

PRAXAIR INC
Form 10-Q
April 29, 2016
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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 March 31, 2016

OR

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

PRAXAIR, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

1-11037

(Commission File Number)

06-1249050

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

39 OLD RIDGEBURY ROAD, DANBURY, CT 06810-5113

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(203) 837-2000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for 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

At March 31, 2016, 285,264,902 shares of common stock (\$0.01 par value) of the Registrant were outstanding.

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PRAXAIR, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(Millions of dollars, except per share data)
(UNAUDITED)

| | Quarter Ended March | |
|---|---------------------|----------|
| | 31, | |
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| SALES | \$ 2,509 | \$ 2,757 |
| Cost of sales, exclusive of depreciation and amortization | 1,381 | 1,530 |
| Selling, general and administrative | 274 | 299 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 272 | 277 |
| Research and development | 23 | 24 |
| Other income (expense) - net | (5) | (4) |
| OPERATING PROFIT | 554 | 623 |
| Interest expense - net | 65 | 44 |
| INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES AND EQUITY INVESTMENTS | 489 | 579 |
| Income taxes | 133 | 162 |
| INCOME BEFORE EQUITY INVESTMENTS | 356 | 417 |
| Income from equity investments | 10 | 11 |
| NET INCOME (INCLUDING NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS) | 366 | 428 |
| Less: noncontrolling interests | (10) | (12) |
| NET INCOME - PRAXAIR, INC. | \$ 356 | \$ 416 |
| PER SHARE DATA - PRAXAIR, INC. SHAREHOLDERS | | |
| Basic earnings per share | \$ 1.25 | \$ 1.44 |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$ 1.24 | \$ 1.43 |
| Cash dividends per share | \$ 0.75 | \$ 0.715 |
| WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING (000's): | | |
| Basic shares outstanding | 285,429 | 289,143 |
| Diluted shares outstanding | 286,665 | 291,652 |

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

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PRAXAIR, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)
(Millions of dollars)
(UNAUDITED)

| | Quarter Ended March | |
|--|---------------------|-----------|
| | 31, | |
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| NET INCOME (INCLUDING NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS) | \$ 366 | \$ 428 |
| OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS) | | |
| Translation adjustments: | | |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | 342 | (644) |
| Income taxes | 16 | (34) |
| Translation adjustments | 358 | (678) |
| Funded status - retirement obligations (Note 11): | | |
| Retirement program remeasurements | (5) | 9 |
| Reclassifications to net income | 14 | 19 |
| Income taxes | (5) | (10) |
| Funded status - retirement obligations | 4 | 18 |
| Derivative instruments (Note 6): | | |
| Current quarter unrealized gain (loss) | — | — |
| Reclassifications to net income | — | — |
| Income taxes | — | — |
| Derivative instruments | — | — |
| TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS) | 362 | (660) |
| COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS) (INCLUDING NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS) | 728 | (232) |
| Less: noncontrolling interests | (26) | 18 |
| COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS) - PRAXAIR, INC. | \$ 702 | \$ (214) |

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

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PRAXAIR, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
 (Millions of dollars)
 (UNAUDITED)

| | March 31, 2016 | December 31, 2015 |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$221 | \$147 |
| Accounts receivable - net | 1,685 | 1,601 |
| Inventories | 553 | 531 |
| Prepaid and other current assets | 411 | 347 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | 2,870 | 2,626 |
| Property, plant and equipment (less accumulated depreciation of \$12,189 in 2016 and \$11,696 in 2015) | 11,314 | 10,998 |
| Goodwill | 3,071 | 2,986 |
| Other intangible assets - net | 576 | 568 |
| Other long-term assets | 1,194 | 1,141 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$19,025 | \$18,319 |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | | |
| Accounts payable | \$796 | \$791 |
| Short-term debt | 174 | 250 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | 8 | 6 |
| Other current liabilities | 821 | 846 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | 1,799 | 1,893 |
| Long-term debt | 9,222 | 8,975 |
| Other long-term liabilities | 2,580 | 2,545 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 13,601 | 13,413 |
| Commitments and contingencies (Note 12) | | |
| Redeemable noncontrolling interests (Note 14) | 119 | 113 |
| Praxair, Inc. Shareholders' Equity: | | |
| Common stock \$0.01 par value, authorized - 800,000,000 shares, issued 2016 and 2015 - 383,230,625 shares | 4 | 4 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 3,998 | 4,005 |
| Retained earnings | 12,371 | 12,229 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) (Note 14) | (4,250) | (4,596) |
| Less: Treasury stock, at cost (2016 - 97,965,723 shares and 2015 - 98,351,546 shares) | (7,235) | (7,253) |
| Total Praxair, Inc. Shareholders' Equity | 4,888 | 4,389 |
| Noncontrolling interests | 417 | 404 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | 5,305 | 4,793 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | \$19,025 | \$18,319 |

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

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PRAXAIR, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
 (Millions of dollars)
 (UNAUDITED)

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| OPERATIONS | | |
| Net income - Praxair, Inc. | \$356 | \$416 |
| Noncontrolling interests | 10 | 12 |
| Net income (including noncontrolling interests) | 366 | 428 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 272 | 277 |
| Deferred income taxes | 9 | 14 |
| Share-based compensation | 8 | 7 |
| Working capital: | | |
| Accounts receivable | (20) | (50) |
| Inventory | (7) | (6) |
| Prepaid and other current assets | 1 | 2 |
| Payables and accruals | (77) | (66) |
| Pension contributions | (2) | (11) |
| Long-term assets, liabilities and other | (3) | (87) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 547 | 508 |
| INVESTING | | |
| Capital expenditures | (323) | (397) |
| Acquisitions, net of cash acquired | (63) | (5) |
| Divestitures and asset sales | 2 | 2 |
| Net cash used for investing activities | (384) | (400) |
| FINANCING | | |
| Short-term debt borrowings (repayments) - net | (77) | 38 |
| Long-term debt borrowings | 898 | 753 |
| Long-term debt repayments | (726) | (501) |
| Issuances of common stock | 34 | 44 |
| Purchases of common stock | (32) | (235) |
| Cash dividends - Praxair, Inc. shareholders | (214) | (207) |
| Excess tax benefit on share-based compensation | 6 | 14 |
| Noncontrolling interest transactions and other | (2) | (6) |
| Net cash (used for) provided by financing activities | (113) | (100) |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | 24 | (17) |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents | 74 | (9) |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning-of-period | 147 | 126 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end-of-period | \$221 | \$117 |

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

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PRAXAIR, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(UNAUDITED)

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Presentation of Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements - In the opinion of Praxair, Inc. (Praxair) management, the accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements include all adjustments necessary for a fair presentation of the results for the interim periods presented and such adjustments are of a normal recurring nature. The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the notes to the consolidated financial statements of Praxair, Inc. and subsidiaries in Praxair's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K. There have been no material changes to the company's significant accounting policies during 2016.

Accounting Standards Implemented in 2016

The following standard was effective for Praxair in 2016 and its adoption did not have a significant impact on the condensed consolidated financial statements:

Accounting for Share-based Compensation - In June 2014, the FASB issued updated guidance on the accounting for share-based payments when the terms of an award provide that a performance target could be achieved after the requisite service period. The adoption of this guidance did not have a significant impact on the condensed consolidated financial statements.

Accounting Standards to be Implemented

Revenue Recognition – In May 2014, the FASB issued updated guidance on the reporting and disclosure of revenue. The new guidance requires the evaluation of contracts with customers to determine the recognition of revenue when or as the entity satisfies a performance obligation, and would require expanded disclosures. Subsequently, the FASB has issued amendments to certain aspects of the guidance including the effective date. This guidance is required to be effective beginning in the first quarter 2018 (with early adoption beginning in 2017 optional) and includes several transition options. Praxair is currently in the process of reviewing the new guidance and will provide updates on the expected impact to Praxair in future filings, as determined.

Simplifying the Measurement of Inventory – In July 2015, the FASB issued updated guidance on the measurement of inventory. The new guidance requires that inventory be measured at the lower of cost or net realizable value.

Currently inventory is measured at the lower of cost or market. This new guidance will be effective for Praxair beginning in the first quarter 2017 on a prospective basis, with early adoption optional. Praxair does not expect this requirement to have a material impact.

Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes - In November 2015, the FASB issued updated guidance on the balance sheet classification of deferred taxes. Currently deferred income tax liabilities and assets are required to be separated and classified as current or non-current in a classified balance sheet. The amendments in this update require that deferred tax liabilities and assets be classified as non-current in a classified balance sheet. This new guidance will be effective for Praxair beginning in the first quarter 2017, with early adoption optional. The new guidance may be applied either prospectively or retrospectively. Praxair does not expect this requirement to have a material impact.

Leases – In February 2016, the FASB issued updated guidance on the accounting and financial statement presentation of leases. The new guidance requires lessees to recognize a right-of-use asset and lease liability for all leases, except those that meet certain scope exceptions, and would require expanded quantitative and qualitative disclosures. This guidance will be effective for Praxair beginning in the first quarter 2019, with early adoption optional, and requires companies to transition using a modified retrospective approach. Praxair is in the early stages of reviewing the new guidance and will provide updates on the expected impact to Praxair in future filings, as determined.

Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting – In March 2016, the FASB issued updated guidance on the accounting for employee share-based payments. The new guidance requires that all excess tax benefits and deficiencies associated with share-based payment awards be recorded through the statement of income in the period in which they occur, and within operating cash flows in the statement of cash flows. Currently such excess tax benefits are recorded as direct credits to equity (not via the statement of income) and within financing cash flows. The new update also provides guidance relating to the accounting for forfeitures, statutory tax withholding requirements, and earnings per share calculations. This guidance will be effective for Praxair beginning in the first quarter 2017, with

early adoption optional. We are currently evaluating the impact of this guidance on our financial statements and the timing of adoption.

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Reclassifications – Certain prior years' amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

2. Cost Reduction Program and Other Charges

2015 Cost Reduction Program

In the second quarter of 2015, Praxair recorded pre-tax charges totaling \$146 million (\$112 million after-tax and noncontrolling interests or \$0.39 per diluted share) and in the third quarter recorded pre-tax charges totaling \$19 million (\$13 million after-tax or \$0.04 per diluted share). The charges related primarily to severance and other costs associated with a cost reduction program, which was initiated in response to lower volumes resulting from economic slowdown in emerging markets and energy related end-markets.

The following table summarizes the activities related to the first quarter of 2016:

| (millions of dollars) | Severance costs | Other Charges | Total |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------|
| Balance, January 1, 2016 | \$ 30 | \$ 20 | \$50 |
| Less: Cash payments | (11) | (2) | (13) |
| Less: Non-cash asset write-offs | — | — | — |
| Foreign currency translation | 1 | — | 1 |
| Balance, March 31, 2016 | \$ 20 | \$ 18 | \$38 |

For further details regarding the cost reduction program and other charges, refer to Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements of Praxair's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

3. Acquisitions

2016 Acquisitions

During the three months ended March 31, 2016, Praxair had acquisitions totaling \$63 million, primarily acquisitions of packaged gases businesses in North America and Europe. These transactions resulted in goodwill and other intangible assets of \$34 million and \$15 million, respectively (see Note 9).

2015 Acquisitions

During the three months ended March 31, 2015, Praxair had acquisitions totaling \$5 million. This was due primarily to the acquisition of a packaged gas business in South America.

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4. Supplemental Information

Inventories

The following is a summary of Praxair's consolidated inventories:

| (Millions of dollars) | March 31, December 31, | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| Inventories | | |
| Raw materials and supplies | \$ 204 | \$ 202 |
| Work in process | 49 | 48 |
| Finished goods | 300 | 281 |
| Total inventories | \$ 553 | \$ 531 |

Long-term receivables

Long-term receivables are not material and are largely reserved. Such long-term receivables are included within other long-term assets in the condensed consolidated balance sheets and totaled \$35 million and \$33 million at March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, respectively. These amounts are net of reserves of \$37 million and \$35 million, respectively. The amounts in both periods relate primarily to government receivables in Brazil and other long-term notes receivable from customers. Collectability is reviewed regularly and uncollectible amounts are written-off as appropriate. The account balance changes during 2016 were primarily due to foreign exchange rate movements.

