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## To Our Shareholders

Pat McHale | President and CEO

In 2015, Graco achieved new financial records for annual sales, net income and earnings per share (EPS) as a result of the efforts of our employees and channel partners worldwide. While we achieved numerous Company records, 2015 was not without its challenges. Several emerging markets experienced deteriorating economic conditions – particularly Russia, South America and China – and unfavorable foreign currency exchange rates presented a significant financial headwind. Despite the obstacles, Graco delivered a solid performance and generated higher organic revenue growth than many other global industrial companies.

Total Company sales for the year rose five percent to \$1.29 billion (10 percent growth at constant currency exchange rates). While we are not celebrating five percent sales growth, our relative performance compared to our industrial peers shows we performed well in a tough year. We're not satisfied with five percent though – we'll be driving for stronger results in 2016.

Sales in the Americas were up 11 percent, while sales in the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) region were down four percent (up nine percent at constant currency exchange rates). Sales in Asia Pacific increased one percent (six percent at constant currency exchange rates). Acquired businesses contributed six percentage points of sales growth in 2015, as we continued to acquire businesses to support our strategic growth plan of expanding into new markets and geographies while diversifying our product portfolio.

Earnings per share for the year were up 61 percent to \$5.86, as reported. In April, the Company sold the Liquid Finishing business assets acquired in 2012. Net earnings for the year included an after-tax gain and dividends totaling \$141 million (\$2.40 per diluted share). Excluding Liquid Finishing investment income, our EPS grew seven percent, to \$3.46. In addition, shareholders received \$1.20 per share in dividends in 2015, a record year for dividend payouts. In total, we returned \$325 million of capital to our shareholders in 2015 through dividends and net share repurchases.

We made significant progress on our strategic initiatives in 2015 and continue to benefit from our culture of process and quality improvements.

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## Long-Term Strategic Focus

Graco's ability to weather the tough global economy is due in large part to our steadfast commitment to four key growth strategies. We dedicate significant resources to our research and development efforts to ensure a robust pipeline of new products each and every year. We continually assess the global environment to identify new applications for our existing technologies, and seek to expand Graco's footprint by penetrating new geographies. Finally, we continue to seek opportunities and deploy capital resources on key acquisitions. Combined, these strategies delivered solid results in 2015 and we are confident they position us well for the future.

## New Product Development

Graco invests in new products at a higher rate than many of our competitors and peers. In 2015, the Company invested nearly \$60 million to develop new products and enhance existing products. We unveiled several new products in 2015 that we're confident will help drive growth in 2016 and beyond.

This past year, our Process segment launched the Husky 1050e diaphragm pump, a revolutionary pump operating on electricity, making it up to five times more energy efficient than traditional air-operated diaphragm pumps. This new product will help end-users save on operating costs, effectively control and meter their pump operation and work in a quieter environment.

Also in 2015, Graco refreshed the complete line of GH Gas Hydraulic and TexSpray DutyMax DI Hydraulic Sprayers in the Contractor segment. With this redesign, end-users now have the unique ability to change out the pump lower and convert to electric power without tools. Offered in three different series developed specifically for how a professional painter works, these new airless sprayers are some of the most versatile on the market and are designed to make the pro's job easier, faster and more productive.

Finally, our Industrial segment debuted a new automatic electrostatic spray gun, the Pro Xpc Auto, with robotic applications in mind. For this product, we took our signature, high-performing electrostatic spray guns and made them smaller and lighter. The new spray gun is designed for efficient system integration and comes with a serialized certificate of performance.

## New Markets

Graco products are well respected in our current industries, but we're always looking for opportunities to transfer our technologies to new applications.

This year, we expanded our offerings in the oil and natural gas industry with our line of chemical injection equipment featuring solar capabilities for use in the midstream and upstream sectors. This new, internally-designed and developed product line includes highly durable pumps, technologically-advanced controllers including cellular-based operation, and accessories to dispense, control and monitor numerous chemical fluids at the well site. Our acquisitions of the High Pressure Equipment and Alco Valves businesses, combined with our organically-developed offerings, allow us to serve the needs of oil and natural gas customers worldwide. While the energy sector can be cyclical, we believe the industry offers attractive long-term opportunities and that Graco is well-suited to provide industry-leading flow control solutions to this sector.

Graco also introduced the ToughTek line of mortar pumps for the construction industry in 2015. These rugged, compact pumps use piston technology to spray cementitious materials for stucco, exterior insulation, fireproofing and mortar repair applications. Because of their durability, portability and high-pressure piston pump design, ToughTek pumps help contractors save time and increase productivity. These new products use proven Graco technology to expand our presence in several attractive markets.

Finally, we introduced the new ChemSafe family of air-operated double diaphragm pumps, a pumping solution for corrosive chemicals. ChemSafe pumps are ideal for chemical and abrasive applications, further expanding Graco's presence in the pharmaceutical, ceramic finishing, electroplating, printing ink and wastewater treatment industries, among others.

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## Geographic Expansion

In early 2015, Graco established a new warehouse in the Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone. This facility allows us to stock more products in country so we can deliver them rapidly to distributors and end-users. Shipping from a local warehouse also allows us to bill in local currency for sales in China, a previous roadblock for some distributors.

Graco began to expand our presence in Africa in 2015, a continent we previously served with just a handful of salespeople. During the year we established new legal representative and branch offices, and hired additional local sales personnel charged to grow our base and build channels, including a local trainer to assist in this effort. This expansion will improve customer service and position us for long-term growth.

## Acquisitions

During 2015, Graco acquired five businesses with complementary technologies to help position us for future growth.

In January 2015, we announced the acquisition of High Pressure Equipment, which produces precision flow technology products complementary to Alco Valves, an October 2014 acquisition. Combined, these two acquisitions provide us with a strategically important opportunity to expand our precision flow technology product offerings. Also in January 2015, we acquired White Knight Fluid Handling, which has broadened our process pump applications with the addition of high-purity solutions for the semiconductor, solar and electronics industries.

Later in the year, Graco made three other focused acquisitions to expand our development capabilities and knowledge base in rotor stator pump units, continuous material mixers and ionizing bars for controlling electrostatic energy.

## Outlook

We began 2016 facing many of the same challenges we faced in 2015, including uncertain worldwide macroeconomic conditions. The current economy has caused many companies to slash investment, cut spending and reduce headcount. Graco, however, remains committed to our long-term growth initiatives and will continue to invest in our products, our people, our systems and our facilities. We maintain this approach because Graco's employees are dedicated to continuous improvement and consistently seeking sales growth opportunities. Most importantly, we're dedicated to delivering the highest quality products and services in the market.

We raised our dividend in 2015 by 10 percent to deliver increased value to our shareholders. Of course, we will pursue both opportunistic share repurchases and strategic acquisitions that drive future growth, and will continue to invest in our long-term organic growth initiatives. Although worldwide macroeconomic conditions and currency fluctuations remain a concern, we will again drive for growth in every reportable segment and geography in 2016.

We have a lot to look forward to this year and we work hard to make Graco even better every day. We continue to be an industry leader, we've been active on the acquisition front, and we've added new products, new end markets and new talent to the organization. We are confident in our strategies, our technology and our people, and we remain committed to exceeding our stakeholders' expectations.

Thank you for your continued support of our Company.



Pat McHale  
President and Chief Executive Officer



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**Jim Graner**, Graco's Chief Financial Officer, retired in August 2015 after more than 40 years with the Company. Throughout his career at Graco, Jim provided outstanding vision and leadership. He played a pivotal role in shaping Graco's business and driving long-term shareholder value. Jim's deep understanding of our customers, distributors and business models, and his relentless drive to establish metrics and set high standards of execution across the organization, have been key elements of our success. On behalf of Graco's Board of Directors, Executive Officers and shareholders, we thank Jim for his service and innumerable contributions, and wish him all the best in retirement.



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**Jody Feragen** was appointed to the Graco Board of Directors in September 2015. Jody currently serves as the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Hormel Foods Corporation in Austin, Minnesota, a company she joined in 2000 as its Treasurer. She is a certified public accountant (CPA) and holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of North Dakota and an MBA with an emphasis in Finance from the University of Minnesota. Jody serves on Graco's Audit and Management Organization and Compensation committees. She brings a wealth of financial expertise and business acumen, and we are pleased to welcome her to our Board. Her insights and experience will be extremely valuable as our Company continues to pursue profitable growth worldwide.



# New Products 2015

## Industrial

- Pro Xp™ Auto**  
 Automatic electrostatic air spray and air-assist guns for high-quality spraying.
- Endura-Flo™**  
 High-pressure diaphragm pumps available in 150 cc or 350 cc volume/cycle.
- Sealed 4-Ball Lower**  
 No TSL required. Completely sealed 4-ball lower can be used for every pumping application in the mix room.
- E-Flo® DC 4000**  
 High flow rate dual control electric circulation pumps with less pulsation and increased flow rates.
- Reactor® A-XP1 Plural-Component Sprayer**  
 Entry-level, high-pressure air system for foam or polyurea coatings.
- Reactor® 2 Hydraulic Plural-Component Sprayers**  
 Combines the hydraulic line with features and benefits of the Reactor 2 spray platform.
- XM™ PFP Plural-Component Sprayers**  
 Sprayers and guns that handle a wide-variety of protective coatings for heavy-duty or two part epoxy intumescent fireproofing coatings.
- Xtreme® XL Sprayers**  
 Airless sprayers that can be used with multiple guns for single-component protective coatings.
- Graco Fluid Automation F4-5 and F4-55**  
 High-precision systems for two-component Liquid Silicone Rubber (LSR) injection molding.
- Therm-O-Flow® 20**  
 For hot melt sealants and adhesives in 5-gallon pails.
- Therm-O-Flow® 200**  
 For hot melt sealants and adhesives in 55-gallon drums.
- ToughTek™ Fireproofing Pumps**  
 Help fireproofing contractors save time with the spraying performance of a high-pressure machine.
  - ToughTek™ F340e Portable Fireproofing Pump
  - ToughTek™ F680e Mid-Size Fireproofing Pump
- XP-h™ Hydraulic Plural-Component Sprayer**  
 For contractors wishing to take advantage of the convenience and efficiency of a gas-powered hydraulic system.
- ToughTek Machine Technologies P25X Mortar Pump**  
 For repair mortars, underlayments, toppings, stucco, decorative coatings and EIFS.
- ToughTek Machine Technologies D35 Continuous Mixers**  
 Automatically mixes pre-blended mortar products such as stucco, plaster, masonry and grout.
- ToughTek Machine Technologies MP25 Mortar Pump**  
 Mixes, pumps and applies pre-blended materials such as self-leveling flooring materials and grouts.



# New Products 2015

## Industrial continued...

- **Pro Xpc™ Auto Electrostatic Spray Guns**  
Compact and lightweight automatic electrostatic air spray guns for robots and fixtures with lower payloads.
- **OptiCenter™ OC04/OC05**  
The OC04 is for injector operation. The OC05 operates with OptiSpray AP01 pump technology, suitable for up to 30 guns.
- **MultiStar™ CG10 Gun Control**  
User-friendly interface that allows a very precise setting of up to 12 gun parameters simultaneously controlled.
- **OptiGun® GA03-E Automatic Powder Gun**  
Compact and easy to maintain for enamel coatings.
- **OptiSpray® AP01-E Application Pump**  
Single-chamber design to ensure stable and repeatable powder outputs over long periods and constant film builds for enamel.
- **OptiSelect® GM03-E**  
Designed for the electrostatic application of enamel powder and offers wear resistance and highest coating efficiency.



## Contractor

- **Small and Midsize Electric Airless Sprayers**
- **FinishPro™ II Air-Assisted Airless Sprayers**  
Upgraded with the industry-first ProConnect™ Pump Removal System. Swapping a pump lower on the job site is now fast and easy without the use of tools.
- **GH™ / TexSpray™ DutyMax™ DI Hydraulic Sprayers**  
The complete line of hydraulic sprayers were upgraded so end-users can now select between the Standard Series and ProContractor Series based on the specific type of jobs they complete.
- **GrindLazer® 630**  
Outfitted with a Vanguard 630cc21/hp engine, this high production scarifier is designed with an "Up-Cut" cutting direction to do all types of lines that include inlay/grooving jobs.
- **JetRoller™ 18" System**  
Now wider than ever, the new 18" JetRoller System will allow you to roll your projects in half the time. The JetRoller comes with a CleanShot™ shut-off valve that combines rolling and spraying into one action, virtually eliminating overspray.
- **TrueCoat® 360 / 360DS / 360DSP / 360VSP**  
The new TrueCoat 360 line of sprayers feature industry-first FlexLiner™ paint bag technology that makes fast work of indoor and outdoor painting and staining projects.



# New Products 2015

## Process

- XD™ Series Electronic Dispense Meters**  
 For petroleum and synthetic-based oils in high-volume applications including mining, heavy construction and industrial.
  - XDM6™ Electronic Dispense Meter
  - XDM12™ Electronic Dispense Meter
- Hydraulic Dyna-Star® 10:1 High Pressure Pump**  
 Lubrication pump for long-lasting, high-pressure performance by tapping into low or high-pressure hydraulic circuits.
- GL-1™ High Corrosion Protection (HCP) Injectors**  
 For single-line parallel automatic lubrication systems.
- LubePro™ Series Pumps**  
 Simple injector-based solutions when high output, fast lubrication cycles and flow rates are needed.
  - LubePro A900 Pump
  - LubePro A1900 Pump
  - LubePro A2600 Pump
  - LubePro H1900 Pump
- ChemSafe™ Diaphragm Pumps**  
 Air-operated PTFE or UHMWPE line features an innovative, leak-free design for corrosive and abrasive fluid transfer.
- Husky™ 1050e Electric Diaphragm Pump**  
 Designed to reduce energy costs compared to air-operated pumps or operate where air is not available. Provides low pulsation and smooth flow to reduce maintenance costs.
- SaniForce® 1040e Electric Diaphragm Pump**  
 Sanitary pump designed to stall under pressure, reduce energy consumption and eliminate leaking due to run-dry conditions.
- SoloTech™ Peristaltic Pumps**  
 Single roller design for caustic, abrasive, or sensitive material metering or transfer. Pumps utilize a brushless DC motor to protect the hose and provide pressure control when required.
- PSB100 Air-Operated Double-Diaphragm Pump**  
 For ultrapure chemical delivery, dispense and transfer applications.
- PPMC300 Mini Pump**  
 High-purity mini pump for low-flow chemical processes.
- PHC40-2 High-Pressure Pump**  
 For high-purity, high-pressure, and low-flow chemical dispense.
- VHP Series High-Pressure Valve**  
 For high-purity, high-pressure chemical delivery and dispense.
- RBA Series Back Pressure Regulators**  
 Upstream fluid control for high-purity chemical circulation systems.
- RFA Series Forward Pressure Regulators**  
 Downstream fluid control for high-purity chemical circulation systems.





# New Products 2015

## Process continued...

- AutoPump® AP4 Ultra**  
 Low maintenance environmental pump using proprietary finishes to reduce buildup and increase run time, resulting in overall cost savings.
- Torpedo™ Pumps**  
 Electric environmental pumps constructed for superior strength and durability to withstand the most extreme conditions and chemicals.
- Harrier™ Electronic Injection Rate Controllers**  
 Controls and monitors chemical injection rate and collects critical operating information for optimizing processes.
- Python™ Pneumatically Operated Pumps**  
 Pneumatic chemical metering pumps used to inject chemicals into wellheads and pipelines.
- Wolverine™ DC and AC Series Pumps**  
 Electric chemical metering pumps used to inject chemicals into wellheads and pipelines.
- Wolverine™ Series DC Systems**  
 Chemical injection systems that run on solar energy for use where no electricity or compressed air is available.
- Trunion Double Block and Bleed Ball Valve**  
 Valve for pressure monitoring and test, chemical injection and drain line isolation rated to 15,000 psi.
- Sub-Sea Ball Valves**  
 Trunion style ball valves that provide safe and reliable operation at very high external pressures.
- Cyclic Pressure Supply Test Unit**  
 Designed for a continuous cyclic pressure test process (250,000 times) on production samples of swaged copper tube assemblies.
- Emergency Shutdown (ESD) Units**  
 Designed to control surface or subsurface hydraulically operated flowline valves in well testing or production applications.



AutoPump AP4 Ultra



Torpedo



Harrier Controllers



Python



Wolverine DC and AC Pumps



Trunion Double Block and Bleed Ball Valve



Sub-Sea Ball Valve



Cyclic Pressure Supply Test Unit



ESD-Unit



Wolverine DC Systems

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

**FORM 10-K**

- Annual Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the fiscal year ended **December 25, 2015**, or
- Transition report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Commission File No. 001-09249**

**Graco Inc.**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Minnesota

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

41-0285640

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**88 –11th Avenue Northeast**

**Minneapolis, MN 55413**

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

**(612) 623-6000**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share

Shares registered on the New York Stock Exchange.

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

None

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

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

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

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

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

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

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

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

The aggregate market value of 56,999,055 shares of common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was \$4,128,441,586 as of June 26, 2015.

55,115,889 shares of common stock were outstanding as of February 2, 2016.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the Company's definitive Proxy Statement for its Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on April 22, 2016, are incorporated by reference into Part III, as specifically set forth in said Part III.

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ON FORM 10-K**

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**ACCESS TO REPORTS**

Investors may obtain access free of charge to the Graco Inc. Annual Report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, other reports and amendments to the reports by visiting the Graco website at [www.graco.com](http://www.graco.com). These reports will be available as soon as reasonably practicable following electronic filing with, or furnishing to, the Securities and Exchange Commission.

## **PART I**

### **Item 1. Business**

Graco Inc., together with its subsidiaries (“Graco,” “us,” “we,” or “our Company”), is a multi-national manufacturing company. We design, manufacture and market equipment used to pump, meter, mix and dispense fluid and powder materials. Our equipment is used in construction, automotive, mining, oil and natural gas, process, public works and other industries. Graco is a Minnesota corporation and was incorporated in 1926.

We specialize in providing equipment solutions for difficult-to-handle materials with high viscosities, abrasive or corrosive properties, and multiple component materials that require precise ratio control. We aim to serve niche markets, providing high customer value through product differentiation. Our products enable customers to reduce their use of labor, material and energy, improve quality and achieve environmental compliance.

We make significant investments in developing innovative, high quality products. We strive to grow into new geographic markets by strategically adding commercial resources and third party distribution in growing and emerging markets. We have grown our third party distribution to have specialized experience in particular end-user applications. We leverage our product technologies for new applications and industries.

We also make targeted acquisitions to broaden our product offering, enhance our capabilities in the end-user markets we serve and expand our manufacturing and distribution base. In 2015, we completed a number of acquisitions in the Industrial and Process segments and two acquisitions in early fiscal 2016. These acquisitions provided new products, such as an expanded high pressure valve line, ultra high purity diaphragm pumps and mortar pumps, as well as additional channel partners and manufacturing capabilities.

We have particularly strong manufacturing, engineering and customer service capabilities that enhance our ability to provide premium customer experience, produce high quality and reliable products and drive ongoing cost savings.

Our investment in new products, targeted acquisitions and strong manufacturing, engineering and customer service capabilities comprise our long-term growth strategies, which we coordinate and drive across our geographic regions. Values central to our identity - growth, product innovation, premium customer service, quality and continuous improvement - are leveraged to integrate and expand the capabilities of acquired businesses.

We classify our business into three reportable segments, each with a worldwide focus: Industrial, Contractor and Process. Financial information concerning these segments is set forth in Part II, Item 7, *Results of Operations* and Note B (Segment Information) to the Consolidated Financial Statements of this Form 10-K.

Beginning with the first quarter of 2015, we revised the presentation of our financial reporting segments. Operations of the Process and the Oil and Natural Gas divisions, historically included in the Industrial segment, are now aggregated with the Lubrication division (formerly reported as a separate segment) in the newly-formed Process segment. This change aligns the types of products and markets served within the segments. Prior year segment information has been restated to conform to 2015 reporting.

Each segment sells its products in North, Central and South America (the “Americas”), Europe, Middle East and Africa (“EMEA”), and Asia Pacific. Sales in the Americas represent approximately 59 percent of our Company’s total sales. Sales in EMEA represent approximately 23 percent. Sales in Asia Pacific represent approximately 18 percent. Part II, Item 7, *Results of Operations* and Note B (Segment Information) to the Consolidated Financial Statements of this Form 10-K contain financial information about these geographic markets. We provide marketing and product design in each of these geographic regions. Our Company also provides application assistance to distributors and employs sales personnel in each of these geographic regions.

For information about our Company and our products, services and solutions, visit our website at [www.graco.com](http://www.graco.com). The information on the website is not part of this report nor any other report filed or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”).

### **Manufacturing and Distribution**

We manufacture a majority of our products in the United States. We manufacture some of our products in Switzerland (Industrial segment), the United Kingdom (Process segment), the People’s Republic of China (“P.R.C.”) (all segments), Belgium (all segments), Romania (Industrial segment) and Brazil (Industrial segment). Our manufacturing is aligned with our business segments and is co-located with product development to accelerate technology improvements and improve our cost structure. We perform critical machining, assembly and testing in-house for most of our products to control quality, improve response time and maximize cost-



effectiveness. We make our products in focused factories and product cells. We source raw materials and components from suppliers around the world.

For all segments, we primarily sell our equipment through third party distributors worldwide, positioned throughout our geographic regions, and through selected retailers. Our products are sold from our warehouse to our third party distributors or retailers who sell our products to end-users. Certain of our acquired businesses historically sold their products directly to end-user customers and continue to have direct relationships with customers.

Outside of the United States, our subsidiaries located in Australia, Belgium, Japan, Italy, Korea, the P.R.C., Singapore and the United Kingdom distribute our Company's products. Operations in Maasmechelen, Belgium; St. Gallen, Switzerland; Shanghai, P.R.C.; and Montevideo, Uruguay reinforce our commitment to their regions.

During 2015, manufacturing capacity met business demand. Production requirements in the immediate future are expected to be met through existing facilities, the installation of new automatic and semi-automatic machine tools, efficiency and productivity improvements, the use of leased space and available subcontract services. We are evaluating alternatives to expand existing facilities by acquiring or leasing future additional space for our Contractor segment, which is nearing capacity at its existing facility in Rogers, Minnesota. For more details on our facilities, see Item 2, *Properties*.

## **Product Development**

Our primary product development efforts are carried out in facilities located in Minneapolis, Anoka and Rogers, Minnesota; North Canton, Ohio; St. Gallen, Switzerland; Suzhou, P.R.C.; Dexter, Michigan; Erie, Pennsylvania; Kamas, Utah; and Brighthouse, United Kingdom. The product development and engineering groups focus on new product design, product improvements, new applications for existing products and technologies for their specific customer base. Our product development efforts focus on bringing new and supplemental return on investment value to end users of our products.

Our Company consistently makes significant investments in new products. Total product development expenditures for all segments were \$59 million in 2015, \$54 million in 2014 and \$51 million in 2013. The amounts invested in product development represented approximately 4½ percent of sales in each of the last three years. Our product development activities are focused both on upgrades to our current product lines to provide features and benefits that will provide a return on investment to our end-user customers and development of products that will reach into new industries and applications to incrementally grow our sales. Sales of products that refresh and upgrade our product lines are measured and compared with actual results. Sales of products that provide entry into new industries and applications are also measured, with additional focus on commercial resources and activities to build specialized third party distribution and market acceptance by end users.

Our Company measures the results of acquired businesses as compared to historical results and projections made at the time of acquisition. Our Company will invest in engineering, manufacturing and commercial resources for these businesses based on expected return on investment.

## **Business Segments**

### ***Industrial Segment***

The Industrial segment is our largest segment and represents approximately 48 percent of our total sales in 2015. It includes the Industrial Products and Applied Fluid Technologies divisions. The Industrial segment markets equipment and pre-engineered packages for moving and applying paints, coatings, sealants, adhesives and other fluids. Markets serviced include automotive and vehicle assembly and components production, wood and metal products, rail, marine, aerospace, farm, construction, bus, recreational vehicles and various other industries.

Most Industrial segment equipment is sold worldwide through specialized third party distributors, integrators, design centers, original equipment manufacturers and material suppliers. Some products are sold directly to end users. We work with material suppliers to develop or adapt our equipment for use with specialized or hard-to-handle materials. Distributors promote and sell the equipment, hold inventory, provide product application expertise and offer on-site service, technical support and integration capabilities. Integrators implement large individual installations in manufacturing plants where products and services from a number of different manufacturers are aggregated into a single system. Design centers engineer systems for their customers using our products. Original equipment manufacturers incorporate our Company's Industrial segment products into systems and assemblies that they then supply to their customers.

