

APPLIED MATERIALS INC /DE
Form 11-K
June 21, 2018
Table of contents

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

FORM 11-K

(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017

OR

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number: 000-6920

Applied Materials, Inc. Employee Savings and Retirement Plan

(Full title of the plan)

APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.

3050 Bowers Avenue, P.O. Box 58039

Santa Clara, California 95052-8039

(Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of the issuer's and plan's principal executive office)

Table of contents

APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.
EMPLOYEE SAVINGS AND RETIREMENT PLAN

Table of Contents

| | Page number |
|--|-------------|
| <u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u> | <u>1</u> |
| Financial Statements: | |
| <u>Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2017 and 2016</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the Year Ended December 31, 2017</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Notes to Financial Statements</u> | <u>4</u> |
| Supplementary Information: | |
| <u>Schedule H, Part IV, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2017</u> | <u>14</u> |
| <u>Signature</u> | <u>16</u> |
| <u>Exhibit Index</u> | <u>17</u> |

Table of contents

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Participants and Administrative Committee of the
Applied Materials, Inc. Employee Savings and Retirement Plan
Santa Clara, California

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Applied Materials, Inc. Employee Savings and Retirement Plan (the Plan) as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2017, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the financial statements). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2017, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Plan's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Plan in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Plan is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits, we were required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Report of Supplemental Schedules

The supplemental information contained in the Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2017 has been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Plan's financial statements. The supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental schedule reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental information. In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, the supplemental schedule is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

We have served as the Plan's auditor since 2005.

/s/ Armanino LLP
ArmaninoLLP

San Francisco, California

June 21, 2018

1

Table of contents

APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.
 EMPLOYEE SAVINGS AND RETIREMENT PLAN
 STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

| | December 31, 2017 | December 31, 2016 |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| (In thousands) | | |
| ASSETS | | |
| Investments, at fair value | | |
| Mutual funds | \$771,449 | \$625,379 |
| Applied common stock | 352,929 | 346,870 |
| Common/collective trusts | 1,418,430 | 1,025,467 |
| Unitized stock funds | 147,375 | 137,515 |
| | 2,690,183 | 2,135,231 |
| Guaranteed investment contracts, at contract value | 254,727 | 268,816 |
| Total investments | 2,944,910 | 2,404,047 |
| Receivables: | | |
| Notes receivable from participants | 22,306 | 21,078 |
| Employer contribution receivable | 3,133 | 2,526 |
| Total receivables | 25,439 | 23,604 |
| Total assets | 2,970,349 | 2,427,651 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Expenses payable | (349) | (236) |
| Total liabilities | (349) | (236) |
| Net assets available for benefits | \$2,970,000 | \$2,427,415 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Table of contents

APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.
 EMPLOYEE SAVINGS AND RETIREMENT PLAN
 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

| | Year ended December 31, 2017 (In thousands) |
|---|---|
| Additions to net assets attributed to: | |
| Investment and other income: | |
| Net realized and unrealized appreciation in the fair value of investments | \$ 567,099 |
| Dividends and interest | 26,186 |
| Total investment and other income | 593,285 |
| Contributions: | |
| Participant | 93,790 |
| Rollovers | 8,691 |
| Employer | 41,192 |
| Total contributions | 143,673 |
| Withdrawals, distributions and expenses | (194,373) |
| Net increase in net assets | 542,585 |
| Net assets available for benefits: | |
| Beginning of year | 2,427,415 |
| End of year | \$2,970,000 |

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Table of contents

APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.
EMPLOYEE SAVINGS AND RETIREMENT PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1 - Significant accounting policies

General

The following description of the Applied Materials, Inc. (Applied) Employee Savings and Retirement Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants seeking more detailed information about the Plan should refer to the Plan document and the Summary Plan Description/Prospectus for the Plan.

The Plan is a defined contribution plan that Applied established in 1981 to provide benefits to eligible employees, as provided in the Plan document. The Plan covers all eligible United States and certain expatriate employees of Applied and its participating affiliates.