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5. Debt

The following is a summary of Praxair's outstanding debt at March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015:

| (Millions of dollars) | March 31, December 31, | |
|--|------------------------|----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| SHORT-TERM | | |
| Commercial paper and U.S. bank borrowings | \$ 6 | \$ 87 |
| Other bank borrowings (primarily international) | 168 | 163 |
| Total short-term debt | 174 | 250 |
| LONG-TERM (a) | | |
| U.S. borrowings (U.S. dollar denominated unless otherwise noted) | | |
| 0.75% Notes due 2016 (b) | — | 400 |
| 5.20% Notes due 2017 (b) | — | 325 |
| Floating Rate Notes due 2017 (c) | 150 | 150 |
| 1.05% Notes due 2017 | 399 | 399 |
| 1.20% Notes due 2018 | 499 | 499 |
| 1.25% Notes due 2018 (d) | 485 | 480 |
| 4.50% Notes due 2019 | 597 | 597 |
| 1.90% Notes due 2019 | 499 | 499 |
| 1.50% Euro-denominated notes due 2020 | 677 | 646 |
| 2.25% Notes due 2020 | 298 | 298 |
| 4.05% Notes due 2021 | 497 | 497 |
| 3.00% Notes due 2021 | 496 | 496 |
| 2.45% Notes due 2022 | 597 | 596 |
| 2.20% Notes due 2022 | 498 | 497 |
| 2.70% Notes due 2023 | 497 | 497 |
| 1.20% Euro-denominated notes due 2024 (e) | 622 | — |
| 2.65% Notes due 2025 | 397 | 396 |
| 1.625% Euro-denominated notes due 2025 | 561 | 535 |
| 3.20% Notes due 2026 (e) | 725 | 446 |
| 3.55% Notes due 2042 | 661 | 661 |
| Other | 2 | 3 |
| International bank borrowings | 65 | 57 |
| Obligations under capital leases | 8 | 7 |
| | 9,230 | 8,981 |
| Less: current portion of long-term debt | (8 |) (6 |
| Total long-term debt | 9,222 | 8,975 |
| Total debt | \$ 9,404 | \$ 9,231 |

(a) Amounts are net of unamortized discounts, premiums and/or debt issuance costs as applicable.

In February 2016, Praxair repaid \$400 million of 0.75% notes that became due. Also in February 2016, Praxair (b) redeemed \$325 million of 5.20% notes due March 2017 resulting in a \$16 million interest charge (\$10 million after-tax, or \$0.04 per diluted share).

(c) Classified as long-term because of the company's intent to refinance this debt on a long-term basis and the availability of such financing under the terms of an existing \$2.5 billion long-term credit facility.

(d) March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015 include a \$11 million and \$6 million fair value increase, respectively, related to hedge accounting. See Note 6 for additional information.

(e) In February 2016, Praxair issued €550 million of 1.20% Euro-denominated notes due 2024. In addition, Praxair issued \$275 million of 3.20% notes due 2026. The proceeds of these debt issuances were used for general corporate purposes, including acquisitions, repayment of debt and share repurchases under the company's share repurchase

program.

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6. Financial Instruments

In its normal operations, Praxair is exposed to market risks relating to fluctuations in interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, energy costs and to a lesser extent precious metal prices. The objective of financial risk management at Praxair is to minimize the negative impact of such fluctuations on the company's earnings and cash flows. To manage these risks, among other strategies, Praxair routinely enters into various derivative financial instruments ("derivatives") including interest-rate swap and treasury rate lock agreements, currency-swap agreements, forward contracts, currency options, and commodity-swap agreements. These instruments are not entered into for trading purposes and Praxair only uses commonly traded and non-leveraged instruments.

There are three types of derivatives that the company enters into: (i) those relating to fair-value exposures, (ii) those relating to cash-flow exposures, and (iii) those relating to foreign currency net investment exposures. Fair-value exposures relate to recognized assets or liabilities, and firm commitments; cash-flow exposures relate to the variability of future cash flows associated with recognized assets or liabilities, or forecasted transactions; and net investment exposures relate to the impact of foreign currency exchange rate changes on the carrying value of net assets denominated in foreign currencies.

When a derivative is executed and hedge accounting is appropriate, it is designated as either a fair-value hedge, cash-flow hedge, or a net investment hedge. Currently, Praxair designates all interest-rate and treasury-rate locks as hedges for accounting purposes; however, currency contracts are generally not designated as hedges for accounting purposes unless they are related to forecasted transactions. Whether designated as hedges for accounting purposes or not, all derivatives are linked to an appropriate underlying exposure. On an ongoing basis, the company assesses the hedge effectiveness of all derivatives designated as hedges for accounting purposes to determine if they continue to be highly effective in offsetting changes in fair values or cash flows of the underlying hedged items. If it is determined that the hedge is not highly effective, then hedge accounting will be discontinued prospectively.

Counterparties to Praxair's derivatives are major banking institutions with credit ratings of investment grade or better and no collateral is required, and there are no significant risk concentrations. Management believes the risk of incurring losses on derivative contracts related to credit risk is remote and any losses would be immaterial.

The following table is a summary of the notional amount and fair value of derivatives outstanding at March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015 for consolidated subsidiaries:

| (Millions of dollars) | Notional Amounts | | Fair Value | | | |
|--|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| | March 31, 2016 | December 31, 2015 | Assets March 31, 2016 | December 31, 2015 | Liabilities March 31, 2016 | December 31, 2015 |
| Derivatives Not Designated as Hedging Instruments: | | | | | | |
| Currency contracts: | | | | | | |
| Balance sheet items (a) | \$2,573 | \$ 2,548 | \$76 | \$ 15 | \$ 11 | \$ 11 |
| Derivatives Designated as Hedging Instruments: | | | | | | |
| Currency contracts: | | | | | | |
| Balance sheet items (a) | \$38 | \$ 38 | \$— | \$ 1 | \$— | \$ — |
| Interest rate contracts: | | | | | | |
| Interest rate swaps (b) | 475 | 475 | 11 | 6 | — | — |
| Total Hedges | \$513 | \$ 513 | \$11 | \$ 7 | \$— | \$ — |
| Total Derivatives | \$3,086 | \$ 3,061 | \$87 | \$ 22 | \$ 11 | \$ 11 |

(a) Assets are recorded in prepaid and other current assets, and liabilities are recorded in other current liabilities.

(b) Assets are recorded in other long term assets

Currency Contracts

Foreign currency contracts related to balance sheet items consist of forward contracts entered into to manage the exposure to fluctuations in foreign-currency exchange rates on recorded balance sheet assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than the functional currency of the related operating unit. Certain forward currency contracts are entered into to protect underlying monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies from

foreign exchange risk and are not designated as hedging instruments. The fair value adjustments on these contracts are offset by the fair value adjustments recorded on the underlying monetary assets and liabilities. Praxair also enters into forward currency contracts, which are designated as hedging

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instruments, to limit the cash flow exposure on certain foreign-currency denominated intercompany loans. The fair value adjustments on these contracts are recorded to AOCI, with the effective portion immediately reclassified to earnings to offset the fair value adjustments on the underlying debt instrument.

Net Investment Hedge

In 2014 Praxair designated the €600 million (\$677 million as of March 31, 2016) 1.50% Euro-denominated notes due 2020 and the €500 million (\$561 million as of March 31, 2016) 1.625% Euro-denominated notes due 2025, as a hedge of the net investment position in its European operations. In 2016 Praxair designated an incremental €550 million (\$622 million as of March 31, 2016) 1.20% Euro-denominated notes due 2024 as an additional hedge of the net investment position in its European operations. These Euro-denominated debt instruments reduce the company's exposure to changes in the currency exchange rate on investments in foreign subsidiaries with Euro functional currencies. Since hedge inception, exchange rate movements have reduced long-term debt by \$197 million (long-term debt increased by \$64 million during the first quarter of 2016), with the offsetting gain shown within the cumulative translation component of AOCI in the condensed consolidated balance sheets and the condensed consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

Interest Rate Contracts

Outstanding Interest Rate Swaps

At March 31, 2016, Praxair had one outstanding interest rate swap agreement with a \$475 million notional amount related to the \$475 million 1.25% notes that mature in 2018. The interest rate swap effectively converts fixed-rate interest to variable-rate interest and is designated as a fair value hedge. Fair value adjustments are recognized in earnings along with an equally offsetting charge / benefit to earnings for the changes in the fair value of the underlying debt instrument. At March 31, 2016, \$11 million was recognized as an increase in the fair value of these notes (\$6 million at December 31, 2015).

Terminated Treasury Rate Locks

The following table summarizes the unrecognized gains (losses) related to terminated treasury rate lock contracts:

| (Millions of dollars) | Year Terminated | Original Gain / (Loss) | Unrecognized March 31, 2016 | Gain / (Loss) (a) December 31, 2015 |
|--|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Treasury Rate Locks | | | | |
| Underlying debt instrument: | | | | |
| \$500 million 2.20% fixed-rate notes that mature in 2022 (b) | 2012 | \$ (2) | \$ (1) | \$ (1) |
| \$500 million 3.00% fixed-rate notes that mature in 2021 (b) | 2011 | (11) | (6) | (6) |
| \$600 million 4.50% fixed-rate notes that mature in 2019 (b) | 2009 | 16 | 6 | 6 |
| Total - pre-tax | | | \$ (1) | \$ (1) |
| Less: income taxes | | | — | — |
| After- tax amounts | | | \$ (1) | \$ (1) |

The unrecognized gains / (losses) for the treasury rate locks are shown in accumulated other comprehensive income (“AOCI”) and are being recognized on a straight line basis to interest expense – net over the term of the underlying (a) debt agreements. Refer to the table below summarizing the impact on the company’s consolidated statements of income and AOCI for current period gain (loss) recognition.

The notional amount of the treasury rate lock contracts are equal to the underlying debt instrument with the (b) exception of the treasury rate lock contract entered into to hedge the \$600 million 4.50% fixed-rate notes that mature in 2019. The notional amount of this contract was \$500 million.

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The following table summarizes the impact of the company's derivatives on the consolidated statements of income and AOCI:

| (Millions of dollars) | Amount of Pre-Tax Gain (Loss) Recognized in Earnings * | |
|---|---|----------|
| | Quarter Ended March 31, | |
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| Derivatives Not Designated as Hedging Instruments | | |
| Currency contracts: | | |
| Balance sheet items | | |
| Debt-related | \$ 67 | \$ (79) |
| Other balance sheet items | 2 | (6) |
| Total | \$ 69 | \$ (85) |

* The gains (losses) on balance sheet items are offset by gains (losses) recorded on the underlying hedged assets and liabilities. Accordingly, the gains (losses) for the derivatives and the underlying hedged assets and liabilities related to debt items are recorded in the consolidated statements of income as interest expense-net. Other balance sheet items and anticipated net income gains (losses) are recorded in the consolidated statements of income as other income (expenses)-net.

The following tables summarize the impacts of the company's derivatives designated as hedging instruments that impact AOCI:

Derivatives Designated as Hedging Instruments **

| (Millions of dollars) | Quarter Ended | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| | Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized in AOCI | | Amount of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from AOCI to the Consolidated Statement of Income | |
| | March 31, 2016 | March 31, 2015 | March 31, 2016 | March 31, 2015 |
| Currency contracts: | | | | |
| Balance sheet items | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — |
| Net Investment Hedge | \$ (4) | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — |
| Interest rate contracts: | | | | |
| Treasury rate lock contracts | — | — | — | — |
| Total - pre tax | \$ (4) | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — |
| Less: income taxes | 1 | — | — | — |
| Total - Net of Taxes | \$ (3) | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — |

**The gains (losses) on net investment hedges are recorded as a component of AOCI within foreign currency translation adjustments in the condensed consolidated balance sheets and the condensed consolidated statements of comprehensive income. The gains (losses) on treasury rate locks are recorded as a component of AOCI within derivative instruments in the condensed consolidated balance sheets and the condensed consolidated statements of comprehensive income. There was no ineffectiveness for these instruments during 2016 or 2015. The gains (losses) on net investment hedges are reclassified to earnings only when the related currency translation adjustments are required to be reclassified, usually upon sale or liquidation of the investment. The gains (losses) for interest rate contracts are reclassified to earnings as interest expense –net on a straight-line basis over the remaining maturity of the underlying debt. Net losses of less than \$2 million are expected to be reclassified to earnings during the next twelve months.