## **Applied Fluid Technologies**

The Applied Fluid Technologies division designs and sells equipment for use by industrial customers and specialty contractors. This equipment includes two component proportioning systems that are used to spray polyurethane foam (spray foam) and polyurea coatings. Spray foam is commonly used for insulating building walls, roofs, water heaters, refrigerators, hot tubs and other items. Polyurea coatings are applied on storage tanks, pipes, roofs, truck beds, concrete and other items. We offer a complete line of pumps and proportioning equipment that sprays specialty coatings on a variety of surfaces for protection and fireproofing. This division also manufactures vapor-abrasive blasting equipment, as well as equipment that pumps, meters, mixes and dispenses sealant, adhesive and composite materials. Our advanced composite equipment includes gel coat equipment, chop and wet-out systems, resin transfer molding systems and applicators. This equipment bonds, molds, seals, vacuum encapsulates, and laminates parts and devices in a wide variety of industrial applications.

## **Industrial Products**

The Industrial Products division makes finishing equipment that applies paint and other coatings to products such as motor vehicles, appliances, furniture and other industrial and consumer products. A majority of this division's business is outside of North America.

This division's products include liquid finishing equipment that applies liquids on metals, wood and plastics. This equipment includes paint circulating and paint supply pumps, paint circulating advanced control systems, plural component coating proportioners, various accessories to filter, transport, agitate and regulate fluid, and spare parts such as spray tips, seals and filter screens. We also offer a variety of applicators that use different methods of atomizing and spraying the paint or other coatings depending on the viscosity of the fluid, the type of finish desired and the need to maximize transfer efficiency, minimize overspray and minimize the release of volatile organic compounds into the air. Manufacturers in the automotive, automotive feeder, commercial and recreational vehicle, military and utility vehicle, aerospace, farm, construction, wood and general metals industries use our liquid finishing products.

We make powder finishing products that coat powder finishing on metals. These products are sold under the Gema® trademark. Gema powder systems coat window frames, metallic furniture, automotive components and sheet metal. Primary end users of our powder finishing products include manufacturers in the construction, home appliance, automotive component and custom coater industries. We strive to provide innovative solutions in powder coating for end users in emerging and developed markets.

## ***Process Segment***

The Process segment represented approximately 21 percent of our total sales in 2015. It includes our Process, Oil and Natural Gas, and Lubrication divisions. The Process segment markets pumps, valves, meters and accessories to move and dispense chemicals, oil and natural gas, water, wastewater, petroleum, food, lubricants and other fluids. Markets served include food and beverage, dairy, oil and natural gas, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, semi-conductor, electronics, wastewater, mining, fast oil change facilities, service garages, fleet service centers, automobile dealerships and industrial lubrication applications.

Most Process segment equipment is sold worldwide through third party distributors and original equipment manufacturers. Some products are sold directly to end users, particularly in the oil and natural gas and semi-conductor industries.

## **Process**

Our Process division makes pumps of various technologies that move chemicals, water, wastewater, petroleum, food and other fluids. Manufacturers and processors in the food and beverage, dairy, pharmaceutical, cosmetic, oil and natural gas, semi-conductor, electronics, wastewater, mining and ceramics industries use these pumps. This division makes environmental monitoring and remediation equipment that is used to conduct ground water sampling and ground water remediation, and for landfill liquid and gas management.

Subsequent to the 2015 fiscal year-end, we acquired Geotechnical Instruments (U.K.) Limited, which makes portable and fixed gas analyzers for landfill, biogas and medical applications and has facilities in the United Kingdom. Also subsequent to 2015 year-end, we purchased Landtec North America, Inc., which produces landfill gas wellheads and has facilities in the United States. These two companies will supplement our product line serving the environmental monitoring and remediation market.

## **Oil and Natural Gas**

Our Oil and Natural Gas division has recently launched a new line of chemical injection pumping solutions for precise injection of chemicals into producing oil wells and pipelines. We also make high pressure and ultra-high pressure valves used in the oil and natural gas industry, other industrial processes and research facilities.

Our line of chemical injection pumping solutions is sold through third party distributors. Our high and ultra-high pressure valves are sold directly to end-user customers as well as through distribution worldwide.

## **Lubrication**

The Lubrication division designs and sells equipment for use in vehicle servicing. We supply pumps, hose reels, meters, valves and accessories for use by fast oil change facilities, service garages, fleet service centers, automobile dealerships, auto parts stores, truck builders and heavy equipment service centers.

We also offer systems, components and accessories for the automatic lubrication of bearings, gears and generators in industrial and commercial equipment, compressors, turbines and on- and off-road vehicles. Automatic lubrication systems reduce maintenance need and down time and extend the life of the equipment. Industries served include gas transmission, petrochemical, pulp and paper, mining, construction, agricultural equipment, food and beverage, material handling, metal manufacturing, wind energy and oil and natural gas.

## ***Contractor Segment***

The Contractor segment represented approximately 31 percent of our total sales in 2015. Through this segment, we offer sprayers that apply paint to walls and other structures, with a range of product models that can be used by do-it-yourself homeowners to professional painting contractors. We also make sprayers that apply texture to walls and ceilings, and sprayers that apply highly viscous coatings to roofs. Contractor equipment also includes sprayers that apply markings on roads, parking lots, athletic fields and floors.

This segment's end users are primarily professional painters in the construction and maintenance industries, tradesmen and do-it-yourselfers. Contractor products are marketed and sold in all major geographic areas. We continue to add distributors throughout the world that specialize in the sale of Contractor products. Throughout the world, we are pursuing a broad strategy of converting contractors accustomed to manually applying paint and other coatings by brush-and-roller to spray technology.

Our Contractor products are distributed primarily through distributor outlets whose main products are paint and other coatings. Certain sprayers and accessories are distributed globally through the home center channel. Contractor products are also sold through general equipment distributors outside of North America.

## **Raw Materials**

The primary materials and components in our products are steel of various alloys, sizes and hardness; specialty stainless steel and aluminum bar stock, tubing and castings; tungsten carbide; electric and gas motors; injection molded plastics; sheet metal; forgings; powdered metal; hoses; electronic components and high performance plastics, such as polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE). The materials and components that we use are generally adequately available through multiple sources of supply. To manage cost, we source significant amounts of materials and components from outside the United States, primarily in the Asia Pacific region.

In 2015, our raw material and purchased component availability was strong, and our costs declined slightly in all major commodity categories, particularly in aluminum, stainless steel, carbon steel bar stock, plastics and copper.

We endeavor to address fluctuations in the price and availability of various materials and components through adjustable surcharges and credits, close management of current suppliers, price negotiations and an intensive search for new suppliers. We have performed risk assessments of our key suppliers, and we factor the risks identified into our commodity plans.

## **Intellectual Property**

We own a number of patents across our segments and have patent applications pending in the United States and other countries. We also license our patents to others and are a licensee of patents owned by others. In our opinion, our business is not materially dependent upon any one or more of these patents or licenses. Our Company also owns a number of trademarks in the United States and foreign countries, including registered trademarks for "GRACO," "Gema," several forms of a capital "G," and various product trademarks that are material to our business, inasmuch as they identify Graco and our products to our customers.

## **Sales to Major Customers**

Worldwide sales in the Contractor and Industrial segments to The Sherwin-Williams Company represented 10 percent of the Company's consolidated sales for 2015. There were no customers that accounted for 10 percent or more of consolidated sales in 2014.

## **Competition**

We encounter a wide variety of competitors that vary by product, industry and geographic area. Each of our segments generally has several competitors. Our competitors are both U.S. and foreign companies and range in size. We believe that our ability to compete depends upon product quality, product reliability, innovation, design, customer support and service, specialized engineering and competitive pricing. Although no competitor duplicates all of our products, some competitors are larger than our Company, both in terms of sales of directly competing products and in terms of total sales and financial resources. We also face competitors with different cost structures and expectations of profitability and these companies may offer competitive products at lower prices. We may have to refresh our product line and continue development of our distribution channel to stay competitive. We are also facing competitors who illegally sell counterfeits of our products or otherwise infringe on our intellectual property rights. We may have to increase our intellectual property and unfair competition enforcement activities.

## **Environmental Protection**

Our compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations did not have a material effect upon our capital expenditures, earnings or competitive position during the fiscal year ended December 25, 2015.

## **Employees**

As of December 25, 2015, we employed approximately 3,200 persons. Of this total, approximately 1,350 were employees based outside of the United States, and 950 were hourly factory workers in the United States. None of our Company's United States employees are covered by a collective bargaining agreement. Various national industry-wide labor agreements apply to certain employees in various countries outside of the United States. Compliance with such agreements has no material effect on our Company or our operations.

## **Acquisition and Divestiture of Liquid Finishing Businesses**

In April 2012, the Company purchased the finishing businesses of Illinois Tool Works Inc. The acquisition included finishing equipment operations, technologies and brands of the Powder Finishing and Liquid Finishing businesses. Results of the Powder Finishing businesses have been included in the Industrial segment since the date of acquisition.

Under terms of a hold separate order from the Federal Trade Commission, the Company did not have the power to direct the activities of the Liquid Finishing businesses that most significantly impacted the economic performance of those businesses. Consequently, we reflected our investment in the Liquid Finishing businesses as a cost-method investment on our balance sheet, and their results of operations were not consolidated with those of the Company. Dividends received from after-tax earnings of the Liquid Finishing businesses were included in our statements of earnings as investment income.

In April 2015, the Company sold the Liquid Finishing business assets. Net earnings in 2015 included after-tax gain on the sale and dividends totaling \$141 million (\$2.40 per diluted share). Dividends included in investment income totaled \$28 million in 2014 and \$28 million in 2013. No further Liquid Finishing dividends will be received.

## **Item 1A. Risk Factors**

### **Growth Strategies and Acquisitions - Our growth strategies may not provide the return on investment desired if we are not successful in implementation of these strategies.**

Making acquisitions, investing in new products, expanding geographically and targeting new industries are among our growth strategies. We may not obtain the return on investment desired if we are not successful in implementing these growth strategies. The success of our acquisitions strategy depends on our ability to successfully identify suitable acquisition candidates, negotiate appropriate acquisition terms, obtain financing at a reasonable cost, prevail against competing acquirers, complete the acquisitions and integrate or add the acquired businesses into our existing businesses or corporate structure. Once successfully integrated into our existing businesses or added to our corporate structure, the acquired businesses may not perform as planned, be accretive to earnings, generate positive cash flows or otherwise be beneficial to us. We may not realize projected efficiencies and cost-savings from the businesses we acquire. We cannot predict how customers, competitors, suppliers and employees will react to the acquisitions that we make. Acquisitions may result in the assumption of undisclosed or contingent liabilities, the incurrence of increased indebtedness and expenses, and the diversion of management's time and attention away from other business matters. We make significant investments in developing products that have innovative features and differentiated technology in their industries and in niche markets. We are adding to the geographies in which we do business with third party distributors. We cannot predict whether and when we will be able to realize the expected financial results and accretive effect of the acquisitions that we make, the new products that we develop and the channel expansions that we make.



**Economic Environment - Demand for our products depends on the level of commercial and industrial activity worldwide.**

An economic downturn or financial market turmoil may depress demand for our equipment in all major geographies and markets. If our distributors and original equipment manufacturers are unable to purchase our products because of unavailable credit or unfavorable credit terms, depressed end-user demand, or are simply unwilling to purchase our products, our net sales and earnings will be adversely affected. An economic downturn may affect our ability to satisfy the financial covenants in the terms of our financing arrangements.

**Currency - Changes in currency translation rates could adversely impact our revenue and earnings.**

Changes in exchange rates will impact our reported sales and earnings. A majority of our manufacturing and cost structure is based in the United States. In addition, decreased value of local currency may make it difficult for some of our distributors and end users to purchase products.

**Changes in Laws and Regulations - Changes may impact how we can do business and the cost of doing business around the world.**

The speed and frequency of implementation and the complexity of new or revised laws and regulations globally appear to be increasing. In addition, as our business grows and/or geographically expands, we may become subject to laws and regulations previously inapplicable to our business. These laws and regulations increase our cost of doing business, may affect the manner in which our products will be produced or delivered and may impact our long-term ability to provide returns to our shareholders.

**Anti-Corruption Laws - We may incur costs and suffer damages if our employees, agents, distributors or suppliers violate anti-bribery, anti-corruption or trade laws and regulations.**

Bribery, corruption and trade laws and regulations, and enforcement thereof, is increasing in frequency, complexity and severity on a global basis. The continued geographic expansion of our business increases our exposure to, and cost of complying with, these laws and regulations. If our internal controls and compliance program do not adequately prevent or deter our employees, agents, distributors, suppliers and other third parties with whom we do business from violating anti-corruption laws, we may incur defense costs, fines, penalties, reputational damage and business disruptions.

**Intellectual Property - Demand for our products may be affected by new entrants who copy our products and/or infringe on our intellectual property. Competitors may allege that our products infringe the intellectual property of others.**

From time to time, we have been faced with instances where competitors have infringed or unfairly used our intellectual property and/or taken advantage of our design and development efforts. The ability to protect and enforce intellectual property rights varies across jurisdictions. Competitors who copy our products are becoming more prevalent in Asia. If we are unable to effectively meet these challenges, they could adversely affect our revenues and profits and hamper our ability to grow. Competitors and others may also initiate litigation to challenge the validity of our intellectual property or allege that we infringe their intellectual property. We may be required to pay substantial damages if it is determined our products infringe their intellectual property. We may also be required to develop an alternative, non-infringing product that could be costly and time-consuming, or acquire a license (if available) on terms that are not favorable to us. Regardless of whether infringement claims against us are successful, defending against such claims could significantly increase our costs, divert management's time and attention away from other business matters, and otherwise adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

**Foreign Operations - Conducting business internationally exposes our Company to risks that could harm our business.**

In 2015, approximately 49 percent of our sales were generated by customers located outside the United States. We are increasing our presence in advancing economies. Operating and selling outside of the United States exposes us to certain risks that could adversely impact our sales volume, rate of growth or profitability. These risks include: complying with foreign legal and regulatory requirements; international trade factors (export controls, trade sanctions, duties, tariff barriers and other restrictions); protection of our proprietary technology in certain countries; potentially burdensome taxes; potential difficulties staffing and managing local operations; and changes in exchange rates.

**Competition - Our success depends upon our ability to develop, market and sell new products that meet our customers' needs, and anticipate industry changes.**

Our profitability will be affected if we do not develop new products and technologies that meet our customers' needs. Our ability to develop, market and sell products that meet our customers' needs depends upon a number of factors, including anticipating the

features and products that our customers will need in the future, identifying and entering into new markets, and training our distributors. Changes in industries that we serve, including consolidation of competitors and customers, could affect our success. Price competition and competitor strategies could negatively impact our growth and have an adverse impact on our results of operations.

**Suppliers - Risks associated with foreign sourcing, supply interruption, delays in raw material or component delivery, supply shortages and counterfeit components may adversely affect our production or profitability.**

We continue to source certain of our materials and components from suppliers outside the United States, and from suppliers within the United States who engage in foreign sourcing. Long lead times or supply interruptions associated with a global supply base may reduce our flexibility and make it more difficult to respond promptly to fluctuations in demand or respond quickly to product quality problems. Changes in exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and other currencies and fluctuations in the price of commodities may impact the manufacturing costs of our products and affect our profitability. Protective tariffs, unpredictable changes in duty rates, and trade regulation changes may make certain foreign-sourced parts no longer competitively priced. Long supply chains may be disrupted by environmental events or other political factors. Raw materials may become limited in availability from certain regions. Port labor disputes may delay shipments. We source a large volume and a variety of electronic components, which exposes us to an increased risk of counterfeit components entering our supply chain. If counterfeit components unknowingly become part of our products, we may need to stop delivery and rebuild our products. We may be subject to warranty claims and may need to recall products.

**Security Breaches - Intrusion into our information systems may impact our business.**

Security breaches or intrusion into our information systems, and the breakdown, interruption in or inadequate upgrading or maintenance of our information processing software, hardware or networks may adversely affect our business. Security breaches or intrusion into the systems or data of the third parties with whom we conduct business may also harm our business.

**Impairment - If acquired businesses do not meet performance expectations, assets acquired could be subject to impairment.**

Our total assets reflect goodwill from acquisitions, representing the excess cost over the fair value of the identifiable net assets acquired. We test annually whether goodwill has been impaired, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate the goodwill may be impaired. If future operating performance at one or more of our operating units were to fall significantly below forecast levels or if market conditions for one or more of our acquired businesses were to decline, we could be required to incur a non-cash charge to operating income for impairment. Any impairment in the value of our goodwill would have an adverse non-cash impact on our results of operations and reduce our net worth.

**Political Instability - Uncertainty surrounding political leadership may limit our growth opportunities.**

Domestic political instability, including government shut downs, may limit our ability to grow our business. International political instability may prevent us from expanding our business into certain geographies and may also limit our ability to grow our business. Civil disturbances may harm our business.

**Legal Proceedings - Costs associated with claims, litigation, administrative proceedings and regulatory reviews, and potentially adverse outcomes, may affect our profitability.**

As our Company grows, we are at an increased risk of being a target in matters related to the assertion of claims and demands, litigation, administrative proceedings and regulatory reviews. We also may be exposed to litigation, claims for indemnification or other claims relating to acquisitions or the divestiture of the liquid finishing business assets under the asset purchase agreement with Carlisle Companies Incorporated, Carlisle Fluid Technologies, Inc., and Finishing Brands Holdings Inc. as we were required to make certain representations and warranties about a business we never operated based solely on representations made to us in our purchase of that business. We may also need to pursue claims or litigation to protect our interests. The cost of pursuing or defending such matters appears to be increasing, particularly in the United States. Such costs may adversely affect our Company's profitability. Our businesses expose us to potential toxic tort, product liability and commercial claims. Successful claims against the Company and settlements may adversely affect our results.

**Major Customers - Our Contractor segment depends on a few large customers for a significant portion of its sales. Significant declines in the level of purchases by these customers could reduce our sales and impact segment profitability.**

Our Contractor segment derives a significant amount of revenue from a few large customers. Substantial decreases in purchases by these customers, difficulty in collecting amounts due or the loss of their business would adversely affect the profitability of this segment. The business of these customers is dependent upon the economic vitality of the construction and home improvement

markets. If these markets decline, the business of our customers could be adversely affected and their purchases of our equipment could decrease.

**Variable Industries - Our success may be affected by variations in the construction, automotive, mining and oil and natural gas industries.**

Our business may be affected by fluctuations in residential, commercial and institutional building and remodeling activity. Changes in construction materials and techniques may also impact our business. Our business may also be affected by fluctuations of activity in the automotive, mining and oil and natural gas industries.

**Personnel - Our success may be affected if we are not able to attract, develop and retain qualified personnel.**

Our success depends in large part on our ability to identify, recruit, develop and retain qualified personnel. If we are unable to successfully identify, recruit, develop and retain qualified personnel, it may be difficult for us to meet our strategic objectives and grow our business, which could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

**Catastrophic Events - Our operations are at risk of damage, destruction or disruption by natural disasters and other unexpected events.**

The loss of, or substantial damage to, one of our facilities or the facilities of our suppliers could make it difficult to supply our customers with product and provide our employees with work. Flooding, tornadoes, typhoons, unusually heavy precipitation or other severe weather events, earthquakes, fire, explosions or acts of war or terrorism could adversely impact our operations.

**Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments**

None.

**Item 2. Properties**

Our facilities are in satisfactory condition, suitable for their respective uses, and are generally adequate to meet current needs. A description of our principal facilities as of February 16, 2016, is set forth in the chart below. Facilities are used by all segments, unless otherwise noted.

Facility	Owned or Leased	Square Footage	Facility Activities
<b>North America</b>			
Dunnville, Ontario, Canada	Leased	3,200	Manufacturing for Industrial segment
Tlalnepantla, State of Mexico, Mexico	Leased	4,000	Manufacturing, warehouse and office for Industrial segment
Colton, California, United States	Leased	10,450	Manufacturing and warehouse for Process segment
San Leandro, California, United States	Leased	13,500	Manufacturing, warehouse and office for Process segment
Indianapolis, Indiana, United States	Owned	64,000	Warehouse, office, product development and application laboratory for Industrial segment
Dexter, Michigan, United States	Leased	52,600	Manufacturing, warehouse, office and product development for Process segment
Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States	Owned	141,000	Corporate office; office and product development for Industrial and Process segments
Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States	Owned	42,000	Corporate office
Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States	Owned	391,000	Manufacturing and office for Industrial and Process segments
Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States	Owned	86,700	Assembly for Industrial and Process segments
Anoka, Minnesota, United States	Owned	208,000	Manufacturing, warehouse, office and product development for Process segment
Rogers, Minnesota, United States	Owned	325,000	Manufacturing, office and product development for Contractor segment
Rogers, Minnesota, United States	Leased	225,000	Warehouse and office

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North Canton, Ohio, United States	Owned	132,000	Manufacturing, warehouse, office, product development and application laboratory for Industrial segment
Erie, Pennsylvania, United States	Leased	43,000	Manufacturing, warehouse, office and product development for Process segment
Sioux Falls, South Dakota, United States	Owned	147,500	Manufacturing and office for Industrial and Contractor segments
Houston, Texas, United States	Leased	4,500	Warehouse and office for Process segment
Kamas, Utah, United States	Leased	21,000	Manufacturing and office for Process segment
Chesapeake, Virginia, United States	Leased	9,600	Manufacturing, warehouse and office for Process segment
<b>South America</b>			
Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil	Leased	4,000	Manufacturing, office and product development for Industrial segment
Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil	Leased	2,900	Manufacturing and warehouse for Industrial segment
Uruguay Free Zone, Montevideo, Uruguay	Leased	1,800	Office
<b>Europe</b>			
Maasmechelen, Belgium	Owned	127,000	Warehouse, office and assembly; European training, testing and education center
Valence, France	Leased	3,900	Office for Industrial segment
Rödermark, Germany	Leased	8,600	Warehouse and office for Industrial segment
Milan, Italy	Leased	7,500	Office and warehouse for Industrial segment
Sibiu, Romania	Leased	51,200	Manufacturing for Industrial segment
St. Gallen, Switzerland	Owned	79,000	Manufacturing, warehouse, office, product development and application laboratory for Industrial segment
St. Gallen, Switzerland	Leased	9,000	Manufacturing for Industrial segment
Poole, Dorset, United Kingdom	Leased	3,500	Office and warehouse for Industrial segment
Denton, Manchester, United Kingdom	Leased	2,500	Manufacturing, warehouse and office for Industrial segment
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, United Kingdom	Leased	7,300	Manufacturing, warehouse, office and product development for Process segment
Brighouse, West Yorkshire, United Kingdom	Owned	64,400	Manufacturing, warehouse, office and product development for Process segment
Brighouse, West Yorkshire, United Kingdom	Leased	18,000	Manufacturing, warehouse, office and product development for Process segment
Brighouse, West Yorkshire, United Kingdom	Leased	10,800	Manufacturing, warehouse and office for Process segment
Brighouse, West Yorkshire, United Kingdom	Leased	6,000	Warehouse for Process segment
Warwickshire, United Kingdom	Leased	31,100	Manufacturing, warehouse and office for Process segment
<b>Asia Pacific</b>			
Bundoora, Australia	Leased	2,500	Office
Derrimut, Australia	Leased	16,100	Warehouse
Shanghai, P.R.C.	Leased	29,000	Office; Asia Pacific training, testing and education center
Shanghai Waiqiaoqiao Pilot Free Trade Zone, P.R.C.	Leased	30,700	Warehouse
Shanghai, P.R.C.	Leased	26,400	Office and warehouse for Industrial segment
Suzhou, P.R.C.	Owned	81,400	Manufacturing, warehouse, office and product development
Yokohama, Japan	Leased	29,000	Office and warehouse
Boon Lay Way, Singapore	Leased	2,100	Warehouse and office for Process segment
Anyang, South Korea	Leased	5,100	Office
Gwangjoo, South Korea	Leased	10,700	Warehouse



### **Item 3. Legal Proceedings**

Our Company is engaged in routine litigation, administrative proceedings and regulatory reviews incident to our business. It is not possible to predict with certainty the outcome of these unresolved matters, but management believes that they will not have a material effect upon our operations or consolidated financial position.

### **Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures**

Not applicable.

### **Executive Officers of Our Company**

The following are all the executive officers of Graco Inc. as of February 16, 2016:

**Patrick J. McHale, 54**, became President and Chief Executive Officer in June 2007. He served as Vice President and General Manager, Lubrication Equipment Division from June 2003 to June 2007. He was Vice President, Manufacturing and Distribution Operations from April 2001 to June 2003. He served as Vice President, Contractor Equipment Division from February 2000 to April 2001. From September 1999 to February 2000, he was Vice President, Lubrication Equipment Division. Prior to September 1999, he held various manufacturing management positions in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Plymouth, Michigan; and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Mr. McHale joined the Company in 1989.

**David M. Ahlers, 57**, became Vice President, Human Resources and Corporate Communications in April 2010. From September 2008 through March 2010, he served as the Company's Vice President, Human Resources. Prior to joining Graco, Mr. Ahlers held various human resources positions, including, most recently, Chief Human Resources Officer and Senior Managing Director of GMAC Residential Capital, from August 2003 to August 2008. He joined the Company in 2008.