The Plan is intended to qualify as a profit-sharing plan as described in Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code), which includes a qualified cash or deferred arrangement as described in Section 401(k) of the Code. The Plan is also intended to comply with the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

In addition, the Applied Materials, Inc. Common Stock Fund (the Stock Fund), which invested solely in shares of Applied common stock (Shares) under the Plan, was intended to constitute an employee stock ownership plan as described in Section 4975(e)(7) of the Code. Effective December 31, 2015, the Plan froze the Stock Fund option such that no future contributions could be invested in and no exchanges of account balances could be made into the Stock Fund after that time. The Stock Fund was subsequently closed to transactions as soon as administratively feasible after midnight on December 31, 2017 and any remaining Shares not sold as of that date were liquidated and invested in the Plan's Default Fund. The Stock Fund was fully liquidated and terminated by January 16, 2018.

Plan administration

Under ERISA, Applied is the designated administrator of the Plan. An administrative committee (the 401(k) Committee) and its authorized delegates manage the day-to-day operation and administration of the Plan on behalf of Applied. The 401(k) Committee members consist of certain Applied employees who do not report directly to Applied's Chief Executive Officer, as specified in the Plan. Applied has contracted with Fidelity Institutional Retirement Services Company (Fidelity) to maintain the Plan's individual participant accounts and provide certain other recordkeeping and administrative services, and with Fidelity Management Trust Company (Fidelity Trust) to act as the Plan's custodian and trustee. Applied currently pays a portion of the expenses incurred in the administration of the Plan. Other expenses associated with the administration of the Plan are charged against the Plan and paid from Plan assets. Fees related to the administration of notes receivable from participants are charged directly to the respective participant's account and are included in administrative expenses. Plan participants pay an annual flat fee (deducted quarterly from their accounts in the Plan) for the Plan's cost of recordkeeping. Withdrawal fees are paid by Plan participants who elect to receive certain types of withdrawals. Fees are also paid by Plan participants who request overnight mail of documents or review of a qualified domestic relations order.

Brokerage commission fees associated with transactions in the Stock Fund were paid by Plan participants who transact in the Stock Fund. Gross total administrative expenses amounted to \$752 thousand and \$905 thousand in 2017 and 2016, respectively. The 2016 amount was reduced by \$254 thousand, as a result of revenue sharing credits that the Plan received. These fees are insignificant to these financial statements, and are therefore reported as

withdrawals. Other brokerage commissions and other charges incurred in connection with investment transactions under the Plan are paid from Plan assets and are included as a reduction in investment income.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and changes therein, and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared using the accrual method of accounting. Participant contributions and Applied matching contributions are recorded in the period during which Applied withholds the applicable payroll deductions from participants' eligible earnings. Benefits are recorded when paid.

Plan year

The Plan year is the twelve-consecutive month period beginning each January 1 and ending December 31.

Investments

Plan assets are held in trust by Fidelity Trust and are invested in the investment options available under the Plan based solely upon instructions received from Plan participants or as provided in the Plan document. Except as described below, the Plan's investments are valued at fair value, as measured by quoted market prices, as of the last business day of the Plan year. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis and dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

The BNY Mellon Stable Value Fund (the Stable Value Fund) is a separate account that holds investments solely for the benefit of the Plan participants. The Stable Value Fund holds a short term investment fund and fixed maturity and constant duration synthetic guaranteed investment contracts (GICs). The investments in synthetic GICs are presented at contract value.

In determining the net assets available for benefits, synthetic GICs are recorded at their contract values, which are equal to principal balance plus accrued interest. An investment contract is generally valued at contract value which represents contributions made under the contract, plus earnings, less participant withdrawals and administrative expenses. Participants may ordinarily direct the withdrawal or transfer of all or a portion of their investment at contract value.

