | \$7,651 | \$1,229 | 16 | % |

| | | | | | | |
|---|------|---|------|---|-------|----|
| Yield (net investment income as a % of average invested assets) | 3.68 | % | 3.82 | % | (0.14 | %) |
| Tax equivalent yield (*) | 4.25 | % | 4.41 | % | (0.16 | %) |

(*) Adjusts the yield on equity securities and tax-exempt bonds to the fully taxable equivalent yield.

The increase in average invested assets and net investment income in the property and casualty segment for the first nine months of 2015 compared to the first nine months of 2014 is due primarily to the investment of cash acquired in the Summit acquisition, which occurred over the two quarters following the April 2014 acquisition, as well as growth in the property and casualty segment. The property and casualty segment's overall yield on investments (net investment income as a percentage of

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

average invested assets) was 3.68% for the first nine months of 2015 compared to 3.82% for the first nine months of 2014, a decline of 0.14 percentage points reflecting the impact of lower yields available in the financial markets, partially offset by higher equity in the earnings of limited partnerships and similar investments.

Property and Casualty Other Income and Expenses, Net

GAAP other income and expenses, net for AFG's property and casualty operations was net income of \$27 million for the first nine months of 2015 compared to a net expense of \$39 million for the first nine months of 2014. Core other income and expenses, net for AFG's property and casualty operations was a net expense of \$24 million for the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$39 million for the first nine months of 2014. The table below details the items included in GAAP and core other income and expenses, net for AFG's property and casualty operations (in millions):

| | Nine months ended September 30, | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Other income | | |
| Income from the sale of real estate (*) | \$3 | \$2 |
| Other | 7 | 6 |
| Total other income | 10 | 8 |
| Other expenses | | |
| Amortization of intangibles | 6 | 14 |
| Tender offer expenses | — | 3 |
| Other | 27 | 27 |
| Total other expense | 33 | 44 |
| Interest expense | 1 | 3 |
| Core other income and expenses, net | (24 |) (39 |
| Pretax non-core gain on sale of Le Pavillon Hotel | 51 | — |
| GAAP other income and expenses, net | \$27 | \$(39 |

(*)Excludes the \$51 million pretax non-core gain on the sale of Le Pavillon Hotel in the second quarter of 2015.

The lower amortization of intangibles in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the first nine months of 2014 reflects the impact of intangible assets related to two acquisitions that became fully amortized in 2014.

AFG and its consolidated subsidiaries incurred \$3 million in transaction expenses related to the February 2014 tender offer by Great American Insurance Company ("GAI") to acquire all of the National Interstate Corporation common stock that GAI did not already own. These expenses consisted primarily of financial advisory and legal services. The tender offer was terminated in March 2014.

Interest expense for AFG's property and casualty operations includes interest charges on long-term debt within the property and casualty operations, primarily notes secured by real estate.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Annuity Segment — Results of Operations

AFG's annuity operations contributed \$230 million in pretax earnings in the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$243 million in the first nine months of 2014, a decrease of \$13 million (5%). While AFG's average annuity investments (at amortized cost) were 12% higher for the first nine months of 2015 as compared to the first nine months of 2014, the benefit of this growth was more than offset by the negative impact of the significant stock market decrease had on certain annuity reserves in the first nine months of 2015, the run-off of higher yielding investments and higher general and administrative expenses in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the first nine months of 2014.

The following table details AFG's earnings before income taxes from its annuity operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 (dollars in millions).

| | Nine months ended September 30, | | % Change | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------|----------|----|
| | 2015 | 2014 | | |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Net investment income | \$915 | \$851 | 8 | % |
| Other income: | | | | |
| Guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees | 31 | 25 | 24 | % |
| Policy charges and other miscellaneous income | 37 | 32 | 16 | % |
| Total revenues | 983 | 908 | 8 | % |
| Costs and Expenses: | | | | |
| Annuity benefits (*) | 543 | 491 | 11 | % |
| Acquisition expenses | 136 | 109 | 25 | % |
| Other expenses | 74 | 65 | 14 | % |
| Total costs and expenses | 753 | 665 | 13 | % |
| Earnings before income taxes | \$230 | \$243 | (5 | %) |