**Caroline M. Chambers, 51**, became Vice President, Corporate Controller and Information Systems in December 2013. She has also served as the Company's principal accounting officer since September 2007. From April 2009 to December 2013, she was Vice President and Corporate Controller. She served as Vice President and Controller from December 2006 to April 2009. She was Corporate Controller from October 2005 to December 2006 and Director of Information Systems from July 2003 through September 2005. Prior to becoming Director of Information Systems, she held various management positions in the internal audit and accounting departments. Prior to joining Graco, Ms. Chambers was an auditor with Deloitte & Touche in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Paris, France. Ms. Chambers joined the Company in 1992.

**Mark D. Eberlein, 55**, became Vice President and General Manager, Process Division in January 2013. From November 2008 to December 2012, he was Director, Business Development, Industrial Products Division. He was Director, Manufacturing Operations, Industrial Products Division from January to October 2008. From 2001 to 2008, he was Manufacturing Operations Manager of a variety of Graco business divisions. Prior to joining Graco, Mr. Eberlein worked as an engineer at Honeywell and at Sheldahl. He joined the Company in 1996.

**Karen Park Gallivan, 59**, became Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary in September 2005. She was Vice President, Human Resources from January 2003 to September 2005. Prior to joining Graco, she was Vice President of Human Resources and Communications at Syngenta Seeds, Inc. from January 1999 to January 2003. From 1988 through January 1999, she was the general counsel of Novartis Nutrition Corporation. Prior to joining Novartis, Ms. Gallivan was an attorney with the law firm of Rider, Bennett, Egan & Arundel, L.L.P. She joined the Company in 2003.

**Dale D. Johnson, 61**, became Vice President and General Manager, Contractor Equipment Division in April 2001. From January 2000 through March 2001, he served as President and Chief Operating Officer. From December 1996 to January 2000, he was Vice President, Contractor Equipment Division. Prior to becoming the Director of Marketing, Contractor Equipment Division in June 1996, he held various marketing and sales positions in the Contractor Equipment division and the Industrial Equipment division. He joined the Company in 1976.

**Jeffrey P. Johnson, 56**, became Vice President and General Manager, EMEA in January 2013. From February 2008 to December 2012 he was Vice President and General Manager, Asia Pacific. He served as Director of Sales and Marketing, Applied Fluid Technologies Division, from June 2006 until February 2008. Prior to joining Graco, he held various sales and marketing positions, including, most recently, President of Johnson Krumwiede Roads, a full-service advertising agency, and European sales manager at General Motors Corp. He joined the Company in 2006.

**David M. Lowe, 60**, became Executive Vice President, Industrial Products Division in April 2012. From February 2005 to April 2012, he was Vice President and General Manager, Industrial Products Division. He was Vice President and General Manager, European

Operations from September 1999 to February 2005. Prior to becoming Vice President, Lubrication Equipment Division in December 1996, he was Treasurer. Mr. Lowe joined the Company in 1995.

**Bernard J. Moreau, 55**, became Vice President and General Manager, South and Central America in January 2013. From November 2003 to December 2012, he was Sales and Marketing Director, EMEA, Industrial/Automotive Equipment Division. From January 1997 to October 2003, he was Sales Manager, Middle East, Africa and East Europe. Prior to 1997, he worked in various Graco sales engineering and sales management positions, mainly to support Middle East, Africa and southern Europe territories. He joined the Company in 1985.

**Peter J. O'Shea, 51**, became Vice President and General Manager, Lubrication Equipment Division in January 2016. From January 2013 to December 2015, he was Vice President and General Manager, Asia Pacific. From January 2012 until December 2012, he was Director of Sales and Marketing, Industrial Products Division, and from 2008 to 2012, he was Director of Sales and Marketing, Industrial Products Division and Applied Fluid Technologies Division. He was Country Manager, Australia - New Zealand from 2005 to 2008, and from 2002 to 2005 he served as Business Development Manager, Australia - New Zealand. Prior to becoming Business Development Manager, Australia - New Zealand, he worked in various Graco sales management positions. Mr. O'Shea joined the Company in 1995.

**Charles L. Rescorla, 64**, became Vice President, Corporate Manufacturing, Distribution Operations and Corporate Development in December 2013. From June 2011 to December 2013, he was Vice President, Corporate Manufacturing, Information Systems and Distribution Operations. He was Vice President, Manufacturing, Information Systems and Distribution Operations from April 2009 to June 2011. He served as Vice President, Manufacturing and Distribution Operations from September 2005 to April 2009. From June 2003 to September 2005, he was Vice President, Manufacturing/Distribution Operations and Information Systems. From April 2001 until June 2003, he was Vice President and General Manager, Industrial/Automotive Equipment Division. Prior to April 2001, he held various positions in manufacturing and engineering management. Mr. Rescorla joined the Company in 1988.

**Christian E. Rothe, 42**, became Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer in September 2015. From June 2011 to August 2015, he was Vice President and Treasurer. Prior to joining Graco, he held various positions in business development, accounting and finance, including, most recently, at Gardner Denver, Inc., a manufacturer of highly engineered products, as Vice President, Treasurer from January 2011 to June 2011, Vice President - Finance, Industrial Products Group from October 2008 to January 2011, and Director, Strategic Planning and Development from October 2006 to October 2008. Mr. Rothe joined the Company in 2011.

**Mark W. Sheahan, 51**, became Vice President and General Manager, Applied Fluid Technologies Division in February 2008. He served as Chief Administrative Officer from September 2005 until February 2008, and was Vice President and Treasurer from December 1998 to September 2005. Prior to becoming Treasurer in December 1996, he was Manager, Treasury Services. He joined the Company in 1995.

**Brian J. Zumbolo, 46**, became Vice President and General Manager, Asia Pacific in January 2016. From August 2007 to December 2015, he was Vice President and General Manager, Lubrication Equipment Division. He was Director of Sales and Marketing, Lubrication Equipment and Applied Fluid Technologies, Asia Pacific, from November 2006 through July 2007. From February 2005 to November 2006, he was the Director of Sales and Marketing, High Performance Coatings and Foam, Applied Fluid Technologies Division. Mr. Zumbolo was the Director of Sales and Marketing, Finishing Equipment from May 2004 to February 2005. Prior to May 2004, he held various marketing positions in the Industrial Equipment division. Mr. Zumbolo joined the Company in 1999.

**PART II**

**Item 5. Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Shareholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

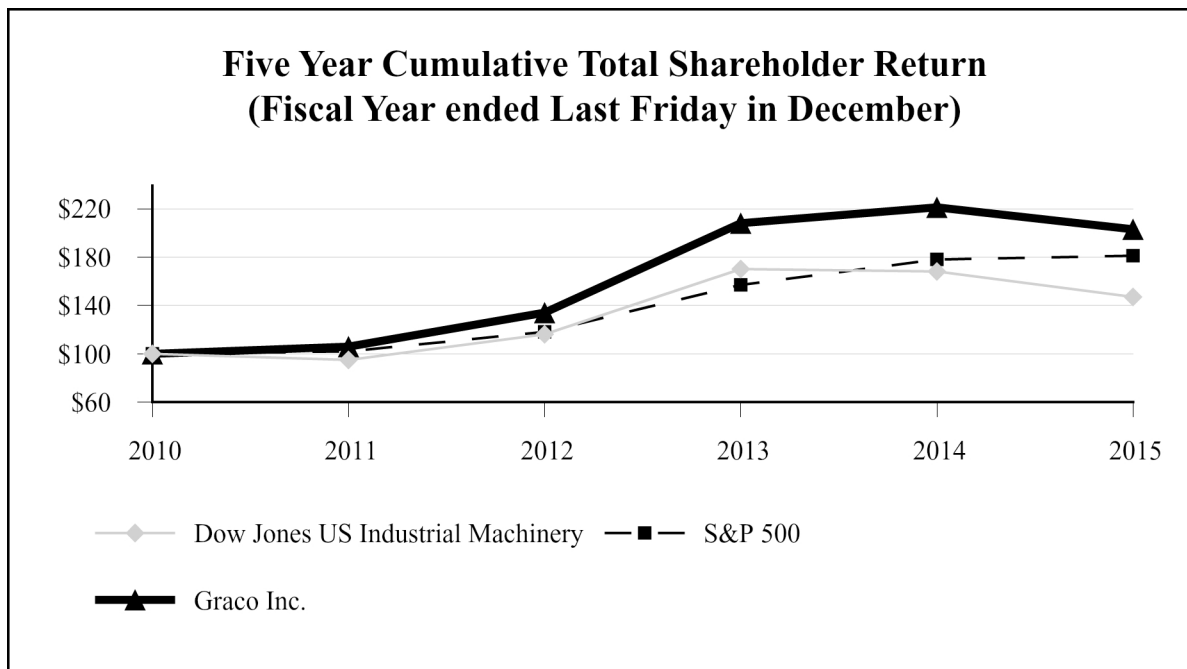
**Graco Common Stock**

Graco common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol “GGG.” As of February 2, 2016, the share price was \$69.06 and there were 55,115,889 shares outstanding and 2,424 common shareholders of record, which includes nominees or broker dealers holding stock on behalf of an estimated 54,000 beneficial owners.

High and low sales prices for the Company’s common stock and dividends declared for each quarterly period in the past two years were as follows:

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
<b>2015</b>				
Stock price per share				
High	\$ 82.14	\$ 74.48	\$ 73.49	\$ 77.55
Low	70.01	69.78	63.44	65.36
Dividends declared per share	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.33
<b>2014</b>				
Stock price per share				
High	\$ 78.97	\$ 77.82	\$ 79.88	\$ 81.93
Low	65.18	70.39	72.29	67.06
Dividends declared per share	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.30

The graph below compares the cumulative total shareholder return on the common stock of the Company for the last five fiscal years with the cumulative total return of the S&P 500 Index and the Dow Jones US Industrial Machinery Index over the same period (assuming the value of the investment in Graco common stock and each index was \$100 on December 31, 2010, and all dividends were reinvested).



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Dow Jones US Industrial Machinery	100	95	116	170	168	147
S&P 500	100	102	118	157	178	181
Graco Inc.	100	106	134	208	221	203

**Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

On September 14, 2012, the Board of Directors authorized the Company to purchase up to 6,000,000 shares of its outstanding common stock, primarily through open-market transactions. This authorization expired on September 30, 2015. On April 24, 2015, the Board of Directors authorized the purchase of up to an additional 6,000,000 shares over an indefinite period of time or until terminated by the Board.

In addition to shares purchased under the Board authorization, the Company purchases shares of common stock held by employees who wish to tender owned shares to satisfy the exercise price or tax withholding on stock option exercises.

Information on issuer purchases of equity securities follows:

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (at end of period)
September 26, 2015 - October 23, 2015	422,440	\$ 67.28	422,440	4,729,579
October 24, 2015 - November 20, 2015	—	\$ —	—	4,729,579
November 21, 2015 - December 25, 2015	150,155	\$ 69.29	150,155	4,579,424

**Item 6. Selected Financial Data**

Graco Inc. and Subsidiaries (in thousands, except per share amounts)

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Net sales	\$ 1,286,485	\$ 1,221,130	\$ 1,104,024	\$ 1,012,456	\$ 895,283
Net earnings	345,713	225,573	210,822	149,126	142,328
Per common share					
Basic net earnings	\$ 6.00	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.44	\$ 2.47	\$ 2.36
Diluted net earnings	5.86	3.65	3.36	2.42	2.32
Cash dividends declared	1.23	1.13	1.03	0.93	0.86
Total assets	\$ 1,391,352	\$ 1,544,778	\$ 1,327,228	\$ 1,321,734	\$ 874,309
Long-term debt (including current portion)	392,695	615,000	408,370	556,480	300,000

Net sales in 2012 included \$93 million from Powder Finishing operations acquired in April 2012. The Company used long-term borrowings and available cash balances to complete the \$668 million purchase of Powder Finishing and Liquid Finishing businesses in 2012.

Net earnings in 2015 include \$141 million from the sale of the Liquid Finishing businesses acquired in 2012 and held as a cost-method investment. Proceeds from the sale were principally used to retire debt.

## **Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

The following Management's Discussion and Analysis reviews significant factors affecting the Company's consolidated results of operations, financial condition and liquidity. This discussion should be read in conjunction with our financial statements and the accompanying notes to the financial statements. The discussion is organized in the following sections:

- Overview
- Divestiture
- Acquisitions
- Results of Operations
- Segment Results
- Financial Condition and Cash Flow
- Critical Accounting Estimates
- Recent Accounting Pronouncements

### **Overview**

Graco designs, manufactures and markets systems and equipment used to pump, meter, mix and dispense a wide variety of fluids and coatings. The Company specializes in equipment for applications that involve difficult-to-handle materials with high viscosities, materials with abrasive or corrosive properties and multiple-component materials that require precise ratio control. Graco sells primarily through independent third-party distributors worldwide to industrial and contractor end users. Approximately half of our sales were outside of the United States in 2015. Graco's business is classified by management into three reportable segments, each responsible for product development, manufacturing, marketing and sales of their products.

Graco's key strategies include developing and marketing new products, leveraging products and technologies into additional, growing end-user markets, expanding distribution globally and completing strategic acquisitions that provide additional channel and technologies. Long-term financial growth targets accompany these strategies, including our expectation of 10 percent revenue growth and 12 percent consolidated net earnings growth. We continued to develop new products in each operating division that are expected to drive incremental sales growth, such as the development of chemical injection pumps used in oil and natural gas applications, as well as continued refresh and upgrades of existing product lines. Graco has made a number of strategic acquisitions that expand and complement organically developed products and new market and channel opportunities.

Manufacturing is a key competency of the Company. Our management team in Minneapolis provides strategic manufacturing expertise, and is also responsible for factories not fully aligned with a single division. We manufacture some of our products in Switzerland (Industrial segment), the United Kingdom (Process segment), the People's Republic of China ("P.R.C.") (all segments), Belgium (all segments), Romania (Industrial segment) and Brazil (Industrial segment). Our primary distribution facilities are located in the United States, Belgium, Switzerland, United Kingdom, P.R.C., Japan, Korea and Australia.

### **Divestiture**

In April 2012, the Company purchased the finishing businesses of Illinois Tool Works Inc. The acquisition included finishing equipment operations, technologies and brands of the Powder Finishing and Liquid Finishing businesses. Results of the Powder Finishing businesses have been included in the Industrial segment since the date of acquisition.

Under terms of a hold separate order from the Federal Trade Commission, the Company did not have the power to direct the activities of the Liquid Finishing businesses that most significantly impacted the economic performance of those businesses. Consequently, we reflected our investment in the Liquid Finishing businesses as a cost-method investment on our balance sheet, and their results of operations were not consolidated with those of the Company.

In April 2015, the Company sold the Liquid Finishing business assets for a price of \$610 million cash. Held separate investment income includes the pre-tax gain on sale of \$150 million, net of transaction and other related expenses, including a \$7 million contribution to the Company's charitable foundation. Held separate investment income also includes dividends of \$42 million. Net earnings include after-tax gain and dividends totaling \$141 million (\$2.40 per diluted share). Dividends received from after-tax earnings of Liquid Finishing included in investment income totaled \$28 million in 2014 and \$28 million in 2013. No further Liquid Finishing dividends will be received.

### **Acquisitions**

On January 20, 2015, the Company completed the acquisition of High Pressure Equipment Holdings, LLC ("HiP") for \$161 million cash. HiP designs and manufactures valves, fittings and other flow control equipment engineered to perform in ultra-high pressure



environments. HiP’s products and business relationships enhance Graco’s position in the oil and natural gas industry and complement Graco’s core competencies of designing and manufacturing advanced flow control technologies. Results of HiP operations have been included in the Company’s Process segment from the date of acquisition.

On January 2, 2015, the Company acquired White Knight Fluid Handling (“White Knight”) for \$16 million cash and a commitment for additional consideration if future revenues exceed certain thresholds, initially valued at \$8 million. The maximum payout is not limited. White Knight designs and manufactures high purity, metal-free pumps used in the production process of manufacturing semiconductors, solar panels, LED flat panel displays and various other electronics. Results of White Knight operations have been included in the Company’s Process segment from the date of acquisition.

In October 2014, we acquired the stock of Alco Valves Group (“Alco”) for £72 million cash. Alco is a United Kingdom based manufacturer of high quality, high pressure valves used in the oil and natural gas industry and in other industrial processes. Alco’s products and business relationships enhance Graco’s position in the oil and natural gas industry and complement Graco’s core competencies of designing and manufacturing advanced flow control technologies. Results of Alco operations have been included in the Company’s Process segment from the date of acquisition.

In January 2014, the Company paid \$65 million cash to acquire QED Environmental Systems (“QED”), a manufacturer of fluid management solutions for environmental monitoring and remediation, markets where Graco had little or no previous exposure. Results of operations have been included in the Company’s Process segment from the date of acquisition.

The Company completed other business acquisitions in 2015, 2014 and 2013 that were not material to the consolidated financial statements.

## Results of Operations

Net sales, operating earnings, net earnings and earnings per share were as follows (in millions except per share amounts):

	2015	2014	2013
Net Sales	\$ 1,286	\$ 1,221	\$ 1,104
Operating Earnings	302	309	280
Net Earnings	346	226	211
Diluted Net Earnings per Common Share	\$ 5.86	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.36

### 2015 Summary:

- Net sales grew by 5 percent compared to 2014. At consistent currency translation rates, sales increased 10 percent, including growth from acquired operations of 6 percentage points and organic growth of 4 percentage points.
- More than 90 percent of our organic growth at consistent translation rates in 2015 came from our Contractor and Industrial businesses in the Americas. Our Process segment has some exposure to oil and natural gas end markets, which limited organic growth at consistent translation rates in that segment to 1 percent.
- Changes in currency translation rates reduced sales, operating earnings, and net earnings by approximately \$58 million, \$32 million and \$20 million, respectively.
- Acquired operations contributed \$67 million of incremental sales in 2015.
- Gross profit margin, expressed as a percentage of sales, was 53 percent for the year, slightly lower than 2014, mostly due to changes in currency translation rates. Favorable effects of realized pricing and lower material costs offset the impact of lower average gross margin rates of acquired operations.
- Operating expenses increased \$25 million (7 percent) over 2014. Decreases from changes in currency translation rates (\$16 million) partially offset increases from acquired operations (\$27 million), spending related to regional and product expansion initiatives (\$4 million) and unallocated corporate expenses (\$5 million).
- Investment in new product development was \$59 million or 4½ percent of sales in 2015, consistent with 2014 expense as a percentage of sales.
- The effective tax rate for 2015 was 27 percent, down from 28 percent in 2014 primarily due to a change in our assertion with respect to the reinvestment of foreign earnings.
- Net earnings include \$141 million of after-tax gain on the sale of Liquid Finishing business assets and \$42 million of dividends received prior to the sale. Dividends from Liquid Finishing totaled \$28 million in 2014.
- Share repurchases totaled 3.9 million in 2015, driving a reduction of 2.7 million shares in the weighted average shares outstanding for diluted earnings per share.

2014 Summary:

- Net sales grew by 11 percent, representing growth in all reportable segments and regions, including double digit growth in the Americas.
- Incremental sales from acquired operations totaled \$41 million for 2014, contributing 4 percentage points of the growth.
- Changes in currency translation rates reduced sales and net earnings by approximately \$3 million and \$2 million, respectively.
- Gross profit margin, expressed as a percentage of sales, was 55 percent for the year, slightly lower than 2013 due to the effects of purchase accounting (\$2.5 million) and lower margins from acquired operations.
- Investment in new product development was \$54 million or 4½ percent of sales in 2014.
- Operating expenses increased \$30 million over 2013; approximately 75 percent of the increase relates to acquired operations and spending on regional and product growth initiatives.
- Held separate investment (income), net included dividends received from the Liquid Finishing businesses. Dividends for 2014 and 2013 were \$28 million in each year.
- The effective tax rate was 28 percent, up from 27 percent in 2013. The effective rate was lower in 2013 primarily because it included two years of federal R&D credit as the credit was reinstated in the first quarter of 2013 retroactive to the beginning of 2012.
- Share repurchases totaled 2.6 million in 2014, driving a reduction of 1.0 million shares in weighted average shares outstanding for diluted earnings per share.

The following table presents net sales by geographic region (in millions):

	2015	2014	2013
Americas <sup>1</sup>	\$ 760	\$ 684	\$ 595
EMEA <sup>2</sup>	291	305	283
Asia Pacific	235	232	226
Total	\$ 1,286	\$ 1,221	\$ 1,104

<sup>1</sup> North, South and Central America, including the United States. Sales in the United States were \$654 million in 2015, \$577 million in 2014 and \$498 million in 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Europe, Middle East and Africa

In 2015, sales in the Americas increased by 11 percent, with increases of 6 percent in the Industrial segment, 17 percent in the Process segment and 13 percent in the Contractor segment as compared to the prior year. The Contractor segment continued to benefit from strong residential and commercial construction markets in the United States. Incremental sales from acquired operations totaled \$32 million in the Americas, contributing 5 percentage points of growth. The growth from acquisitions is included within the Industrial and Process segments. Excluding acquisitions, sales for the region grew by 6 percent.

In 2015, sales in EMEA decreased by 4 percent (increased 9 percent at consistent translation rates). An increase of 43 percent in the Process segment was offset by decreases in the Industrial segment of 12 percent (increase of 1 percent at consistent translation rates) and 10 percent (increase of 2 percent at consistent translation rates) in the Contractor segment. Incremental sales from acquired operations totaled \$20 million in EMEA, contributing 8 percentage points of growth. The growth from acquisitions is included within the Industrial and Process segments. Excluding acquisitions, sales for the region decreased by 12 percent (increased 1 percent at consistent translation rates). Sales growth in western and central Europe was offset by unfavorable currency translation rates for the euro and Swiss franc, and by declines in sales in Russia and the Middle East. While general industry and construction markets were generally stable in western Europe, weakness in oil and natural gas markets continued.

In 2015, sales in Asia Pacific increased by 1 percent (6 percent at consistent translation rates). Sales were flat (increase of 4 percent at consistent translation rates) in the Industrial segment. An increase of 22 percent (30 percent at consistent translation rates) in the Process segment was partially offset by a decrease of 14 percent (9 percent at consistent translation rates) in the Contractor segment. Incremental sales from acquired operations totaled \$15 million in Asia Pacific, contributing 6 percentage points of growth. The growth from acquisitions is included within the Industrial and Process segments. Weakness in China offset growth in other countries, such as Australia, Korea, Japan and India. While general industry and process markets were stable in most of the region, weakness remained in industries such as mining, marine and general construction.

In 2014, sales in the Americas increased by 15 percent in total, with increases of 10 percent in the Industrial segment, 31 percent in the Process segment and 12 percent in the Contractor segment as compared to the prior year. Sales from acquired operations totaled \$32 million in the Americas, contributing 6 percentage points of growth. The growth from acquisitions is included within the Industrial and Process segments. The Contractor segment continued to benefit from the recovery of the U.S. residential and commercial construction markets. Sales in the Process segment reflected double digit growth in both vehicle service applications and industrial lubrication customers.

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In 2014, sales in EMEA increased by 8 percent. Sales in the Industrial segment increased by 6 percent, 20 percent in the Process segment and 5 percent in the Contractor segment. Growth in EMEA came primarily from the developed economies in the West. The emerging markets increased slightly over 2013, with gains in Eastern Europe and the Middle East partially offset by declines in Russia.

In 2014, sales in Asia Pacific grew by 3 percent. Sales increased by 2 percent in the Industrial segment, 5 percent in the Process segment and 3 percent in the Contractor segment. Sales in China grew by 3½ percent, with good growth in the automotive industry. However, we saw a lack of growth in a number of other markets throughout the region and also saw variability in bookings and billings by country and product line.