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7. Fair Value Disclosures

The fair value hierarchy prioritizes the input to valuation techniques used to measure fair value into three broad levels as follows:

Level 1 – quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 – quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets or inputs that are observable

Level 3 – inputs that are unobservable (for example cash flow modeling inputs based on assumptions)

Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

The following table summarizes assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

| (Millions of dollars) | Fair Value Measurements Using | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | | Level 3 |
| | March 31, 2016 | March 31, 2016 | December 31, 2015 | March 31, 2016 December 31, 2015 |
| Assets | | | | |
| Derivatives | — | \$ 87 | \$ 22 | — |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Derivatives | — | \$ 11 | \$ 11 | — |

The fair values of the derivative assets and liabilities are based on market prices obtained from independent brokers or determined using quantitative models that use as their basis readily observable market parameters that are actively quoted and can be validated through external sources, including third-party pricing services, brokers and market transactions. Investments are marketable securities traded on an exchange.

The fair values of cash and cash equivalents, short-term debt, accounts receivable-net, and accounts payable approximate carrying amounts because of the short maturities of these instruments. The fair value of long-term debt is estimated based on the quoted market prices for similar issues, which is deemed a level 2 measurement. At March 31, 2016, the estimated fair value of Praxair's long-term debt portfolio was \$9,560 million versus a carrying value of \$9,230 million. At December 31, 2015, the estimated fair value of Praxair's long-term debt portfolio was \$9,069 million versus a carrying value of \$8,981 million. Differences from carrying amounts are attributable to interest-rate changes subsequent to when the debt was issued.

8. Earnings Per Share – Praxair, Inc. Shareholders

Basic earnings per share is computed by dividing Net income – Praxair, Inc. for the period by the weighted average number of Praxair common shares outstanding. Diluted earnings per share is computed by dividing Net income – Praxair, Inc. for the period by the weighted average number of Praxair common shares outstanding and dilutive common stock equivalents, as follows:

| | Quarter Ended March | |
|--|---------------------|---------|
| | 31, 2016 | 2015 |
| Numerator (Millions of dollars) | | |
| Net income - Praxair, Inc. | \$ 356 | \$ 416 |
| Denominator (Thousands of shares) | | |
| Weighted average shares outstanding | 285,049 | 288,748 |
| Shares earned and issuable under compensation plans | 380 | 395 |
| Weighted average shares used in basic earnings per share | 285,429 | 289,143 |
| Effect of dilutive securities | | |
| Stock options and awards | 1,236 | 2,509 |
| Weighted average shares used in diluted earnings per share | 286,665 | 291,652 |
| Basic Earnings Per Share | \$ 1.25 | \$ 1.44 |
| Diluted Earnings Per Share | \$ 1.24 | \$ 1.43 |

Stock options of 5,236,570 and 2,800,555 were antidilutive and therefore excluded in the computation of diluted earnings per share for the quarters ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

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9. Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

Changes in the carrying amount of goodwill for the three months ended March 31, 2016 were as follows:

| (Millions of dollars) | North America | South America | Europe | Asia | Surface Technologies | Total |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------|-------|-------------------------|---------|
| Balance, December 31, 2015 | \$ 2,111 | \$ 98 | \$ 582 | \$ 59 | \$ 136 | \$2,986 |
| Acquisitions (Note 3) | 34 | — | — | — | — | 34 |
| Purchase adjustments & other | 4 | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| Foreign currency translation | 7 | 12 | 25 | 1 | 2 | 47 |
| Balance, March 31, 2016 | \$ 2,156 | \$ 110 | \$ 607 | \$ 60 | \$ 138 | \$3,071 |

Praxair has performed its goodwill impairment tests annually during the second quarter of each year, and historically has determined that the fair value of each of its reporting units was substantially in excess of its carrying value (refer to Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements of Praxair's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K). As a result, no impairment was recorded. There were no indicators of impairment through March 31, 2016.

Changes in the carrying amounts of other intangibles for the three months ended March 31, 2016 were as follows:

| (Millions of dollars) | Customer & License/Use Agreements | Non-compete Agreements | Patents & Other | Total |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Cost: | | | | |
| Balance, December 31, 2015 | \$ 698 | \$ 38 | \$ 47 | \$783 |
| Additions (Note 3) | 9 | 2 | 4 | 15 |
| Foreign currency translation | 5 | — | — | 5 |
| Other | 2 | (7) | — | (5) |
| Balance, March 31, 2016 | \$ 714 | \$ 33 | \$ 51 | \$798 |
| Less: Accumulated amortization | | | | |
| Balance, December 31, 2015 | \$ (179) | \$ (23) | \$ (13) | \$(215) |
| Amortization expense | (10) | (1) | (1) | (12) |
| Foreign currency translation | (2) | — | — | (2) |
| Other | — | 7 | — | 7 |
| Balance, March 31, 2016 | \$ (191) | \$ (17) | \$ (14) | \$(222) |
| Net balance at March 31, 2016 | \$ 523 | \$ 16 | \$ 37 | \$576 |

There are no expected residual values related to these intangible assets. The remaining weighted-average amortization period for intangible assets is approximately 18 years.

Total estimated annual amortization expense is as follows:

| (Millions of dollars) | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Remaining 2016 | \$37 |
| 2017 | 45 |
| 2018 | 41 |
| 2019 | 39 |
| 2020 | 37 |
| Thereafter | 377 |
| | \$576 |

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10. Share-Based Compensation

Share-based compensation of \$8 million (\$6 million after-tax) and \$7 million (\$5 million after-tax) was recognized during the quarters ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively. Expense amounts reflect current estimates of achieving performance targets relating to performance-based compensation. The expense was recorded primarily in selling, general and administrative expenses. There was no share-based compensation cost that was capitalized. For further details regarding Praxair's share-based compensation arrangements and prior-year grants, refer to Note 15 to the consolidated financial statements of Praxair's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Stock Options

The weighted-average fair value of options granted during the quarter ended March 31, 2016 was \$8.91 (\$11.99 in 2015) based on the Black-Scholes Options-Pricing model. The decrease in grant date fair value year-over-year is primarily attributable to a decrease in the company's stock price.

The following weighted-average assumptions were used to value the grants in 2016 and 2015:

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| Dividend yield | 2.9 % | 2.2 % |
| Volatility | 14.4 % | 13.5 % |
| Risk-free interest rate | 1.41 % | 1.51 % |
| Expected term years | 6 | 5 |

The following table summarizes option activity under the plans as of March 31, 2016 and changes during the three-month period then ended (averages are calculated on a weighted basis; life in years; intrinsic value expressed in millions):

| | Number of Options (000's) | Average Exercise Price | Average Remaining Life | Aggregate Intrinsic Value |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Outstanding at January 1, 2016 | 11,273 | \$ 96.58 | | |
| Granted | 2,468 | 102.22 | | |
| Exercised | (509) | 60.50 | | |
| Cancelled or Expired | (52) | 105.04 | | |
| Outstanding at March 31, 2016 | 13,180 | 98.96 | 6.0 | \$ 242 |
| Exercisable at March 31, 2016 | 9,344 | \$ 93.75 | 4.5 | \$ 212 |

The aggregate intrinsic value represents the difference between the company's closing stock price of \$114.45 as of March 31, 2016 and the exercise price multiplied by the number of in the money options outstanding as of that date. The total intrinsic value of stock options exercised during the quarter ended March 31, 2016 was \$23 million (\$44 million during the same period in 2015).

Cash received from option exercises under all share-based payment arrangements for the quarter ended March 31, 2016 was \$31 million (\$40 million for the same time period in 2015). The cash tax benefit realized from share-based compensation totaled \$13 million for the quarter ended March 31, 2016, of which \$6 million in excess tax benefits was classified as financing cash flows for the three months ended March 31, 2016 (\$23 million cash tax benefit for the same period in 2015 of which \$14 million represented excess tax benefits for the three months ended March 31, 2015).

As of March 31, 2016, \$33 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to non-vested stock options is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of approximately 1 year.

Performance-Based and Restricted Stock Awards

During the three months ended March 31, 2016, the company granted performance-based stock awards to employees of 240,505 shares that vest, subject to the attainment of pre-established minimum performance criteria, principally on the third anniversary of their date of grant. These awards are tied to either return on capital ("ROC") performance or

relative total shareholder return ("TSR") performance versus that of the S&P 500. The actual number of shares issued in settlement of a vested award can range from zero to 200 percent of the target number of shares granted based upon the company's attainment of specified performance targets at the end of a three-year period. Compensation expense related to these awards is recognized over the three-year performance period based on the fair value of the closing market price of the company's common stock on

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the date of the grant and the estimated performance that will be achieved. Compensation expense will be adjusted during the three-year performance period based upon the estimated performance levels that will be achieved. During the three months ended March 31, 2016, the company also granted restricted stock units to employees of 75,640 shares. The majority of the restricted stock units vest at the end of a three-year service period. Compensation expense related to the restricted stock units is recognized on a straight line basis over the vesting period. The weighted-average fair value of ROC performance-based stock awards and restricted stock units granted during the three months ended March 31, 2016 was \$93.46 and \$93.50, respectively (\$120.05 and \$120.04 for the same period in 2015). These fair values are based on the closing market price of Praxair's common stock on the grant date adjusted for dividends that will not be paid during the vesting period. The weighted-average fair value of performance-based stock tied to relative TSR performance granted during the three months ended March 31, 2016 was \$124.18 (none in 2015), and was estimated using a Monte Carlo simulation performed as of the grant date. The following table summarizes non-vested performance-based and restricted stock award activity as of March 31, 2016 and changes during the three months then ended (shares based on target amounts, averages are calculated on a weighted basis):

| | Performance-Based | | Restricted Stock | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Number of Shares (000's) | Average Grant Date Fair Value | Number of Shares (000's) | Average Grant Date Fair Value |
| Non-vested at January 1, 2016 | 802 | \$ 114.41 | 286 | \$ 112.48 |
| Granted | 241 | 105.34 | 76 | 93.50 |
| Vested | (106) | 103.46 | (80) | 103.92 |
| Cancelled and Forfeited* | (195) | 103.70 | (2) | 114.53 |
| Non-vested at March 31, 2016 | 742 | \$ 115.76 | 280 | \$ 109.76 |

* Amounts for performance-based awards include an adjustment of 39 thousand shares relating to the actual payout of 2013 grants in 2016.

There are approximately 12 thousand performance-based shares and 12 thousand restricted stock shares that are non-vested at March 31, 2016 which will be settled in cash due to foreign regulatory limitations. The liability related to these grants reflects the current estimate of performance that will be achieved and the current common stock price. As of March 31, 2016, based on current estimates of future performance, \$38 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to performance-based awards is expected to be recognized through the first quarter of 2019 and \$17 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to the restricted stock awards is expected to be recognized primarily through the first quarter of 2019.

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11. Retirement Programs

The components of net pension and postretirement benefits other than pensions ("OPEB") costs for the quarters ended March 31, 2016 and 2015 are shown below:

| (Millions of dollars) | Quarter Ended March 31, | | | |
|--|----------------------------|------|------|------|
| | Pensions | | OPEB | |
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 |
| Service cost | \$12 | \$14 | \$1 | \$1 |
| Interest cost | 24 | 28 | 1 | 2 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (39) | (39) | — | — |
| Net amortization and deferral | 15 | 20 | (1) | (1) |
| Net periodic benefit cost before pension settlement charge | \$12 | \$23 | \$1 | \$2 |

Praxair estimates that 2016 required contributions to its pension plans will be in the range of \$10 million to \$15 million, of which \$2 million have been made through March 31, 2016. At the end of 2015, the Company changed the approach used to measure service and interest costs for significant pension and OPEB plans by applying specific spot rates along the yield curve rather than a single weighted-average rate derived from the yield curve (the "spot rate approach"). This change was accounted for as a change in accounting estimate and, as such, is applied on a prospective basis starting in 2016.

In 2015 a number of senior managers retired. These retirees are covered by the U.S. supplemental pension plan which provides for a lump sum payment option. Under certain circumstances, such lump sum payments must be accounted for as a settlement of the related pension obligation, but only when paid. As a result, Praxair anticipates that it will record a pension settlement expense of approximately \$4 million in the third quarter of 2016 when the payments are made to the retirees.