Certain employer initiated events (e.g., layoffs, bankruptcy, plant closings, plan termination, mergers, early retirement incentives, employer communications designed to induce participants to transfer from the Stable Value Fund, competing fund transfer or violation of equity wash or equivalent rules in place and changes of qualification status of the employer or the Plan) are not eligible for book value disbursements even from fully benefit-responsive contracts. These events may cause liquidation of all or a portion of a synthetic GIC at a market value adjustment. If the likelihood of such a non-book value withdrawal event is imminent, it may be necessary to consider revaluation of those particular synthetic GICs. In general, synthetic GIC issuers may terminate the contract and settle at other than contract value if the qualification status of the employer or the Plan changes, or there is a breach of material obligations under the contract or misrepresentation of the contract holder, or failure of the underlying portfolio to conform to the pre-established investment guidelines.

The Stable Value Fund was made up of the following investment types at December 31, 2017 and 2016:

| | December 31, 2017 | December 31, 2016 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Investment type: | | |
| Short term investment fund | \$6,427 | \$16,817 |
| Fixed maturity synthetic GICs | 27,711 | 35,711 |
| Constant duration synthetic GICs | 220,589 | 216,288 |
| | \$254,727 | \$268,816 |

The short term investment fund is made up of cash, a portfolio of U.S. Government securities and/or repurchase agreements that are collateralized fully by either cash or government securities.

Generally, fixed maturity synthetic GICs consist of an asset or collection of assets that are owned by the Plan and a benefit-responsive, book value wrap contract. The wrap contract provides book value accounting for the asset and assures that benefit-responsive payments will be made at book value for participant-directed withdrawals. The crediting rate for the wrap contract is set at the beginning of the wrap contract period and typically resets every quarter. Generally, fixed maturity synthetic GICs are held to maturity. The initial crediting rate is established based on market interest rates at the time the initial asset is purchased.

Generally, constant duration synthetic GICs consist of a portfolio of securities owned by the Plan and a benefit-responsive, book value wrap contract purchased for the portfolio. The wrap contract amortizes gains and losses of the underlying securities over the portfolio duration, and assures that benefit-responsive payments will be made at book value for participant-directed withdrawals. The crediting rate on a constant duration synthetic GIC resets every quarter based on the book value of the contract and the market value of the underlying securities over the duration of the contract and therefore will be affected by movements in interest rates and changes in the market value of the underlying securities. The initial crediting rate is established based on market interest rates at the time the underlying portfolio is funded.

The Stable Value Fund is credited with earnings on the underlying investments and charged for participant withdrawals and administrative expenses. The synthetic GICs issuers are contractually obligated to repay the principal and a specified interest rate that is guaranteed to the Plan.

Notes receivable from participants

Notes receivable from participants (notes receivable) are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Delinquent notes receivable are reclassified as distributions upon the occurrence of a distributable event based upon the Plan's terms.

Income taxes

The Plan is intended to qualify for favorable federal and state income tax treatment accorded to plans that qualify under Section 401(a) of the Code, and therefore is intended to be exempt from federal income and state franchise taxes. The Plan has been amended subsequent to receipt of its most recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) favorable determination letter dated September 24, 2013. The 401(k) Committee continues to believe that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

U.S. GAAP requires the Plan's management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon an examination by the IRS. No uncertain positions have been identified that would require the recognition of a tax liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements as of December 31, 2017 and 2016. The Plan is subject to routine audits by applicable taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Risks and uncertainties

The Plan provides participants with investment options consisting of various mutual funds, common/collective trusts, separate accounts and the Stock Fund (prior to December 31, 2015). The mutual funds, common/collective trust and separate accounts offered under the Plan invest in stocks, bonds and other investment securities. Shares and other investment securities are exposed to risks, such as those associated with interest rates, market conditions and credit worthiness of the securities' issuers. These risks could materially affect participants' Plan account balances and the amounts reported in these financial statements.

Note 2 - Fair value measurements

The fair value measurements standard establishes a framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under the

standard are described below:

Level 1 - Quoted market prices for identical assets or liabilities that the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2 - Inputs other than Level 1 that are observable, either directly or indirectly, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities, quoted prices in markets that are not active, or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.

6

Level 3 - Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

The asset's or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques should maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for fair value measurements of the Plan's investments. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2017 and 2016.

Mutual funds and Shares in the Stock Fund are valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which these securities are traded.