The following table presents components of net sales change:

	2015						
	Segment			Region			
	Industrial	Process	Contractor	Americas	Europe	Asia Pacific	Consolidated
Volume and Price	3 %	1 %	9 %	7 %	1 %	— %	4 %
Acquisitions	2 %	26 %	— %	5 %	8 %	6 %	6 %
Currency	(6)%	(4)%	(3)%	(1)%	(13)%	(5)%	(5)%
Total	<u>(1)%</u>	<u>23 %</u>	<u>6 %</u>	<u>11 %</u>	<u>(4)%</u>	<u>1 %</u>	<u>5 %</u>
	2014						
	Segment			Region			
	Industrial	Process	Contractor	Americas	Europe	Asia Pacific	Consolidated
Volume and Price	5 %	8 %	10 %	10 %	5 %	2 %	7 %
Acquisitions	2 %	17 %	— %	6 %	2 %	2 %	4 %
Currency	— %	(1)%	— %	(1)%	1 %	(1)%	— %
Total	<u>7 %</u>	<u>24 %</u>	<u>10 %</u>	<u>15 %</u>	<u>8 %</u>	<u>3 %</u>	<u>11 %</u>

The following table presents an overview of components of operating earnings as a percentage of net sales:

	2015	2014	2013
Net Sales	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Cost of products sold	46.8	45.4	45.0
Gross profit	53.2	54.6	55.0
Product development	4.5	4.4	4.7
Selling, marketing and distribution	15.7	16.0	16.1
General and administrative	9.5	8.9	8.9
Operating earnings	23.5	25.3	25.3
Interest expense	1.4	1.5	1.6
Held separate investment (income), net	(14.9)	(2.1)	—
Other expense (income), net	0.1	0.1	(2.5)
Earnings before income taxes	36.9	25.8	26.2
Income taxes	10.0	7.3	7.1
Net Earnings	<u>26.9%</u>	<u>18.5%</u>	<u>19.1%</u>

### 2015 Compared to 2014

Operating earnings as a percentage of sales were lower than the prior year, mostly due to changes in currency translation rates and lower margins from acquired operations.

Gross profit margin as a percentage of sales decreased from 2014, mostly due to changes in currency translation rates. Favorable effects of realized pricing and lower material costs offset the impact of lower average gross margin rates of acquired operations.

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Operating expenses were \$25 million higher compared to 2014. Incremental expenses of acquired operations totaled \$27 million, spending related to regional and product expansion initiatives increased expenses by approximately \$4 million, and unallocated corporate expenses (mostly pension and stock compensation) increased \$5 million. Currency translation rates reduced operating expenses by approximately \$16 million.

Interest expense was \$18 million in 2015, compared to \$19 million in 2014.

Held separate investment income in 2015 included \$150 million of pre-tax gain on the sale of Liquid Finishing business assets, net of transaction and other related expenses, and dividends of \$42 million. Dividends received from Liquid Finishing totaled \$28 million in 2014. No further Liquid Finishing business dividends will be received.

The effective tax rate for 2015 was 27 percent, down from 28 percent in 2014. A change in the Company's assertion with respect to reinvestment of foreign earnings decreased deferred income taxes related to undistributed foreign earnings by \$7 million and reduced the effective tax rate for the year. Higher post-tax dividend income, favorable effects of lower tax rates on foreign earnings, and an additional non-recurring tax benefit of \$2 million further reduced the effective tax rate for the year. Those reductions were partially offset by the tax rate effects of the gain on the sale of the Liquid Finishing business assets.

### 2014 Compared to 2013

Operating earnings as a percentage of sales were 25 percent in 2014, consistent with 2013. The impact of purchase accounting, acquisition and divestiture costs, and spending on regional and product expansion offset the improvement in operating expense leverage from higher sales.

Gross profit margin as a percentage of sales decreased approximately one-half percentage point from 2013. Acquisitions negatively impacted the margin rate in 2014, decreasing the rate by 0.2 percentage point for purchase accounting, and 0.3 percentage point for lower margins in the acquired businesses. The favorable effect of realized price increases and higher production volume offset the unfavorable effect of changes in product mix.

Operating expenses for 2014 increased \$30 million. The increase included \$15 million from acquired operations, \$8 million from regional and product expansion initiatives and a \$2 million increase in divestiture and acquisition costs. Product development spending increased \$3 million (including approximately \$1 million from acquired operations), representing 4 percent of sales, down slightly from 2013.

Interest expense was \$19 million in 2014, compared to \$18 million in 2013. Held separate investment income included dividends received from the Liquid Finishing businesses. These dividends totaled \$28 million for the year, consistent with 2013.

The effective income tax rate was 28 percent in 2014, compared to 27 percent in 2013. The 2013 effective rate was lower primarily because it included two years of the federal R&D credit as the credit was reinstated in the first quarter of 2013 retroactive to the beginning of 2012.

### **Segment Results**

Beginning with the first quarter of 2015, the Company revised the presentation of its financial reporting segments. Operations of the Process and the Oil and Natural Gas divisions, historically included in the Industrial segment, are now aggregated with the Lubrication division (formerly reported as a separate segment) in the newly-formed Process segment. This change aligns the types of products offered and markets served within the segments. Prior year segment information has been restated to conform to 2015 reporting.

A summary of the Company's three reportable segments (Industrial, Process and Contractor) follows.

The Industrial segment includes our Industrial Products and Applied Fluid Technologies divisions. The Industrial segment markets equipment and pre-engineered packages for moving and applying paints, coatings, sealants, adhesives and other fluids. Markets served include automotive and vehicle assembly and components production, wood and metal products, rail, marine, aerospace, farm, construction, bus, recreational vehicles and various other industries.

The Process segment includes our Process, Oil and Natural Gas, and Lubrication divisions. The Process segment markets pumps, valves, meters and accessories to move and dispense chemicals, oil and natural gas, water, wastewater, petroleum, food, lubricants and other fluids. Markets served include food and beverage, dairy, oil and natural gas, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, electronics, wastewater, mining, fast oil change facilities, service garages, fleet service centers, automobile dealerships and industrial lubrication applications.

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The Contractor segment remains unchanged. The Contractor segment markets sprayers for architectural coatings for painting, corrosion control, texture and line striping.

The following table presents net sales and operating earnings by business segment (in millions):

	2015	2014	2013
<b>Sales</b>			
Industrial	\$ 616	\$ 622	\$ 581
Process	273	223	180
Contractor	397	376	343
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,286</b>	<b>\$ 1,221</b>	<b>\$ 1,104</b>
<b>Operating Earnings</b>			
Industrial	\$ 202	\$ 204	\$ 189
Process	44	47	45
Contractor	86	82	72
Unallocated corporate	(30)	(24)	(26)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 302</b>	<b>\$ 309</b>	<b>\$ 280</b>

**Industrial**

The following table presents net sales, components of net sales change and operating earnings as a percentage of sales for the Industrial segment (dollars in millions):

	2015	2014	2013
<b>Sales</b>			
Americas	\$ 289	\$ 273	\$ 247
EMEA	173	196	184
Asia Pacific	154	153	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 616</b>	<b>\$ 622</b>	<b>\$ 581</b>
<b>Components of Net Sales Change</b>			
Volume and Price	3 %	5%	3%
Acquisitions	2 %	2%	6%
Currency	(6)%	—%	—%
<b>Total</b>	<b>(1)%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Operating Earnings as a Percentage of Sales</b>	<b>33 %</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>32%</b>

In 2015, sales in the Industrial segment totaled \$616 million, a decrease of 1 percent from the prior year (increase of 5 percent at consistent translation rates). Sales for the year increased 6 percent in the Americas, decreased 12 percent in EMEA (increased 1 percent at consistent translation rates) and were flat in Asia Pacific (increased 4 percent at consistent translation rates). Acquired operations contributed \$10 million (2 percentage points) of growth in the Industrial segment for the year. Operating margin rates for the Industrial segment were consistent with prior year, with favorable price realization, product mix, and cost and expense management offsetting the unfavorable effect of foreign currency translation rates.

In 2014, sales in the Industrial segment totaled \$622 million, an increase of 7 percent from the prior year. Sales for the year increased 10 percent in the Americas, 6 percent in EMEA and 2 percent in Asia Pacific. Acquired operations contributed \$11 million (2 percentage points) of growth in the Industrial segment for the year. Higher sales volume and expense leverage led to improved operating earnings as a percentage of sales compared to 2013.

In this segment, sales in each geographic region are significant and management looks at economic and financial indicators in each region, including gross domestic product, industrial production, capital investment rates, automobile production, building construction and the level of the U.S. dollar versus the euro, the Swiss franc, the Canadian dollar, the Australian dollar and various Asian currencies.



**Process**

The following table presents net sales, components of net sales change and operating earnings as a percentage of sales for the Process segment (dollars in millions):

	2015	2014	2013
<b>Sales</b>			
Americas	\$ 172	\$ 147	\$ 111
EMEA	55	38	32
Asia Pacific	46	38	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 273</b>	<b>\$ 223</b>	<b>\$ 180</b>
<b>Components of Net Sales Change</b>			
Volume and Price	1 %	8 %	1 %
Acquisitions	26 %	17 %	— %
Currency	(4)%	(1)%	(1)%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23 %</b>	<b>24 %</b>	<b>— %</b>
<b>Operating Earnings as a Percentage of Sales</b>	<b>16 %</b>	<b>21 %</b>	<b>25 %</b>

In 2015, sales in the Process segment totaled \$273 million, an increase of 23 percent from the prior year. Sales increased 17 percent in the Americas, 43 percent in EMEA (57 percent at consistent translation rates) and 22 percent in Asia Pacific (30 percent at consistent translation rates). Acquired operations contributed \$56 million (26 percentage points of growth) to the Process segment for the year. Results for 2015 included the operations of HiP and White Knight, both acquired in January 2015, and full-year operations of Alco, acquired in October 2014. Operating earnings decreased by 5 percentage points in 2015 due mostly to currency translation, lower margins from acquired operations and incremental investment in product development.

In 2014, sales in the Process segment totaled \$223 million, an increase of 24 percent from the prior year. Sales increased 31 percent in the Americas, 20 percent in EMEA and 5 percent in Asia Pacific. Results for 2014 included the operations from the date of acquisition of QED, acquired at the beginning of 2014 and Alco, acquired in October 2014. Acquired operations contributed \$30 million (17 percentage points) of growth in the Process segment for the year. Operating earnings decreased by 4 percentage points in 2014 due mostly to lower margins from acquired operations.

Although the Americas represent the substantial majority of sales for the Process segment, and indicators in that region are the most significant, management monitors indicators such as levels of gross domestic product, capital investment, industrial production, oil and natural gas markets and mining activity worldwide.

**Contractor**

The following table presents net sales, components of net sales change and operating earnings as a percentage of sales for the Contractor segment (dollars in millions):

	2015	2014	2013
<b>Sales</b>			
Americas	\$ 299	\$ 265	\$ 237
EMEA	63	71	67
Asia Pacific	35	40	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 397</b>	<b>\$ 376</b>	<b>\$ 343</b>
<b>Components of Net Sales Change</b>			
Volume and Price	9 %	10%	14%
Currency	(3)%	—%	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 %</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Operating Earnings as a Percentage of Sales</b>	<b>22 %</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>21%</b>

In 2015, sales in the Contractor segment totaled \$397 million, an increase of 6 percent from the prior year. Sales increased 13 percent in the Americas, decreased 10 percent in EMEA (increased 2 percent at consistent translation rates) and decreased 14 percent in Asia Pacific (9 percent at consistent translation rates). Strong U.S. residential and commercial construction markets continued to drive

growth in the Americas. Operating earnings for the year were consistent with last year, with the unfavorable impact of currency translation rates offset by volume-related increases.

In 2014, sales in the Contractor segment increased 10 percent for the year, which included increases of 12 percent in the Americas, 5 percent in EMEA and 3 percent in Asia Pacific. The growth in the Contractor segment was led by the Americas, which benefited from the recovery of the U.S. residential and commercial construction markets. Operating earnings as a percentage of sales were 22 percent, up 1 percentage point from 2013. Higher sales and the leverage on expenses drove improvements in operating earnings in the Contractor segment.

In this segment, sales in all regions are significant and management reviews economic and financial indicators in each region, including levels of residential, commercial and institutional construction, remodeling rates and interest rates. Management also reviews gross domestic product for the regions and the level of the U.S. dollar versus the euro and other currencies.

**Unallocated corporate**

(in millions)

	2015	2014	2013
Unallocated corporate (expense)	\$ (30)	\$ (24)	\$ (26)

Unallocated corporate includes such items as stock compensation, divestiture and certain acquisition transaction costs, bad debt expense, charitable contributions, certain portions of pension expense, and certain central warehouse expenses. In 2015, unallocated corporate expenses included \$19 million of stock compensation expense, \$6 million related to the non-service cost portion of pension expense, \$3 million of expense related to the central warehouse and \$2 million of other expenses. In 2014, unallocated corporate expenses included \$17 million of stock compensation expense, \$3 million of divestiture and acquisition costs, \$2.5 million of contributions to the Company's charitable foundation, and \$1.5 million related to the central warehouse.

**Financial Condition and Cash Flow**

**Working Capital.** The following table highlights several key measures of asset performance (dollars in millions):

	2015	2014
Working capital	\$ 314	\$ 685
Current ratio	2.6	4.9
Days of sales in receivables outstanding	64	64
Inventory turnover (LIFO)	3.2	3.8

Working capital decreased mostly due to the sale of the Liquid Finishing business assets, which were reflected in current assets as a cost-method investment. Accounts receivable balances increased in 2015 in line with volume growth. Inventory balances increased from acquired businesses and to support improved service levels.

**Capital Structure.** At December 25, 2015, the Company's capital structure included current notes payable of \$16 million, long-term debt of \$393 million and shareholders' equity of \$636 million. At December 24, 2014, the Company's capital structure included current notes payable of \$5 million, long-term debt of \$615 million and shareholders' equity of \$596 million.

Shareholders' equity increased by \$40 million in 2015. The increase from current year earnings of \$346 million offset decreases from share repurchases of \$272 million and dividends of \$70 million. Increases related to shares issued and stock compensation totaled \$39 million.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources.** The Company had cash totaling \$52 million at December 25, 2015, and \$24 million at December 26, 2014, held in deposit accounts. As of December 25, 2015, cash balances of \$9.5 million were restricted to funding of certain self-insured loss reserves, and included within other current assets on the Company's Consolidated Balance Sheets. In 2015, the Company asserted that it will indefinitely reinvest earnings of foreign subsidiaries to support expansion of its international business. As of December 25, 2015, the amount of cash held outside the United States was not significant to the Company's liquidity and was available to fund investments abroad.

There were no changes to the Company's credit agreements during 2015. In 2014, the Company executed an amendment to its revolving credit agreement, extending the expiration date to June 26, 2019, and increasing the amount of credit available to \$500 million, a \$50 million increase. The credit facility is with a syndicate of lenders and is available for general corporate purposes,

working capital needs, share repurchases and acquisitions. The Company may borrow up to \$50 million under the swingline portion of the facility for daily working capital needs.

Under the amended agreement, the base rate applied to borrowings is an annual rate equal to a margin ranging from zero percent to 0.875 percent, depending on the Company's cash flow leverage ratio, plus the highest of (i) the bank's prime rate, (ii) the federal funds rate plus 0.5 percent, or (iii) one-month LIBOR plus 1.5 percent. In general, LIBOR-based loans bear interest at LIBOR plus 1 percent to 1.875 percent, depending on the Company's cash flow leverage ratio. Fees on the undrawn amount of the loan commitment range from 0.15 percent to 0.30 percent, depending on the Company's cash flow leverage ratio.

On December 25, 2015, the Company had \$545 million in lines of credit, including the \$500 million in committed credit facilities described above and \$45 million with foreign banks. The unused portion of committed credit lines was \$412 million as of December 25, 2015.

Various debt agreements require the Company to maintain certain financial ratios as to cash flow leverage and interest coverage. The Company is in compliance with all financial covenants of its debt agreements as of December 25, 2015.

Internally generated funds and unused financing sources are expected to provide the Company with the flexibility to meet its liquidity needs in 2016, including its capital expenditure plan of approximately \$40 million, planned dividends (estimated at \$73 million) and acquisitions. If acquisition opportunities increase, the Company believes that reasonable financing alternatives are available for the Company to execute on those opportunities.

In December 2015, the Company's Board of Directors increased the Company's regular common dividend from an annual rate of \$1.20 to \$1.32 per share, an increase of 10 percent.

Subsequent to the end of 2015, the Company used proceeds from its revolving line of credit to acquire two related businesses for a total cash price of \$49 million. The acquired businesses will enhance and complement the Company's position in environmental monitoring and remediation markets, and will be included in our Process segment.

**Cash Flow.** A summary of cash flow follows (in millions):

	2015	2014	2013
Operating activities	\$ 190	\$ 241	\$ 243
Investing activities	370	(217)	(31)
Financing activities	(535)	(23)	(226)
Effect of exchange rates on cash	3	3	3
Net cash provided (used)	<u>28</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>(11)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at year-end	<u>\$ 52</u>	<u>\$ 24</u>	<u>\$ 20</u>

**Cash Flows From Operating Activities.** Net cash provided by operating activities was \$190 million in 2015, down \$51 million compared to 2014, mainly due to transaction costs and income taxes related to the sale of Liquid Finishing business assets. Accounts receivable and inventory balances increased since the end of 2014 due to acquisitions, increases in business activity and inventory increases to improve customer service levels.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$241 million in 2014 and \$243 million in 2013. The increase in accounts receivable and inventories in 2014 was \$20 million higher in 2014 than the increase in the comparable period of 2013. Accounts receivable and inventory balances increased since the end of 2013 due to increases in business activity.

**Cash Flows Used in Investing Activities.** Cash inflows from investing activities totaled \$370 million in 2015 compared to outflows of \$217 million in 2014. Proceeds of \$610 million from the sale of the Liquid Finishing business assets were partially offset by cash outflows of \$189 million for acquisitions and \$42 million for additions to property, plant and equipment.

Cash flows used in investing activities totaled \$217 million in 2014, compared to \$31 million in 2013. During 2014, cash outflows included acquisitions of \$185 million and additions to property, plant and equipment of \$31 million. During 2013, cash used in investing activities included \$23 million of additions to property, plant and equipment, and business acquisitions of \$12 million.

**Cash Flows Used in Financing Activities.** Cash flows used in financing activities totaled \$535 million in 2015, compared to \$23 million in 2014. Cash outflows included net payments on outstanding lines of credit of \$211 million, share repurchases of \$275 million and dividends paid of \$69 million.

Cash flows used in financing activities totaled \$24 million in 2014, compared to \$226 million in 2013. Cash inflows included net borrowings on outstanding lines of credit of \$202 million and share issuances of \$30 million. This was offset by share repurchases of \$195 million and dividends paid of \$66 million.

In September 2012, the Board of Directors authorized the Company to purchase up to 6 million shares of its outstanding stock, primarily through open-market transactions. This authorization expired on September 30, 2015. On April 24, 2015, the Board of Directors authorized the purchase of up to an additional 6 million shares over an indefinite period of time or until terminated by the Board. Under the current authorization, 4.6 million shares remain available for purchase as of December 25, 2015.

The Company repurchased and retired 3.9 million shares in 2015, compared to 2.6 million shares in 2014. Share repurchases are expected to continue in 2016 via open market transactions or short-dated accelerated share repurchase programs.

**Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements and Contractual Obligations.** As of December 25, 2015, the Company is obligated to make cash payments in connection with its long-term debt, operating leases and purchase obligations in the amounts listed below. The Company has no significant off-balance sheet debt or other unrecorded obligations other than the items noted in the following table. In addition to the commitments noted in the following table, the Company could be obligated to perform under standby letters of credit totaling \$2 million at December 25, 2015. The Company has also guaranteed the debt of its subsidiaries up to \$9 million. All debt of subsidiaries is reflected in the consolidated balance sheets.

	Payments due by period (in millions)				
	Total	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years
Long-term debt	\$ 393	\$ —	\$ 75	\$ 168	\$ 150
Other non-current liabilities <sup>1</sup>	9	—	7	1	1
Operating leases	32	7	11	8	6
Purchase obligations <sup>2</sup>	112	112	—	—	—
Interest on long-term debt	98	16	29	21	32
Unfunded pension and postretirement medical benefits <sup>3</sup>	33	2	6	6	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 677</b>	<b>\$ 137</b>	<b>\$ 128</b>	<b>\$ 204</b>	<b>\$ 208</b>

<sup>1</sup> Other non-current liabilities include estimated obligations for representations and warranties associated with the Liquid Finishing business divestiture, additional purchase consideration based on future revenues of an acquired business in excess of specified thresholds, and amounts related to certain capitalized leasehold improvements.

<sup>2</sup> The Company is committed to pay suppliers under the terms of open purchase orders issued in the normal course of business. The Company also has commitments with certain suppliers to purchase minimum quantities, and under the terms of certain agreements, the Company is committed for certain portions of the supplier's inventory. The Company does not purchase, or commit to purchase, quantities in excess of normal usage or amounts that cannot be used within one year.

<sup>3</sup> The amounts and timing of future Company contributions to the funded qualified defined benefit pension plan are unknown because they are dependent on pension fund asset performance and pension obligation valuation assumptions.

### Critical Accounting Estimates

The Company prepares its consolidated financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP"). The Company's most significant accounting policies are disclosed in Note A (Summary of Significant Accounting Policies) to the consolidated financial statements. The preparation of the consolidated financial statements, in conformity with U.S. GAAP, requires management to make estimates and judgments that affect the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual amounts will differ from those estimates. The Company considers the following policies to involve the most judgment in the preparation of the Company's consolidated financial statements.

**Excess and Discontinued Inventory.** The Company's inventories are valued at the lower of cost or market. Reserves for excess and discontinued products are estimated. The amount of the reserve is determined based on projected sales information, plans for discontinued products and other factors. Though management considers these balances adequate, changes in sales volumes due to unanticipated economic or competitive conditions are among the factors that would result in materially different amounts for this item.

**Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets.** The Company performs impairment testing for goodwill and other intangible assets annually, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the asset might be impaired.

For goodwill, the Company performs impairment reviews for the Company's reporting units using a fair-value method based on management's judgments and assumptions. The Company estimates the fair value of the reporting units using a present value of future cash flows calculation cross-checked by an allocation of market capitalization approach. The estimated fair value is then compared with the carrying amount of the reporting unit, including recorded goodwill. Based on our most recent goodwill impairment assessment performed during the fourth quarter of 2015, the fair value of each reporting unit exceeded its carrying value. Accordingly, step two of the impairment analysis was not required.

In completing the goodwill impairment analysis during the fourth quarter of 2015, we determined that the estimated fair value of all reporting units substantially exceeded carrying value except for our Oil and Natural Gas reporting unit, which exceeded its carrying value by 14 percent. As of December 25, 2015, goodwill for the Oil and Natural Gas reporting unit was \$157 million. As part of our step one process for determining the estimated fair value of our reporting units, we make several assumptions based on existing and projected market conditions, including earnings and cash flow projections and discount rate, each of which have a significant impact on these values. For our Oil and Natural Gas division, if cash flow projections decreased by 11 percent per year or if the discount rate increased by 1 percentage point, we would have failed step one of the impairment test for this reporting unit, requiring a step two analysis. We continue to monitor operational performance measures and general economic conditions in the oil and natural gas industries noting that prolonged or deepened weakness could subject the goodwill to impairment in the future.

Our primary identifiable intangible assets include customer relationships, trade names and trademarks, proprietary technology and patents. Identifiable intangibles with finite lives are amortized and are evaluated for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. We complete our annual impairment test during the fourth quarter each year for indefinite lived intangibles by performing a separate impairment test based on estimated future use and discounting estimated future cash flows. A considerable amount of management judgment and assumptions are required in performing the impairment tests. Though management considers its judgments and assumptions to be reasonable, changes in economic or market conditions, product offerings or marketing strategies could change the estimated fair values and result in impairment charges.

**Income Taxes.** In the preparation of the Company's consolidated financial statements, management calculates income taxes. This includes estimating current tax liability as well as assessing temporary differences resulting from different treatment of items for tax and financial statement purposes. These differences result in deferred tax assets and liabilities, which are recorded on the balance sheet using statutory rates in effect for the year in which the differences are expected to reverse. These assets and liabilities are analyzed regularly and management assesses the likelihood that deferred tax assets will be recoverable from future taxable income. A valuation allowance is established to the extent that management believes that recovery is not likely. Liabilities for uncertain tax positions are also established for potential and ongoing audits of federal, state and international issues. The Company routinely monitors the potential impact of such situations and believes that liabilities are properly stated. Valuations related to amounts owed and tax rates could be impacted by changes to tax codes, changes in statutory rates, the Company's future taxable income levels and the results of tax audits.

**Retirement Obligations.** The measurements of the Company's pension and postretirement medical obligations are dependent on a number of assumptions including estimates of the present value of projected future payments, taking into consideration future events such as salary increase and demographic experience. These assumptions may have an impact on the expense and timing of future contributions.

The assumptions used in developing the required estimates for pension obligations include discount rate, inflation, salary increases, retirement rates, expected return on plan assets and mortality rates. The assumptions used in developing the required estimates for postretirement medical obligations include discount rates, rate of future increase in medical costs and participation rates.

For U.S. plans, the Company establishes its discount rate assumption by reference to a yield curve published by an actuary and projected plan cash flows. For plans outside the U.S., the Company establishes a rate by country by reference to highly rated corporate bonds. These reference points have been determined to adequately match expected plan cash flows. The Company bases its inflation assumption on an evaluation of external market indicators. The salary assumptions are based on actual historical experience, the near-term outlook and assumed inflation. Retirement rates are based on experience. The investment return assumption is based on the expected long-term performance of plan assets. In setting this number, the Company considers the input of actuaries and investment advisors, its long-term historical returns, the allocation of plan assets and projected returns on plan assets. The Company decreased its investment return assumption for its U.S. plan to 7.5 percent for 2016. Mortality rates are based on current common group mortality tables for males and females.