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12. Commitments and Contingencies

Contingent Liabilities

Praxair is subject to various lawsuits and government investigations that arise from time to time in the ordinary course of business. These actions are based upon alleged environmental, tax, antitrust and personal injury claims, among others. Praxair has strong defenses in these cases and intends to defend itself vigorously. It is possible that the company may incur losses in connection with some of these actions in excess of accrued liabilities. Management does not anticipate that in the aggregate such losses would have a material adverse effect on the company's consolidated financial position or liquidity; however, it is possible that the final outcomes could have a significant impact on the company's reported results of operations in any given period (see Note 17 to the consolidated financial statements of Praxair's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K).

Significant matters are:

During May 2009, the Brazilian government published Law 11941/2009 instituting a new voluntary amnesty program ("Refis Program") which allowed Brazilian companies to settle certain federal tax disputes at reduced amounts. During the 2009 third quarter, Praxair decided that it was economically beneficial to settle many of its outstanding federal tax disputes and such disputes were enrolled in the Refis Program, subject to final calculation and review by the Brazilian federal government. The Company recorded estimated liabilities based on the terms of the Refis Program. Since 2009, Praxair has been unable to reach final agreement on the calculations and recently initiated litigation against the government in an attempt to resolve certain items. Open issues relate to the following matters: (i) application of cash deposits and net operating loss carryforwards to satisfy obligations, and (ii) the amount of tax reductions available under the Refis Program. Although it is difficult to estimate the timing of resolution of legal matters in Brazil, it is possible that individual disputed matters may be resolved during the next year.

At March 31, 2016 the most significant non-income and income tax claims in Brazil, after enrollment in the Refis Program, relate to state VAT tax matters and a federal income tax matter where the taxing authorities are challenging the tax rate that should be applied to income generated by a subsidiary company. The total estimated exposure relating to such claims, including interest and penalties, as appropriate, is approximately \$190 million. Praxair has not recorded any liabilities related to such claims based on management judgments, after considering judgments and opinions of outside counsel. Because litigation in Brazil historically takes many years to resolve, it is very difficult to estimate the timing of resolution of these matters; however, it is possible that certain of these matters may be resolved within the near term. The company is vigorously defending against the proceedings.

On September 1, 2010, CADE (Brazilian Administrative Council for Economic Defense) announced alleged anticompetitive activity on the part of five industrial gas companies in Brazil and imposed fines on all five companies. Originally, CADE imposed a civil fine of R\$2.2 billion Brazilian reais (US\$618 million) against White Martins, the Brazil-based subsidiary of Praxair, Inc. In response to a motion for clarification, the fine was reduced to R\$1.7 billion Brazilian reais (US\$478 million) due to a calculation error made by CADE. The amount of the fine is subject to indexation using SELIC. On September 2, 2010, Praxair issued a press release and filed a report on Form 8-K rejecting all claims and stating that the fine represents a gross and arbitrary disregard of Brazilian law.

On October 19, 2010, White Martins filed an annulment petition ("appeal") with the Federal Court in Brasilia seeking to have the fine against White Martins entirely overturned. In order to suspend payment of the fine pending the completion of the appeal process, Brazilian law required that the company tender a form of guarantee in the amount of the fine as security. Initially, 50% of the guarantee was satisfied by letters of credit with a financial institution and 50% by equity of a Brazilian subsidiary.

On September 14, 2015, the Ninth Federal Court of Brasilia overturned the fine against White Martins and declared the original CADE administrative proceeding to be null and void. We expect CADE to appeal this decision to the Federal Circuit Court in Brasilia. On April 15, 2016, the Ninth Federal Court in Brasilia allowed White Martins to withdraw and cancel the letters of credit. Accordingly, the guarantee is currently satisfied solely by equity of a Brazilian subsidiary.

Praxair strongly believes that the allegations are without merit and that the fine will be entirely overturned during the appeal process. The company further believes that it has strong defenses and will vigorously defend against the allegations and related fine up to such levels of the Federal Courts in Brazil as may be necessary. Because appeals in

Brazil historically take many years to resolve, it is very difficult to estimate when the appeal will be finally decided. Based on management judgments, after considering judgments and opinions of outside counsel, no reserve has been recorded for this proceeding as management does not believe that a loss is probable.

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13. Segments

Sales and operating profit by segment for the quarters ended March 31, 2016 and 2015 are shown below. For a description of Praxair's operating segments, refer to Note 18 to the consolidated financial statements of Praxair's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

| | Quarter Ended March 31, | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| (Millions of dollars) | 2016 | 2015 |
| SALES ^(a) | | |
| North America | \$ 1,353 | \$ 1,499 |
| Europe | 320 | 326 |
| South America | 311 | 401 |
| Asia | 376 | 371 |
| Surface Technologies | 149 | 160 |
| Total sales | \$ 2,509 | \$ 2,757 |
| | Quarter Ended March 31, | |
| (Millions of dollars) | 2016 | 2015 |
| OPERATING PROFIT | | |
| North America | \$ 349 | \$ 379 |
| Europe | 62 | 62 |
| South America | 55 | 85 |
| Asia | 63 | 69 |
| Surface Technologies | 25 | 28 |
| Segment operating profit | \$ 554 | \$ 623 |

(a) Sales reflect external sales only. Intersegment sales, primarily from North America to other segments, were not material.

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14. Equity and Redeemable Noncontrolling Interests

Equity

A summary of the changes in total equity for the quarters ended March 31, 2016 and 2015 is provided below:

| (Millions of dollars) | Quarter Ended March 31, | | | 2015 | | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| | Praxair, Inc. | Noncontrolling Interests | Total Equity | Praxair, Inc. | Noncontrolling Interests | Total Equity |
| Balance, beginning of period | \$4,389 | \$ 404 | \$4,793 | \$5,623 | \$ 387 | \$6,010 |
| Net income (a) | 356 | 8 | 364 | 416 | 9 | 425 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) | 346 | 10 | 356 | (630) | (21) | (651) |
| Noncontrolling interests: | | | | | | |
| Additions (reductions) (b) | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| Dividends and other capital changes | — | (5) | (5) | — | (2) | (2) |
| Redemption value adjustments | — | — | — | (3) | — | (3) |
| Dividends to Praxair, Inc. common stock holders (\$0.75 per share in 2016 and \$0.715 per share in 2015) | (214) | — | (214) | (207) | — | (207) |
| Issuances of common stock: | | | | | | |
| For the dividend reinvestment and stock purchase plan | 2 | — | 2 | 2 | — | 2 |
| For employee savings and incentive plans | 27 | — | 27 | 30 | — | 30 |
| Purchases of common stock | (32) | — | (32) | (234) | — | (234) |
| Tax benefit from share-based compensation | 6 | — | 6 | 14 | — | 14 |
| Share-based compensation | 8 | — | 8 | 7 | — | 7 |
| Balance, end of period | \$4,888 | \$ 417 | \$5,305 | \$5,018 | \$ 375 | \$5,393 |

Net income for noncontrolling interests excludes Net income related to redeemable noncontrolling interests of \$2 (a) million for the three months ended March 31, 2016 (\$3 million for the same time period in 2015), which is not part of total equity (see redeemable noncontrolling interests section below).

(b) Praxair increased its ownership in certain consolidated subsidiaries. The difference between the purchase price and the related noncontrolling interests was recorded as a decrease in Praxair's additional paid-in-capital.

The components of AOCI are as follows:

| (Millions of dollars) | March 31, 2016 | December 31, 2015 |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Cumulative translation adjustment - net of taxes: | | |
| North America | \$(817) | \$(899) |
| South America | (2,120) | (2,272) |
| Europe | (468) | (526) |
| Asia | (245) | (285) |
| Surface Technologies | (26) | (36) |
| | (3,676) | (4,018) |
| Derivatives - net of taxes | (1) | (1) |
| Pension / OPEB funded status obligation (net of \$320 million and \$325 million tax benefit in March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, respectively) | (573) | (577) |
| | \$(4,250) | \$(4,596) |

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Redeemable Noncontrolling Interests

Noncontrolling interests with redemption features, such as put/sell options, that are not solely within the Company's control ("redeemable noncontrolling interests") are reported separately in the consolidated balance sheets at the greater of carrying value or redemption value. For redeemable noncontrolling interests that are not yet exercisable, Praxair calculates the redemption value by accreting the carrying value to the redemption value over the period until exercisable. If the redemption value is greater than the carrying value, any increase is adjusted directly to equity and does not impact net income.

Redeemable noncontrolling interests include Yara Praxair, a joint venture in Scandinavia, and one packaged gas distributor in the United States where the noncontrolling shareholders have put options. In Scandinavia, the noncontrolling shareholder has the right to sell its shares to Praxair starting in the first quarter 2015 for a period of 4 years at a formula price. Praxair also obtained the right to purchase the shares held by the noncontrolling shareholder starting in 2017 for a period of 2 years, also at a formula price.

The following is a summary of the changes in redeemable noncontrolling interests for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015:

| (Millions of dollars) | 2016 | 2015 |
|--|-------|-------|
| Balance, January 1 | \$113 | \$176 |
| Net income | 2 | 3 |
| Distributions to noncontrolling interest | (2) | (3) |
| Redemption value adjustments/accretion | — | 3 |
| Foreign currency translation and other | 6 | (9) |
| Purchase of noncontrolling interest | — | — |
| Balance, March 31 | \$119 | \$170 |

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Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Consolidated Results

In the first quarter, Praxair's sales were \$2,509 million, 9% below the prior-year quarter primarily due to the negative impact of foreign currency translation which reduced sales by 7%. Lower cost pass-through, primarily natural gas, reduced sales by 1%. Excluding these impacts, organic sales were 1% below the first quarter of 2015. Volume growth from new project start-ups primarily in Asia and Europe, and higher overall pricing were offset by lower base business volumes in North and South America due primarily to weaker industrial manufacturing activity in the US and Brazil, and weaker demand globally in energy end-markets. Operating profit of \$554 million, 22.1% of sales, was 11% below the prior-year quarter, and 4% below excluding currency translation, primarily due to lower volumes. The company's adjusted EBITDA margin of 33.3% was strong and above the prior-year quarter. Reported earnings per share were \$1.24. On an adjusted basis, excluding the impact of a charge to interest expense related to a bond redemption prior to maturity, earnings per share were \$1.28, 10% below the prior-year quarter due to lower net income primarily due to foreign currency impacts, partially offset by fewer diluted shares outstanding due to net stock repurchases over the past year.

Outlook

Diluted earnings per share for the second quarter of 2016 are expected to be in the range of \$1.32 to \$1.39 and adjusted diluted earnings per share for the full year of 2016 are expected to be in the range of \$5.35 to \$5.70. The full-year adjusted diluted earnings per share guidance excludes the impact of a pension settlement expected to be recorded in the third quarter (see Note 11 to the condensed consolidated financial statements).

Full-year capital expenditures are expected to be about \$1.5 billion.

The company's core business is to build, own, and operate industrial gas plants in order to supply atmospheric and process gases to customers. As such, Praxair believes that its backlog is one indicator of future sales growth. At March 31, 2016, Praxair's backlog of 17 large projects under construction was \$1.5 billion. This represents the total estimated capital cost of large plants under construction. These plants will supply customers in the energy, chemical, manufacturing, electronics and metals markets.

Praxair provides quarterly updates on operating results, material trends that may affect financial performance, and financial earnings guidance via quarterly earnings releases and investor teleconferences. These updates are available on the company's website, www.praxair.com, but are not incorporated herein.