The Fidelity Institutional Asset Management Core Plus Commingled Pool Class F Fund, the Fidelity Growth Company Commingled Pool, the Fidelity Contrafund Commingled Pool, the T. Rowe Price Growth Stock Trust Class B, and the Vanguard Target Retirement Income Trust II Funds, classified as common/collective trusts, are valued using their respective net asset value (NAV) practical expedient provided by the managers of the funds. The NAV practical expedient is based on the value of the underlying net assets owned by the applicable fund divided by the number of shares outstanding. These investments are not available in an exchange and active market; however, the fair values are determined based on the underlying investments as traded in an exchange and active market.

The Silvercrest Asset Management Small Cap Value Account, T. Rowe Price Large Cap Value Fund and Fidelity Equity Income Unitized K Fund are classified as unitized common stock funds that are valued using the NAV practical expedient provided by the manager of the funds. These investments are not available in an exchange and active market; however, the fair values are determined based on the underlying investments as traded in an exchange and active market.

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

There were no transfers between the three fair value hierarchies during the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at estimated fair value as of December 31, 2017 and 2016:

| | Assets at fair value as of December 31, 2017 | | |
|--|---|------------|--------------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Total |
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Mutual funds | \$771,449 | \$ | -\$771,449 |
| Applied common stock | 352,929 | — | 352,929 |
| Total assets at fair value | \$1,124,378 | \$ | -\$1,124,378 |
| Investments measured at NAV as a practical expedient * | | | 1,565,805 |
| Investments, at fair value | | | \$2,690,183 |

| | Assets at fair value as of December 31, 2016 | | |
|--|---|------------|-------------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Total |
| | (In thousands) | | |
| Mutual funds | \$625,379 | \$ | -\$625,379 |
| Applied common stock | 346,870 | — | 346,870 |
| Total assets at fair value | \$972,249 | \$ | -\$972,249 |
| Investments measured at NAV as a practical expedient * | | | 1,162,982 |
| Investments, at fair value | | | \$2,135,231 |

* In accordance with subtopic 820-10, certain investments that were measured at NAV as a practical expedient have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in this table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the line items presented in the Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

Fair value of investments in entities that use NAV as a practical expedient

The following table summarizes investments measured at fair value using NAV as a practical expedient per share as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

| | As of December 31, 2017 | | Redemption Frequency (if currently eligible) | Redemption Notice Period |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| | Fair Value (in thousands) | Unfunded Commitments | | |
| Vanguard Target Retirement Income Trust II funds | \$693,644 | N/A | Daily | None |
| Fidelity Growth Company Commingled Pool | 166,785 | N/A | Daily | Various ** |
| Fidelity Contrafund Commingled Pool | 238,111 | N/A | Daily | Various ** |
| T. Rowe Price Growth Stock Trust Class B | 197,026 | N/A | Daily | 30 days |
| Fidelity Institutional Asset Management Core Plus Commingled Pool Class F | 122,864 | N/A | Daily | Various ** |
| T. Rowe Price Large Cap Value Fund | 87,968 | N/A | Daily | 5 - 10 days |
| Silvercrest Asset Management Small Cap Value Account | 59,407 | N/A | Daily | None |

| | As of December 31, 2016 | | Redemption Frequency (if currently eligible) | Redemption Notice Period |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| | Fair Value (in thousands) | Unfunded Commitments | | |
| Vanguard Target Retirement Income Trust II funds | \$496,432 | N/A | Daily | None |
| Fidelity Growth Company Commingled Pool | 89,684 | N/A | Daily | Various ** |
| Fidelity Contrafund Commingled Pool | 182,334 | N/A | Daily | Various ** |
| T. Rowe Price Growth Stock Trust Class B | 144,782 | N/A | Daily | 30 days |
| Fidelity Institutional Asset Management Core Plus Commingled Pool Class F | 112,235 | N/A | Daily | Various ** |
| Fidelity Equity Income Unitized K Fund | 83,868 | N/A | Daily | Various ** |
| Silvercrest Asset Management Small Cap Value Account | 53,647 | N/A | Daily | None |