Detail of annuity earnings before income taxes (dollars in millions):

| | Nine months ended September 30, | | % Change | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------|----------|----|
| | 2015 | 2014 | | |
| Earnings before income taxes — before the impact of derivatives related to FIAs | \$258 | \$269 | (4 | %) |
| Impact of derivatives related to FIAs | (28 |) (26 |) 8 | % |
| Earnings before income taxes | \$230 | \$243 | (5 | %) |

(*) Annuity benefits consisted of the following (dollars in millions):

| | Nine months ended September 30, | | % Change | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------|----------|---|
| | 2015 | 2014 | | |
| Interest credited — fixed | \$394 | \$370 | 6 | % |
| Interest credited — fixed component of variable annuities | 5 | 5 | — | % |
| Change in expected death and annuitization reserve | 14 | 14 | — | % |
| Amortization of sales inducements | 20 | 20 | — | % |
| Change in guaranteed withdrawal benefit reserve | 48 | 30 | 60 | % |
| Change in other benefit reserves | 17 | 11 | 55 | % |

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP INC - Form 10-Q

| | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|--------|----|
| Subtotal before impact of derivatives related to FIAs | 498 | 450 | 11 | % |
| Derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities: | | | | |
| Embedded derivative mark-to-market | (99 |) 153 | (165 | %) |
| Equity option mark-to-market | 144 | (112 |) (229 | %) |
| Impact of derivatives related to FIAs | 45 | 41 | 10 | % |
| Total annuity benefits | \$543 | \$491 | 11 | % |

78

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Net Spread on Fixed Annuities (excludes variable annuity earnings)

The table below (dollars in millions) details the components of the spreads for AFG's fixed annuity operations (including fixed-indexed annuities):

| | Nine months ended September 30, | | | % Change |
|---|---------------------------------|----------|----|----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | | |
| Average fixed annuity investments (at amortized cost) | \$24,765 | \$22,077 | 12 | % |
| Average fixed annuity benefits accumulated | 24,514 | 21,790 | 13 | % |
| As % of fixed annuity benefits accumulated (except as noted): | | | | |
| Net investment income (as % of fixed annuity investments) | 4.89 | % 5.09 | % | |
| Interest credited — fixed | (2.14 | %) (2.26 | %) | |
| Net interest spread | 2.75 | % 2.83 | % | |
| Policy charges and other miscellaneous income | 0.15 | % 0.13 | % | |
| Other annuity benefit expenses, net of guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees | (0.36 | %) (0.30 | %) | |
| Acquisition expenses | (0.70 | %) (0.63 | %) | |
| Other expenses | (0.38 | %) (0.37 | %) | |
| Change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities | (0.25 | %) (0.25 | %) | |
| Net spread earned on fixed annuities | 1.21 | % 1.41 | % | |

The table below illustrates the impact of fair value accounting for derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities on the annuity segment's net spread earned on fixed annuities:

| | Nine months ended September 30, | | | % Change |
|--|---------------------------------|----------|----|----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | | |
| Net spread earned on fixed annuities — before impact of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities | 1.36 | % 1.57 | % | |
| Impact of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities (*) | (0.15 | %) (0.16 | %) | |
| Net spread earned on fixed annuities | 1.21 | % 1.41 | % | |

(*) Change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities offset by an estimate of the related deceleration of amortization of deferred sales inducements and deferred policy acquisition costs.

Annuity Net Investment Income

Net investment income for the first nine months of 2015 was \$915 million compared to \$851 million for the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$64 million (8%). This increase reflects primarily the growth in AFG's annuity business, partially offset by the run-off of higher yielding investments. The overall yield earned on investments in AFG's annuity operations, calculated as net investment income divided by average investment balances (at amortized cost), declined by 0.20 percentage points for the first nine months of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. This decline in net investment yield reflects (i) the investment of new premium dollars at lower yields as compared to the existing investment portfolio and (ii) the impact of the reinvestment of proceeds from the maturity and redemption of higher yielding investments at the lower yields available in the financial markets.