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The following table provides summary data for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015:

| (Dollar amounts in millions, except per share data) | Quarter Ended March 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------|----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | Variance |
| Reported Amounts | | | |
| Sales | \$2,509 | \$2,757 | (9)% |
| Cost of sales, exclusive of depreciation and amortization | \$1,381 | \$1,530 | (10)% |
| Gross margin (a) | \$1,128 | \$1,227 | (8)% |
| As a percent of sales | 45.0 % | 44.5 % | |
| Selling, general and administrative | \$274 | \$299 | (8)% |
| As a percent of sales | 10.9 % | 10.8 % | |
| Depreciation and amortization | \$272 | \$277 | (2)% |
| Other income (expense) - net | \$(5) | \$(4) | |
| Operating profit | \$554 | \$623 | (11)% |
| Operating margin | 22.1 % | 22.6 % | |
| Interest expense - net | \$65 | \$44 | 48 % |
| Effective tax rate | 27.2 % | 28.0 % | |
| Income from equity investments | \$10 | \$11 | (9)% |
| Noncontrolling interests | \$(10) | \$(12) | (17)% |
| Net income - Praxair, Inc. | \$356 | \$416 | (14)% |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$1.24 | \$1.43 | (13)% |
| Diluted shares outstanding | 286,665 | 291,652 | (2)% |
| Number of employees | 26,558 | 27,680 | |
| 2016 Adjusted Amounts (b) | | | |
| Interest expense - net | \$49 | \$44 | 11 % |
| Effective tax rate | 27.5 % | 28.0 % | |
| Net income - Praxair, Inc. | \$366 | \$416 | (12)% |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$1.28 | \$1.43 | (10)% |

(a) Gross margin excludes depreciation and amortization expense.

Adjusted amounts are non-GAAP measures which exclude the impact of the bond redemption charge (see Note 5 (b) to the condensed consolidated financial statements). A reconciliation of reported amounts to adjusted amounts can be found in the "Non-GAAP Financial Measures" section of this MD&A.

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Results of Operations

The changes in consolidated sales and operating profit compared to the prior year are attributable to the following:

| | Quarter Ended March 31, 2016 vs. 2015 | |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------|
| | % Change | |
| | Sales | Operating Profit |
| Factors Contributing to Changes | | |
| Volume | (2)% | (7)% |
| Price | 1 % | 4 % |
| Cost pass-through | (1)% | — % |
| Currency | (7)% | (7)% |
| Acquisitions/divestitures | — % | — % |
| Other | — % | (1)% |
| Reported | (9)% | (11)% |

The following tables provide sales by end-market and distribution method:

| | Quarter Ended March 31, | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------|-----------|
| | % of Sales | | % Change* |
| | 2016 | 2015 | |
| Sales by End Markets | | | |
| Manufacturing | 24 % | 25 % | (5)% |
| Metals | 17 % | 17 % | — % |
| Energy | 11 % | 13 % | (12)% |
| Chemicals | 10 % | 10 % | (3)% |
| Electronics | 9 % | 7 % | 6 % |
| Healthcare | 8 % | 8 % | 3 % |
| Food & Beverage | 9 % | 8 % | 7 % |
| Aerospace | 3 % | 3 % | — % |
| Other | 9 % | 9 % | — % |
| | 100 % | 100 % | |

* Excludes impact of currency, natural gas/precious metals cost pass-through and acquisitions/divestitures.

| | Quarter Ended March 31, | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|-------|--|
| | % of Sales | | | |
| | 2016 | | 2015 | |
| Sales by Distribution Method | | | | |
| On-Site | 28 % | | 28 % | |
| Merchant | 34 % | | 34 % | |
| Packaged Gas | 28 % | | 29 % | |
| Other | 10 % | | 9 % | |
| | 100 % | | 100 % | |

Sales decreased \$248 million, or 9%, for the three months ended March 31, 2016 versus the respective 2015 period, primarily due to negative currency translation impacts of 7% and lower cost pass-through of 1%. Excluding these impacts, organic sales decreased 1% due to lower overall volumes, primarily in North America, which was partially offset by a 1% increase from higher overall pricing, primarily in North and South America.

Gross margin decreased \$99 million, or 8%, for the three months ended March 31, 2016 versus the respective 2015 period, primarily due to lower sales. Gross margin as percentage of sales improved to 45.0% for the three months ended March 31, 2016 from 44.5% for the three month periods in 2015 primarily due to lower cost pass-through.

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Selling, general and administrative expense ("SG&A") decreased \$25 million, or 8%, for the three months ended March 31, 2016 versus the respective 2015 period. Currency effects reduced SG&A expense by \$19 million. In addition, benefits of cost reduction actions taken in 2015 in response to weak underlying business trends and lower retirement benefit costs also reduced SG&A.

Depreciation and amortization expense decreased \$5 million, or 2%, for the three months ended March 31, 2016 versus the respective 2015 period. Currency effects reduced depreciation and amortization expense by \$18 million. This was partially offset by higher depreciation expense primarily related to new project start-ups.

Other income (expense) – net was a \$(5) million expense for the three months ended March 31, 2016 compared to a \$(4) million expense for the respective 2015 period.

Operating profit decreased \$69 million million, or 11%, for the three months ended March 31, 2016 versus the respective period in 2015 and decreased 4% excluding the negative impacts of currency translation. Higher pricing increased operating profit but was more than offset by lower volumes. A discussion of operating profit by segment is included in the segment discussion that follows.

Interest expense-net increased \$21 million, or 48%, for the three months ended March 31, 2016 versus the respective period in 2015. Included within interest expense-net was a \$16 million charge relating to a bond redemption (see Note 5). Excluding this charge, adjusted interest expense-net increased \$5 million, or 11% versus the respective 2015 quarter. Lower capitalized interest increased interest expense by approximately \$2 million. The remaining increase was attributable to slightly higher average interest rates, which includes currency impacts, due to extending debt maturities.

The reported effective tax rate ("ETR") for three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015 was 27.2% and 28.0%, respectively. The 2016 period includes a tax benefit relating to the bond redemption. Excluding this item, the adjusted ETR for three months ended March 31, 2016 was 27.5%.

Income from equity investments for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015 was \$10 million and \$11 million, respectively. Praxair's significant sources of equity income are in China, Italy, and the Middle East.

At March 31, 2016, non-controlling interests consisted primarily of non-controlling shareholders' investments in Asia (primarily China and India), Europe (primarily Italy and Scandinavia), and North America (primarily within the U.S. packaged gas business). Non-controlling interests decreased \$2 million for the three months ended March 31, 2016 versus the respective 2015 period, primarily attributable to the divestiture of a controlling interest in a U.S. packaged gas business during the fourth quarter of 2015 and impacts of foreign currency translation.

Reported Net income-Praxair, Inc. decreased \$60 million, or 14%, for the three months ended March 31, 2016 versus the respective period in 2015. The decrease included a \$10 million after-tax impact of a bond redemption charge. Excluding this charge, adjusted Net income-Praxair, Inc. decreased \$50 million, or 12%, for the three months ended March 31, 2016, versus the prior year, primarily due to lower operating profit, partially offset by a lower adjusted ETR.

Reported Earnings per share of \$1.24 for the three months ended March 31, 2016 decreased \$0.19 versus the comparable period in 2015 which included a \$0.04 bond redemption charge. Excluding this charge, adjusted EPS of \$1.28 decreased \$0.15, or 10% for the three months ended March 31, 2016, versus the comparable period in 2015. The decrease was attributable to lower adjusted net income which was partially offset by a reduction in the number of diluted shares outstanding as a result of the company's net repurchases of common stock over the past year.

The number of employees at March 31, 2016 was 26,558, a decrease of 1,122 employees from March 31, 2015. This decrease primarily reflects the impact of cost reduction programs implemented during the previous year.

Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)

Other comprehensive income for the three months ended March 31, 2016 of \$362 million, resulted primarily from positive currency translation adjustments of \$358 million. The translation adjustments reflect the impact of translating local currency foreign subsidiary financial statements to U.S. dollars. The positive translation adjustments in the period resulted primarily from the weakening of the U.S. dollar against most major currencies. See "Currency" section of the MD&A for exchange rates used for translation purposes and Note 14 to the condensed consolidated financial statements for a summary of the currency translation adjustment component of accumulated other comprehensive income by segment.

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Retirement Benefits

The net periodic cost for pension and OPEB plans was \$13 million and \$25 million in the quarters ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively. This decrease is due to lower amortization of net actuarial losses as a result of an increase in discount rates and a change in the approach for measuring service and interest costs by applying specific spot rates along the yield curve rather than a single weighted-average rate derived from the yield curve (the "spot rate approach"). Refer to the 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K for a more detailed discussion of the change in approach and the estimated impacts.

Segment Discussion

The following summary of sales and operating profit by segment provides a basis for the discussion that follows.

| | Quarter Ended March 31, | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|----------|
| (Dollar amounts in millions) | 2016 | 2015 | Variance |
| SALES | | | |
| North America | \$1,353 | \$1,499 | (10)% |
| Europe | 320 | 326 | (2)% |
| South America | 311 | 401 | (22)% |
| Asia | 376 | 371 | 1 % |
| Surface Technologies | 149 | 160 | (7)% |
| | \$2,509 | \$2,757 | (9)% |
| OPERATING PROFIT | | | |
| North America | \$349 | \$379 | (8)% |
| Europe | 62 | 62 | — % |
| South America | 55 | 85 | (35)% |
| Asia | 63 | 69 | (9)% |
| Surface Technologies | 25 | 28 | (11)% |
| Segment operating profit | \$554 | \$623 | (11)% |

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North America

| | Quarter Ended March 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------|----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | Variance |
| Sales | \$1,353 | \$1,499 | (10)% |
| Cost of sales, exclusive of depreciation and amortization | 682 | 791 | |
| Gross margin | 671 | 708 | |
| Operating expenses | 171 | 179 | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 151 | 150 | |
| Operating profit | \$349 | \$379 | (8)% |
| Margin % | 25.8 | % 25.3 | % |

| | Quarter Ended March 31, 2016 vs. 2015 % Change | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|------------------|--|
| | Sales | | Operating Profit | |
| Factors Contributing to Changes | | | | |
| Volume | (5)% | | (9)% | |
| Price | 1 % | | 3 % | |
| Cost pass-through | (2)% | | — % | |
| Currency | (3)% | | (3)% | |
| Acquisitions/divestitures | (1)% | | (1)% | |
| Other | — % | | 2 % | |
| | (10)% | | (8)% | |

The following tables provide sales by end-market and distribution method:

| | Quarter Ended March 31, % of Sales | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|--------|--|-----------|
| | 2016 | | 2015 | | % Change* |
| Sales by End Markets | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | 31 % | 31 % | (5)% | | |
| Metals | 12 % | 12 % | (6)% | | |
| Energy | 16 % | 18 % | (12)% | | |
| Chemicals | 9 % | 10 % | (13)% | | |
| Electronics | 5 % | 4 % | 1 % | | |
| Healthcare | 7 % | 7 % | (4)% | | |
| Food & Beverage | 10 % | 9 % | 6 % | | |
| Aerospace | 2 % | 1 % | 6 % | | |
| Other | 8 % | 8 % | 1 % | | |
| | 100 % | 100 % | | | |

* Excludes impact of currency, natural gas/precious metals cost pass-through and acquisitions/divestitures.

| | Quarter Ended March 31, % of Sales | | | |
|------------------------------|--|-------|------|--|
| | 2016 | | 2015 | |
| Sales by Distribution Method | | | | |
| On- Site | 27 % | 28 % | | |
| Merchant | 39 % | 37 % | | |
| Packaged Gas | 32 % | 33 % | | |
| Other | 2 % | 2 % | | |
| | 100 % | 100 % | | |

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The North America segment includes Praxair's industrial gases operations in the United States, Canada and Mexico. North America segment sales decreased \$146 million, or 10%, as compared to the prior-year quarter. Excluding currency and cost pass-through impacts, sales were 5% below the prior-year quarter due to lower volumes and a modest impact from net divestitures, partially offset by higher pricing. By end-market, lower organic sales primarily to the metals and energy markets, were partially offset by growth in food and beverage. On-site volumes to steel and refining customers were lower year-over-year. Packaged gas volumes were also lower as compared to the prior-year quarter, primarily driven by hardgoods.

North America segment operating profit decreased \$30 million, or 8%, as compared to the prior-year quarter due to lower volumes and currency impacts. Operating profit decreased less than sales due to the positive impacts of higher pricing, productivity, and cost reduction.