Net pension cost in 2015 was \$14 million and was allocated to cost of products sold and operating expenses based on salaries and wages. At December 25, 2015, a one-half percentage point decrease in the indicated assumptions would have the following effects (in millions):

Assumption	Funded Status	Expense
Discount rate	\$ (28)	\$ 3
Expected return on assets	—	1

### Recent Accounting Pronouncements

Effective at the end of 2015, the Company adopted ASU 2015-17, *Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes*, which requires all deferred tax assets and liabilities to be classified as non-current. Balances as of December 26, 2014 were restated to conform with 2015 classification, resulting in decreases in previously reported 2014 current assets and liabilities of \$20 million and \$2 million, respectively, with corresponding increases in non-current deferred tax assets and liabilities.

Effective for 2015, the Company adopted ASU 2015-04, which allows for the measurement of defined benefit retirement obligations and related plan assets as of the calendar month-end that is closest to the plan sponsor's fiscal year-end. For 2015, the Company measured all plan obligations and assets as of December 31, 2015.

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued a final standard on revenue from contracts with customers. The new standard sets forth a single comprehensive model for recognizing and reporting revenue. The new standard is effective for the Company in its fiscal year 2018 and permits the use of either a retrospective or a cumulative effect transition method. The Company is evaluating the effect of the new standard on its consolidated financial statements and related disclosures, and has not yet selected a transition method.

### Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

The Company sells and purchases products and services in currencies other than the U.S. dollar and pays variable interest rates on borrowings under certain credit facilities. Consequently, the Company is subject to profitability risk arising from exchange and interest rate movements. The Company may use a variety of financial and derivative instruments to manage foreign currency and interest rate risks. The Company does not enter into any of these instruments for trading purposes to generate revenue. Rather, the Company's objective in managing these risks is to reduce fluctuations in earnings and cash flows associated with changes in foreign currency exchange and interest rates.

The Company may use forward exchange contracts, options and other hedging activities to hedge the U.S. dollar value resulting from anticipated currency transactions and net monetary asset and liability positions. At December 25, 2015, the currencies to which the Company had the most significant balance sheet exchange rate exposure were the euro, Swiss franc, Canadian dollar, British pound, Japanese yen, Australian dollar, Chinese yuan renminbi and South Korean won. It is not possible to determine the true impact of currency rate changes; however, the direct translation effect on net sales and net earnings can be estimated. In 2015, changes in currency translation rates reduced sales and earnings by approximately \$58 million and \$20 million, respectively. In 2014, changes in currency translation rates reduced sales and earnings by approximately \$3 million and \$2 million, respectively. Changes in translation rates had no significant effect on 2013 net sales or earnings.

### 2016 Outlook

We continue to invest for long-term growth in our new product development, geographic expansion and market expansion initiatives. As we enter 2016, we are cautiously optimistic that our growth initiatives and end market exposure will help us achieve our outlook of low single digit organic constant currency sales growth for the first quarter and low-to-mid single digit growth for the full year 2016. While worldwide macroeconomic conditions and currency fluctuations remain a concern, we will drive for growth in every reportable segment and geography in 2016. At January 2016 exchange rates, unfavorable changes in foreign currency translation rates create a full-year headwind of approximately 2 percent on sales and 5 percent on net income for 2016, with the largest headwind in the first half.

The Company's backlog is typically small compared to annual sales and is not a good indicator of future business levels. In addition to economic growth, the successful launch of new products and expanded distribution coverage, the sales outlook is dependent on many factors, including realization of price increases and stable foreign currency exchange rates.

## **Forward-Looking Statements**

The Company desires to take advantage of the “safe harbor” provisions regarding forward-looking statements of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and is filing this Cautionary Statement in order to do so. From time to time various forms filed by our Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including this Form 10-K and our Form 10-Qs and Form 8-Ks, and other disclosures, including our 2015 Overview report, press releases, earnings releases, analyst briefings, conference calls and other written documents or oral statements released by our Company, may contain forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements generally use words such as “expect,” “foresee,” “anticipate,” “believe,” “project,” “should,” “estimate,” “will,” and similar expressions, and reflect our Company’s expectations concerning the future. All forecasts and projections are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are based upon currently available information, but various risks and uncertainties may cause our Company’s actual results to differ materially from those expressed in these statements. The Company undertakes no obligation to update these statements in light of new information or future events.

Future results could differ materially from those expressed, due to the impact of changes in various factors. These risk factors include, but are not limited to, the factors discussed in Item 1A of this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Shareholders, potential investors and other readers are urged to consider these factors in evaluating forward-looking statements and are cautioned not to place undue reliance on such forward-looking statements.

Investors should realize that factors other than those identified in Item 1A might prove important to the Company’s future results. It is not possible for management to identify each and every factor that may have an impact on the Company’s operations in the future as new factors can develop from time to time.

## **Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data**

### **Management’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. The internal control system was designed to provide reasonable assurance to management and the board of directors regarding the reliability of financial reporting and preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Management assessed the effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 25, 2015. In making this assessment, management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework* (2013).

Based on our assessment and those criteria, management believes the Company’s internal control over financial reporting is effective as of December 25, 2015.

The Company’s independent auditors have issued an attestation report on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting. That report appears in this Form 10-K.

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Shareholders and Board of Directors of  
Graco Inc.

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of Graco Inc. and Subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 25, 2015, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company’s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company’s internal control over financial reporting is a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the company’s principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the company’s board of directors, management, and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company’s internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company’s assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 25, 2015, based on the criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule as of and for the year ended December 25, 2015 of the Company and our report dated February 16, 2016 expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
February 16, 2016

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Shareholders and Board of Directors of  
Graco Inc.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Graco Inc. and Subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 25, 2015 and December 26, 2014, and the related consolidated statements of earnings, comprehensive income, shareholders’ equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 25, 2015. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule listed in the Index at Item 15. These financial statements and financial statement schedule are the responsibility of the Company’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements and financial statement schedule based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Graco Inc. and Subsidiaries as of December 25, 2015 and December 26, 2014, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 25, 2015, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also, in our opinion, such financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 25, 2015, based on the criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 16, 2016, expressed an unqualified opinion on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

*/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP*

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
February 16, 2016

**GRACO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EARNINGS**

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

	Years Ended		
	December 25, 2015	December 26, 2014	December 27, 2013
Net Sales	\$ 1,286,485	\$ 1,221,130	\$ 1,104,024
Cost of products sold	601,785	554,394	496,569
Gross Profit	684,700	666,736	607,455
Product development	58,559	54,246	51,428
Selling, marketing and distribution	201,855	194,751	177,853
General and administrative	122,161	108,814	98,405
Operating Earnings	302,125	308,925	279,769
Interest expense	17,643	18,733	18,147
Held separate investment (income), net	(191,635)	(25,951)	(26,458)
Other expense (income), net	1,404	1,070	(742)
Earnings Before Income Taxes	474,713	315,073	288,822
Income taxes	129,000	89,500	78,000
Net Earnings	\$ 345,713	\$ 225,573	\$ 210,822
Basic Net Earnings per Common Share	\$ 6.00	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.44
Diluted Net Earnings per Common Share	\$ 5.86	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.36
Cash Dividends Declared per Common Share	\$ 1.23	\$ 1.13	\$ 1.03

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

(In thousands)

	Years Ended		
	December 25, 2015	December 26, 2014	December 27, 2013
Net Earnings	\$ 345,713	\$ 225,573	\$ 210,822
Components of other comprehensive income (loss)			
Cumulative translation adjustment	(10,423)	(27,935)	7,812
Pension and postretirement medical liability adjustment	10,372	(39,164)	46,955
Income taxes - pension and postretirement medical liability	(3,710)	12,712	(17,371)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	(3,761)	(54,387)	37,396
Comprehensive Income	\$ 341,952	\$ 171,186	\$ 248,218

See notes to consolidated financial statements.



**GRACO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

(In thousands, except share and per share amounts)

	December 25, 2015	December 26, 2014
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 52,295	\$ 23,656
Accounts receivable, less allowances of \$10,400 and \$8,100	225,509	214,944
Inventories	202,136	159,797
Investment in businesses held separate	—	421,767
Other current assets	29,077	19,374
Total current assets	509,017	839,538
Property, Plant and Equipment, net	178,437	161,230
Goodwill	394,488	292,574
Other Intangible Assets, net	227,987	176,278
Deferred Income Taxes	56,976	48,951
Other Assets	24,447	26,207
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,391,352</u>	<u>\$ 1,544,778</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current Liabilities		
Notes payable to banks	\$ 15,901	\$ 5,016
Trade accounts payable	40,505	39,306
Salaries and incentives	44,673	40,775
Dividends payable	18,447	17,790
Other current liabilities	75,090	69,850
Total current liabilities	194,616	172,737
Long-term Debt	392,695	615,000
Retirement Benefits and Deferred Compensation	137,457	136,812
Deferred Income Taxes	22,303	24,197
Other Non-current Liabilities	8,730	—
Commitments and Contingencies (Note K)		
Shareholders' Equity		
Common stock, \$1 par value; 97,000,000 shares authorized; 55,765,980 and 59,198,527 shares outstanding in 2015 and 2014	55,766	59,199
Additional paid-in-capital	398,774	384,704
Retained earnings	285,508	252,865
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	(104,497)	(100,736)
Total shareholders' equity	635,551	596,032
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	<u>\$ 1,391,352</u>	<u>\$ 1,544,778</u>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

**GRACO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

(In thousands)

	Years Ended		
	December 25, 2015	December 26, 2014	December 27, 2013
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities</b>			
Net earnings	\$ 345,713	\$ 225,573	\$ 210,822
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by operating activities			
Depreciation and amortization	44,607	35,515	37,316
Deferred income taxes	(11,585)	329	(1,715)
Share-based compensation	19,224	17,249	16,545
Excess tax benefit related to share-based payment arrangements	(1,775)	(6,634)	(8,347)
Gain on sale of business	(149,894)	—	—
Change in			
Accounts receivable	(18,276)	(26,557)	(11,880)
Inventories	(34,109)	(15,079)	(10,186)
Trade accounts payable	4,305	450	2,436
Salaries and incentives	(1,385)	1,520	2,022
Retirement benefits and deferred compensation	11,870	5,052	3,629
Other accrued liabilities	1,645	6,151	5,556
Other	(20,701)	(2,314)	(3,143)
Net cash from operating activities	<u>189,639</u>	<u>241,255</u>	<u>243,055</u>
<b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities</b>			
Property, plant and equipment additions	(41,749)	(30,636)	(23,319)
Acquisition of businesses, net of cash acquired	(189,017)	(185,462)	(11,560)
Investment in businesses held separate	—	530	4,516
Proceeds from sale of assets	610,162	—	1,600
Investment in restricted assets	(9,518)	—	—
Other	61	(1,163)	(2,475)
Net cash from (used in) investing activities	<u>369,939</u>	<u>(216,731)</u>	<u>(31,238)</u>
<b>Cash Flows From Financing Activities</b>			
Borrowings (payments) on short-term lines of credit, net	11,216	(4,459)	1,280
Borrowings on long-term line of credit	720,605	717,845	419,905
Payments on long-term line of credit	(942,910)	(511,215)	(568,122)
Payments of debt issuance costs	—	(890)	—
Excess tax benefit related to share-based payment arrangements	1,775	6,634	8,347
Common stock issued	18,835	30,199	41,664
Common stock repurchased	(274,503)	(195,326)	(67,827)
Cash dividends paid	(69,429)	(66,362)	(61,139)
Net cash from (used in) financing activities	<u>(534,411)</u>	<u>(23,574)</u>	<u>(225,892)</u>
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	3,472	2,950	2,711
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	<u>28,639</u>	<u>3,900</u>	<u>(11,364)</u>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>			
Beginning of year	23,656	19,756	31,120
End of year	<u>\$ 52,295</u>	<u>\$ 23,656</u>	<u>\$ 19,756</u>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

**GRACO INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY**

(In thousands)

	Common Stock	Additional Paid-In Capital	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Total
<b>Balance December 28, 2012</b>	\$ 60,767	\$ 287,795	\$ 189,297	\$ (83,745)	\$ 454,114
Shares issued	1,196	41,146	—	—	42,342
Shares repurchased	(960)	(4,545)	(64,652)	—	(70,157)
Stock compensation cost	—	14,693	—	—	14,693
Tax benefit related to stock options exercised	—	8,647	—	—	8,647
Restricted stock issued	—	(678)	—	—	(678)
Net earnings	—	—	210,822	—	210,822
Dividends declared	—	—	(62,814)	—	(62,814)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	—	—	—	37,396	37,396
<b>Balance December 27, 2013</b>	61,003	347,058	272,653	(46,349)	634,365
Shares issued	789	29,410	—	—	30,199
Shares repurchased	(2,593)	(14,751)	(178,090)	—	(195,434)
Stock compensation cost	—	16,253	—	—	16,253
Tax benefit related to stock options exercised	—	6,734	—	—	6,734
Net earnings	—	—	225,573	—	225,573
Dividends declared	—	—	(67,271)	—	(67,271)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	—	—	—	(54,387)	(54,387)
<b>Balance December 26, 2014</b>	59,199	384,704	252,865	(100,736)	596,032
Shares issued	446	18,040	—	—	18,486
Shares repurchased	(3,879)	(25,201)	(242,984)	—	(272,064)
Stock compensation cost	—	19,107	—	—	19,107
Tax benefit related to stock options exercised	—	1,775	—	—	1,775
Restricted stock canceled	—	349	—	—	349
Net earnings	—	—	345,713	—	345,713
Dividends declared	—	—	(70,086)	—	(70,086)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	—	—	—	(3,761)	(3,761)
<b>Balance December 25, 2015</b>	\$ 55,766	\$ 398,774	\$ 285,508	\$ (104,497)	\$ 635,551

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Graco Inc. and Subsidiaries**

Years Ended December 25, 2015, December 26, 2014 and December 27, 2013

**A. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of Graco Inc. and Subsidiaries (the “Company”) is 52 or 53 weeks, ending on the last Friday in December. The years ended December 25, 2015, December 26, 2014 and December 27, 2013, were 52-week years.

**Basis of Statement Presentation.** The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the parent company and its subsidiaries after elimination of intercompany balances and transactions. As of December 25, 2015, all subsidiaries are 100 percent owned. Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform with 2015 presentation, but had no effect on previously reported net earnings or shareholders’ equity.

As more fully described in Note M (Divestiture), in 2015, the Company sold the Liquid Finishing business assets acquired in 2012 that were held as a cost-method investment. Investment income in the Company’s consolidated statements of earnings includes the pre-tax gain on the sale, net of transaction and other related expenses, along with dividend income received prior to the sale from after-tax earnings of Liquid Finishing.

**Foreign Currency Translation.** The functional currency of certain subsidiaries is the local currency. Accordingly, adjustments resulting from the translation of those subsidiaries’ financial statements into U.S. dollars are charged or credited to accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). The U.S. dollar is the functional currency for all other foreign subsidiaries. Accordingly, gains and losses from the translation of foreign currency balances and transactions of those subsidiaries are included in other expense (income), net.

**Accounting Estimates.** The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Such estimates and assumptions also affect the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Fair Value Measurements.** The three levels of inputs in the fair value measurement hierarchy are as follows:

- Level 1 – based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets
- Level 2 – based on significant observable inputs
- Level 3 – based on significant unobservable inputs

Assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis and fair value measurement level were as follows (in thousands):

	Level	2015	2014
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash surrender value of life insurance	2	\$ 12,856	\$ 13,187
Forward exchange contracts	2	107	280
Total assets at fair value		<u>\$ 12,963</u>	<u>\$ 13,467</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Contingent consideration	3	\$ 9,600	\$ —
Deferred compensation	2	2,958	2,676
Total liabilities at fair value		<u>\$ 12,558</u>	<u>\$ 2,676</u>

Contracts insuring the lives of certain employees who are eligible to participate in certain non-qualified pension and deferred compensation plans are held in trust. Cash surrender value of the contracts is based on performance measurement funds that shadow the deferral investment allocations made by participants in certain deferred compensation plans. The deferred compensation liability balances are valued based on amounts allocated by participants to the underlying performance measurement funds.

The Company’s policy and accounting for forward exchange contracts are described below, in Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities.

Contingent consideration liability represents the estimated value (using a probability-weighted expected return approach) of future payments to be made to previous owners of an acquired business based on its future revenues (see Note L, Acquisitions).

Disclosures related to other fair value measurements are included below in Impairment of Long-Lived Assets, in Note F (Debt) and in Note J (Retirement Benefits).

**Cash Equivalents.** All highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less at the date of purchase are considered to be cash equivalents.

**Accounts Receivable.** Accounts receivable includes trade receivables of \$217 million in 2015 and \$207 million in 2014. Other receivables totaled \$9 million in 2015 and \$8 million in 2014.

**Inventory Valuation.** Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market. The last-in, first-out (LIFO) cost method is used for valuing most U.S. inventories. Inventories of foreign subsidiaries are valued using the first-in, first-out (FIFO) cost method.

**Other Current Assets.** Amounts included in other current assets were (in thousands):

	2015	2014
Prepaid income taxes	\$ 9,844	\$ 10,849
Restricted cash	9,518	—
Prepaid expenses and other	9,715	8,525
Total	<u>\$ 29,077</u>	<u>\$ 19,374</u>

Cash balances included within other current assets were restricted to funding of certain self-insured loss reserves.

**Property, Plant and Equipment.** For financial reporting purposes, plant and equipment are depreciated over their estimated useful lives, primarily by using the straight-line method as follows:

Buildings and improvements	10 to 30 years
Leasehold improvements	lesser of 5 to 10 years or life of lease
Manufacturing equipment	lesser of 5 to 10 years or life of equipment
Office, warehouse and automotive equipment	3 to 10 years

**Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets.** Goodwill has been assigned to reporting units. Changes in the carrying amounts of goodwill for each reportable segment were (in thousands):

	Industrial	Process	Contractor	Total
Balance, December 27, 2013	\$ 156,079	\$ 21,156	\$ 12,732	\$ 189,967
Additions from business acquisitions	3,466	110,865	—	114,331
Foreign currency translation	(8,692)	(3,032)	—	(11,724)
Balance, December 26, 2014	150,853	128,989	12,732	292,574
Additions from business acquisitions	4,230	102,864	—	107,094
Foreign currency translation	(1,800)	(3,380)	—	(5,180)
Balance, December 25, 2015	<u>\$ 153,283</u>	<u>\$ 228,473</u>	<u>\$ 12,732</u>	<u>\$ 394,488</u>

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Components of other intangible assets were (dollars in thousands):

	Estimated Life (years)	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Foreign Currency Translation	Book Value
<b>December 25, 2015</b>					
Customer relationships	3 - 14	\$ 197,900	\$ (36,852)	\$ (9,738)	\$ 151,310
Patents, proprietary technology and product documentation	3 - 11	20,400	(8,952)	(658)	10,790
Trademarks, trade names and other	5	495	(132)	(94)	269
		<u>218,795</u>	<u>(45,936)</u>	<u>(10,490)</u>	<u>162,369</u>
<b>Not Subject to Amortization</b>					
Brand Names		69,514	—	(3,896)	65,618
<b>Total</b>		<u>\$ 288,309</u>	<u>\$ (45,936)</u>	<u>\$ (14,386)</u>	<u>\$ 227,987</u>
<b>December 26, 2014</b>					
Customer relationships	3 - 14	\$ 143,144	\$ (21,948)	\$ (7,334)	\$ 113,862
Patents, proprietary technology and product documentation	3 - 11	18,268	(7,126)	(655)	10,487
Trademarks, trade names and other	5	175	(44)	—	131
		<u>161,587</u>	<u>(29,118)</u>	<u>(7,989)</u>	<u>124,480</u>
<b>Not Subject to Amortization</b>					
Brand names		55,265	—	(3,467)	51,798
<b>Total</b>		<u>\$ 216,852</u>	<u>\$ (29,118)</u>	<u>\$ (11,456)</u>	<u>\$ 176,278</u>

Amortization of intangibles was \$17.2 million in 2015, \$11.6 million in 2014 and \$12.5 million in 2013. Estimated future annual amortization is as follows (excluding amounts related to businesses acquired subsequent to the end of 2015): \$17.1 million in 2016, \$16.8 million in 2017, \$16.5 million in 2018, \$16.3 million in 2019, \$16.3 million in 2020 and \$79.4 million thereafter.

**Other Assets.** Components of other assets were (in thousands):

	2015	2014
Cash surrender value of life insurance	\$ 12,856	\$ 13,187
Capitalized software	2,599	3,596
Equity method investment	6,129	5,859
Deposits and other	2,863	3,565
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$ 24,447</u>	<u>\$ 26,207</u>

The Company has entered into contracts insuring the lives of certain employees who are eligible to participate in certain non-qualified pension and deferred compensation plans. These insurance contracts will be used to fund the non-qualified pension and deferred compensation arrangements. The insurance contracts are held in a trust and are available to general creditors in the event of the Company's insolvency. Changes in cash surrender value are recorded in operating expense and were not significant in 2015 and 2014. In 2013, increases in cash surrender value totaled \$1.6 million and were offset by expenses related to the non-qualified pension and deferred compensation plans funded by the insurance contracts.

Capitalized software is amortized over its estimated useful life (generally 2 to 5 years) beginning at date of implementation.

**Impairment of Long-Lived Assets.** The Company evaluates long-lived assets (including property and equipment, goodwill and other intangible assets) for impairment whenever events or changes in business circumstances indicate the carrying value of the assets may not be recoverable. Goodwill and other intangible assets not subject to amortization are also reviewed for impairment annually in the fourth quarter. There were no write-downs of long-lived assets in the periods presented.



**Other Current Liabilities.** Components of other current liabilities were (in thousands):

	2015	2014
Accrued self-insurance retentions	\$ 6,908	\$ 7,089
Accrued warranty and service liabilities	7,870	7,609
Accrued trade promotions	8,522	7,697
Payable for employee stock purchases	8,825	9,126
Customer advances and deferred revenue	9,449	8,918
Income taxes payable	1,308	5,997
Other	32,208	23,414
Total	<u>\$ 75,090</u>	<u>\$ 69,850</u>

**Self-Insurance.** The Company is self-insured for certain losses and costs relating to product liability, workers' compensation, employee medical benefit claims and representations and warranties associated with the Liquid Finishing business divestiture. The Company has stop-loss coverage in order to limit its exposure to significant claims. Accrued self-insurance retentions are based on claims filed, estimates of claims incurred but not reported, and other actuarial assumptions. Self-insured reserves totaled \$11.2 million as of December 25, 2015, including \$4.3 million classified as other long-term liabilities in the Consolidated Balance Sheets. A portion of our self-insured losses are managed through a wholly-owned captive insurance subsidiary.

**Product Warranties.** A liability is established for estimated future warranty and service claims that relate to current and prior period sales. The Company estimates warranty costs based on historical claim experience and other factors including evaluating specific product warranty issues. Following is a summary of activity in accrued warranty and service liabilities (in thousands):

	2015	2014
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 7,609	\$ 7,771
Assumed in business acquisition	—	12
Charged to expense	6,812	6,069
Margin on parts sales reversed	1,908	1,920
Reductions for claims settled	(8,459)	(8,163)
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 7,870</u>	<u>\$ 7,609</u>

**Revenue Recognition.** Sales are recognized when revenue is realized or realizable and has been earned. The Company's policy is to recognize revenue when risk and title passes to the customer. This is generally on the date of shipment, however certain sales have terms requiring recognition when received by the customer. In cases where there are specific customer acceptance provisions, revenue is recognized at the later of customer acceptance or shipment (subject to shipping terms). Payment terms are established based on the type of product, distributor capabilities and competitive market conditions. Rights of return are typically contractually limited, amounts are estimable, and the Company records provisions for anticipated returns and warranty claims at the time revenue is recognized. Historically, sales returns have been less than 3 percent of sales. Provisions for sales returns are recorded as a reduction of net sales, and provisions for warranty claims are recorded in selling, marketing and distribution expenses. From time to time, the Company may promote the sale of new products by agreeing to accept returns of superseded products. In such cases, provisions for estimated returns are recorded as a reduction of net sales.

Trade promotions are offered to distributors and end users through various programs, generally with terms of one year or less. Such promotions include cooperative advertising arrangements, rebates based on annual purchases and sales growth, coupons and reimbursement for competitive products. Payment of incentives may take the form of cash, trade credit, promotional merchandise or free product. Under cooperative advertising arrangements, the Company reimburses the distributor for a portion of its advertising costs related to the Company's products; estimated costs are accrued at the time of sale and classified as selling, marketing and distribution expense. Rebates are accrued based on the program rates and progress toward the estimated annual sales amount and sales growth, and are recorded as a reduction of sales (cash, trade credit) or cost of products sold (free goods). The estimated costs related to coupon programs are accrued at the time of sale and classified as selling, marketing and distribution expense or cost of products sold, depending on the type of incentive offered.