Annuity Interest Credited — Fixed

Interest credited — fixed for the first nine months of 2015 was \$394 million compared to \$370 million for the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$24 million (6%). The impact of growth in the annuity business was partially offset by

lower interest crediting rates on new premiums as compared to the crediting rates on policyholder funds surrendered or withdrawn. The average interest rate credited to policyholders, calculated as interest credited divided by average fixed annuity benefits accumulated, decreased 0.12 percentage points in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the same period of 2014. During the first nine months of 2015, interest rates credited on new premiums generally ranged from 1.00% to 2.00%.

Annuity Net Interest Spread

AFG's net interest spread decreased 0.08 percentage points in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 due primarily to the run-off of higher yielding investments. In addition, features included in current annuity product offerings allow AFG to achieve its desired profitability at a lower net interest spread than historical product offerings.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Annuity Policy Charges and Other Miscellaneous Income

Annuity policy charges and other miscellaneous income, which consist primarily of surrender charges, were \$37 million for the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$32 million for the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$5 million (16%). This increase reflects the impact of \$6 million in income from the sale of real estate recorded in the first nine months of 2015.

Other Annuity Benefits

Other annuity benefits, net of guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees, for the first nine months of 2015 were \$68 million compared to \$50 million for the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$18 million (36%). In addition to interest credited to policyholders' accounts and the change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities, annuity benefits expense also includes the following expenses (in millions, net of guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees):

| | Nine months ended September 30, | |
|--|------------------------------------|-------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Change in expected death and annuitization reserve | \$14 | \$14 |
| Amortization of sales inducements | 20 | 20 |
| Change in guaranteed withdrawal benefit reserve | 48 | 30 |
| Change in other benefit reserves | 17 | 11 |
| Other annuity benefits | 99 | 75 |
| Offset guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees | (31 |) (25 |
| Other annuity benefits, net | \$68 | \$50 |

The \$18 million increase in other annuity benefits, net of guaranteed withdrawal benefit fees, for the first nine months of 2015 compared to the first nine months of 2014 reflects higher expenses related to products with guaranteed withdrawal benefit features. The guaranteed withdrawal benefit reserve related to FIAs is inversely impacted by the calculated FIA embedded derivative reserve as the value to policyholders of the guaranteed withdrawal benefits increases when the benefit of stock market participation decreases.

Annuity Acquisition Expenses

AFG's amortization of DPAC and commission expenses as a percentage of average fixed annuity benefits accumulated was 0.70% for the first nine months of 2015 compared to 0.63% for the first nine months of 2014 and has generally ranged between 0.70% and 0.80%. Variances from the general range relate primarily to the impact of (i) material changes in interest rates or the stock market on AFG's fixed-indexed annuity business, and (ii) differences in actual experience from actuarially projected estimates and assumptions. For example, the negative impact of the significant stock market decrease and lower than anticipated interest rates during the first nine months of 2015 on the fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities resulted in a partially offsetting deceleration in the amortization DPAC.

Annuity Other Expenses

Annuity other expenses for the first nine months of 2015 were \$74 million, compared to \$65 million for the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$9 million (14%). Annuity other expenses represent primarily general and administrative expenses, as well as selling and issuance expenses that are not deferred. As a percentage of average fixed annuity benefits accumulated, these expenses increased 0.01 percentage points for the first nine months of 2015 as compared to the first nine months of 2014 due primarily to higher expenses related to professional services and employee compensation plans. In general, this percentage is expected to decrease as AFG's annuity business grows and annuity other expenses remain relatively stable.