Europe

| | Quarter Ended March 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------|------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | Variance % |
| Sales | \$320 | \$326 | (2)% |
| Cost of sales, exclusive of depreciation and amortization | 178 | 182 | |
| Gross margin | 142 | 144 | |
| Operating expenses | 44 | 46 | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 36 | 36 | |
| Operating profit | \$62 | \$62 | — % |
| Margin % | 19.4 % | 19.0 % | |

| | Quarter Ended March 31, | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|------------------|--|
| | 2016 vs. 2015 | | | |
| | % Change | | % Change | |
| | Sales | | Operating Profit | |
| Factors Contributing to Changes | | | | |
| Volume | 2 % | 3 % | | |
| Price | — % | — % | | |
| Cost pass-through | — % | — % | | |
| Currency | (4)% | (3)% | | |
| Acquisitions/divestitures | — % | — % | | |
| Other | — % | — % | | |
| | (2)% | — % | | |

The following tables provide sales by end-market and distribution method:

| | Quarter Ended March 31, | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------|-----------|--|
| | % of Sales | | % Change* | |
| | 2016 | 2015 | | |
| Sales by End Markets | | | | |
| Manufacturing | 22 % | 22 % | 1 % | |
| Metals | 18 % | 17 % | 7 % | |
| Energy | 5 % | 6 % | (15)% | |
| Chemicals | 14 % | 14 % | (1)% | |
| Electronics | 8 % | 8 % | 8 % | |
| Healthcare | 11 % | 11 % | 2 % | |
| Food & Beverage | 9 % | 9 % | 4 % | |
| Aerospace | 1 % | 1 % | (18)% | |
| Other | 12 % | 12 % | 2 % | |

100% 100%

* Excludes impact of currency, natural gas/precious metals cost pass-through and acquisitions/divestitures

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| | Quarter Ended March 31, % of Sales | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|------|---|
| | 2016 | | 2015 | |
| Sales by Distribution Method | | | | |
| On- Site | 20 | % | 19 | % |
| Merchant | 34 | % | 34 | % |
| Packaged Gas | 42 | % | 43 | % |
| Other | 4 | % | 4 | % |
| | 100 | % | 100 | % |

Europe segment sales decreased by \$6 million, 2%, in the first quarter 2016 as compared to the prior year due to negative currency translation impacts of 4%. Excluding currency effects, organic sales grew 2% due primarily to higher on-site and merchant volumes in Spain and due to volume growth from new project start-ups in Russia. Organic growth was positive in most major end-markets in Europe as compared to the prior-year quarter. The energy end-market was weaker.

Europe segment operating profit for the first quarter 2016 was comparable to the prior-year quarter. Excluding unfavorable currency translation impacts of 3%, operating profit increased 3% due to higher volumes.

South America

| | Quarter Ended March 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------|----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | Variance |
| Sales | \$311 | \$401 | (22)% |
| Cost of sales, exclusive of depreciation and amortization | 183 | 221 | |
| Gross margin | 128 | 180 | |
| Operating expenses | 43 | 57 | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 30 | 38 | |
| Operating profit | \$55 | \$85 | (35)% |
| Margin % | 17.7 % | 21.2 % | |

| | Quarter Ended March 31, 2016 vs. 2015 | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|------------------|--|
| | % Change | | % Change | |
| | Sales | | Operating Profit | |
| Factors Contributing to Changes | | | | |
| Volume | (2)% | | (4)% | |
| Price | 3 % | | 15 % | |
| Cost pass-through | 1 % | | — % | |
| Currency | (25)% | | (26)% | |
| Acquisitions/divestitures | 1 % | | — % | |
| Other | — % | | (20)% | |
| | (22)% | | (35)% | |

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The following tables provide sales by end-market and distribution method:

| | Quarter Ended March 31, | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|------|---------|---|
| | % of Sales | | % | |
| | 2016 | 2015 | Change* | |
| Sales by End Markets | | | | |
| Manufacturing | 20 | 22 | (10) | % |
| Metals | 29 | 28 | 4 | % |
| Energy | 1 | 2 | (16) | % |
| Chemicals | 9 | 9 | (3) | % |
| Electronics | — | — | — | % |
| Healthcare | 18 | 17 | 14 | % |
| Food & Beverage | 14 | 13 | 10 | % |
| Aerospace | — | — | — | % |
| Other | 9 | 9 | 3 | % |
| | 100 | 100 | | % |

* - Excludes impact of currency, natural gas/precious metals cost pass-through and acquisitions/divestitures.

| | Quarter Ended March 31, | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------|---|---|
| | % of Sales | | % | |
| | 2016 | 2015 | | |
| Sales by Distribution Method | | | | |
| On- Site | 30 | 27 | | % |
| Merchant | 41 | 41 | | % |
| Packaged Gas | 28 | 30 | | % |
| Other | 1 | 2 | | % |
| | 100 | 100 | | % |

South America segment sales in the first quarter decreased \$90 million, or 22%, versus the prior-year quarter. Currency translation impacts reduced sales by 25%, primarily due to the significant devaluation of the Brazilian Real against the US dollar. Excluding currency and cost pass-through impacts, sales grew 2%. Higher overall pricing increased sales by 3% and the acquisition of a packaged gas business in Peru in the third quarter of 2015 increased sales by 1%. These impacts were offset by lower volumes in Brazil as growth to healthcare and food and beverage end-markets was more than offset by lower sales to manufacturing due to weak industrial production.

Segment operating profit decreased \$30 million, or 35%, in the first quarter primarily due to negative currency translation, cost inflation and lower volumes partially offset by higher pricing and cost reduction actions.

Asia

| | Quarter Ended March 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------|----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | Variance |
| Sales | \$376 | \$371 | 1 % |
| Cost of sales, exclusive of depreciation and amortization | 241 | 233 | |
| Gross margin | 135 | 138 | |
| Operating expenses | 27 | 26 | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 45 | 43 | |
| Operating profit | \$63 | \$69 | (9) % |
| Margin % | 16.8 % | 18.6 % | |

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| | Quarter Ended March 31, 2016 vs. 2015 | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|----|------------------|----|
| | % Change | | % Change | |
| | Sales | | Operating Profit | |
| Factors Contributing to Changes | | | | |
| Volume / Sale of Equipment | 6 | % | 1 | % |
| Price | (1) |)% | (4) |)% |
| Cost pass-through | 1 | % | — | % |
| Currency | (6) |)% | (7) |)% |
| Acquisitions/divestitures | 1 | % | 1 | % |
| Other | — | % | — | % |
| | 1 | % | (9) |)% |

The following tables provide sales by end-market and distribution method:

| | Quarter Ended March 31, | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|------|-----------|---|-----|----|
| | % of Sales | | % Change* | | | |
| | 2016 | 2015 | | | | |
| Sales by End Markets | | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | 9 | % | 10 | % | — | % |
| Metals | 28 | % | 30 | % | (1) |)% |
| Energy | 3 | % | 3 | % | (3) |)% |
| Chemicals | 14 | % | 12 | % | 26 | % |
| Electronics | 32 | % | 32 | % | 9 | % |
| Healthcare | 1 | % | 1 | % | 14 | % |
| Food & Beverage | 2 | % | 2 | % | 14 | % |
| Aerospace | — | % | — | % | — | % |
| Other | 11 | % | 10 | % | 1 | % |
| | 100 | % | 100 | % | | |

* Excludes impact of currency, natural gas/precious metals cost pass-through and acquisitions/divestitures

| | Quarter Ended March 31, | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|------|---|
| | % of Sales | | | |
| | 2016 | | 2015 | |
| Sales by Distribution Method | | | | |
| On- Site | 51 | % | 50 | % |
| Merchant | 28 | % | 31 | % |
| Packaged Gas | 14 | % | 12 | % |
| Other | 7 | % | 7 | % |
| | 100 | % | 100 | % |

Asia segment sales increased \$5 million, or 1% in the first quarter as compared to the prior year. Currency and cost pass-through of precious metals prices used in electronic materials end-markets reduced sales by 5%. Excluding these impacts, sales grew 6% year-over-year. Volume growth in the current quarter came primarily from new project start-ups in China and India. An acquisition in the Middle East in the prior year also contributed positively to sales in the quarter. By end-market, organic sales growth was strongest to the chemicals and electronics end-markets.

Asia segment operating profit decreased \$6 million, or 9% in the first quarter as compared to the prior year. Excluding currency effects, operating profit was down 2% primarily due to lower base business volumes primarily in India and the challenging pricing environment for merchant products in China.

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Surface Technologies

| | Quarter Ended March 31, | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------|----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | Variance |
| Sales | \$149 | \$160 | (7)% |
| Cost of sales, exclusive of depreciation and amortization | 97 | 103 | |
| Gross margin | 52 | 57 | |
| Operating expenses | 17 | 19 | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 10 | 10 | |
| Operating profit | \$25 | \$28 | (11)% |
| Margin % | 16.8 % | 17.5 % | |

| | Quarter Ended March 31, 2016 vs. 2015 | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|------------------|--|
| | % Change | | % Change | |
| | Sales | | Operating Profit | |
| Factors Contributing to Changes | | | | |
| Volume/Price | (5)% | | (21)% | |
| Cost pass-through | (1)% | | — % | |
| Currency | (2)% | | (1)% | |
| Acquisitions/divestitures | 1 % | | — % | |
| Other | — % | | 11 % | |
| | (7)% | | (11)% | |

The following table provides sales by end-market:

| | Quarter Ended March 31, | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------|-----------|--|
| | % of Sales | | % Change* | |
| | 2016 | 2015 | | |
| Sales by End Markets | | | | |
| Manufacturing | 11 % | 12 % | (9)% | |
| Metals | 9 % | 7 % | 19 % | |
| Energy | 24 % | 26 % | (10)% | |
| Chemicals | 2 % | 2 % | (3)% | |
| Electronics | 1 % | 1 % | 23 % | |
| Healthcare | — % | — % | — % | |
| Food & Beverage | 3 % | 3 % | (4)% | |
| Aerospace | 38 % | 36 % | (2)% | |
| Other | 12 % | 13 % | (21)% | |
| | 100 % | 100 % | | |

* Excludes impact of currency, natural gas/precious metals cost pass-through and acquisitions/divestitures. Surface Technologies segment sales decreased \$11 million, or 7% in the quarter as compared to the prior year. Negative currency translation and lower cost pass-through reduced sales by 3% in the quarter. Organic sales were 5% below the prior year due to lower volumes. Sales were lower in manufacturing and energy end-markets, and to a lesser extent the aerospace end-market.

Surface Technologies segment operating profit decreased \$3 million, or 11% in the first quarter as compared to the prior year primarily due to lower volumes, partially offset by higher pricing, lower costs and productivity gains.

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Currency

The results of Praxair's non-U.S. operations are translated to the company's reporting currency, the U.S. dollar, from the functional currencies. For most foreign operations, Praxair uses the local currency as its functional currency. There is inherent variability and unpredictability in the relationship of these functional currencies to the U.S. dollar and such currency movements may materially impact Praxair's results of operations in any given period.

To help understand the reported results, the following is a summary of the significant currencies underlying Praxair's consolidated results and the exchange rates used to translate the financial statements (rates of exchange expressed in units of local currency per U.S. dollar):

| Currency | Percentage of YTD 2016 Consolidated Sales | | Exchange Rate for Income Statement | | Exchange Rate for Balance Sheet | |
|-----------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|-------|
| | | | Year-To-Date Average | March 31, | December 31, | 2015 |
| | | | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 |
| Euro | 13 | % | 0.91 | 0.89 | 0.88 | 0.92 |
| Brazilian real | 10 | % | 3.89 | 2.85 | 3.56 | 3.90 |
| Canadian dollar | 7 | % | 1.37 | 1.24 | 1.30 | 1.38 |
| Mexican peso | 5 | % | 18.03 | 14.95 | 17.28 | 17.21 |
| Chinese yuan | 6 | % | 6.54 | 6.24 | 6.45 | 6.49 |
| Korean won | 4 | % | 1,201 | 1,100 | 1,143 | 1,175 |
| India rupee | 3 | % | 67.47 | 62.26 | 66.25 | 66.15 |
| Argentine peso | 1 | % | 14.42 | 8.69 | 14.70 | 13.04 |
| Norwegian krone | 1 | % | 8.62 | 7.75 | 8.27 | 8.84 |

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Liquidity, Capital Resources and Other Financial Data

The following selected cash flow information provides a basis for the discussion that follows:

| (Millions of dollars) | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED FOR): | | |
| OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Net income (including noncontrolling interest) | \$366 | \$428 |
| Non-cash charges (credits): | | |
| Add: Depreciation and amortization | 272 | 277 |
| Add: Deferred income taxes | 9 | 14 |
| Add: Share-based compensation | 8 | 7 |
| Net income adjusted for non-cash charges | 655 | 726 |
| Less: Working capital | (103) | (120) |
| Less: Pension contributions | (2) | (11) |
| Other | (3) | (87) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | \$547 | \$508 |
| INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Capital expenditures | (323) | (397) |
| Acquisitions, net of cash acquired | (63) | (5) |
| Divestitures and asset sales | 2 | 2 |
| Net cash used for investing activities | \$(384) | \$(400) |
| FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Debt increases - net | 95 | 290 |
| Issuances (purchases) of common stock - net | 2 | (191) |
| Cash dividends - Praxair, Inc. shareholders | (214) | (207) |
| Excess tax benefit on share-based compensation | 6 | 14 |
| Noncontrolling interest transactions and other | (2) | (6) |
| Net cash (used for) provided by financing activities | \$(113) | \$(100) |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | \$24 | \$(17) |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end-of-period | \$221 | \$117 |
| OTHER FINANCIAL DATA (a) | | |
| Debt-to-capital ratio | 62.9 % | 62.4 % |
| After-tax return on capital ("ROC") | 12.4 % | 12.7 % |
| Return on Praxair, Inc. shareholder's equity ("ROE") | 34.6 % | 29.6 % |
| Adjusted EBITDA | \$836 | \$911 |
| Adjusted EBITDA Margin | 33.3 % | 33.0 % |
| Debt-to-adjusted EBITDA | 2.6 | 2.3 |

(a) Non-GAAP measures. See the "Non-GAAP Financial Measures" section for definitions and reconciliations to reported amounts.