** Large cash flows require discussion with fund managers concerning dates and amounts of cash flows

Note 3 - Participation and benefits

Participant contributions

Eligible employees may enroll in the Plan after receipt of their first paycheck. The Plan allows eligible participants to elect to have Applied withhold up to 50% of their eligible compensation each payroll period for contribution to the Plan on a pre-tax basis (salary deferral contributions) and/or on a Roth basis (Roth deferral contributions), subject to annual dollar limits established by the Code. The Plan also allows eligible participants who are age 50 or older during the Plan year to make additional catch-up contributions up to 50% of their eligible compensation each payroll period during the year on a pre-tax and/or Roth basis, subject to annual dollar limits established by the Code.

Salary deferral contributions are contributions of an eligible participant's eligible compensation that are not taxable to the participant for federal (and most state) income tax purposes at the time they are contributed to the Plan, but are generally taxable as ordinary income, along with any earnings on them, when distributed from the Plan. Roth deferral contributions are contributions of an eligible participant's eligible compensation that are made on an after-tax basis for federal (and most state) income tax purposes. Roth deferral contributions generally will be distributed from the Plan tax free and, if certain requirements are met, any earnings on them can be distributed from the Plan tax free. The Plan also allows eligible participants to make non-Roth after-tax contributions up to 25% (as determined by the 401(k) Committee) of their eligible compensation each payroll period during the year, subject to limits established by the Code.

Participants are also allowed to make rollover contributions of eligible amounts received from other eligible employer plans or eligible individual retirement accounts, as set forth in the Plan. The Plan allows eligible participants to convert certain eligible non-Roth accounts to Roth accounts within the Plan.

Employees who are hired or rehired on or after January 1, 2011 as eligible employees or who transfer to eligible employee status automatically are enrolled in the Plan at a 6% salary deferral contribution rate, effective as soon as administratively practicable after the end of the 60-day period following the date of their hire/rehire or transfer to eligible employee status, unless they elect otherwise within that 60-day period in accordance with the Plan's procedures.

Applied's matching contributions

Participants in the Plan become eligible to receive Applied's matching contributions immediately upon their enrollment and election (or deemed election) to make contributions to the Plan.

9

Applied matches 100% of participant salary deferral and/or Roth deferral contributions (collectively, 401(k) contributions) up to the first 3% of eligible compensation contributed each payroll period and then 50% of every dollar between 4% and 6% of eligible compensation contributed each payroll period. Applied does not make matching contributions on any after-tax or catch-up contributions made by participants.

In addition, Applied makes a special annual "reconciling match" contribution designed to maximize the amount of matching contributions that eligible participants may receive under the Plan. Participants are eligible for the reconciling match contribution for a Plan year if they are employed by Applied or one of its affiliates on the last day of the Plan year or they ceased to be so employed solely due to death or qualifying disability. After the end of the Plan year, an eligible participant's total matching contributions for that year will be recalculated on an annual basis using the matching contribution formula in effect for that Plan year. Any difference between this amount and the matching contributions previously contributed on his or her behalf on a pay period basis is contributed subsequent to year end and is accrued as an employer contribution receivable on the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

Applied may change the matching contribution rate at any time, subject to the limits of the Plan and the Code. Applied's matching contributions (if any) are made in the form of cash.

Participant accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions; his or her portion of Applied's matching contributions (if any) and any investment earnings or losses thereon.

Investment direction

The Plan allows participants (or their beneficiaries) to direct the investment of their Plan account balances in any of the investment options available under the Plan.

Prior to December 31, 2015, participants could invest no more than 20% of their future contributions in the Stock Fund and could make an exchange into the Stock Fund only to the extent it did not result in more than 20% of their total Plan account balances being invested in the Stock Fund (determined at the time of the exchange). See Note 1.