Change in Fair Value of Derivatives Related to Fixed-Indexed Annuities

AFG's fixed-indexed annuities, which represented approximately 60% of annuity benefits accumulated at September 30, 2015, provide policyholders with a crediting rate tied, in part, to the performance of an existing stock market index. AFG attempts to mitigate the risk in the index-based component of these products through the purchase of call options on the appropriate index. AFG's strategy is designed so that an increase in the liabilities, due to an increase in the market index, will generally be offset by unrealized and realized gains on the call options purchased by AFG. Both the index-based component of the annuities and the related call options are considered derivatives that must be marked-to-market through earnings each period. The fair values of these derivatives are impacted by actual and expected stock market performance and interest rates as well as other factors. For a list of other factors impacting the fair value of the index-based component of AFG's annuity benefits accumulated, see Note D — "Fair Value Measurements" to the financial statements. The net change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities increased annuity benefits by \$45 million and \$41 million in the first nine months of 2015 and 2014, respectively. The net change in fair value for the first nine months of 2015 reflects the negative impact of the significant decline

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

in the stock market and lower than anticipated interest rates on these derivatives. The net change in fair value for the first nine months of 2014 reflects the negative impact of lower interest rates.

Fluctuations in interest rates and the stock market, among other factors, can cause volatility in the periodic measurement of fair value of the embedded derivative that management believes can be inconsistent with the long-term economics of these products. The table below illustrates the impact of fair value accounting for derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities on the annuity segment's earnings before income taxes (dollars in millions):

| | Nine months ended | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------|------|----|
| | September 30, 2015 | 2014 | | |
| Earnings before income taxes — before change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities | \$258 | \$269 | (4 | %) |
| Change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities | (45 |) (41 |) 10 | % |
| Related impact on amortization of DPAC (*) | 17 | 15 | 13 | % |
| Earnings before income taxes | \$230 | \$243 | (5 | %) |

(*) An estimate of the related deceleration of amortization of deferred sales inducements and deferred policy acquisition costs.

As illustrated in the table above, the change in fair value of derivatives related to fixed-indexed annuities, net of the related impact on amortization of DPAC decreased the annuity segment's earnings before income taxes by \$28 million in the first nine months of 2015 and \$26 million in the first nine months of 2014.

Annuity Net Spread Earned on Fixed Annuities

AFG's net spread earned on fixed annuities decreased 0.20 percentage points in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 due to the 0.08 percentage points decrease in AFG's net interest spread, the impact of the decline in the stock market on guaranteed withdrawal benefit reserves, and higher general and administrative expenses, partially offset by income from the sale of real estate recorded primarily in the first quarter of 2015.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Annuity Benefits Accumulated

Annuity premiums received and benefit payments are recorded as increases or decreases in annuity benefits accumulated rather than as revenue and expense. Increases in this liability for interest credited and other benefits are charged to expense and decreases for surrender and other policy charges are credited to other income.

For certain products, annuity benefits accumulated also includes reserves for accrued persistency and premium bonuses, excess benefits expected to be paid on future deaths and annuitizations ("EDAR") and guaranteed withdrawal benefits. Annuity benefits accumulated also includes amounts advanced from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati. The following table is a progression of AFG's annuity benefits accumulated liability for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 (in millions):

| | Nine months ended | |
|---|-------------------|----------|
| | September 30, | |
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Beginning fixed annuity reserves | \$23,462 | \$20,679 |
| Fixed annuity premiums (receipts) | 3,001 | 2,689 |
| Federal Home Loan Bank advances | 300 | — |
| Surrenders, benefits and other withdrawals | (1,417 |) (1,209 |
| Interest and other annuity benefit expenses: | | |
| Interest credited | 394 | 370 |
| Embedded derivative mark-to-market | (99 |) 153 |
| Change in other benefit reserves | 84 | 63 |
| Ending fixed annuity reserves | \$25,725 | \$22,745 |
| Reconciliation to annuity benefits accumulated per balance sheet: | | |
| Ending fixed annuity reserves (from above) | \$25,725 | \$22,745 |
| Impact of unrealized investment gains | 113 | 107 |
| Fixed component of variable annuities | 188 | 192 |
| Annuity benefits accumulated per balance sheet | \$26,026 | \$23,044 |