**Shipping and Handling.** Shipping and handling costs incurred for the delivery of goods to customers are included in cost of goods sold in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Earnings. Amounts billed to customers for shipping and handling are included in net sales.

**Earnings Per Common Share.** Basic net earnings per share is computed by dividing earnings available to common shareholders by the weighted average number of shares outstanding during the year. Diluted net earnings per share is computed after giving effect to the exercise of all dilutive outstanding option grants.

**Comprehensive Income.** Comprehensive income is a measure of all changes in shareholders' equity except those resulting from investments by and distributions to owners, and includes such items as net earnings, certain foreign currency translation items, changes in the value of qualifying hedges and pension liability adjustments.

**Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities.** The Company accounts for all derivatives, including those embedded in other contracts, as either assets or liabilities and measures those financial instruments at fair value. The accounting for changes in the fair value of derivatives depends on their intended use and designation.

As part of its risk management program, the Company may periodically use forward exchange contracts to manage known market exposures. Terms of derivative instruments are structured to match the terms of the risk being managed and are generally held to maturity. The Company does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading purposes. All other contracts that contain provisions meeting the definition of a derivative also meet the requirements of, and have been designated as, normal purchases or sales. The Company's policy is to not enter into contracts with terms that cannot be designated as normal purchases or sales.

The Company periodically evaluates its monetary asset and liability positions denominated in foreign currencies. The Company enters into forward contracts or options, or borrows in various currencies, in order to hedge its net monetary positions. These instruments are recorded at fair value and the gains and losses are included in other expense, net. The notional amounts of contracts outstanding as of December 25, 2015, totaled \$24 million. The Company believes it uses strong financial counterparties in these transactions and that the resulting credit risk under these hedging strategies is not significant.

The Company uses significant other observable inputs (level 2 in the fair value hierarchy) to value the derivative instruments used to hedge net monetary positions, including reference to market prices and financial models that incorporate relevant market assumptions. The fair market value and balance sheet classification of such instruments follows (in thousands):

	Balance Sheet Classification	2015	2014
Gain (loss) on foreign currency forward contracts			
Gains		\$ 296	\$ 280
Losses		(189)	—
Net	Accounts receivable	\$ 107	\$ 280

**Recent Accounting Pronouncements.** In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued a final standard on revenue from contracts with customers. The new standard sets forth a single comprehensive model for recognizing and reporting revenue. The new standard is effective for the Company in its fiscal year 2018 and permits the use of either a retrospective or a cumulative effect transition method. The Company is evaluating the effect of the new standard on its consolidated financial statements and related disclosures, and has not yet selected a transition method.

Effective for 2015, the Company adopted ASU 2015-04, which allows for the measurement of defined benefit retirement obligations and related plan assets as of the calendar month-end that is closest to the plan sponsor's fiscal year-end. For 2015, the Company measured all plan obligations and assets as of December 31, 2015.

Effective at the end of 2015, the Company adopted ASU 2015-17, *Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes*, which requires all deferred tax assets and liabilities to be classified as non-current. Balances as of December 26, 2014 were restated to conform with 2015 classification, resulting in decreases in previously reported 2014 current assets and liabilities of \$20 million and \$2 million, respectively, with corresponding increases in non-current deferred tax assets and liabilities.

## B. Segment Information

The Company has six operating segments which are aggregated into three reportable segments: Industrial, Process and Contractor.

Beginning with the first quarter of 2015, the Company revised the presentation of its financial reporting segments. Operations of the Process and the Oil and Natural Gas divisions, historically included in the Industrial segment, are now aggregated with the Lubrication division (formerly reported as a separate segment) in the newly-formed Process segment. This change aligns the types of products

offered and markets served within the segments. Prior year segment information has been restated to conform to 2015 reporting. A summary of the Company's reportable segments follows.

The Industrial segment includes our Industrial Products and Applied Fluid Technologies divisions. The Industrial segment markets equipment and pre-engineered packages for moving and applying paints, coatings, sealants, adhesives and other fluids. Markets served include automotive and vehicle assembly and components production, wood and metal products, rail, marine, aerospace, farm, construction, bus, recreational vehicles, and various other industries.

The Process segment includes our Process, Oil and Natural Gas, and Lubrication divisions. The Process segment markets pumps, valves, meters and accessories to move and dispense chemicals, oil and natural gas, water, wastewater, petroleum, food, lubricants and other fluids. Markets served include food and beverage, dairy, oil and natural gas, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, electronics, wastewater, mining, fast oil change facilities, service garages, fleet service centers, automobile dealerships and industrial lubrication applications.

The Contractor segment remains unchanged. The Contractor segment markets sprayers for architectural coatings for painting, corrosion control, texture, and line striping.

The accounting policies of the segments are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies. The cost of manufacturing for each segment is based on product cost, and expenses are based on actual costs incurred along with cost allocations of shared and centralized functions based on activities performed, sales or space utilization. Depreciation expense is charged to the manufacturing or operating cost center that utilizes the asset, and is then allocated to segments on the same basis as other expenses within that cost center.

Reportable segments are defined by product. Segments are responsible for development, manufacturing, marketing and sales of their products. This allows for focused marketing and efficient product development. The segments share common purchasing, certain manufacturing, distribution and administration functions.

<b>Reportable Segments (in thousands)</b>	2015	2014	2013
<b>Net Sales</b>			
Industrial	\$ 616,069	\$ 622,343	\$ 581,503
Process	273,631	223,213	179,975
Contractor	396,785	375,574	342,546
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,286,485</b>	<b>\$ 1,221,130</b>	<b>\$ 1,104,024</b>
<b>Operating Earnings</b>			
Industrial	\$ 201,749	\$ 203,910	\$ 188,641
Process	43,833	47,830	45,136
Contractor	86,447	81,892	72,245
Unallocated corporate (expense)	(29,904)	(24,707)	(26,253)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 302,125</b>	<b>\$ 308,925</b>	<b>\$ 279,769</b>
<b>Assets</b>			
Industrial	\$ 558,799	\$ 548,868	
Process	481,677	304,903	
Contractor	205,632	176,757	
Unallocated corporate	145,244	514,250	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,391,352</b>	<b>\$ 1,544,778</b>	

Unallocated corporate (expense) is not included in management's measurement of segment performance and includes such items as stock compensation, divestiture and certain acquisition transaction costs, bad debt expense, charitable contributions, certain portions of pension expense and certain central warehouse expenses. Unallocated assets include cash, allowances and valuation reserves, deferred income taxes, certain capital items and other assets. Unallocated assets decreased in 2015 due to the sale of the Liquid Finishing business assets (see Note M, Divestiture).

<b>Geographic Information (in thousands)</b>	2015	2014	2013
Net Sales (based on customer location)			
United States	\$ 653,534	\$ 577,359	\$ 498,478
Other countries	632,951	643,771	605,546
Total	<u>\$ 1,286,485</u>	<u>\$ 1,221,130</u>	<u>\$ 1,104,024</u>
Long-lived Assets			
United States	\$ 144,571	\$ 131,131	
Other countries	33,866	30,099	
Total	<u>\$ 178,437</u>	<u>\$ 161,230</u>	

**Sales to Major Customers.** Worldwide sales to one customer in the Contractor and Industrial segments individually represented 10 percent of the Company's consolidated sales for 2015. There were no customers that accounted for 10 percent or more of consolidated sales in 2014 or 2013.

### C. Inventories

Major components of inventories were as follows (in thousands):

	2015	2014
Finished products and components	\$ 112,267	\$ 87,384
Products and components in various stages of completion	51,033	47,682
Raw materials and purchased components	82,894	69,212
	<u>246,194</u>	<u>204,278</u>
Reduction to LIFO cost	(44,058)	(44,481)
Total	<u>\$ 202,136</u>	<u>\$ 159,797</u>

Inventories valued under the LIFO method were \$109.8 million in 2015 and \$84.0 million in 2014. All other inventory was valued on the FIFO method.

### D. Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment were as follows (in thousands):

	2015	2014
Land and improvements	\$ 20,638	\$ 16,311
Buildings and improvements	127,968	123,126
Manufacturing equipment	254,409	242,978
Office, warehouse and automotive equipment	38,549	39,219
Additions in progress	19,609	12,117
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>461,173</u>	<u>433,751</u>
Accumulated depreciation	(282,736)	(272,521)
Net property, plant and equipment	<u>\$ 178,437</u>	<u>\$ 161,230</u>

Depreciation expense was \$25.7 million in 2015, \$24.1 million in 2014 and \$23.4 million in 2013.

### E. Income Taxes

In 2015, the Company asserted that it will indefinitely reinvest earnings of foreign subsidiaries to support expansion of its international business. The change in assertion decreased deferred income taxes related to undistributed foreign earnings and reduced the effective tax rate compared to prior years. As of December 25, 2015, the amount of cash held outside the United States was not significant to the Company's liquidity and was available to fund investments abroad. If the Company repatriated all foreign earnings, the estimated effect on income taxes payable would be an increase of approximately \$9 million as of December 25, 2015.

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Earnings before income tax expense consist of (in thousands):

	2015	2014	2013
Domestic	\$ 402,453	\$ 266,627	\$ 238,928
Foreign	72,260	48,446	49,894
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 474,713</b>	<b>\$ 315,073</b>	<b>\$ 288,822</b>

Income tax expense consists of (in thousands):

	2015	2014	2013
<b>Current</b>			
Domestic			
Federal	\$ 117,883	\$ 73,584	\$ 64,753
State and local	4,576	2,775	2,470
Foreign	18,115	12,263	11,569
	<u>140,574</u>	<u>88,622</u>	<u>78,792</u>
<b>Deferred</b>			
Domestic	(10,175)	2,497	(553)
Foreign	(1,399)	(1,619)	(239)
	<u>(11,574)</u>	<u>878</u>	<u>(792)</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 129,000</b>	<b>\$ 89,500</b>	<b>\$ 78,000</b>

Income taxes paid were \$150.5 million in 2015, \$92.1 million in 2014 and \$78.0 million in 2013.

A reconciliation between the U.S. federal statutory tax rate and the effective tax rate follows:

	2015	2014	2013
Statutory tax rate	35%	35%	35%
Tax effect of international operations	(3)	(1)	(1)
State taxes, net of federal effect	1	1	1
U.S. general business tax credits	(1)	(1)	(2)
Domestic production deduction	(2)	(3)	(3)
Dividends from Liquid Finishing	(3)	(3)	(3)
<b>Effective tax rate</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>27%</b>

Deferred income taxes are provided for temporary differences between the financial reporting and the tax basis of assets and liabilities. The deferred tax assets (liabilities) resulting from these differences were as follows (in thousands):

	2015	2014
Inventory valuations	\$ 8,455	\$ 9,163
Self-insurance retention accruals	1,918	2,098
Warranty reserves	2,191	2,074
Vacation accruals	3,055	3,023
Bad debt reserves	3,268	2,409
Unremitted earnings of consolidated foreign subsidiaries	—	(7,316)
Excess of tax over book depreciation	(52,667)	(50,664)
Pension liability	35,916	35,247
Postretirement medical	6,882	7,743
Acquisition costs	3,378	3,369
Stock compensation	20,817	16,657
Deferred compensation	1,372	1,350
Other	88	(399)
<b>Net deferred tax assets</b>	<b>\$ 34,673</b>	<b>\$ 24,754</b>

Total deferred tax assets were \$99.3 million and \$95.3 million, and total deferred tax liabilities were \$64.6 million and \$70.6 million on December 25, 2015 and December 26, 2014. The difference between the deferred income tax provision and the change in net deferred income taxes is due to the change in other comprehensive income (loss) items and the impact of acquisitions.

The Company files income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction, and various states and foreign jurisdictions. With few exceptions, the Company is no longer subject to U.S. federal, state and local, or non-U.S. income tax examinations by tax authorities for years before 2009.

The Company records penalties and accrued interest related to uncertain tax positions in income tax expense. Total reserves for uncertain tax positions were not material.

## F. Debt

A summary of debt follows (dollars in thousands):

	Average Interest Rate December 25, 2015	Maturity	2015	2014
Private placement unsecured fixed-rate notes				
Series A	4.00%	March 2018	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
Series B	5.01%	March 2023	75,000	75,000
Series C	4.88%	January 2020	75,000	75,000
Series D	5.35%	July 2026	75,000	75,000
Unsecured revolving credit facility	1.50%	June 2019	92,695	315,000
Notes payable to banks	0.87%	2016	15,901	5,016
Total debt, including current portion			<u>\$ 408,596</u>	<u>\$ 620,016</u>

The estimated fair value of the fixed interest rate private placement debt was \$320 million on December 25, 2015 and \$330 million on December 26, 2014. The fair value of variable rate borrowings approximates carrying value. The Company uses significant other observable inputs to estimate fair value (level 2 of the fair value hierarchy) based on the present value of future cash flows and rates that would be available for issuance of debt with similar terms and remaining maturities.

On June 26, 2014, the Company executed an amendment to its revolving credit agreement, extending the expiration date to June 26, 2019. The amended agreement with a syndicate of lenders provides up to \$500 million of committed credit, available for general corporate purposes, working capital needs, share repurchases and acquisitions. The Company may borrow up to \$50 million under the swingline portion of the facility for daily working capital needs.

Under terms of the amended revolving credit agreement, loans denominated in U.S. dollars bear interest, at the Company's option, at either a base rate or a LIBOR-based rate. Loans denominated in currencies other than U.S. dollars bear interest at a LIBOR-based rate. The base rate is an annual rate equal to a margin ranging from zero percent to 0.875 percent, depending on the Company's cash flow leverage ratio (debt to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization and extraordinary non-operating or non-cash charges and expenses) plus the highest of (i) the bank's prime rate, (ii) the federal funds rate plus 0.5 percent, or (iii) one-month LIBOR plus 1.5 percent. In general, LIBOR-based loans bear interest at LIBOR plus 1 percent to 1.875 percent, depending on the Company's cash flow leverage ratio. The Company is also required to pay a fee on the undrawn amount of the loan commitment at an annual rate ranging from 0.15 percent to 0.30 percent, depending on the Company's cash flow leverage ratio.

On December 25, 2015, the Company had \$545 million in lines of credit, including the \$500 million in committed credit facilities described above and \$45 million with foreign banks. The unused portion of committed credit lines was \$412 million as of December 25, 2015. In addition, the Company has unused, uncommitted lines of credit with foreign banks totaling \$26 million. Borrowing rates under these credit lines vary with the prime rate, rates on domestic certificates of deposit and the London Interbank market. The Company pays facility fees of up to 0.15 percent per annum on certain of these lines. No compensating balances are required.

Various debt agreements require the Company to maintain certain financial ratios as to cash flow leverage and interest coverage. The Company is in compliance with all financial covenants of its debt agreements as of December 25, 2015.



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Annual maturities of debt are as follows (in thousands):

2016	\$	15,901
2017		—
2018		75,000
2019		92,695
2020		75,000
Thereafter		150,000

Interest paid on debt was \$17.5 million in 2015, \$18.6 million in 2014 and \$18.3 million in 2013.

**G. Shareholders' Equity**

At December 25, 2015, the Company had 22,549 authorized, but not issued, cumulative preferred shares, \$100 par value. The Company also has authorized, but not issued, a separate class of 3 million shares of preferred stock, \$1 par value.

Changes in components of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax were (in thousands):

	Pension and Post- retirement Medical	Cumulative Translation Adjustment	Total
Balance, December 28, 2012	\$ (79,716)	\$ (4,029)	\$ (83,745)
Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications	23,103	7,812	30,915
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income	6,481	—	6,481
Balance, December 27, 2013	(50,132)	3,783	(46,349)
Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications	(29,563)	(27,935)	(57,498)
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income	3,111	—	3,111
Balance, December 26, 2014	(76,584)	(24,152)	(100,736)
Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications	641	(10,423)	(9,782)
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income	6,021	—	6,021
Balance, December 25, 2015	<u>\$ (69,922)</u>	<u>\$ (34,575)</u>	<u>\$ (104,497)</u>

Amounts related to pension and postretirement medical adjustments are reclassified to pension cost, which is allocated to cost of products sold and operating expenses based on salaries and wages, approximately as follows (in thousands):

	2015	2014	2013
Cost of products sold	\$ 3,370	\$ 1,701	\$ 3,635
Product development	1,352	714	1,699
Selling, marketing and distribution	3,109	1,371	2,828
General and administrative	1,543	820	2,124
Total before tax	\$ 9,374	\$ 4,606	\$ 10,286
Income tax (benefit)	(3,353)	(1,495)	(3,805)
Total after tax	<u>\$ 6,021</u>	<u>\$ 3,111</u>	<u>\$ 6,481</u>

**H. Share-Based Awards, Purchase Plans and Compensation Cost**

**Stock Option and Award Plan.** The Company has a stock incentive plan under which it grants stock options and share awards to directors, officers and other employees. Option price is the market price on the date of grant. Options become exercisable at such time, generally over three or four years, and in such installments as set by the Company, and expire ten years from the date of grant.

Restricted share awards have been made to certain key employees under the plan. The market value of restricted stock at the date of grant is charged to operations over the vesting period. Compensation cost charged to operations for restricted share awards was \$0.1 million in 2015, \$0.3 million in 2014 and \$0.5 million in 2013. Individual nonemployee directors of the Company may elect to receive, either currently or deferred, all or part of their annual retainer, and/or payment for attendance at Board or Committee meetings, in the form of shares of the Company's common stock instead of cash. Under this arrangement, the Company issued 5,963 shares in 2015, 4,867 shares in 2014 and 6,079 shares in 2013. The expense related to this arrangement is not significant. The Company has a stock appreciation plan that provides for payments of cash to eligible foreign employees based on the change in the market price of the Company's common stock over a period of time. Compensation cost related to this plan was \$0.1 million in 2015, \$1.0 million in 2014 and \$1.9 million in 2013.

Options on common shares granted and outstanding, as well as the weighted average exercise price, are shown below (in thousands, except exercise prices):

	Option Shares	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Options Exercisable	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Outstanding, December 28, 2012	5,192	\$ 34.85	3,194	\$ 32.99
Granted	969	65.97		
Exercised	(990)	33.04		
Canceled	(22)	40.71		
Outstanding, December 27, 2013	5,149	41.03	3,311	33.20
Granted	475	74.62		
Exercised	(607)	35.73		
Canceled	(42)	61.35		
Outstanding, December 26, 2014	4,975	44.72	3,318	34.86
Granted	543	74.19		
Exercised	(328)	37.28		
Canceled	(25)	72.01		
Outstanding, December 25, 2015	5,165	\$ 48.16	3,583	\$ 38.49

The following table summarizes information for options outstanding and exercisable at December 25, 2015 (in thousands, except exercise prices and contractual term amounts):

Range of Prices	Options Outstanding	Options Outstanding Weighted Avg. Remaining Contractual Term in Years	Options Outstanding Weighted Avg. Exercise Price	Options Exercisable	Options Exercisable Weighted Avg. Exercise Price
\$ 16-30	1,278	4	\$ 23.56	1,278	\$ 23.56
\$ 30-45	1,357	3	39.24	1,342	39.20
\$ 45-60	1,147	6	54.02	772	53.03
\$ 60-77	1,383	8	74.80	191	74.72
\$ 16-77	5,165	5	\$ 48.16	3,583	\$ 38.49

The aggregate intrinsic value of exercisable option shares was \$124.9 million as of December 25, 2015, with a weighted average contractual term of 4.3 years. There were approximately 5.1 million vested share options and share options expected to vest as of December 25, 2015, with an aggregate intrinsic value of \$131.8 million, a weighted average exercise price of \$48.03 and a weighted average contractual term of 5.4 years.

Information related to options exercised follows (in thousands):

	2015	2014	2013
Cash received	\$ 7,720	\$ 20,343	\$ 33,630
Aggregate intrinsic value	11,851	25,284	33,028
Tax benefit realized	3,600	8,200	11,200

**Stock Purchase Plan.** Under the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan, the purchase price of the shares is the lesser of 85 percent of the fair market value on the first day or the last day of the plan year. Under this plan, the Company issued 165,897 shares in 2015, 193,084 shares in 2014 and 196,913 shares in 2013.

**Authorized Shares.** In April 2015, shareholders of the Company approved the Graco Inc. 2015 Stock Incentive Plan. The plan provides for issuance of up to 3.5 million shares of Graco common stock. Shares authorized for issuance under the stock option and purchase plans are shown below (in thousands):

	Total Shares Authorized	Available for Future Issuance as of December 25, 2015
Stock Incentive Plan (2015)	3,500	3,450
Employee Stock Purchase Plan (2006)	7,000	4,928
Total	10,500	8,378

Amounts available for future issuance exclude outstanding options. Options outstanding as of December 25, 2015, include options granted under three plans that were replaced by subsequent plans. No shares are available for future grants under those plans.

**Share-based Compensation.** The Company recognized share-based compensation cost of \$19.2 million in 2015, \$17.2 million in 2014 and \$16.5 million in 2013, which reduced net income by \$13.8 million, or \$0.23 per weighted diluted common share in 2015, \$12.8 million, or \$0.21 per weighted diluted common share in 2014 and \$12.6 million, or \$0.20 per weighted diluted common share in 2013. As of December 25, 2015, there was \$10.8 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to unvested options, expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of approximately 1.8 years.

The fair value of each option grant is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following weighted average assumptions and results:

	2015	2014	2013
Expected life in years	6.5	6.5	5.9
Interest rate	1.7%	2.0%	1.3%
Volatility	35.0%	36.1%	35.4%
Dividend yield	1.6%	1.5%	1.6%
Weighted average fair value per share	\$ 23.18	\$ 24.83	\$ 19.44

Expected life is estimated based on vesting terms and exercise and termination history. Interest rate is based on the U.S. Treasury rate on zero-coupon issues with a remaining term equal to the expected life of the option. Expected volatility is based on historical volatility over a period commensurate with the expected life of options.

The fair value of employees' purchase rights under the Employee Stock Purchase Plan was estimated on the date of grant. The benefit of the 15 percent discount from the lesser of the fair market value per common share on the first day and the last day of the plan year was added to the fair value of the employees' purchase rights determined using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following assumptions and results:

	2015	2014	2013
Expected life in years	1.0	1.0	1.0
Interest rate	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Volatility	18.9%	21.4%	26.0%
Dividend yield	1.6%	1.4%	1.7%
Weighted average fair value per share	\$ 16.51	\$ 17.81	\$ 14.16

## I. Earnings per Share

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings per share (in thousands, except per share amounts):

	2015	2014	2013
Net earnings available to common shareholders	\$ 345,713	\$ 225,573	\$ 210,822
Weighted average shares outstanding for basic earnings per share	57,610	60,148	61,203
Dilutive effect of stock options computed based on the treasury stock method using the average market price	1,397	1,597	1,587
Weighted average shares outstanding for diluted earnings per share	59,007	61,745	62,790
Basic earnings per share	\$ 6.00	\$ 3.75	\$ 3.44
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 5.86	\$ 3.65	\$ 3.36

Stock options to purchase 1.4 million, 0.6 million and 0.4 million shares were not included in the 2015, 2014 and 2013 computations of diluted earnings per share, respectively, because they would have been anti-dilutive.

## J. Retirement Benefits

The Company has a defined contribution plan, under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code, which provides retirement benefits to most U.S. employees. For all employees who choose to participate, the Company matches employee contributions at a 100 percent rate, up to 3 percent of the employee's compensation. For employees not covered by a defined benefit plan, the Company contributes an amount equal to 1.5 percent of the employee's compensation. Employer contributions totaled \$6.3 million in 2015, \$6.9 million in 2014 and \$6.3 million in 2013.

The Company's postretirement medical plan provides certain medical benefits for retired U.S. employees. Employees hired before January 1, 2005, are eligible for these benefits upon retirement and fulfillment of other eligibility requirements as specified by the plan.

The Company has both funded and unfunded noncontributory defined benefit pension plans that together cover most U.S. employees hired before January 1, 2006, certain directors and some of the employees of the Company's non-U.S. subsidiaries.

For U.S. plans, benefits are based on years of service and the highest 5 consecutive years' earnings in the 10 years preceding retirement. The Company funds annually in amounts consistent with minimum funding levels and maximum tax deduction limits.

The Company maintains a defined contribution plan covering employees of a Swiss subsidiary, funded by Company and employee contributions. In 2013, the Company transferred responsibility for pension coverage under Swiss law to a reputable Swiss insurance company. Plan assets are invested in an insurance contract that guarantees a federally mandated annual rate of return. The value of the plan assets is effectively the value of the insurance contract. The performance of the underlying assets held by the insurance company has no direct impact on the surrender value of the insurance contract. The insurance backed assets have no active market and are classified in the "other" assets category, level 3 in the fair value hierarchy.