Cash Flow from Operations

Cash provided by operations of \$547 million for the three months ended March 31, 2016 increased \$39 million, or 8%, versus 2015. The increase was primarily attributable to lower working capital requirements, lower pension contributions and favorable changes in other long-term assets and liabilities which were partially offset by lower net income adjusted for non-cash charges.

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Praxair estimates that total 2016 required contributions to its pension plans will be in the area of \$10 million to \$15 million, of which \$2 million has been made through March 31, 2016. At a minimum, Praxair contributes to its pension plans to comply with local regulatory requirements (e.g., ERISA in the United States). Discretionary contributions in excess of the local minimum requirements are made based on many factors, including long-term projections of the plans' funded status, the economic environment, potential risk of overfunding, pension insurance costs and alternative uses of the cash. Changes to these factors can impact the amount and timing of discretionary contributions from year to year.

Investing

Net cash used for investing of \$384 million for the three months ended March 31, 2016 decreased \$16 million versus 2015 primarily due to lower capital expenditures which was partially offset by increased acquisition expenditures.

Capital expenditures for the three months ended March 31, 2016 were \$323 million, \$74 million lower than the prior year. Capital expenditures related primarily to investments in new plant and production equipment for growth and density. Approximately 65% of the capital expenditures were in North America.

Acquisitions for the three months ended March 31, 2016 were \$63 million, primarily packaged gases businesses in North America and Europe. Acquisitions in the prior-year period of \$5 million primarily relate to a packaged gases business in South America (see Note 3 to the condensed consolidated financial statements).

For the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015 divestitures and asset sales were \$2 million.

On September 15, 2015, Praxair announced that it has signed an agreement to acquire Yara International ASA's (Yara) European CO₂ business. The proposed transaction also includes Praxair's acquisition of Yara's remaining 34% stake in Yara Praxair Holding AS, currently a 66% owned subsidiary in Scandinavia. Praxair's investment for both transactions is expected to be about \$335 million and will be paid in Norwegian Krone and Euros.

Financing

Cash used for financing activities was \$113 million for the three months ended March 31, 2016. Cash dividends of \$214 million were higher than the prior year due to a 5% increase in dividends per share from \$0.715 to \$0.75. Net repurchases of common stock decreased \$193 million due primarily to fewer treasury share purchases and debt increased by \$95 million.

In February 2016, Praxair repaid \$400 million of 0.75% notes that became due. Also in February 2016, Praxair redeemed \$325 million of 5.20% notes due March 2017 resulting in a \$16 million charge to interest expense (\$10 million after-tax, or \$0.04 per diluted share).

In February 2016, Praxair issued €550 million (\$622 million as of March 31, 2016) of 1.20% Euro-denominated notes due 2024. In addition, Praxair issued \$275 million of 3.20% notes due 2026.

Debt Covenants

Praxair's \$2.5 billion senior unsecured credit facility and long-term debt agreements contain various covenants (refer to Note 11 to the consolidated financial statements of Praxair's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K). The only financial covenant requires Praxair not to exceed a maximum 70% leverage ratio, as defined in the agreements. For purposes of the leverage ratio calculation, consolidated shareholders' equity excludes changes in the cumulative foreign currency translation adjustments after June 30, 2011. At both March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, the actual leverage ratio calculated in accordance with the agreements was 53%.

Other Financial Data

Praxair's debt to capital ratio was 62.9% at March 31, 2016 versus 62.4% at March 31, 2015. Although net debt decreased \$60 million during this period, the increase in the debt to capital ratio is due primarily to lower capital. The equity component of capital was reduced by a \$435 million loss in accumulated other comprehensive income ("AOCI"), primarily from currency translation impacts.

After-tax return on capital ("ROC") was 12.4% for the four-quarter trailing period ended March 31, 2016 versus 12.7% for the 2015 period. The decrease is primarily related to investments in capital projects and currency impacts.

Return on equity ("ROE") for the four-quarter trailing period ended March 31, 2016 was strong at 34.6% and was 500 basis-points above the prior year. The increase is primarily because negative currency movements impacted adjusted net income less than shareholder's equity.

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Adjusted EBITDA decreased \$75 million to \$836 million for the three months ended March 31, 2016 from \$911 million for the three months ended March 31, 2015, while adjusted EBITDA margin slightly increased from 33.0% during 2015 to 33.3% 2016. The decrease in adjusted EBITDA is primarily due to lower adjusted net income adjusted for depreciation and amortization versus the prior year primarily due to negative currency impacts.

Debt-to-Adjusted EBITDA was 2.6 and 2.3 for the four-quarter trailing period ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively, primarily due to currency translation impacts. Adjusted EBITDA was reduced primarily due to the negative impact of currency translation due to the strengthening of the U.S. dollar versus most foreign currencies. Currency translation had less impact on Debt, since Praxair's debt is primarily denominated in U.S. dollars.

See the "Non-GAAP Financial Measures" section below for definitions and reconciliations of these non-GAAP measures to reported GAAP amounts.

Legal Proceedings

See Note 12 to the condensed consolidated financial statements.

Non-GAAP Financial Measures

The following non-GAAP measures are intended to supplement investors' understanding of the company's financial information by providing measures which investors, financial analysts and management use to help evaluate the company's financial leverage, return on net assets employed and operating performance. Special items which the company does not believe to be indicative of on-going business trends are excluded from these calculations so that investors can better evaluate and analyze historical and future business trends on a consistent basis. Definitions of these non-GAAP measures may not be comparable to similar definitions used by other companies and are not a substitute for similar GAAP measures.

The following are the non-GAAP measures presented in the MD&A:

| (Dollar amounts in millions, except per share data) | March 31, | |
|---|-----------|--------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| Debt-to-capital | 62.9 % | 62.4 % |
| After-tax return on capital | 12.4 % | 12.7 % |
| Return on equity | 34.6 % | 29.6 % |
| Adjusted EBITDA for the quarter ended | \$836 | \$911 |
| Debt-to-adjusted EBITDA | 2.6 | 2.3 |

| | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| 2016 Adjusted amounts:* | | |
| Operating profit | \$554 | \$623 |
| As a percent of sales | 22.1 % | 22.6 % |
| EBITDA | \$836 | \$911 |
| EBITDA margin | 33.3 % | 33.0 % |
| Effective tax rate | 27.5 % | 28.0 % |
| Net income - Praxair, Inc. | \$366 | \$416 |
| Diluted earnings per share | 1.28 | 1.43 |

* The adjusted amounts for 2016 exclude the impact of the bond redemption which resulted in a \$16 million charge to interest expense (\$10 million after-tax, or \$0.04 per diluted share).

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Debt-to-Capital Ratio

The debt-to-capital ratio is a measure used by investors, financial analysts and management to provide a measure of financial leverage and insights into how the company is financing its operations.

| | Three Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|----------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| (Dollar amounts in millions) | | |
| Debt | \$9,404 | \$9,360 |
| Less: cash and cash equivalents | (221) | (117) |
| Net debt | 9,183 | 9,243 |
| Equity and redeemable noncontrolling interests | | |
| Redeemable noncontrolling interests | 119 | 170 |
| Praxair, Inc. shareholders' equity | 4,888 | 5,018 |
| Noncontrolling interests | 417 | 375 |
| Total equity and redeemable noncontrolling interests | 5,424 | 5,563 |
| Capital | \$14,607 | \$14,806 |
| DEBT-TO-CAPITAL RATIO | 62.9 | % 62.4 % |

After-tax Return on Capital (ROC)

After-tax return on capital is a measure used by investors, financial analysts and management to evaluate the return on net assets employed in the business. ROC measures the after-tax operating profit that the company was able to generate with the investments made by all parties in the business (debt, noncontrolling interests and Praxair, Inc. shareholders' equity).

| | 2016 | | 2015 | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|--|---|
| | Four Quarter Trailing | Three Months Ended March 31, 2016 | Nine Months Ended December 31, 2015 | Four Quarter Trailing | Three Months Ended March 31, 2015 | Nine Months Ended December 31, 2014 |
| (Dollar amounts in millions) | | | | | | |
| Adjusted operating profit (see below) | \$2,424 | \$ 554 | \$ 1,870 | \$2,694 | \$ 623 | \$ 2,071 |
| Less: adjusted income taxes (see below) | (630) | (139) | (491) | (693) | (162) | (531) |
| Less: tax benefit on interest expense* | (47) | (14) | (33) | (49) | (12) | (37) |
| Add: equity income | 42 | 10 | 32 | 44 | 11 | 33 |
| Net operating profit after-tax (NOPAT) | \$1,789 | \$ 411 | \$ 1,378 | \$1,996 | \$ 460 | \$ 1,536 |
| Capital: | | | | | | |
| March 31st, 2016 & 2015 | \$14,607 | | | \$14,806 | | |
| December 31st, 2015 & 2014 | \$13,990 | | | \$15,285 | | |
| September 30th, 2015 & 2014 | \$14,157 | | | \$16,052 | | |
| June 30th, 2015 & 2014 | \$14,696 | | | \$16,459 | | |
| March 31st, 2015 & 2014 | \$14,806 | | | \$16,285 | | |
| Five-quarter average | \$14,451 | | | \$15,777 | | |
| AFTER-TAX ROC | 12.4 % | | | 12.7 % | | |

* Tax benefit on interest expense is computed using the effective rate.