Statutory Annuity Premiums

AFG's annuity operations generated statutory premiums of \$3.03 billion in the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$2.73 billion in the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$308 million (11%). The following table summarizes AFG's annuity sales (dollars in millions):

| | Nine months ended | | |
|---|-------------------|---------|----------|
| | September 30, | | |
| | 2015 | 2014 | % Change |
| Financial institutions single premium annuities — indexed | \$1,279 | \$1,063 | 20 % |
| Financial institutions single premium annuities — fixed | 157 | 271 | (42 %) |
| Retail single premium annuities — indexed | 1,370 | 1,128 | 21 % |
| Retail single premium annuities — fixed | 52 | 82 | (37 %) |
| Education market — fixed and indexed annuities | 143 | 145 | (1 %) |
| Total fixed annuity premiums | 3,001 | 2,689 | 12 % |
| Variable annuities | 32 | 36 | (11 %) |
| Total annuity premiums | \$3,033 | \$2,725 | 11 % |

Management attributes the 11% increase in annuity premiums in the first nine months of 2015 compared to the same period in 2014 to the significant rise of interest rates during the second quarter of 2015 from first quarter 2015 lows, allowing AFG to raise the crediting rates on its annuities and become more competitive in its markets.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Annuity Earnings before Income Taxes Reconciliation

The following table reconciles the net spread earned on AFG's fixed annuities to overall annuity pretax earnings for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 (in millions):

| | Nine months ended September 30, | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Earnings on fixed annuity benefits accumulated | \$222 | \$231 |
| Earnings on investments in excess of fixed annuity benefits accumulated (*) | 9 | 11 |
| Variable annuity earnings (loss) | (1 |) 1 |
| Earnings before income taxes | \$230 | \$243 |

Net investment income (as a % of investments) of 4.89% and 5.09% for the nine months ended September 30, (*)2015 and 2014, respectively, multiplied by the difference between average fixed annuity investments (at amortized cost) and average fixed annuity benefits accumulated in each period.

Run-off Long-Term Care and Life Segment — Results of Operations AFG's run-off long-term care and life segment incurred GAAP pretax losses of \$148 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015, which includes a \$162 million pretax non-core realized loss on the sale of subsidiaries. See Note B — "Acquisitions and Sale of Businesses" to the financial statements. The following table details AFG's GAAP and core earnings (loss) before income taxes from its run-off long-term care and life operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 (dollars in millions):

| | Nine months ended September 30, | | % Change | |
|---|------------------------------------|--------|----------|----|
| | 2015 | 2014 | | |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Net earned premiums: | | | | |
| Long-term care | \$56 | \$56 | — | % |
| Life operations | 24 | 26 | (8 | %) |
| Net investment income | 61 | 62 | (2 | %) |
| Other income | 3 | 3 | — | % |
| Total revenues | 144 | 147 | (2 | %) |
| Costs and Expenses: | | | | |
| Life, accident and health benefits: | | | | |
| Long-term care | 67 | 84 | (20 | %) |
| Life operations | 29 | 35 | (17 | %) |
| Acquisition expenses | 12 | 13 | (8 | %) |
| Other expenses | 22 | 18 | 22 | % |
| Total costs and expenses | 130 | 150 | (13 | %) |
| Core earnings (loss) before income taxes | 14 | (3 |) (567 | %) |
| Pretax non-core realized loss on subsidiaries | (162 |) — | — | % |
| GAAP loss before income taxes | \$(148 |) \$(3 |) 4,833 | % |

Higher long-term care and life core earnings in the first nine months of 2015 as compared to the first nine months of 2014 reflects improved claims experience, rate increases and lower persistency.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Holding Company, Other and Unallocated — Results of Operations AFG's net GAAP pretax loss outside of its insurance operations (excluding realized gains) totaled \$131 million for the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$114 million for the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$17 million (15%). AFG's net core pretax loss outside of its insurance operations (excluding realized gains) totaled \$115 million for the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$108 million for the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$7 million (6%).