Investment policies and strategies of the U.S. funded pension plan are based on a long-term view of economic growth and heavily weighted toward equity securities. The primary goal of the plan's investments is to ensure that the plan's liabilities are met over time. In developing strategic asset allocation guidelines, an emphasis is placed on the long-term characteristics of individual asset classes, and the benefits of diversification among multiple asset classes. The plan invests primarily in domestic and international equities, fixed income securities, which include treasuries, highly-rated corporate bonds and high-yield bonds and real estate. The midpoints of the ranges of strategic target allocations for plan assets are 58 percent equity securities, 31 percent fixed income securities and 11 percent real estate and alternative investments.

Plan assets are held in a trust for the benefit of plan participants and are invested in various commingled funds, most of which are sponsored by the trustee. Equity securities are valued using quoted prices in active markets. The fair values for commingled equity and fixed-income funds, international equity funds, and real estate investments are measured using net asset values, which take into consideration the value of underlying fund investments, as well as the other accrued assets and liabilities of a fund, in order to determine a per share market value. Commingled fund and international equity funds are classified as level 2 because the net asset value is not directly traded on an active exchange. Certain trustee-sponsored funds allow redemptions monthly or quarterly, with 10 or 60 days advance notice, while most of the funds allow redemptions daily.

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Level 3 assets in the U.S. funded pension plan consist primarily of investments in real estate investment trust funds whose assets are valued at least annually by independent appraisal firms, using market, income and cost approaches. Significant unobservable quantitative inputs used in determining the fair value of each investment include cash flow assumptions, capitalization rates and discount rates. These inputs are subject to change based on changes in economic and market conditions and/or changes in use or timing of exit. Changes in cash flows, discount rates and terminal capitalization rates will result in increases or decreases in the fair values of these investments. It is not possible for us to predict the effect of future economic or market conditions on the estimated fair values of plan assets.

Plan assets by category and fair value measurement level were as follows (in thousands):

	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>December 25, 2015</b>				
<b>Equity</b>				
U.S. Large Cap	\$ 77,811	\$ —	\$ 77,811	\$ —
U.S. Small/Mid Cap	12,759	—	12,759	—
International	49,952	—	49,952	—
Total Equity	140,522	—	140,522	—
Fixed income	42,251	—	36,711	5,540
Insurance contract	28,080	—	—	28,080
Real estate and other	57,405	6,578	16,048	34,779
Total	\$ 268,258	\$ 6,578	\$ 193,281	\$ 68,399
<b>December 26, 2014</b>				
<b>Equity</b>				
U.S. Large Cap	\$ 92,272	\$ —	\$ 92,272	\$ —
U.S. Small/Mid Cap	14,948	—	14,948	—
International	45,958	—	45,958	—
Total Equity	153,178	—	153,178	—
Fixed income	53,548	—	40,693	12,855
Insurance contract	28,899	—	—	28,899
Real estate and other	41,583	1,356	15,008	25,219
Total	\$ 277,208	\$ 1,356	\$ 208,879	\$ 66,973

A reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances of level 3 plan assets follows:

	2015	2014
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 66,973	\$ 25,844
Transfer from level 2 (insurance contract)	—	31,271
Purchases	7,463	12,914
Redemptions	(10,958)	(3,849)
Change in unrealized gains (losses)	4,921	793
Balance, end of year	\$ 68,399	\$ 66,973

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The following provides a reconciliation of the changes in the plans' benefit obligations and fair value of assets over the periods ending December 25, 2015, and December 26, 2014, and a statement of the funded status as of the same dates (in thousands):

	Pension Benefits		Postretirement Medical Benefits	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
<b>Change in benefit obligation</b>				
Obligation, beginning of year	\$ 389,692	\$ 352,271	\$ 22,764	\$ 21,342
Service cost	8,406	6,846	542	486
Interest cost	14,790	15,944	954	981
Actuarial loss (gain)	(15,465)	44,290	14	1,037
Plan changes	(179)	—	—	—
Benefit payments	(12,505)	(23,593)	(1,063)	(1,082)
Settlements	(2,684)	—	—	—
Exchange rate changes	(1,383)	(6,066)	—	—
Obligation, end of year	<u>\$ 380,672</u>	<u>\$ 389,692</u>	<u>\$ 23,211</u>	<u>\$ 22,764</u>
<b>Change in plan assets</b>				
Fair value, beginning of year	\$ 277,208	\$ 280,607	\$ —	\$ —
Actual return on assets	4,311	21,622	—	—
Employer contributions	1,979	1,814	1,063	1,082
Benefit payments	(12,505)	(23,593)	(1,063)	(1,082)
Settlements	(2,684)	—	—	—
Exchange rate changes	(51)	(3,242)	—	—
Fair value, end of year	<u>\$ 268,258</u>	<u>\$ 277,208</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ —</u>
Funded status	<u>\$ (112,414)</u>	<u>\$ (112,484)</u>	<u>\$ (23,211)</u>	<u>\$ (22,764)</u>

Amounts recognized in consolidated balance sheets

Current liabilities	\$ 1,166	\$ 1,308	\$ 1,282	\$ 1,165
Non-current liabilities	111,248	111,176	21,929	21,599
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 112,414</u>	<u>\$ 112,484</u>	<u>\$ 23,211</u>	<u>\$ 22,764</u>

The accumulated benefit obligation as of year-end for all defined benefit pension plans was \$355 million for 2015 and \$361 million for 2014. Information for plans with an accumulated benefit obligation in excess of plan assets follows (in thousands):

	2015	2014
Projected benefit obligation	\$ 380,672	\$ 389,692
Accumulated benefit obligation	354,918	360,945
Fair value of plan assets	268,258	277,208

The components of net periodic benefit cost for the plans for 2015, 2014 and 2013 were as follows (in thousands):

	Pension Benefits			Postretirement Medical Benefits		
	2015	2014	2013	2015	2014	2013
Service cost-benefits earned during the period	\$ 8,406	\$ 6,846	\$ 7,447	\$ 542	\$ 486	\$ 626
Interest cost on projected benefit obligation	14,790	15,944	14,149	954	981	961
Expected return on assets	(19,442)	(21,253)	(18,508)	—	—	—
Amortization of prior service cost (credit)	268	320	8	(676)	(658)	(658)
Amortization of net loss (gain)	9,459	4,929	10,456	323	15	480
Cost of pension plans which are not significant and have not adopted ASC 715	79	80	94	N/A	N/A	N/A
Net periodic benefit cost	<u>\$ 13,560</u>	<u>\$ 6,866</u>	<u>\$ 13,646</u>	<u>\$ 1,143</u>	<u>\$ 824</u>	<u>\$ 1,409</u>



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Amounts recognized in other comprehensive (income) loss in 2015 and 2014 were as follows (in thousands):

	Pension Benefits		Postretirement Medical Benefits	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Net loss (gain) arising during the period	\$ (833)	\$ 42,733	\$ 14	\$ 1,037
Prior service cost (credit) arising during the period	(179)	—	—	—
Amortization of net gain (loss)	(9,459)	(4,929)	(323)	(15)
Amortization of prior service credit (cost)	(268)	(320)	676	658
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (10,739)</b>	<b>\$ 37,484</b>	<b>\$ 367</b>	<b>\$ 1,680</b>

Amounts included in accumulated other comprehensive (income) loss as of December 25, 2015 and December 26, 2014, that had not yet been recognized as components of net periodic benefit cost, were as follows (in thousands):

	Pension Benefits		Postretirement Medical Benefits	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Prior service cost (credit)	\$ 2,232	\$ 2,658	\$ (1,110)	\$ (1,786)
Net loss	100,985	111,298	4,038	4,347
Net before income taxes	103,217	113,956	2,928	2,561
Income taxes	(35,169)	(39,011)	(1,054)	(922)
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 68,048</b>	<b>\$ 74,945</b>	<b>\$ 1,874</b>	<b>\$ 1,639</b>

Amounts included in accumulated other comprehensive (income) loss that are expected to be recognized as components of net periodic benefit cost in 2016 were as follows (in thousands):

	Pension Benefits	Postretirement Medical Benefits
Prior service cost (credit)	\$ 269	\$ (766)
Net loss (gain)	7,354	216
Net before income taxes	7,623	(550)
Income taxes	(2,744)	198
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 4,879</b>	<b>\$ (352)</b>

Assumptions used to determine the Company's benefit obligations are shown below:

Weighted average assumptions	Pension Benefits		Postretirement Medical Benefits	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
<b>U.S. Plans</b>				
Discount rate	4.7%	4.2%	4.7%	4.2%
Rate of compensation increase	3.0%	3.0%	N/A	N/A
<b>Non-U.S. Plans</b>				
Discount rate	1.1%	1.5%	N/A	N/A
Rate of compensation increase	1.3%	1.3%	N/A	N/A

Assumptions used to determine the Company's net periodic benefit cost are shown below:

Weighted average assumptions	Pension Benefits			Postretirement Medical Benefits		
	2015	2014	2013	2015	2014	2013
<b>U.S. Plans</b>						
Discount rate	4.2%	5.0%	4.2%	4.2%	5.0%	4.2%
Rate of compensation increase	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Expected return on assets	7.8%	8.5%	8.5%	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Non-U.S. Plans</b>						
Discount rate	1.4%	2.5%	2.3%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rate of compensation increase	1.3%	1.3%	1.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Expected return on assets	2.0%	2.0%	3.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Several sources of information are considered in determining the expected rate of return assumption, including the allocation of plan assets, the input of actuaries and professional investment advisors, and historical long-term returns. In setting the return assumption, the Company recognizes that historical returns are not always indicative of future returns and also considers the long-term nature of its pension obligations.

The Company's U.S. retirement medical plan limits the annual cost increase that will be paid by the Company to 3 percent. In measuring the accumulated postretirement benefit obligation (APBO), the annual trend rate for health care costs was assumed to be 7.1 percent for 2016, decreasing each year to a constant rate of 4.5 percent for 2038 and thereafter, subject to the plan's annual increase limitation.

At December 25, 2015, a one percent change in assumed health care cost trend rates would not have a significant impact on the service and interest cost components of net periodic postretirement health care benefit cost or the APBO for health care benefits.

The Company expects to contribute \$2.1 million to its unfunded pension plans and \$1.3 million to the postretirement medical plan in 2016. The Company will not be required to make contributions to the funded pension plan under minimum funding requirements for 2016. Estimated future benefit payments are as follows (in thousands):

	Pension Benefits	Postretirement Medical Benefits
2016	\$ 17,576	\$ 1,282
2017	15,825	1,395
2018	17,185	1,466
2019	17,713	1,559
2020	19,302	1,662
Years 2021 - 2025	110,344	8,777

## K. Commitments and Contingencies

**Lease Commitments.** Aggregate annual rental commitments under operating leases with noncancelable terms of more than one year were as follows at December 25, 2015 (in thousands):

	Buildings	Vehicles & Equipment	Total
2016	\$ 4,508	\$ 2,490	\$ 6,998
2017	3,924	2,173	6,097
2018	3,297	1,535	4,832
2019	3,272	1,147	4,419
2020	2,553	793	3,346
Thereafter	5,925	715	6,640
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 23,479</b>	<b>\$ 8,853</b>	<b>\$ 32,332</b>

Total rental expense was \$6.9 million in 2015, \$5.0 million in 2014 and \$3.6 million in 2013.

**Other Commitments.** The Company is committed to pay suppliers under the terms of open purchase orders issued in the normal course of business totaling approximately \$81 million at December 25, 2015. The Company also has commitments with certain suppliers to purchase minimum quantities, and under the terms of certain agreements, the Company is committed for certain portions of the supplier’s inventory. The Company does not purchase, or commit to purchase, quantities in excess of normal usage or amounts that cannot be used within one year. The Company estimates that the maximum commitment amount under such agreements does not exceed \$31 million. In addition, the Company could be obligated to perform under standby letters of credit totaling \$2 million at December 25, 2015. The Company has also guaranteed the debt of its subsidiaries for up to \$9 million. All debt of subsidiaries is reflected in the consolidated balance sheets.

**Contingencies.** The Company is party to various legal proceedings arising in the normal course of business. The Company is actively pursuing and defending these matters and has recorded an estimate of the probable costs where appropriate. Management does not expect that resolution of these matters will have a material adverse effect on the Company, although the ultimate outcome cannot be determined based on available information.

**L. Acquisitions**

On January 20, 2015, the Company completed the acquisition of High Pressure Equipment Holdings, LLC (“HiP”) for \$161 million cash. HiP designs and manufactures valves, fittings and other flow control equipment engineered to perform in ultra-high pressure environments. HiP’s products and business relationships enhance Graco’s position in the oil and natural gas industry and complement Graco’s core competencies of designing and manufacturing advanced flow control technologies. HiP had sales of \$38 million in 2014. Results of HiP operations, including \$29 million of sales, have been included in the Company’s Process segment from the date of acquisition.

Purchase consideration was allocated to assets acquired and liabilities assumed based on estimated fair values as follows (in thousands):

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	1,904
Accounts receivable		4,714
Inventories		7,605
Other current assets		69
Property, plant and equipment		1,962
Deferred income taxes		1,840
Identifiable intangible assets		60,100
Goodwill		86,149
<b>Total assets acquired</b>		<b>164,343</b>
Liabilities assumed		(3,414)
<b>Net assets acquired</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>160,929</b>

Identifiable intangible assets and estimated useful life are as follows (dollars in thousands):

	\$	Estimated Life (years)
Customer relationships	47,100	12
Trade names	13,000	Indefinite
<b>Total identifiable intangible assets</b>	<b>\$ 60,100</b>	

Approximately two-thirds of the goodwill acquired with HiP is deductible for tax purposes.

On January 2, 2015, the Company acquired White Knight Fluid Handling (“White Knight”) for \$16 million cash and a commitment for additional consideration if future revenues exceed certain thresholds, initially valued at \$8 million. The maximum payout is not limited. White Knight designs and manufactures high purity, metal-free pumps used in the production process of manufacturing semiconductors, solar panels, LED flat panel displays and various other electronics. The products, brands and distribution channels of White Knight expand and complement the offerings of the Company’s Process segment. The purchase price was allocated based on estimated fair values, including \$12 million of goodwill, \$9 million of other identifiable intangible assets and \$3 million of net tangible assets.

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On October 1, 2014, the Company acquired the stock of Alco Valves Group (“Alco”) for £72 million cash, subject to normal post-closing purchase price adjustments. Alco is a United Kingdom based manufacturer of high quality, high pressure valves used in the oil and natural gas industry and in other industrial processes. Alco’s products and business relationships enhance Graco’s position in the oil and natural gas industry and complement Graco’s core competencies of designing and manufacturing advanced flow control technologies. Alco revenues for the twelve months preceding the acquisition were approximately £19 million. Results of Alco operations have been included in the Company’s Process segment starting from the date of acquisition, including sales of \$23 million in 2015 and \$6 million in 2014.

Purchase consideration was allocated to assets acquired and liabilities assumed based on estimated fair values as follows (in thousands):

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	1,929
Accounts receivable		9,821
Inventories		9,196
Other current assets		343
Property, plant and equipment		1,047
Other non-current assets		225
Identifiable intangible assets		30,348
Goodwill		77,545
Total assets acquired		130,454
Current liabilities assumed		(3,214)
Deferred income taxes		(6,266)
Net assets acquired	\$	<u>120,974</u>

Post-closing working capital adjustments that completed the Alco purchase price allocation, acquired in the fourth quarter of 2014, resulted in a \$4 million addition to goodwill in the first quarter of 2015.

None of the goodwill acquired with Alco is deductible for tax purposes.

Identifiable intangible assets and estimated useful life are as follows (dollars in thousands):

		Estimated Life (years)
Customer relationships	\$ 22,883	10
Trade names	7,465	Indefinite
Total identifiable intangible assets	<u>\$ 30,348</u>	

In 2014, the Company paid \$65 million cash to acquire a manufacturer of fluid management solutions for environmental monitoring and remediation, markets where Graco had little or no previous exposure. The acquired business expands and complements the Company’s Process segment. The purchase price was allocated based on estimated fair values, including \$37 million of goodwill, \$22 million of other identifiable intangible assets and \$6 million of net tangible assets.

The Company completed other business acquisitions in 2015, 2014 and 2013 that were not material to the consolidated financial statements.

**Subsequent event.** In January 2016, the Company completed the acquisitions of Geotechnical Instruments (U.K.) Limited (“Geotec”), a manufacturer of portable and fixed gas analyzers for landfill, biogas and medical applications, and Landtec North America Inc., which manufactures landfill gas wellhead equipment and serves as the North American sales channel for Geotec. These acquisitions enhance and complement the Company’s position in environmental monitoring and remediation markets, and will be included in our Process segment.

**M. Divestiture**

In April 2012, the Company purchased the finishing businesses of Illinois Tool Works Inc. The acquisition included finishing equipment operations, technologies and brands of the Powder Finishing and Liquid Finishing businesses. Results of the Powder Finishing businesses have been included in the Industrial segment since the date of acquisition.

Under terms of a hold separate order from the Federal Trade Commission, the Company did not have the power to direct the activities of the Liquid Finishing businesses that most significantly impacted the economic performance of those businesses. Consequently, we reflected our investment in the Liquid Finishing businesses as a cost-method investment on our balance sheet, and their results of operations were not consolidated with those of the Company.

In April 2015, the Company sold the Liquid Finishing business assets for a price of \$610 million cash. Held separate investment income includes the pre-tax gain on sale of \$150 million, net of transaction and other related expenses, including a \$7 million contribution to the Company's charitable foundation. Held separate investment income also includes dividends of \$42 million. Net earnings include after-tax gain and dividends totaling \$141 million. Dividends received from after-tax earnings of Liquid Finishing included in investment income totaled \$28 million in 2014 and \$28 million in 2013. No further Liquid Finishing dividends will be received.

**N. Quarterly Financial Information (unaudited)**

(In thousands, except per share amounts)	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
<b>2015</b>				
Net Sales	\$ 306,453	\$ 335,489	\$ 318,986	\$ 325,557
Gross Profit	162,129	180,623	170,196	171,752
Net Earnings	68,841	172,637	50,691	53,544
Basic Net Earnings per Common Share	\$ 1.17	\$ 2.96	\$ 0.88	\$ 0.96
Diluted Net Earnings per Common Share	1.14	2.90	0.86	0.94
Cash Dividends Declared per Common Share	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.33
<b>2014</b>				
Net Sales	\$ 289,962	\$ 322,549	\$ 302,614	\$ 306,005
Gross Profit	159,312	176,850	165,814	164,760
Net Earnings	50,745	66,236	59,551	49,041
Basic Net Earnings per Common Share	\$ 0.83	\$ 1.10	\$ 0.99	\$ 0.83
Diluted Net Earnings per Common Share	0.81	1.07	0.97	0.80
Cash Dividends Declared per Common Share	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.30

**Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure**

None.

**Item 9A. Controls and Procedures**

**Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

As of the end of the fiscal year covered by this report, the Company carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of its disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act)). This evaluation was done under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, the Vice President, Corporate Controller and Information Systems, and the Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary. Based upon that evaluation, they concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

**Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

The information under the heading "Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting" in Part II, Item 8, of this 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K is incorporated herein by reference.

**Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The information under the heading "Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm: Internal Control Over Financial Reporting" in Part II, Item 8, of this 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K is incorporated herein by reference.

**Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

During the fourth quarter, there was no change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that has materially affected or is reasonably likely to materially affect the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

**Item 9B. Other Information**

Not applicable.



## **PART III**

### **Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance**

The information under the heading “Executive Officers of Our Company” in Part I of this 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K and the information under the heading “Board of Directors” in our Company’s Proxy Statement for its 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on April 22, 2016 (the “Proxy Statement”), is incorporated herein by reference.

#### **Audit Committee Members and Audit Committee Financial Expert**

The information under the heading “Committees of the Board of Directors” in our Company’s Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

#### **Corporate Governance Guidelines, Committee Charters and Code of Ethics**

Our Company has adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines and Charters for each of the Audit, Governance, and Management Organization and Compensation Committees of the Board of Directors. We have also issued a Code of Ethics and Business Conduct (“Code of Ethics”) that applies to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer, all officers, directors, and employees of Graco Inc. and all of its subsidiaries, representative offices and branches worldwide. The Corporate Governance Guidelines, Committee Charters, and Code of Ethics, with any amendments or waivers thereto, may be accessed free of charge by visiting the Graco website at [www.graco.com](http://www.graco.com).

Our Company intends to post on the Graco website any amendment to, or waiver from, a provision of the Code of Ethics that applies to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer, controller and other persons performing similar functions within four business days following the date of such amendment or waiver.

#### **Section 16(a) Reporting Compliance**

The information under the heading “Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance” in the Company’s Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

### **Item 11. Executive Compensation**

The information contained under the headings “Director Compensation,” “Executive Compensation,” “Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation” and “Report of the Management Organization and Compensation Committee” in the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

### **Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters**

The information contained under the headings “Equity Compensation Plan Information” and “Beneficial Ownership of Shares” in the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

### **Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence**

The information under the headings “Related Person Transaction Approval Policy” and “Director Independence” in the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

### **Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services**

The information under the headings “Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm Fees and Services” and “Pre-Approval Policies” in the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

**PART IV**

**Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules**

(a) The following documents are filed as part of this report:

	<u>Page</u>
(1) <a href="#">Financial Statements</a>	31
(2) Financial Statement Schedule <a href="#">Schedule II – Valuation and Qualifying Accounts</a>	58
All other schedules are omitted because they are not applicable, or are not required, or because the required information is included in the Consolidated Financial Statements or Notes thereto.	
(3) <a href="#">Management Contract, Compensatory Plan or Arrangement. (See Exhibit Index)</a>	60
Those entries marked by an asterisk are Management Contracts, Compensatory Plans or Arrangements.	

**Schedule II - Valuation and Qualifying Accounts**

Graco Inc. and Subsidiaries  
(in thousands)

	Balance at beginning of year	Additions charged to costs and expenses	Deductions from reserves <sup>1</sup>	Other add (deduct) <sup>2</sup>	Balance at end of year
<b>Year ended</b>					
<b>December 25, 2015</b>					
Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,500	\$ 900	\$ —	\$ 3,000
Allowance for returns and credits	5,700	24,600	23,000	100	7,400
	<u>\$ 8,100</u>	<u>\$ 26,100</u>	<u>\$ 23,900</u>	<u>\$ 100</u>	<u>\$ 10,400</u>
<b>December 26, 2014</b>					
Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$ 1,300	\$ 800	\$ 300	\$ 600	\$ 2,400
Allowance for returns and credits	5,000	22,400	21,700	—	5,700
	<u>\$ 6,300</u>	<u>\$ 23,200</u>	<u>\$ 22,000</u>	<u>\$ 600</u>	<u>\$ 8,100</u>
<b>December 27, 2013</b>					
Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$ 2,100	\$ 600	\$ 1,400	\$ —	\$ 1,300
Allowance for returns and credits	4,500	17,300	16,800	—	5,000
	<u>\$ 6,600</u>	<u>\$ 17,900</u>	<u>\$ 18,200</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 6,300</u>

<sup>1</sup> For doubtful accounts, represents amounts determined to be uncollectible and charged against reserve, net of collections on accounts previously charged against reserves. For returns and credits, represents amounts of credits issued and returns processed.

<sup>2</sup> Includes amounts assumed or established in connection with acquisitions and effects of foreign currency translation.

**Signatures**

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

**Graco Inc.**

/s/ PATRICK J. MCHALE

February 16, 2016

Patrick J. McHale  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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

/s/ PATRICK J. MCHALE

February 16, 2016

Patrick J. McHale  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
*(Principal Executive Officer)*

/s/ CHRISTIAN E. ROTHE

February 16, 2016

Christian E. Rothe  
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer  
*(Principal Financial Officer)*

/s/ CAROLINE M. CHAMBERS

February 16, 2016

Caroline M. Chambers  
Vice President, Corporate Controller and Information Systems  
*(Principal Accounting Officer)*

Lee R. Mitau	Director, Chairman of the Board
William J. Carroll	Director
Eric P. Etchart	Director
Jack W. Eugster	Director
Jody H. Feragen	Director
J. Kevin Gilligan	Director
Patrick J. McHale	Director
Martha A. Morfitt	Director
R. William Van Sant	Director

Patrick J. McHale, by signing his name hereto, does hereby sign this document on behalf of himself and each of the above named directors of the Registrant pursuant to powers of attorney duly executed by such persons.