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Return on Praxair, Inc. Shareholders' Equity (ROE)

Return on Praxair, Inc. shareholders' equity is a measure used by investors, financial analysts and management to evaluate operating performance from a Praxair shareholder perspective. ROE measures the net income attributable to Praxair, Inc. that the company was able to generate with the money shareholders have invested.

| | 2016 | | 2015 | | | |
|---|----------|--------|----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | Four | Three | Nine | Four | Three | Nine |
| | Quarter | Months | Months | Quarter | Months | Months |
| | Trailing | Ended | Ended | Trailing | Ended | Ended |
| | | March | December | | March | December |
| | | 31, | 31, 2015 | | 31, | 31, 2014 |
| | | 2016 | | | 2015 | |
| (Dollar amounts in millions) | | | | | | |
| Adjusted Net income - Praxair, Inc. (see below) | \$1,627 | \$ 366 | \$ 1,261 | \$1,820 | \$ 416 | \$ 1,404 |
| Praxair, Inc. shareholders' equity | | | | | | |
| March 31st, 2016 & 2015 | \$4,888 | | | \$5,018 | | |
| December 31st, 2015 & 2014 | \$4,389 | | | \$5,623 | | |
| September 30th, 2015 & 2014 | \$4,264 | | | \$6,552 | | |
| June 30th, 2015 & 2014 | \$4,964 | | | \$6,911 | | |
| March 31st, 2015 & 2014 | \$5,018 | | | \$6,600 | | |
| Five-quarter average | \$4,705 | | | \$6,141 | | |
| ROE | 34.6 | % | | 29.6 | % | |

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Adjusted EBITDA, Adjusted EBITDA Margin and Debt-to-Adjusted EBITDA Ratio

These measures are used by investors, financial analysts and management to assess a company's ability to meet its financial obligations.

| | 2016 | | | 2015 | | |
|---|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Four | Three | Nine | Four | Three | Nine |
| | Quarter | Months | Months | Quarter | Months | Months |
| | Trailing | Ended | Ended | Trailing | Ended | Ended |
| | March | March | December | March | December | December |
| | 31, | 31, | 31, 2015 | 31, | 31, 2014 | |
| | 2016 | 2016 | | 2015 | | |
| (Dollar amounts in millions) | | | | | | |
| Adjusted net income - Praxair, Inc. (see below) | \$ 1,627 | \$ 366 | \$ 1,261 | \$ 1,820 | \$ 416 | \$ 1,404 |
| Add: adjusted noncontrolling interest (see below) | 43 | 10 | 33 | 50 | 12 | 38 |
| Add: adjusted interest expense - net (see below) | 166 | 49 | 117 | 175 | 44 | 131 |
| Add: adjusted income taxes (see below) | 630 | 139 | 491 | 693 | 162 | 531 |
| Add: depreciation and amortization | 1,101 | 272 | 829 | 1,162 | 277 | 885 |
| ADJUSTED EBITDA | \$3,567 | \$ 836 | \$ 2,731 | \$ 3,900 | \$ 911 | \$ 2,989 |
| Reported Sales | | 2,509 | | | 2,757 | |
| Adjusted EBITDA Margin | | 33.3 % | | | 33.0 % | |
| Net Debt: | | | | | | |
| March 31st, 2016 & 2015 | | \$9,183 | | | \$9,243 | |
| December 31st, 2015 & 2014 | | \$9,084 | | | \$9,099 | |
| September 30th, 2015 & 2014 | | \$9,344 | | | \$8,922 | |
| June 30th, 2015 & 2014 | | \$9,177 | | | \$8,959 | |
| March 31st, 2015 & 2014 | | \$9,243 | | | \$9,092 | |
| Five-quarter average | | \$9,206 | | | \$9,063 | |
| DEBT-TO-ADJUSTED EBITDA RATIO | | 2.6 | | | 2.3 | |

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Adjusted Amounts

The adjusted amounts for 2016 exclude the impact of a bond redemption charge of \$16 million (\$10 million net of tax). The adjusted amounts for the nine months ended December 31, 2015 exclude the impact of the second quarter cost reduction program and other charges of \$146 million (\$112 million net of tax and noncontrolling interest), the third quarter cost reduction program and other charges of \$19 million (\$13 million net of tax) and a pension settlement charge of \$7 million (\$5 million net of tax). See Note 2 to the condensed consolidated financial statements. Adjusted amounts for the nine months ended December 31, 2014 exclude the impact of the Venezuela currency devaluation, pension settlement charge and bond redemption charge. The company does not believe these items are indicative of on-going business trends and, accordingly, the impact is excluded from the reported amounts so that investors can better evaluate and analyze historical and future business trends on a consistent basis. For a description of these items, refer to Notes 2, 5 & 11 to the consolidated financial statements of Praxair's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K. Certain amounts for 2015 and 2014 have been included for reference purposes and to facilitate the calculations contained herein.

| | Quarter Ended March 31, | | Nine Months Ended December 31, | |
|---|----------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| (Dollar amounts in millions, except per share data) | 2016 | 2015 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Adjusted Operating Profit | | | | |
| Reported operating profit | \$554 | \$623 | \$1,698 | \$1,933 |
| Add: Venezuela currency devaluation | — | — | — | 131 |
| Add: Pension settlement charge | — | — | 7 | 7 |
| Add: Cost reduction program | — | — | 165 | — |
| Total adjustments | — | — | 172 | 138 |
| Adjusted operating profit | \$554 | \$623 | \$1,870 | \$2,071 |
| Reported percent change | (11)% | | (12)% | |
| Adjusted percent change | (11)% | | (10)% | |
| Adjusted Interest Expense | | | | |
| Reported interest expense | \$65 | \$44 | \$117 | \$167 |
| Less: Bond redemption | (16) | — | — | (36) |
| Total adjustments | (16) | — | — | (36) |
| Adjusted interest expense | \$49 | \$44 | \$117 | \$131 |
| Adjusted Income Taxes and Effective Tax Rate | | | | |
| Reported income taxes | \$133 | \$162 | \$450 | \$515 |
| Add: Bond redemption | 6 | — | — | 14 |
| Add: Pension settlement charge | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| Add: Cost reduction program | — | — | 39 | — |
| Total adjustments | 6 | — | 41 | 16 |
| Adjusted income taxes | \$139 | \$162 | \$491 | \$531 |

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| (Dollar amounts in millions, except per share data) | Quarter Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|---------------|--------|-------------------|---------|
| | March 31, | 2015 | December 31, | 2014 |
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Adjusted Effective Tax Rate | | | | |
| Reported income before income taxes and equity investments | \$489 | \$579 | \$1,581 | \$1,766 |
| Add: Bond redemption | 16 | — | — | 36 |
| Add: Pension settlement charge | — | — | 7 | 7 |
| Add: Venezuela currency devaluation | — | — | — | 131 |
| Add: Cost reduction program | — | — | 165 | — |
| Total adjustments | 16 | — | 172 | 174 |
| Adjusted income before income taxes and equity investments | \$505 | \$579 | \$1,753 | \$1,940 |
| Adjusted effective tax rate | 27.5 % | 28.0 % | 28.0 % | 27.4 % |
| Adjusted Noncontrolling Interests | | | | |
| Reported noncontrolling interests | \$10 | \$12 | \$32 | \$38 |
| Add: Cost reduction program | — | — | 1 | — |
| Total adjustments | — | — | 1 | — |
| Adjusted Noncontrolling Interests | \$10 | \$12 | \$33 | \$38 |
| Adjusted Net Income - Praxair, Inc. | | | | |
| Reported net income - Praxair, Inc. | \$356 | \$416 | \$1,131 | \$1,246 |
| Add: Bond redemption | 10 | — | — | 22 |
| Add: Pension settlement charge | — | — | 5 | 5 |
| Add: Venezuela currency devaluation | — | — | — | 131 |
| Add: Cost reduction program | — | — | 125 | — |
| Total adjustments | 10 | — | 130 | 158 |
| Adjusted net income - Praxair, Inc. | \$366 | \$416 | \$1,261 | \$1,404 |
| Reported percent change | (14)% | | (9)% | |
| Adjusted percent change | (12)% | | (10)% | |
| Adjusted Diluted Earnings Per Share | | | | |
| Reported diluted EPS | \$1.24 | \$1.43 | \$3.93 | \$4.23 |
| Add: Bond redemption | 0.04 | — | — | 0.07 |
| Add: Pension settlement charge | — | — | 0.02 | 0.02 |
| Add: Venezuela currency devaluation | — | — | — | 0.45 |
| Add: Cost reduction program | — | — | 0.43 | — |
| Total adjustments | \$0.04 | \$— | \$0.45 | \$0.54 |
| Adjusted diluted EPS | \$1.28 | \$1.43 | \$4.38 | \$4.77 |
| Reported percent change | (13)% | | (7)% | |
| Adjusted percent change | (10)% | | (8)% | |

New Accounting Standards

Refer to Note 1 of the condensed consolidated financial statements.

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Forward-looking Statements

This document contains “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on management’s reasonable expectations and assumptions as of the date the statements are made but involve risks and uncertainties. These risks and uncertainties include, without limitation: the performance of stock markets generally; developments in worldwide and national economies and other international events and circumstances; changes in foreign currencies and in interest rates; the cost and availability of electric power, natural gas and other raw materials; the ability to achieve price increases to offset cost increases; catastrophic events including natural disasters, epidemics and acts of war and terrorism; the ability to attract, hire, and retain qualified personnel; the impact of changes in financial accounting standards; the impact of changes in pension plan liabilities; the impact of tax, environmental, healthcare and other legislation and government regulation in jurisdictions in which the company operates; the cost and outcomes of investigations, litigation and regulatory proceedings; continued timely development and market acceptance of new products and applications; the impact of competitive products and pricing; future financial and operating performance of major customers and industries served; the impact of information technology system failures, network disruptions and breaches in data security; and the effectiveness and speed of integrating new acquisitions into the business. These risks and uncertainties may cause actual future results or circumstances to differ materially from the projections or estimates contained in the forward-looking statements. The company assumes no obligation to update or provide revisions to any forward-looking statement in response to changing circumstances. The above listed risks and uncertainties are further described in Item 1A (Risk Factors) in this report which should be reviewed carefully. Please consider the company’s forward-looking statements in light of those risks.

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Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Refer to Item 7A. to Part II of Praxair's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K for discussion.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Based on an evaluation of the effectiveness of Praxair's disclosure controls and procedures, which was made under the supervision and with the participation of management, including Praxair's principal executive officer and principal financial officer, the principal executive officer and principal financial officer have each concluded that, (a) as of the end of the quarterly period covered by this report, such disclosure controls and procedures are effective in ensuring that information required to be disclosed by Praxair in reports that it files under the Exchange Act of 1934 is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms, and accumulated and communicated to management including Praxair's principal executive officer and principal financial officer, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

There were no changes in Praxair's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the quarterly (b) period covered by this report that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, Praxair's internal control over financial reporting.

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PART II - OTHER INFORMATION

Praxair, Inc. and Subsidiaries

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

See Note 12 to the condensed consolidated financial statements for a description of current legal proceedings.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There have been no material changes to the risk factors disclosed in Item 1a to Part I of Praxair's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

Purchases of Equity Securities- Certain information regarding purchases made by or on behalf of the company or any affiliated purchaser (as defined in Rule 10b-18(a)(3) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) of its common stock during the quarter ended March 31, 2016 is provided below:

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased (Thousands) | Average Price Paid Per Share | Total Numbers of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Program (1) (Thousands) | Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet be Purchased Under the Program (2) (Millions) |
|--------------------|--|------------------------------|---|---|
| January 2016 | 119 | \$ 98.64 | 119 | \$ 1,807 |
| February 2016 | 6 | \$ 103.01 | 6 | \$ 1,806 |
| March 2016 | 180 | \$ 112.45 | 180 | \$ 1,786 |
| First Quarter 2016 | 305 | \$ 106.87 | 305 | \$ 1,786 |

On January 28, 2014, the Company's board of directors approved the repurchase of \$1.5 billion of its common (1) stock (2014 program) which could take place from time to time on the open market (which could include the use of 10b5-1 trading plans) or through negotiated transactions, subject to market and business conditions.

As of March 31, 2016, the Company purchased \$1,214 million of its common stock pursuant to the 2014 program, leaving an additional \$286 million remaining authorized under the 2014 program. The 2014 program does not have any stated expiration date. In addition, on July 28, 2015, the Company's board of directors approved the repurchase (2) of \$1.5 billion of its common stock ("2015 program") which could take place from time to time on the open market (which could include the use of 10b5-1 trade plans) or through negotiated transactions, subject to market and business conditions. The 2015 program does not have any stated expiration date. The 2015 program is in addition to the 2014 program.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

Item 5. Other Information

None.

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Item 6. Exhibits

(a) Exhibits

- 10.01* Praxair, Inc. Plan for Determining Performance-Based Awards Under Section 162(m) effective as of January 1, 2016 is filed herewith.
- 12.01 Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.
- 31.01 Rule 13a-14(a) Certification
- 31.02 Rule 13a-14(a) Certification
- 32.01 Section 1350 Certification (such certifications are furnished for the information of the Commission and shall not be deemed incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act).
- 32.02 Section 1350 Certification (such certifications are furnished for the information of the Commission and shall not be deemed incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act).
- 101.INS XBRL Instance Document
- 101.SCH XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema
- 101.CAL XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase
- 101.LAB XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase
- 101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase
- 101.DEF XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase

* Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

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SIGNATURE

Praxair, Inc. and Subsidiaries

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.

PRAXAIR, INC.

(Registrant)

Date: April 29, 2016 By: /s/ Elizabeth T. Hirsch

Elizabeth T. Hirsch
Vice President and Controller
(On behalf of the Registrant
and as Chief Accounting Officer)