The following table details AFG's GAAP and core loss before income taxes from operations outside of its insurance operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 (dollars in millions):

| | Nine months ended | | % Change |
|---|--------------------|----------|----------|
| | September 30, 2015 | 2014 | |
| Revenues: | | | |
| Net investment income | \$1 | \$3 | (67 %) |
| Other income — P&C fees | 38 | — | — % |
| Other income | 18 | 25 | (28 %) |
| Total revenues | 57 | 28 | 104 % |
| Costs and Expenses: | | | |
| Property and casualty insurance — commissions and other underwriting expenses | 10 | — | — % |
| Interest charges on borrowed money | 56 | 50 | 12 % |
| Other expense — expenses associated with P&C fees | 28 | — | — % |
| Other expenses (*) | 78 | 86 | (9 %) |
| Total costs and expenses | 172 | 136 | 26 % |
| Core loss before income taxes, excluding realized gains | (115 |) (108 |) 6 % |
| Pretax non-core special A&E charges | (12 |) (6 |) 100 % |
| Pretax non-core loss on retirement of debt | (4 |) — | — % |
| GAAP loss before income taxes, excluding realized gains | \$(131 |) \$(114 |) 15 % |

(*) Excludes pretax non-core special A&E charges of \$12 million and \$6 million in the third quarter of 2015 and 2014, respectively, and a pretax non-core loss on retirement of debt of \$4 million in the third quarter of 2015. See "Results of Operations — Holding Company, Other and Unallocated" for the quarters ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 for a discussion of these non-core charges.

Holding Company and Other — Net Investment Income

AFG recorded investment income on investments held outside of its insurance operations of \$1 million in the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$3 million in the first nine months of 2014.

Holding Company and Other — P&C Fees and Related Expenses

Summit, the workers' compensation insurance business that AFG acquired in April 2014, collects fees from a small group of unaffiliated insurers for providing underwriting, policy administration and claims services. In addition, certain of AFG's property and casualty businesses collect fees from customers for ancillary services such as workplace safety programs and premium financing. In the first nine months of 2015, AFG collected \$38 million in fees for these services. Management views this fee income, net of the \$28 million in expenses incurred to generate such fees, as a reduction in the cost of underwriting its property and casualty insurance policies. Consistent with internal management reporting, these fees and the related expenses are netted and recorded as a reduction of commissions and

other underwriting expenses in AFG's segmented results. Beginning with the first quarter of 2015, these fees are shown in other income and the related expenses are shown in other expenses in AFG's Statement of Earnings.

Holding Company and Other — Other Income

Other income in the table above includes \$11 million and \$18 million in the first nine months of 2015 and 2014, respectively, in management fees paid to AFG by the AFG-managed CLOs (AFG's consolidated managed investment entities). The \$18 million of management fees in the first nine months of 2014 includes \$9 million incentive management fees earned in connection with the liquidation of two CLOs. The management fees are eliminated in consolidation — see the other income line in the Consolidate MIEs column under "Results of Operations — Segmented Statement of Earnings." Excluding amounts eliminated

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

in consolidation, AFG recorded other income outside of its insurance operations of \$7 million in both the first nine months of 2015 and 2014.

Holding Company and Other — Interest Charges on Borrowed Money

AFG's holding companies and other operations outside of its insurance operations recorded interest expense of \$56 million in the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$50 million in the first nine months of 2014, an increase of \$6 million (12%). This increase reflects the September 2014 issuance of \$150 million in 6-1/4% Subordinated Debentures due 2054, partially offset by the favorable impact of the interest rate swap entered into in June 2015.

Holding Company and Other — Special A&E Charges

See "Holding Company and Other — Special A&E Charges" under "Results of Operations — Holding Company, Other and Unallocated" for the quarters ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 for a discussion of the \$12 million and \$6 million in non-core special A&E charges recorded in the third quarter of 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Holding Company and Other — Loss on Retirement of Debt

See "Holding Company and Other — Loss on retirement of Debt" under "Results of Operations — Holding Company, Other and Unallocated" for the quarters ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 for a discussion of the \$4 million loss on retirement of debt recorded in the third quarter of 2015.