/s/ PATRICK J. MCHALE

February 16, 2016

Patrick J. McHale  
*(For himself and as attorney-in-fact)*

**Exhibit Index**

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
2.1	Asset Purchase Agreement, dated April 14, 2011, by and among Graco Inc., Graco Holdings Inc., Graco Minnesota Inc., Illinois Tool Works Inc. and ITW Finishing LLC (excluding schedules and exhibits, which the Company agrees to furnish supplementally to the Securities and Exchange Commission upon request). (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed April 15, 2011.) First Amendment dated April 2, 2012. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed April 2, 2012.)
2.2	Asset Purchase Agreement, dated October 7, 2014, by and among Carlisle Companies Incorporated, Carlisle Fluid Technologies, Inc., Graco Inc. and Finishing Brands Holdings Inc. (excluding schedules and exhibits, which the Company agrees to furnish supplementally to the Securities and Exchange Commission upon request). (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed October 9, 2014.) First amendment dated March 6, 2015. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed on March 9, 2015.)
**2.3	Agreement relating to the sale and purchase of the entire issued share capital of Xamol Limited to acquire Alco Valves Group, dated as of October 1, 2014 (excluding certain schedules and exhibits, which the Company agrees to furnish supplementally to the Securities and Exchange Commission upon request). (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended September 26, 2014.)
2.4	Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated as of December 31, 2014, by and among High Pressure Equipment Holdings LLC, Wasserstein Partners III, LP, Wasserstein Partners III (Offshore), L.P., Wasserstein Partners III (Offshore), LTD, Audax Mezzanine Fund III, L.P., Audax Co-Invest III, L.P., Audax Trust Co-Invest, L.P., certain other Sellers, Wasserstein Partners III (GP), LP, Graco Fluid Handling (C) Inc. and Graco Inc. (excluding certain schedules and exhibits, which the Company agrees to furnish supplementally to the Securities and Exchange Commission upon request). (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed January 6, 2015.)
3.1	Restated Articles of Incorporation as amended June 13, 2014. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed June 16, 2014.)
3.2	Restated Bylaws as amended February 14, 2014. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's 2013 Annual Report on Form 10-K.)
*10.1	Graco Inc. Incentive Bonus Plan. (Incorporated by reference to Appendix A to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed March 7, 2012.)
*10.2	Employee Stock Incentive Plan, as adopted by the Board of Directors on February 19, 1999. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.23 to the Company's 2002 Annual Report on Form 10-K.) Amended and restated June 18, 2004. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended April 1, 2005.)
*10.3	Graco Inc. Stock Incentive Plan. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended June 29, 2001.) Amended and restated June 18, 2004. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended April 1, 2005.)
*10.4	Graco Inc. Amended and Restated Stock Incentive Plan (2006). (Incorporated by reference to Appendix A to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed March 14, 2006.)
*10.5	Graco Inc. 2010 Stock Incentive Plan. (Incorporated by reference to Appendix A to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed March 11, 2010.)
*10.6	Graco Inc. 2015 Stock Incentive Plan. (Incorporated by reference to Appendix A to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on March 11, 2015.)
*10.7	Deferred Compensation Plan Restated, effective December 1, 1992. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K dated March 11, 1993.) First Amendment dated September 1, 1996. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended June 27, 1997.) Second Amendment dated May 27, 2000. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to the Company's 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K.) Third Amendment adopted on December 19, 2002. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to the Company's 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K.) Fourth Amendment adopted June 14, 2007. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended June 29, 2007.)
*10.8	Deferred Compensation Plan (2005 Statement) as amended and restated on April 4, 2005. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended July 1, 2005.) Second Amendment dated November 1, 2005. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.8 to the Company's 2005 Annual Report on Form 10-K.) Third Amendment adopted on December 29, 2008. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.8 to the Company's 2008 Annual Report on Form 10-K.) Second Amendment dated October 25, 2012. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to the Company's 2012 Annual Report on Form 10-K.)

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- \*10.9 Graco Restoration Plan (2005 Statement). (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended September 29, 2006.) First Amendment adopted December 8, 2006. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to the Company's 2006 Annual Report on Form 10-K.) Second Amendment adopted August 15, 2007. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended September 28, 2007.) Third Amendment adopted March 27, 2008. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended March 28, 2008.) Fourth Amendment adopted December 29, 2008. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to the Company's 2008 Annual Report on Form 10-K.) Fifth Amendment adopted September 16, 2010. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended September 24, 2010.)
- \*10.10 Graco Inc. Retirement Plan for Nonemployee Directors. (Incorporated by reference to Attachment C to Item 5 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended March 29, 1991.) First Amendment adopted on December 29, 2008. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to the Company's 2008 Annual Report on Form 10-K.)
- \*10.11 Form of Amendment to Executive Officer and Non-Employee Director Stock Options to Permit Net Exercises, as adopted by the Board of Directors February 17, 2012. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended March 30, 2012.)
- \*10.12 Stock Option Agreement. Form of agreement for award of nonstatutory stock options to nonemployee directors under the Graco Inc. Stock Incentive Plan in 2005 and 2006. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended March 26, 2004.)
- \*10.13 Stock Option Agreement. Form of agreement used for award of nonstatutory stock options to nonemployee directors under the Graco Inc. Amended and Restated Stock Incentive Plan (2006). (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended June 29, 2007.) Amended form of agreement for awards made to nonemployee directors in 2008. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended June 27, 2008.) Amended and restated form of agreement for awards made to nonemployee directors in 2009. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to the Company's 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K/A.)
- \*10.14 Stock Option Agreement. Form of agreement used for award of nonstatutory stock options to nonemployee directors under the Graco Inc. 2010 Stock Incentive Plan in 2011. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to the Company's 2010 Annual Report on Form 10-K.) Amended form of agreement for awards made to nonemployee directors commencing in 2012 (and subsequently used for awards made to nonemployee directors under the Graco Inc. 2015 Stock Incentive Plan in 2015). (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended March 30, 2012.)
- \*10.15 Stock Option Agreement. Form of agreement for award of non-incentive stock options to executive officers under the Graco Inc. Stock Incentive Plan in 2005 and 2006. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended March 26, 2004.)
- \*10.16 Stock Option Agreement. Form of agreement used for award of non-incentive stock options to executive officers under the Graco Inc. Amended and Restated Stock Incentive Plan (2006) in 2007. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended March 30, 2007.) Amended form of agreement for awards made to executive officers in 2008, 2009 and 2010. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended March 28, 2008.)
- \*10.17 Stock Option Agreement. Form of agreement used for award of non-incentive stock options to Chief Executive Officer under the Graco Inc. Amended and Restated Stock Incentive Plan (2006) in 2007. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended March 30, 2007.) Amended form of agreement for awards made to Chief Executive Officer in 2008, 2009 and 2010. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended March 28, 2008.)
- \*10.18 Stock Option Agreement. Form of agreement used for award of non-incentive stock options to executive officers under the Graco Inc. 2010 Stock Incentive Plan in 2011. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended April 1, 2011.) Amended form of agreement for awards made to executive officers commencing in 2012. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended March 30, 2012.)
- \*10.19 Stock Option Agreement. Form of agreement used for award of non-incentive stock options to Chief Executive Officer under the Graco Inc. 2010 Stock Incentive Plan in 2011. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended April 1, 2011.) Amended form of agreement for awards made to Chief Executive Officer commencing in 2012. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended March 30, 2012.)
- \*10.20 Nonemployee Director Stock and Deferred Stock Program. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.22 to the Company's 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K/A.)
- \*10.21 Key Employee Agreement. Form of agreement used with Chief Executive Officer. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.24 to the Company's 2007 Annual Report on Form 10-K.)



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- \*10.22 Key Employee Agreement. Form of agreement used with executive officers other than the Chief Executive Officer. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25 to the Company's 2007 Annual Report on Form 10-K.)
- \*10.23 Executive Group Long-Term Disability Policy as revised in 1995. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.23 to the Company's 2004 Annual Report on Form 10-K.) Enhanced by Supplemental Income Protection Plan in 2004. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.28 to the Company's 2007 Annual Report on Form 10-K.)
- 10.24 Omnibus Amendment, dated June 26, 2014, amending and restating the Credit Agreement among Graco Inc., the borrowing subsidiaries from time to time party thereto, the banks from time to time party thereto and U.S. Bank National Association, as administrative agent. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed July 1, 2014.)
- 10.25 Note Agreement, dated March 11, 2011, between Graco Inc. and the Purchasers listed on the Purchaser Schedule attached thereto, which includes as exhibits the form of Senior Notes. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed March 16, 2011.) Amendment No. 1 dated May 23, 2011. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q for the thirteen weeks ended July 1, 2011.) Amendment and Restatement No. 1 to Note Agreement dated as of March 27, 2012. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed April 2, 2012.) Amendment No. 2 dated as of June 26, 2014 to Note Agreement dated as of March 11, 2011. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Report on Form 10-Q filed July 23, 2014.)
- 10.26 Agreement between Graco Inc., Illinois Tool Works Inc., and ITW Finishing LLC, as the Respondents, and Counsel for the Federal Trade Commission. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed March 27, 2012.)
- 10.27 Agreement Containing Consent Orders, by and between Graco Inc., Illinois Tool Works Inc., and ITW Finishing LLC, as the Respondents, and Counsel for the Federal Trade Commission. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed June 6, 2012.)
- 10.28 Decision and Order by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission in the matter of Graco Inc., Illinois Tool Works Inc. and ITW Finishing LLC. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Report on Form 8-K filed October 8, 2014.)
- 11 Statement of Computation of Earnings per share included in Note I on page 47
- 21 Subsidiaries of the Company
- 23 Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm's Consent
- 24 Power of Attorney
- 31.1 Certification of President and Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a)
- 32 Certification of President and Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 1350 of Title 18, U.S.C.
- 101 Interactive Data File

Except as otherwise noted, all documents incorporated by reference above relate to File No. 001-09249.

\* Management Contracts, Compensatory Plans or Arrangements.

\*\* Certain portions of this exhibit have been omitted pursuant to a request for confidential treatment and have been filed separately with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Pursuant to Item 601(b)(4)(iii) of Regulation S-K, copies of certain instruments defining the rights of holders of certain long-term debt of the Company and its subsidiaries are not filed as exhibits because the amount of debt authorized under any such instrument does not exceed 10 percent of the total assets of the Company and its subsidiaries. The Company agrees to furnish copies thereof to the Securities and Exchange Commission upon request.

**Exhibit 21****Subsidiaries of Graco Inc.**

The following are subsidiaries of the Company as of December 25, 2015.

Subsidiary	Jurisdiction of Organization	Ownership Type <sup>1</sup>	Percent Owned
Alco Components Limited	England and Wales, UK	Indirect	100%
Alco Hi-Tek Limited	England and Wales, UK	Indirect	100%
Alco Process Valves Limited	England and Wales, UK	Indirect	100%
Alco Sub-Tek Limited	England and Wales, UK	Indirect	100%
Alco Valves Group Limited	England and Wales, UK	Indirect	100%
Alco Valves Inc.	Canada	Indirect	100%
Alco Valves Limited	England and Wales, UK	Indirect	100%
Alco Valves Singapore PTE Limited	England and Wales, UK	Indirect	100%
Alco Valves (US), Inc.	Texas, USA	Indirect	100%
Ecoquip Inc.	Virginia, USA	Direct	100%
Gema Europe s.r.l.	Italy	Indirect	100%
Gema México Powder Finishing, S. de R.L. de C.V.	Mexico	Direct & Indirect	100%
Gema (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.	P.R. China	Indirect	100%
Gema Switzerland GmbH	Switzerland	Indirect	100%
Gema USA Inc.	Minnesota, USA	Direct	100%
GFEC Free Zone Uruguay S.A.	Uruguay	Indirect	100%
GFEC Uruguay S.A.	Uruguay	Indirect	100%
GG Manufacturing s.r.l.	Romania	Indirect	100%
Graco Australia Pty Ltd	Australia	Indirect	100%
Graco BVBA	Belgium	Indirect	100%
Graco Canada Inc.	Canada	Indirect	100%
Graco Chile SpA	Chile	Direct	100%
Graco Colombia S.A.S.	Colombia	Direct	100%
Graco do Brasil Ltda.	Brazil	Indirect	100%
Graco Fluid Equipment (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.	P.R. China	Direct	100%
Graco Fluid Equipment (Suzhou) Co., Ltd.	P.R. China	Indirect	100%
Graco Fluid Handling (A) Inc.	Minnesota, USA	Direct	100%
Graco Fluid Handling (B) Inc.	Minnesota, USA	Direct	100%
Graco Fluid Handling (D) Inc.	Minnesota, USA	Direct	100%
Graco Fluid Handling International Inc.	Minnesota, USA	Direct	100%
Graco Global Holdings S.à r.l.	Luxembourg	Indirect	100%
Graco GmbH	Germany	Indirect	100%
Graco High Pressure Equipment Inc.	Minnesota, USA	Direct	100%
Graco Hong Kong Limited	Hong Kong, P.R. China	Indirect	100%
Graco India Private Limited	India	Indirect	100%
Graco International Holdings S.à r.l.	Luxembourg	Indirect	100%
Graco Korea Inc.	South Korea	Indirect	100%
Graco K.K.	Japan	Indirect	100%
Graco Limited	England and Wales, UK	Indirect	100%
Graco Luxembourg III Holdings S.à r.l.	Luxembourg	Direct	100%
Graco Minnesota Inc.	Minnesota, USA	Direct	100%
Graco Ohio Inc.	Ohio, USA	Direct	100%

Graco S.A.S.	France	Indirect	100%
Graco Trading (Suzhou) Co., Ltd.	P.R. China	Indirect	100%
Gusmer Sudamerica S.A.	Argentina	Direct <sup>2</sup>	100%
Holdings Indemnity Inc.	Utah, USA	Direct	100%
MULTIMAQ – Pistolas e Equipamentos para Pintura Ltda	Brazil	Indirect	100%
Q.E.D. Environmental Systems, Inc.	Michigan, USA	Direct	100%
Staffordshire Hydraulic Services Limited	England and Wales, UK	Indirect	100%

<sup>1</sup> Ownership type indicates whether each subsidiary is directly owned by Graco Inc., indirectly owned by Graco Inc. through direct ownership by one or more of its subsidiaries, or a combination thereof.

<sup>2</sup> Shares held by two employees of the Company to satisfy the requirements of local law.

## **Exhibit 23**

### **Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in Registration Statements No. 333-75307, No. 333-63128, No. 333-123813, No. 333-134162, No. 333-140848, No. 333-167602, No. 333-180970 and No. 333-204028 on Form S-8 of our reports dated February 16, 2016, relating to the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule of Graco Inc. and Subsidiaries (the “Company”), and the effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting, appearing in this Annual Report on Form 10-K of Graco Inc. and Subsidiaries for the year ended December 25, 2015.

*/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP*

Minneapolis, Minnesota

February 16, 2016

## Exhibit 24

### Power of Attorney

Know all by these presents, that each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Patrick J. McHale or Christian E. Rothe, that person's true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution and re-substitution for that person and in that person's name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign the Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 25, 2015, of Graco Inc. (and any and all amendments thereto) and to file the same with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorney-in-fact and agent, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite or necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as that person might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact and agent, or his substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

In witness whereof, the following persons have signed this Power of Attorney on the date indicated.

	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ WILLIAM J. CARROLL</u> William J. Carroll	<u>February 12, 2016</u>
<u>/s/ ERIC P. ETCHART</u> Eric P. Etchart	<u>February 12, 2016</u>
<u>/s/ JACK W. EUGSTER</u> Jack W. Eugster	<u>February 12, 2016</u>
<u>/s/ JODY H. FERAGEN</u> Jody H. Feragen	<u>February 12, 2016</u>
<u>/s/ J. KEVIN GILLIGAN</u> J. Kevin Gilligan	<u>February 12, 2016</u>
<u>/s/ PATRICK J. MCHALE</u> Patrick J. McHale	<u>February 12, 2016</u>
<u>/s/ LEE R. MITAU</u> Lee R. Mitau	<u>February 12, 2016</u>
<u>/s/ MARTHA A. MORFITT</u> Martha A. Morfitt	<u>February 12, 2016</u>
<u>/s/ R. WILLIAM VAN SANT</u> R. William Van Sant	<u>February 12, 2016</u>

## Exhibit 31.1

### Certification

I, Patrick J. McHale, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Graco Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of registrant's board of directors:
  - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 16, 2016

/s/ PATRICK J. MCHALE

Patrick J. McHale

President and Chief Executive Officer



## Exhibit 31.2

### Certification

I, Christian E. Rothe, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Graco Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
  - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
  - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
  - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
  - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of registrant's board of directors:
  - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
  - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 16, 2016

/s/ CHRISTIAN E. ROTHE

Christian E. Rothe

Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

**Exhibit 32**

**Certification Under Section 1350**

Pursuant to Section 1350 of Title 18 of the United States Code, each of the undersigned certifies that this periodic report fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and that information contained in this periodic report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of Graco Inc.

Date: February 16, 2016

/s/ PATRICK J. MCHALE

Patrick J. McHale

President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: February 16, 2016

/s/ CHRISTIAN E. ROTHE

Christian E. Rothe

Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

# 10 Year Financial Summary

## Graco Inc. & Subsidiaries

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Net Sales	\$1,286,485	\$1,221,130	\$1,104,024	\$1,012,456	\$895,283	\$744,065	\$579,212	\$817,270	\$841,339	\$816,468
Gross Profit	684,700	666,736	607,455	550,530	500,205	403,445	292,816	432,177	447,426	433,957
<i>Percent of Sales</i>	<i>53.2%</i>	<i>54.6%</i>	<i>55.0%</i>	<i>54.4%</i>	<i>55.9%</i>	<i>54.2%</i>	<i>50.6%</i>	<i>52.9%</i>	<i>53.2%</i>	<i>53.2%</i>
Operating Earnings	302,125	308,925	279,769	224,677	219,514	153,141	74,467	187,365	232,480	225,999
<i>Percent of Sales</i>	<i>23.5%</i>	<i>25.3%</i>	<i>25.3%</i>	<i>22.2%</i>	<i>24.5%</i>	<i>20.6%</i>	<i>12.9%</i>	<i>22.9%</i>	<i>27.6%</i>	<i>27.7%</i>
Net Earnings *	345,713	225,573	210,822	149,126	142,328	102,840	48,967	120,879	152,836	149,766
<i>Percent of Sales</i>	<i>26.9%</i>	<i>18.5%</i>	<i>19.1%</i>	<i>14.7%</i>	<i>15.9%</i>	<i>13.8%</i>	<i>8.5%</i>	<i>14.8%</i>	<i>18.2%</i>	<i>18.3%</i>
<b>Financial Position</b>										
Current Assets	\$509,017	\$839,538	\$792,593	\$776,996	\$582,970	\$252,408	\$188,993	\$260,595	\$248,832	\$238,983
Current Liabilities	194,616	172,737	168,853	151,671	131,282	119,754	103,815	121,160	125,877	128,929
Working Capital	314,401	666,801	623,740	625,325	451,688	132,654	85,178	139,435	122,955	110,054
Property, Plant & Equipment, Net	178,437	161,230	151,717	151,544	138,248	134,185	139,053	149,754	140,594	124,524
Total Assets	1,391,352	1,544,778	1,327,228	1,321,734	874,309	530,474	476,434	579,850	536,724	511,603
Long-term Debt (including current portion)	392,695	615,000	408,370	556,480	300,000	70,255	86,260	180,000	107,060	-
Shareholders' Equity	635,551	596,032	634,365	454,114	322,740	264,114	209,654	167,634	244,674	331,004
Capital (long-term debt plus shareholders' equity)	1,028,246	1,211,032	1,042,735	1,010,594	622,740	334,369	295,914	347,634	351,734	331,004
<b>Cash Provided (Used) By</b>										
Operations	\$189,639	\$241,255	\$243,055	\$189,682	\$162,044	\$101,123	\$146,532	\$162,478	\$177,097	\$155,629
Investing, excluding marketable securities	\$369,939	(216,731)	(31,238)	(694,520)	(27,997)	(18,769)	(12,794)	(85,346)	(38,157)	(64,402)
Financing	(534,411)	(23,574)	(225,892)	232,671	159,641	(76,792)	(138,810)	(71,353)	(138,293)	(102,541)
<b>Other Data</b>										
Depreciation and Amortization	\$44,607	\$35,515	\$37,316	\$38,762	\$32,483	\$33,973	\$35,140	\$35,495	\$28,665	\$26,046
Property, Plant and Equipment Additions	41,749	\$30,636	23,319	18,234	23,854	16,620	11,463	29,102	36,869	33,652
<b>Per Common Share</b>										
Basic Net Earnings	\$6.00	\$3.75	\$3.44	\$2.47	\$2.36	\$1.71	\$0.82	\$2.01	\$2.35	\$2.21
Diluted Net Earnings *	5.86	3.65	3.36	2.42	2.32	1.69	0.81	1.99	2.32	2.17
Dividends Paid	1.20	1.10	1.00	0.90	0.84	0.80	0.76	0.74	0.66	0.58
Shareholders' Equity	11.40	10.07	10.40	7.47	5.40	4.40	3.49	2.82	3.95	4.95
<b>Other Statistics</b>										
Sales Growth	5.4%	10.6%	9.0%	13.1%	20.3%	28.5%	(29.1%)	(2.9%)	3.0%	11.6%
Return on Average Shareholders' Equity	56.1%	36.7%	38.7%	38.4%	48.5%	43.4%	26.0%	58.6%	53.1%	48.4%
Return on Average Capital	30.9%	20.0%	20.5%	18.3%	29.7%	32.6%	15.2%	34.6%	44.8%	48.4%
Long-term Debt/Capital	39.2%	50.8%	39.2%	55.1%	48.2%	21.0%	29.2%	51.8%	30.4%	0.0%
Current Ratio	2.6	4.9	4.7	5.1	4.4	2.1	1.8	2.2	2.0	1.9

\* Net earnings in 2015 include \$141 million (\$2.40 per diluted share) of after-tax dividends and gain on sale of the Liquid Finishing business assets held separately from the Company's other businesses.

## Board of Directors

### **Lee R. Mitau**

Chairman of the Board,  
Graco Inc.  
Retired Executive Vice President  
and General Counsel,  
U.S. Bancorp

### **William J. Carroll**

Business Consultant  
Former Chief Executive Officer,  
Limo-Reid, Inc. d/b/a  
NRG Dynamix

### **Eric P. Etchart**

Retired Senior Vice President,  
The Manitowoc Company, Inc.

### **Jack W. Eugster**

Retired Chairman, President  
and Chief Executive Officer,  
Musicland Stores Corporation

### **Jody H. Feragen**

Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer,  
Hormel Foods Corporation

### **J. Kevin Gilligan**

Chairman and  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Capella Education Company

### **Patrick J. McHale**

President and  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Graco Inc.

### **Martha A. Morfitt**

President and  
Chief Executive Officer,  
River Rock Partners, Inc.

### **R. William Van Sant**

Senior Operating Partner,  
Tenex Capital Management, L.P.  
Senior Adviser, Yukon Partners

## Executive Officers

### **Patrick J. McHale**

President and  
Chief Executive Officer

### **David M. Ahlers**

Vice President,  
Human Resources and  
Corporate Communications

### **Caroline M. Chambers**

Vice President,  
Corporate Controller and  
Information Systems

### **Mark D. Eberlein**

Vice President and  
General Manager,  
Process Division

### **Karen Park Gallivan**

Vice President, General  
Counsel and Secretary

### **Dale D. Johnson**

Vice President and  
General Manager,  
Contractor Equipment Division

### **Jeffrey P. Johnson**

Vice President and  
General Manager, EMEA

### **David M. Lowe**

Executive Vice President,  
Industrial Products Division

### **Bernard J. Moreau**

Vice President and  
General Manager, South  
and Central America

### **Peter J. O'Shea**

Vice President and  
General Manager,  
Lubrication Equipment Division

### **Charles L. Rescorla**

Vice President, Corporate  
Manufacturing, Distribution Operations  
and Corporate Development

### **Christian E. Rothe**

Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

### **Mark W. Sheahan**

Vice President and  
General Manager,  
Applied Fluid Technologies Division

### **Brian J. Zumbolo**

Vice President and  
General Manager, Asia Pacific

## Annual Meeting

We are pleased that this year's Annual Meeting of Shareholders will once again be a virtual meeting. The meeting will commence at 1:00 p.m. Central Time on April 22, 2016. Shareholders can vote their shares electronically and submit questions for management during the meeting by visiting [www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/GGG2016](http://www.virtualshareholdermeeting.com/GGG2016). Please use the 16-digit control number printed on your Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials to join the annual meeting.

## Corporate Inquiries

Investors may obtain the Graco Inc. 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and other reports and amendments to the reports by visiting the Graco website at [www.graco.com](http://www.graco.com). Requests for financial publications can also be addressed to:

### **Graco Inc.**

Attention: Investor Relations  
P.O. Box 1441  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440-1441  
USA  
Or call: 612-623-6609

Graco is an equal opportunity employer.  
[www.graco.com](http://www.graco.com)



[www.graco.com](http://www.graco.com)