If a participant fails to choose an investment option for the contributions to his or her Plan account, such funds automatically are invested in the Plan's default fund (the Default Fund) until the participant selects a different investment option available under the Plan. The Default Fund is the designated Vanguard Target Retirement Trust II fund with a target retirement date closest to the year in which the participant might retire, based on his or her date of birth and assuming a retirement age of 65 (the Applicable Target Date). In the case of cash dividends that were payable with respect to Shares held in the Stock Fund prior to December 31, 2017, if a participant had not made an affirmative election before the dividend payment date to either have the dividends reinvested in the Stock Fund or paid directly to him or her in cash, the dividends automatically were reinvested in the Stock Fund. See Note 1.

Participants may change their investment elections under the Plan generally at any time, in accordance with the procedures established by the 401(k) Committee and Fidelity Trust.

Payment of benefits

Upon a Plan participant's termination of employment with Applied and all of its affiliates, the participant (or his or her beneficiary) may elect to receive a lump-sum cash distribution of his or her vested account balance. Prior to December 31, 2017, a terminated participant (or beneficiary) could have also elected to receive whole Shares for any portion of his or her vested account balance that is invested in the Stock Fund. A terminated participant whose account balance under the Varian Semiconductor Equipment Associates, Inc. (Varian) Retirement Plan (the Varian Plan) was

transferred to the Plan upon the merger of the Varian Plan with and into the Plan, (effective as of market close on December 31, 2012), may also generally elect to receive a distribution of his or her vested transferred Varian Plan account balance in the form of “on demand” withdrawals. Participants with vested account balances from certain other plans that merged into the Plan from time to time also have certain additional withdrawal and distribution options.

In accordance with applicable laws and the Plan's terms, a distribution of a Plan participant's vested account balance must be made or commenced no later than the April 1 immediately following the calendar year in which he or she attains age 70.5 or terminates employment with Applied and all of its affiliates, whichever is later. A participant's beneficiary must receive a distribution of the participant's entire vested account balance no later than the December 31 of the year that includes the fifth anniversary of the date of the participant's death.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a terminated participant's (or beneficiary's) vested account balance is equal to or less than \$1 thousand, a lump-sum payment of the vested account balance automatically will be distributed.

In accordance with the Plan's terms, a participant may receive an in-service withdrawal from certain portions of his or her vested account balance upon financial hardship (as defined in the Plan) or attainment of age 59.5, and from his or her rollover contributions account. A participant who receives a financial hardship withdrawal will be: (1) suspended from active participation in the Plan, (2) prohibited from exercising any option for Shares granted under an Applied-sponsored plan or participating in Applied's Employees' Stock Purchase Plan, and (3) generally suspended from making any other elective or employee contributions under any other plan maintained by Applied or its affiliates, for a period of at least six months following the withdrawal.

Distributions and withdrawals from the Plan are subject to any applicable taxes and/or penalties.

Notes receivable from participants

The Plan allows active participants to borrow from their eligible account balances up to the lesser of the following: (1) \$50 thousand, less their highest outstanding notes receivable balance under the Plan and any other similar plan of any Applied affiliate during the previous 12 months, or (2) 50% of their vested account balances (including the vested portion of Applied's matching contributions). Notes receivable are secured by the participants' vested balances, and generally must be repaid to the Plan from bi-weekly payroll deductions over the term, which is generally a minimum of one year and a maximum of five years. Loans used by a participant for the purchase of his or her principal residence may have a term up to fifteen years and the interest rate charged at the time of the borrowing is the prime rate plus two percent. Notes receivable may generally continue to be repaid through a monthly payment schedule upon a participant's termination of employment from Applied and all of its affiliates, or the occurrence of certain other events. Specific notes receivable terms and conditions are established by the 401(k) Committee or its authorized delegates. Outstanding notes receivable at December 31, 2017 carry interest rates ranging from 4.25% to 9.25% maturing through 2032.

Vesting

Participants are 100% vested in their 401(k) contributions, catch-up and/or any after-tax rollover contributions under the Plan, and any related earnings thereon.

Participants who are employed by Applied or any of its affiliates on or after January 1, 2010 are 100% vested in their Applied matching contribution account balances. Participants who terminated employment with Applied and its affiliates before January 1, 2010 and had two years of credited service as defined by the Plan became vested 20% each year in Applied's matching contributions (if any) allocated to their accounts, and became fully vested after six years of credited service. Former employees of certain acquired companies have different vesting schedules according to the original vesting schedules under their former employer's plan.