Holding Company and Other — Other Expenses

Excluding the non-core special A&E charges and the non-core loss on retirement of debt, AFG's holding companies and other operations outside of its insurance operations recorded other expenses of \$78 million in the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$86 million in the first nine months of 2014, a decrease of \$8 million (9%).

Consolidated Realized Gains on Securities AFG's consolidated realized gains on securities, which are not allocated to segments, were \$2 million in the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$44 million in the first nine months of 2014, a decrease of \$42 million (95%). Realized gains (losses) on securities consisted of the following (in millions):

| | Nine months ended September 30, | |
|--|------------------------------------|-------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Realized gains (losses) before impairments: | | |
| Disposals | \$81 | \$55 |
| Change in the fair value of derivatives | (7 |) 3 |
| Adjustments to annuity deferred policy acquisition costs and related items | (3 |) (1 |
| | 71 | 57 |
| Impairment charges: | | |
| Securities | (80 |) (16 |
| Adjustments to annuity deferred policy acquisition costs and related items | 11 | 3 |
| | (69 |) (13 |
| Realized gains on securities | \$2 | \$44 |

AFG's impairment charges on securities in the first nine months of 2015 consist of \$48 million on equity securities and \$32 million on fixed maturities. Approximately \$30 million of the charges are for energy related investments, \$13 million are for real estate related investments and \$7 million for investments in metal mining companies.

Consolidated Realized Gains (Losses) on Subsidiaries In addition to the \$162 million estimated pretax realized loss on the sale of substantially all of AFG's run-off long-term care insurance business recorded in the first quarter of 2015, AFG recorded a \$5 million pretax realized gain in the third quarter of 2015 representing an adjustment to the previously recognized loss on a small property and casualty subsidiary sold several years ago.

Consolidated Income Taxes AFG's consolidated provision for income taxes was \$115 million for the first nine months of 2015 compared to \$155 million for the first nine months of 2014, a decrease of \$40 million (26%). See Note L — "Income Taxes" to the financial statements for an analysis of items affecting AFG's effective tax rate.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Continued

Consolidated Noncontrolling Interests AFG's consolidated net earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests was earnings of \$17 million for the first nine months of 2015 compared to a loss of \$44 million for the first nine months of 2014. The following table details net earnings (loss) in consolidated subsidiaries attributable to holders other than AFG (dollars in millions):

| | Nine months ended | | |
|--|-------------------|-------|-----------|
| | September 30, | | % Change |
| | 2015 | 2014 | |
| National Interstate | \$9 | \$3 | 200 % |
| Managed Investment Entities | — | (47 |) (100 %) |
| Other | 8 | — | — % |
| Earnings (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interests | \$17 | \$(44 |) (139 %) |

The losses of Managed Investment Entities for the first nine months of 2014 represent CLO losses that ultimately inure to holders of the CLO debt. See Note A — “Accounting Policies — Managed Investment Entities” to the financial statements for a discussion of accounting guidance adopted in 2015 that affects the measurement of the fair value of CLO liabilities. Under the new guidance, there are no longer any CLO earnings or losses to be attributed to noncontrolling interests in AFG's Statement of Earnings.

Other noncontrolling interests includes \$6 million related to the gain on the sale of Le Pavillon Hotel in the second quarter of 2015, which was owned by an 80%-owned subsidiary of Great American Insurance Company.

RECENTLY ADOPTED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

See Note A — “Accounting Policies — Managed Investment Entities” to the financial statements for a discussion of accounting guidance adopted on January 1, 2015 that affects the measurement of the fair value of CLO liabilities.

See Note B — “Acquisitions and Sale of Businesses” to the financial statements for a discussion of accounting guidance adopted on January 1, 2015 that impacts the determination of when a component of an entity qualifies for presentation as a discontinued operation.