Affected participants who are not already fully vested in their Plan account balances will become fully vested upon any termination of the Plan.

If a participant has terminated his or her employment with Applied and its affiliates prior to becoming fully vested, the unvested portion of his or her matching contribution account balance will generally be forfeited. Forfeitures can be used to offset Applied's matching contributions, reinstate any previously forfeited matching contribution balances, and reinstate any closed account balances under the Plan. Forfeitures of \$35 thousand were used to reduce the employer contributions during the year ended December 31, 2017.

As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, forfeited nonvested accounts totaled \$56 thousand and \$83 thousand, respectively. Any forfeitures under the Plan also may be used to pay for Plan administrative expenses. See Note 1.

Note 4 - Party-in-interest and related party transactions

As allowed by the Plan, prior to December 31, 2015, participants could have elected to invest their Plan account balances in the Stock Fund, which invested solely in Shares. See Note 1.

Aggregate investment in Shares at December 31, 2017 and 2016 were as follows:

| Number of shares | Fair value (In thousands) |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2017 6,899,523 | \$ 352,929 |
| 2016 10,692,518 | \$ 346,870 |

Certain Plan investments are managed by Fidelity Trust, the custodian and trustee of the Plan, or its affiliates. Any purchases and sales of these funds are performed in the open market. Such transactions, while considered party-in-interest transactions under ERISA regulations, are permitted under the provisions of the Plan and are specifically exempt from the prohibition of party-in-interest transactions under ERISA.

Note 5 - Non-participant directed investments

As discussed in Note 3, the Plan allows participants (or their beneficiaries) to direct the investment of their account balances in any of the available investment options under the Plan. If a participant fails to choose an investment option for the contributions to his or her Plan account, such funds automatically are invested in the Default Fund until he or she selects a different investment option available under the Plan. In the case of cash dividends that were payable with respect to Shares held in the Stock Fund prior to December 31, 2017, if a participant (or beneficiary) failed to make an affirmative dividend election before the dividend payment date, the dividends automatically were reinvested in the Stock Fund. See Note 1.

Note 6 - Plan termination or modification

Applied currently intends to continue the Plan indefinitely for the benefit of its participants and their beneficiaries; however, it reserves the right to terminate or modify the Plan at any time and for any reason, subject to the provisions of ERISA. As noted earlier, in the event the Plan is terminated, affected participants who are not already fully vested in their accounts will become fully vested.

Note 7 - Reconciliation of financial statements to Form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements at December 31, 2017 and 2016 to Form 5500:

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|----------------|-------------|
| | (In thousands) | |
| Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements | \$2,970,000 | \$2,427,415 |
| Adjustment for benefits payable | (462) | — |
| Net assets available for benefits per Form 5500 | \$2,969,538 | \$2,427,415 |

The following is a reconciliation of the affected component of the changes in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to total the Form 5500 for the year ended December 31, 2017:

2017
(In
thousands)

| | |
|--|------------|
| Withdrawals, distributions and expenses per financial statements | \$ 194,373 |
| Adjustment for benefits payable | 462 |
| Total deductions from net assets per Form 5500 | \$ 194,835 |

Table of contents

APPLIED MATERIALS, INC. EIN: 94-1655526
 EMPLOYEE SAVINGS AND RETIREMENT PLAN (PLAN #333)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 SCHEDULE H, PART IV, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
 DECEMBER 31, 2017

| (a) | (b) | (c) | (e) |
|--|--|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party | Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value (1) | Current value (In thousands) | |
| * | Fidelity 500 Index Fund – Institutional Premium Class | 2,604,511 | shares \$ 243,392 |
| | Morgan Stanley Institutional Fund, Inc. – International Equity IS Fund | 5,093,458 | shares 91,529 |
| | American Funds EuroPacific Growth R6 Fund | 932,211 | shares 52,334 |
| | Carillon Eagle Small Cap Growth Fund Class R6 | 636,151 | shares 40,319 |
| | Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund – Institutional Plus Shares | 996,416 | shares 207,942 |
| | Vanguard Small-Cap Index Fund – Institutional Plus Shares | 665,358 | shares 135,933 |
| | Total mutual funds | | \$ 771,449 |

Table of contents

APPLIED MATERIALS, INC. EIN: 94-1655526
 EMPLOYEE SAVINGS AND RETIREMENT PLAN (PLAN #333)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
 SCHEDULE H, PART IV, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR) - Continued
 DECEMBER 31, 2017

| (a) | (b) | (c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value (1) | (e) Current value (In thousands) |
|-----|---|---|--|
| * | Applied Materials, Inc. Common Stock Fund | 6,899,523 shares | \$352,929 |
| | BNY Mellon Stable Value Fund: | | |
| | Transamerica Insurance Company of America | Guaranteed investment contract | 59,821 |
| | Pacific Life Insurance Company | Guaranteed investment contract | 54,974 |
| | Prudential Insurance Company of America | Guaranteed investment contract | 52,581 |
| | RGA Reinsurance Company | Guaranteed investment contract | 53,734 |
| | Nationwide Life insurance Company | Guaranteed investment contract | 27,711 |
| * | Fidelity Short Term Investment Fund | Government money market portfolio | 6,427 |
| | Net Fund Liabilities | Other | (521) |
| | | Total stable value fund holdings | \$254,727 |
| * | Fidelity Institutional Asset Management Core Plus Commingled Pool Class F | 6,155,488 shares | \$122,864 |
| * | Fidelity Growth Company Commingled Pool | 8,764,332 shares | 166,785 |
| * | Fidelity Contrafund Commingled Pool | 14,909,865 shares | 238,111 |
| | T. Rowe Price Growth Stock Trust Class B | 6,211,403 shares | 197,026 |
| | Vanguard Target Retirement Income Trust II | 680,919 shares | 23,131 |
| | Vanguard Target Retirement 2015 Trust II | 674,586 shares | 21,884 |
| | Vanguard Target Retirement 2020 Trust II | 2,275,525 shares | 74,910 |
| | Vanguard Target Retirement 2025 Trust II | 4,447,107 shares | 146,310 |
| | Vanguard Target Retirement 2030 Trust II | 4,821,284 shares | 157,511 |
| | Vanguard Target Retirement 2035 Trust II | 3,455,865 shares | 114,666 |
| | Vanguard Target Retirement 2040 Trust II | 1,998,438 shares | 68,447 |
| | Vanguard Target Retirement 2045 Trust II | 1,125,356 shares | 38,780 |
| | Vanguard Target Retirement 2050 Trust II | 722,136 shares | 24,993 |
| | Vanguard Target Retirement 2055 Trust II | 323,488 shares | 14,997 |
| | Vanguard Target Retirement 2060 Trust II | 209,037 shares | 7,640 |

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| | | | |
|--|----------------------|--------|-------------|
| Vanguard Target Retirement 2065 Trust II | 16,778 | shares | 375 |
| | Total | | |
| | common/collective | | \$1,418,430 |
| | trusts | | |
| T. Rowe Price Large Cap Value Fund | 7,790,600 | units | 87,968 |
| Silvercrest Asset Management Small Cap Value Account | 3,888,184 | units | 59,407 |
| | Total unitized stock | | \$147,375 |
| | funds | | |
| | Interest at 4.25% to | | |
| * Participant loans | 9.25%, maturing | | \$22,306 |
| | through 2032 | | |
| | | Total | \$2,967,216 |

(1) Column (d), cost information, is not provided as all investments are participant or beneficiary directed (including negative elections authorized under the Plan's terms).

* Indicates party-in-interest to the Plan.

Table of contents

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the administrative committee has duly caused this Annual Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.
EMPLOYEE SAVINGS AND RETIREMENT PLAN

June 21, 2018 By: /s/ Greg Lawler
Greg Lawler
Corporate Vice President, Global Rewards

Table of contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|----------------|---|
| <u>23.1</u> | <u>Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u> |

17