ACCOUNTING STANDARDS TO BE ADOPTED IN 2016

See Note A — “Accounting Policies — Managed Investment Entities” to the financial statements for a discussion of accounting guidance that AFG will be required to adopt effective January 1, 2016, which could impact the consolidation of collateralized financing entities such as CLOs, as well as limited partnerships and similar investments.

In April 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) 2015-03, which will require debt issuance costs to be presented in the balance sheet as a direct reduction in the carrying value of long-term debt (consistent with the treatment of debt discounts) with the periodic amortization of such costs included in interest expense. AFG currently carries debt issuance costs as a deferred charge (\$18 million at September 30, 2015 and included in other assets in AFG's Balance Sheet) with the periodic amortization (\$1 million in the first nine months of 2015) included in other expenses in AFG's Statement of Earnings. The updated guidance, which AFG will be required to adopt effective January 1, 2016, does not affect the overall recognition and measurement guidance for debt issuance costs. Accordingly, the guidance will have no overall impact on AFG's Shareholders' Equity or results of operations.

In May 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-09, Financial Services-Insurance: Disclosures About Short-Duration Contracts, which requires additional disclosures about the liability for unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses (including accident year information). AFG will be required to adopt the updated guidance for annual reporting beginning in 2016 and interim reporting beginning with the first quarter of 2017. Because the new guidance does not affect the existing recognition or measurement guidance, the adoption will have no effect on AFG's financial condition or results of operations.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

ITEM 3

Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure about Market Risk

As of September 30, 2015, there were no material changes to the information provided in Item 7A — Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk of AFG's 2014 Form 10-K.

ITEM 4

Controls and Procedures

AFG's management, with participation of its Co-Chief Executive Officers and its Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated AFG's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, AFG's Co-CEOs and CFO concluded that the controls and procedures are effective. There have been no changes in AFG's internal control over financial reporting during the third fiscal quarter of 2015 that materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, AFG's internal control over financial reporting.

In the ordinary course of business, AFG and its subsidiaries routinely enhance their information systems by either upgrading current systems or implementing new systems. There has been no change in AFG's business processes and procedures during the third fiscal quarter of 2015 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, AFG's internal control over financial reporting.

PART II

OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 2

Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities AFG repurchased shares of its Common Stock during the first nine months of 2015 as follows:

| | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid Per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (a) |
|------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|---|
| First Six Months | 1,254,791 | \$62.02 | 1,254,791 | 3,745,209 |
| July | — | — | — | 3,745,209 |
| August | 233,856 | 68.67 | 233,856 | 3,511,353 |
| September | 278,593 | 68.48 | 278,593 | 3,232,760 |
| Total | 1,767,240 | \$63.92 | 1,767,240 | |

(a) Represents the remaining shares that may be repurchased under the Plan authorized by AFG's Board of Directors in December 2014.

In addition, AFG acquired 32,633 shares of its Common Stock (at an average of \$62.53 per share) in the first six months of 2015 and 1,162 shares (at \$69.42 per share) in September 2015 in connection with its stock incentive plans.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. 10-Q

ITEM 6

Exhibits

| Number | Exhibit Description |
|--------|---|
| 12 | Computation of ratios of earnings to fixed charges. |
| 31(a) | Certification of Co-Chief Executive Officer pursuant to section 302(a) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 31(b) | Certification of Co-Chief Executive Officer pursuant to section 302(a) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 31(c) | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to section 302(a) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32 | Certification of Co-Chief Executive Officers and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 101 | The following financial information from American Financial Group's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2015, formatted in XBRL (Extensible Business Reporting Language): <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Consolidated Balance Sheet(ii) Consolidated Statement of Earnings(iii) Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income(iv) Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity(v) Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows(vi) Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements |

Signature

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

American Financial Group, Inc.

November 6, 2015

By: /s/ Joseph E. (Jeff) Consolino
Joseph E. (Jeff) Consolino
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer