

TAL International Group, Inc.  
Form 10-K  
February 29, 2016  
Table of Contents

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 31, 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 number- 001-32638

TAL International Group, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in the charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

20-1796526

(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)

100 Manhattanville Road, Purchase, New York

(Address of principal executive office)

10577-2135

(Zip Code)

(914) 251-9000

(Registrant's telephone number including area code)

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

Title of Each Class

Common stock, \$0.001 par value per share

Name of Exchange On Which Registered

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 requirement 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 definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Edgar Filing: TAL International Group, Inc. - Form 10-K

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

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). YES  NO

The aggregate market value of voting common shares held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2015 was approximately \$1,031.8 million.

As of February 23, 2016, there were 33,395,291 shares of the Registrant's common stock outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Part of Form 10-K

Document Incorporated by Reference

The information required by Item 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, are incorporated herein by reference to an amendment to this Form 10-K to be filed by the Company not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this report.

Part III, Items 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14

Table of Contents

## Table of Contents

	Page No.
<u>PART I</u>	
<u>Item 1. Business</u>	4
<u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u>	12
<u>Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	37
<u>Item 2. Properties</u>	37
<u>Item 3. Legal Proceedings</u>	37
<u>Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	37
<u>PART II</u>	
<u>Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters, and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	38
<u>Item 6. Selected Financial Data</u>	41
<u>Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	44
<u>Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	66
<u>Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	67
<u>Item 9. Changes In and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	67
<u>Item 9A. Controls and Procedures</u>	67
<u>Item 9B. Other Information</u>	69
<u>PART III</u>	
<u>Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	70
<u>Item 11. Executive Compensation</u>	70
<u>Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	70
<u>Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	70
<u>Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	70
<u>PART IV</u>	
<u>Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>	71
<u>Signatures</u>	78
<u>Index to Financial Statements</u>	F-1
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	F-2
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets</u>	F-3
<u>Consolidated Statements of Income</u>	F-4
<u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income</u>	F-5
<u>Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity</u>	F-6
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows</u>	F-7
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	F-8
<u>Schedule II - Valuation and Qualifying Accounts</u>	F-33

Table of Contents

**CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This annual report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, that involve substantial risks and uncertainties. In addition, we, or our executive officers on our behalf, may from time to time make forward-looking statements in reports and other documents we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, or in connection with oral statements made to the press, potential investors or others. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, including statements regarding our strategy, future operations, future financial position, future revenues, projected costs, prospects, plans and objectives of management are forward-looking statements. The words "expect," "estimate," "anticipate," "predict," "believe," "think," "plan," "will," "should," "intend," "seek," "potential" and similar expressions and variations are intended to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain these identifying words.

Forward-looking statements in this report are subject to a number of known and unknown risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements, including, but not limited to, the risks and uncertainties described in the section entitled "Risk Factors" in this report as well as in the other documents we file with the SEC from time to time, and such risks and uncertainties are specifically incorporated herein by reference.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date the statements are made. Except as required under the federal securities laws and rules and regulations of the SEC, we undertake no obligation to update or revise forward-looking statements to reflect actual results, changes in assumptions or changes in other factors affecting forward-looking information. We caution you not to unduly rely on the forward-looking statements when evaluating the information presented in this report.

**WEBSITE ACCESS TO COMPANY'S REPORTS AND CODE OF ETHICS**

Our Internet website address is <http://www.talinternational.com>. Our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act are available free of charge through our website as soon as reasonably practicable after they are electronically filed with, or furnished to, the SEC.

We have adopted a code of ethics that applies to all of our employees, officers, and directors, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer. The text of our code of ethics is posted within the Corporate Governance portion of the Investors section of our website.

Also, copies of our annual report and Code of Ethics will be made available, free of charge, upon written request to:

TAL International Group, Inc.  
100 Manhattanville Road  
Purchase, New York 10577  
Attn: Marc Pearlin, Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary  
Telephone: (914) 251-9000

**SERVICE MARKS MATTERS**

The following items referred to in this annual report are registered or unregistered service marks in the United States and/or foreign jurisdictions pursuant to applicable intellectual property laws and are the property of TAL International Group, Inc. and our subsidiaries: TAL®.



Table of Contents

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

Our Company

We are one of the world's largest and oldest lessors of intermodal containers and chassis. Intermodal containers are large, standardized steel boxes used to transport freight by ship, rail or truck. Because of the handling efficiencies they provide, intermodal containers are the primary means by which many goods and materials are shipped internationally. Chassis are used for the transportation of containers domestically.

Business Segments

We operate our business in one industry, intermodal transportation equipment, and have two business segments:

**Equipment leasing** - We own, lease and ultimately dispose of containers and chassis from our lease fleet, as well as manage containers owned by third parties. The Equipment leasing segment contributed 97.6%, 96.7%, and 96.1% of the sum of our Total leasing revenue, Trading margin, and Net (loss) gain on sale of leasing equipment for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively.

**Equipment trading** - We purchase containers from shipping line customers and other sellers of containers, and resell these containers to container retailers and users of containers for storage or one-way shipment. The Equipment trading segment contributed 2.4%, 3.3%, and 3.9% of the sum of our Total leasing revenue, Trading margin, and Net gain on sale of leasing equipment for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively.

Certain financial information for each of our business segments is incorporated by reference to Note 7 "Segment and Geographic Information," to the Consolidated Financial Statements contained in Item 15 of this report.

Equipment Leasing Segment

Our equipment leasing operations include the acquisition, leasing, re-leasing and ultimate sale of multiple types of intermodal transportation equipment, primarily intermodal containers. We have an extensive global presence, offering leasing services through approximately 230 third-party container depot facilities in 40 countries as of December 31, 2015. Our customers are among the world's largest shipping lines and include, among others, CMA CGM, NYK Line, Mitsui O.S.K., Hapag-Lloyd, and Mediterranean Shipping Company.

We lease five types of equipment: (1) dry freight containers, which are used for general cargo such as manufactured component parts, consumer staples, electronics and apparel, (2) refrigerated containers, which are used for perishable items such as fresh and frozen foods, (3) special containers, which are used for heavy and oversized cargo such as marble slabs, building products and machinery, (4) tank containers, which are used to transport bulk liquid products such as chemicals, and (5) chassis, which are used for the transportation of containers domestically.

We generally lease our equipment on a per diem basis to our customers under three types of leases: long-term leases, finance leases and service leases. Long-term leases typically have initial contractual terms ranging from three to eight years and provide us with stable cash flow and low transaction costs by requiring customers to maintain specific units on-hire for the duration of the lease. Finance leases are typically structured as full payout leases, and provide for a predictable recurring revenue stream with the lowest cost to the customer because customers are generally required to retain the equipment for the duration of its useful life. Service leases command a premium per diem rate in exchange for providing customers with a greater level of operational flexibility by allowing the pick-up and drop-off of units during the lease term. We also have expired long-term leases whose fixed terms have ended but

for which the related units remain on-hire and for which we continue to receive rental payments pursuant to the terms of the initial contract. Some leases have contractual terms that have features reflective of both long-term and service leases, and we classify such leases as either long-term or service leases, depending upon which features we believe are more predominant.

Table of Contents

Our leases require lessees to maintain the equipment in good operating condition, defend and indemnify us from liabilities relating to the equipment contents and handling, and return the equipment to specified drop-off locations. The following table provides a summary of our equipment leasing fleet portfolio by lease type, based on cost equivalent units (CEU), as of December 31, 2015:

Lease Portfolio	December 31, 2015	
Long-term leases	68.7	%
Finance leases	7.7	
Service leases	15.7	
Expired long-term leases (units on-hire)	7.9	
Total	100.0	%

As of December 31, 2015, our long-term and finance leases had an average remaining lease term of 42 months.

The most important driver of our profitability is the extent to which leasing revenues, which are driven primarily by our owned equipment fleet size, utilization and average rental rates, exceed our ownership and operating costs. Our profitability is also driven by the gains or losses we realize on the sale of used containers because, in the ordinary course of our business, we sell certain containers when they are returned to us.

#### Equipment Trading Segment

Through our extensive operating network, we purchase containers from shipping line customers and other sellers of containers and resell these containers to container retailers and users of containers for storage and one-way shipments. Over the last five years, we have sold an average of approximately 32,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) per year of containers purchased for resale.

Total revenues for the equipment trading segment are primarily made up of equipment trading revenues, which represents the proceeds from sales of trading equipment. The profitability of this segment is largely driven by the volume of units purchased and sold, our per-unit selling margin, and our direct operating and administrative expenses.

#### Industry Overview

Intermodal containers provide a secure and cost-effective method of transporting raw materials, component parts and finished goods because they can be used in multiple modes of transport. By making it possible to move cargo from a point of origin to a final destination without repeated unpacking and repacking, containers reduce freight and labor costs. In addition, automated handling of containers permits faster loading and unloading of vessels, more efficient utilization of transportation equipment and reduced transit time. The protection provided by sealed containers also reduces cargo damage and the loss and theft of goods during shipment.

Over the last twenty-five years, containerized trade has grown at a rate greater than that of general worldwide economic growth. According to Clarkson Research Studies ("Clarkson"), worldwide containerized cargo volume increased at a compound annual growth rate ("CAGR") of 8.1% from 1991 to 2015. We believe that this high historical growth was due to several factors, including the shift in global manufacturing capacity to lower labor cost areas such as China and India, the continued integration of developing high growth economies into global trade patterns and the continued conversion of cargo from bulk shipping into containers. However, worldwide containerized cargo volume growth has been lower over the last few years, averaging 3.4% CAGR from 2011 to 2015, due to weak economic growth in many developed countries.

Container leasing firms maintain inventories of new and used containers in a wide range of worldwide locations and supply these containers primarily to shipping line customers under a variety of short and long-term lease



structures. Based on container fleet information reported by Drewry Maritime Research, we estimate that container lessors owned approximately 18.1 million TEU, or approximately 48% of the total worldwide container fleet of 38.0 million TEU, as of the end of 2015.

Leasing containers helps shipping lines improve their overall container fleet efficiency and provides the shipping lines with an alternative source of equipment financing. Given the uncertainty and variability of export volumes, and the fact that shipping lines have difficulty in accurately forecasting their container requirements on a day-by-day, port-by-port basis, the availability of containers for lease on short notice reduces a shipping line's need to purchase and maintain larger container inventory buffers. In addition, the drop-off flexibility provided by operating leases also allows the shipping lines to adjust their

## Table of Contents

container fleet sizes and the mix of container types in their fleets both seasonally and over time and helps to balance trade flows. Leasing containers also provides shipping lines with an additional source of funding to help them manage a high-growth, asset intensive business.

Spot leasing rates are typically a function of, among other things, new equipment prices (which are heavily influenced by steel prices), interest rates and the equipment supply and demand balance at a particular time and location. Average leasing rates on an entire portfolio of leases respond more gradually to changes in new equipment prices or changes in the balance of container supply and demand because lease agreements are generally only re-priced upon the expiration of the lease. In addition, the value that lessors receive upon resale of equipment is closely related to the cost of new equipment.

## Operations

We operate our business through 17 offices located in 11 different countries as of December 31, 2015. Our field operations include a global sales force, a global container operations group, an equipment resale group, and a logistics services group. Our headquarters are located in Purchase, New York, USA.

## Our Equipment

Intermodal containers are designed to meet a number of criteria outlined by the International Standards Organization (ISO). The standard criteria include the size of the container and the gross weight rating of the container. This standardization ensures that containers can be used by the widest possible number of transporters and it facilitates container and vessel sharing by the shipping lines. The standardization of the container is also an important element of the container leasing business since we can operate one fleet of containers that can be used by all of our major customers.

Our fleet consists of five types of equipment:

**Dry Containers.** A dry container is essentially a steel constructed box with a set of doors on one end. Dry containers come in lengths of 20, 40 or 45 feet. They are 8 feet wide, and either 8½ or 9½ feet tall. Dry containers are the least expensive and most widely used type of intermodal container and are used to carry general cargo such as manufactured component parts, consumer staples, electronics and apparel.

**Refrigerated Containers.** Refrigerated containers include an integrated cooling machine and an insulated container, come in lengths of 20 or 40 feet, are 8 feet wide, and are either 8½ or 9½ feet tall. These containers are typically used to carry perishable cargo such as fresh and frozen produce.

**Special Containers.** Most of our special containers are open top and flat rack containers. Open top containers come in similar sizes as dry containers, but do not have a fixed roof. Flat rack containers come in varying sizes and are steel platforms with folding ends and no fixed sides. Open top and flat rack containers are generally used to move heavy or bulky cargos, such as marble slabs, steel coils or factory components, that cannot be easily loaded on a fork lift through the doors of a standard container.

**Tank Containers.** Tank containers are stainless steel cylindrical tanks enclosed in rectangular steel frames with the same outside dimensions as 20 foot dry containers. They carry bulk liquids such as chemicals.

**Chassis.** An intermodal chassis is a rectangular, wheeled steel frame, generally 23½, 40 or 45 feet in length, built specifically for the purpose of transporting intermodal containers domestically. Longer sized chassis, designed solely to accommodate domestic containers, can be up to 53 feet in length. Once mounted, the chassis and container are the

functional equivalent of a trailer. When mounted on a chassis, the container may be trucked either to its destination or to a railroad terminal for loading onto a rail car. Our chassis are primarily used in the United States.

#### Our Leases

Most of our revenues are derived from leasing our equipment fleet to our core shipping line customers. The majority of our leases are structured as operating leases, though we also provide customers with finance leases. Regardless of lease type, we seek to exceed our targeted return on our investments over the life cycle of the equipment by managing utilization, lease rates, and the used equipment sale process.

## Table of Contents

Our lease products provide numerous operational and financial benefits to our shipping line customers. These benefits include:

**Operating Flexibility.** The timing, location and daily volume of cargo movements for a shipping line are often unpredictable. Leasing containers and chassis helps the shipping lines manage this uncertainty and minimizes the requirement for large inventory buffers by allowing them to pick-up leased equipment on short notice.

**Fleet Size and Mix Flexibility.** The drop-off flexibility included in container and chassis operating leases allows shipping lines to more quickly adjust the size of their fleets and the mix of container types in their fleets as their trade volumes and patterns change due to seasonality, market changes or changes in company strategies.

**Alternative Source of Financing.** Container and chassis leases provide an additional source of equipment financing to help shipping lines manage the high level of investment required to maintain pace with the rapid growth of the asset intensive container shipping industry.

**Operating Leases.** Operating leases are structured to allow customers flexibility to pick-up equipment on short notice and to drop-off equipment prior to the end of its useful life. Because of this flexibility, most of our containers and chassis will go through several pick-up and drop-off cycles. Our operating lease contracts specify a per diem rate for equipment on-hire, where and when such equipment can be returned, how the customer will be charged for damage and the charge for lost or destroyed equipment, among other things.

We categorize our operating leases as either long-term leases or service leases. Some leases have contractual terms that have features reflective of both long-term and service leases. We classify such leases as either long-term or service leases, depending upon which features we believe are predominant. Long-term leases typically have initial contractual terms ranging from three to eight years with an average term of approximately five years at lease inception. Our long-term leases require our customers to maintain specific units on-hire for the duration of the lease term, and they provide us with predictable recurring cash flow. As of December 31, 2015, 68.7% of our on-hire containers and chassis were under long-term operating leases.

We also have expired long-term leases whose fixed terms have ended but for which the related units remain on-hire and for which we continue to receive rental payments pursuant to the terms of the initial contract. As of December 31, 2015, 7.9% of our on-hire containers and chassis were on long-term leases whose fixed terms have expired but for which the related units remain on-hire and for which we continue to receive rental payments.

Some of our long-term leases give our customers Early Termination Options ("ETOs"). If exercised, ETOs allow customers to return equipment prior to the expiration of the long-term lease. However, if an ETO is exercised, the customer is required to pay a penalty per diem rate that is applied retroactively to the beginning of the lease. As a result of this retroactive penalty, ETOs have historically been exercised infrequently.

Service leases allow our customers to pick-up and drop-off equipment during the term of the lease, subject to contractual limitations. Service leases provide the customer with a higher level of flexibility than long-term leases and, as a result, typically carry a higher per diem rate. The terms of our service leases can range from twelve months to five years, though, because equipment can be returned during the term of a service lease and since service leases are generally renewed or modified and extended upon expiration, lease term does not dictate expected on-hire time for our equipment on service leases. As of December 31, 2015, 15.7% of our on-hire containers and chassis were under service leases and this equipment has been on-hire for an average of 37 months.

**Finance Leases.** Finance leases provide our customers with an alternative method to finance their equipment acquisitions. Finance leases typically have lease terms ranging from four to eight years. Finance leases are generally

structured for specific quantities of equipment, generally require the customer to keep the equipment on-hire for its remaining useful life, and typically provide the customer with a purchase option at the end of the lease term. As of December 31, 2015, approximately 7.7% of our on-hire containers and chassis were under finance leases.

As of December 31, 2015, our long-term and finance leases had an average remaining duration of 42 months, assuming no leases are renewed. However, we believe that many of our customers will renew operating leases for equipment that is less than sale age at the expiration of the lease. In addition, our equipment on operating leases typically remains on-hire at the contractual per diem rate for an additional six to twelve months beyond the end of the contractual lease term due to the logistical requirements of our customers having to return the containers and chassis to specific drop-off locations.

## Table of Contents

**Lease Documentation.** In general, our lease agreements consist of two basic elements, a master lease agreement and a lease addendum. Lease addenda typically contain the business terms (including daily rate, term duration and drop-off schedule, among other things) for specific leasing transactions, while master lease agreements typically outline the general rights and obligations of the lessor and lessee under all of the lease addenda covered by the master lease agreement (lease addenda will specify the master lease agreement that governs the addenda). For most customers, we have a small number of master lease agreements (often one) and a large number of lease addenda.

Our master lease agreements generally require the lessees to pay rentals, depot charges, taxes and other charges when due, to maintain the equipment in good condition, to return the equipment in accordance with the return condition set forth in the master lease agreement, to use the equipment in compliance with all federal, state, local and foreign laws, and to pay us for the value of the equipment as determined by us if the equipment is lost or destroyed. The default clause gives us certain legal remedies in the event that the lessee is in breach of the lease.

The master lease agreements usually contain an exclusion of warranties clause and require lessees to defend and indemnify us in most instances from third-party claims arising out of the lessee's use, operation, possession or lease of the equipment. Lessees are generally required to maintain all risks physical damage insurance, comprehensive general liability insurance and to indemnify us against loss. We also maintain our own off-hire physical damage insurance to cover our equipment when it is not on-hire to lessees and third-party liability insurance for both on-hire and off-hire equipment. Nevertheless, such insurance or indemnities may not fully protect us against damages arising from the use of our containers.

## Logistics Management, Re-leasing, Depot Management and Equipment Disposals

We believe that managing the period after our equipment's first lease is the most important aspect of our business. Successful management of this period requires disciplined logistics management, extensive re-lease capability, careful cost control and effective sales of used equipment.

**Logistics Management.** Since the late 1990's, the shipping industry has been characterized by large regional trade imbalances, with loaded containers generally flowing from export oriented economies in Asia to North America and Western Europe. Because of these trade imbalances, shipping lines have an incentive to return leased containers in North America and Europe to reduce the cost of empty container backhaul. TAL attempts to mitigate the risk of these unbalanced trade flows by maintaining a large portion of our fleet on long-term and finance leases and by contractually restricting the ability of our customers to return containers outside of Asian demand locations.

In addition, TAL attempts to minimize the costs of any container imbalances by finding local users in surplus locations and by moving empty containers as cheaply as possible. While we believe we manage our logistics risks and costs effectively, logistical risk remains an important element of our business due to competitive pressures, changing trade patterns and other market factors and uncertainties.

**Re-leasing.** Since our operating leases allow customers to return containers and chassis, we typically are required to place containers and chassis on several leases during their useful lives. Initial lease transactions for new containers and chassis can usually be generated with a limited sales and customer service infrastructure because initial leases for new containers and chassis typically cover large volumes of units and are fairly standardized transactions. Used equipment, on the other hand, is typically leased out in small transactions that are structured to accommodate pick-ups and returns in a variety of locations. As a result, leasing companies benefit from having a large number of customers and maintaining a high level of operating contact with these customers.

**Depot Management.** As of December 31, 2015, we managed our equipment fleet through approximately 230 third-party owned and operated depot facilities located in 40 countries. Depot facilities are generally responsible for

repairing our containers and chassis when they are returned by lessees and for storing the equipment while it is off-hire. We have a global operations group that is responsible for managing our depot contracts and they also regularly visit the depot facilities to conduct inventory and repair audits. We also supplement our internal operations group with the use of independent inspection agents.

We are in constant communication with our depot partners through the use of electronic data interchange, or EDI. Our depots gather and prepare all information related to the activity of our equipment at their facilities and transmit the information via EDI and the Internet to us. The information we receive from our depots updates our fully integrated container fleet management and tracking system.

Most of the depot agency agreements follow a standard form and generally provide that the depot will be liable for loss or damage of equipment and, in the event of loss or damage, will pay us the previously agreed loss value of the applicable

## Table of Contents

equipment. The agreements require the depots to maintain insurance against equipment loss or damage and we carry insurance to cover the risk that the depots' insurance proves insufficient.

Our container repair standards and processes are generally managed in accordance with standards and procedures specified by the Institute of International Container Lessors (IICL). The IICL establishes and documents the acceptable interchange condition for containers and the repair procedures required to return damaged containers to the acceptable interchange condition. At the time that containers are returned by lessees, the depot arranges an inspection of the containers to assess the repairs required to return the containers to acceptable IICL condition. This inspection process also splits the damage into two components, customer damage and normal wear and tear. Items typically designated as customer damage include dents in the container and debris left in the container, while items such as rust are typically designated as normal wear and tear.

Our leases are generally structured so that the lessee is responsible for the customer damage portion of the repair costs, and customers are billed for damages at the time the equipment is returned. We sometimes offer our customers a repair service program whereby we, for an additional payment by the lessee (in the form of a higher per-diem rate or a flat fee at off-hire), assume financial responsibility for all or a portion of the cost of repairs upon return of the equipment (but not of total loss of the equipment), up to a pre-negotiated amount.

**Equipment Disposals.** Our in-house equipment sales group has a worldwide team of specialists that manage the sale process for our used containers and chassis from our lease fleet. We generally sell to portable storage companies, freight forwarders (who often use the containers for one-way trips) and other purchasers of used containers. We believe we are one of the world's largest sellers of used containers.

We have sold approximately 94,000 TEU per year of our owned and managed used containers on average over the last five years. The sale prices we receive for our used containers from our lease fleet are influenced by many factors, including the level of demand for used containers compared to the number of used containers available for disposal in a particular location, the cost of new containers, and the level of damage on the containers. While our total revenue is primarily made up of leasing revenues, gains or losses on the sale of used containers can have a significant positive or negative impact on our profitability.

**Equipment Trading.** We also buy and sell new and used containers and chassis acquired from third parties. We typically purchase our equipment trading fleet from our shipping line customers or other sellers of used or new equipment. Trading margins are dependent on the volume of units purchased and resold, selling prices, costs paid for equipment sold and selling and administrative costs. Over the last five years, we have sold an average of approximately 32,000 TEU per year of containers purchased for resale.

## Management Services

Approximately 1.0% of our fleet is managed for third-party owners. We receive a specified percentage of the net revenue generated by our managed containers in return for our management services. If operating expenses were to exceed revenues, the owners are obligated to pay the excess or we may deduct the excess, including our management fee, from future net revenues. We typically receive a commission for selling managed containers, though in some cases, we are compensated for sales through a percentage sharing of sale proceeds over an agreed upon floor amount. Typically, the terms of the management agreements are 10 to 12 years from the acceptance dates of containers under the agreement.

## Environmental



We face a number of environmental concerns, including potential liability due to accidental discharge from our containers, potential equipment obsolescence, retrofitting expenses due to changes in environmental regulations and increased risk of container performance problems due to container design changes driven by environmental factors. While we maintain environmental liability insurance coverage, and the terms of our leases and other arrangements for use of our containers place the responsibility for environmental liability on the end user, we still may be subject to environmental liability in connection with our current or historical operations. In certain countries like the United States, the owner of a leased container may be liable for the costs of environmental damage from the discharge of the contents of the container even though the owner is not at fault. Our lessees are required to indemnify us from environmental claims and our standard master tank container lease agreement insurance clause requires our tank container lessees to provide pollution liability insurance.

## Table of Contents

We also face risks from changing environmental regulations, particularly with our refrigerated container product line. Many countries, including the United States, restrict, prohibit or otherwise regulate the use of chemical refrigerants due to their ozone depleting and global warming effects. Our refrigerated containers currently use R134A or 404A refrigerant. While R134A and 404A do not contain CFC's (which have been restricted since 1995), the European Union has instituted regulations to phase out the use of R134A in automobile air conditioning systems beginning in 2011 due to concern that the release of R134A into the atmosphere may contribute to global warming. While the European Union regulations do not currently restrict the use of R134A or 404A in refrigerated containers or trailers, it has been proposed that R134A and 404A usage in intermodal containers may be banned beginning in 2025, although the final decision has not been made as of yet. Further, certain manufacturers of refrigerated containers, including the largest manufacturer of cooling machines for refrigerated containers, have begun testing units that utilize alternative refrigerants, such as carbon dioxide, that may have less global warming potential than R134A and 404A. If future regulations prohibit the use or servicing of containers using R134A or 404A refrigerants, we could be forced to incur large retrofitting expenses. In addition, refrigerated containers that are not retrofitted may become difficult to lease and command lower rental rates and disposal prices.

Also, the insulation foam in the walls of refrigerated containers requires the use of a blowing agent that contains CFC's. Manufacturers are in various stages of phasing out the use of this blowing agent in the manufacturing process, however, if future regulations prohibit the use or servicing of containers with insulation manufactured with this blowing agent, we could be forced to incur large retrofitting expenses and refrigerated containers that are not retrofitted may become more difficult to lease and command lower rental rates and disposal prices.

An additional environmental concern affecting our operations relates to the construction materials used in our dry containers. The floors of dry containers are plywood usually made from tropical hardwoods. Due to concerns regarding de-forestation of tropical rain forests and climate change, many countries which have been the source of these hardwoods have implemented severe restrictions on the cutting and export of these woods. Accordingly, container manufacturers have switched a significant portion of production to more readily available alternatives such as birch, bamboo, and other farm grown wood species. Container users are also evaluating alternative designs that would limit the amount of plywood required and are also considering possible synthetic materials to replace the plywood. These new woods or other alternatives have not proven their durability over the typical 13-15 year life of a dry container, and if they cannot perform as well as the hardwoods have historically, the future repair and operating costs for these containers could be significantly higher and the useful life of the containers may be decreased.

## Credit Controls

We monitor our customers' performance and our lease exposures on an ongoing basis. Our credit management processes are aided by the long payment experience we have with most of our customers and our broad network of relationships in the shipping industry that provides current information about our customers' market reputations. Credit criteria may include, but are not limited to, customer payment history, customer financial position and performance (e.g., net worth, leverage and profitability), trade routes, country of domicile and the type of, and location of, equipment that is to be supplied. To mitigate the impact from potential defaults, we currently maintain credit insurance that in certain circumstances covers losses and costs incurred in default situations. However, this insurance must be renewed annually and it has significant deductibles, exclusions, payment and other limitations, and therefore may not protect us from losses arising from customer defaults.

## Marketing and Customer Service

Our global sales force and our customer service representatives are responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with senior operations staff at our shipping line customers, negotiating lease contracts and maintaining day-to-day coordination with junior level staff at our customers. This close customer communication helps us to

negotiate lease contracts that satisfy both our financial return requirements and our customers' operating needs, and ensures that we are aware of our customers' potential equipment shortages and that they are aware of our available equipment inventories.

#### Customers

We believe that we have strong, long standing relationships with our largest customers, most of whom we have done business with for over 20 years. We currently have equipment on-hire to more than 300 customers, although our twenty largest customers account for 82% of our leasing revenues. Our customers are mainly international shipping lines, but we also lease containers to freight forwarding companies and manufacturers. The shipping industry has been consolidating for a number of years, and further consolidation could increase the portion of our revenues that come from our largest customers. Our five largest customers accounted for 55% of our leasing revenues in 2015. Our largest customer is CMA CGM, which accounted for 16%, 16%, and 17% of our leasing revenues in 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively. NYK Line accounted for 12% of our

## Table of Contents

leasing revenues in 2015. No other customer exceeded 10% of our leasing revenues in 2015, 2014, and 2013. A default by one of our major customers could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and future prospects.

### Currency

Although we have significant foreign based operations, the U.S. dollar is the operating currency for the large majority of our leases and obligations, and most of our revenues and expenses are denominated in U.S. dollars. However we pay our non-U.S. staff in local currencies; and our direct operating expenses and disposal transactions for our older containers are often structured in foreign currencies. We record realized and unrealized foreign currency exchange gains and losses primarily due to fluctuations in exchange rates related to our Euro and Pound Sterling transactions and related assets and liabilities.

### Systems and Information Technology

We have a proprietary, fully integrated fleet management system. The system tracks all of our equipment individually by unit number, provides design specifications for the equipment, tracks on-hire and off-hire transactions, matches each on-hire unit to a lease contract and each off-hire unit to a depot contract, maintains the major terms for each lease contract, calculates the monthly bill for each customer and tracks and bills for equipment repairs. Our system is EDI capable, which means it can receive and process equipment activity and transactions electronically.

In addition, our system allows our business partners to conduct business with us through the Internet. It allows customers to check our equipment inventories, review design specifications, request clearances for returning equipment (the system will issue the clearance electronically if the return to the specified location is currently allowed by the contract covering the equipment), request bookings for equipment pick-ups and review and approve repair bills.

### Suppliers

We have long relationships with all of our major suppliers. We purchase most of our containers and chassis in China. There are five large manufacturers of dry containers and three large manufacturers of refrigerated containers, though for both dry containers and refrigerated containers, the largest manufacturer accounts for nearly 50% of global production volume. Our operations staff reviews the designs for our containers and periodically audits the production facilities of our suppliers. In addition, we use our Asian operations group and third party inspectors to visit factories when our containers are being produced to provide an extra layer of quality control. Nevertheless, defects in our containers do sometimes occur. We work with the manufacturers to correct these defects, and our manufacturers have generally honored their warranty obligations in such cases.

### Competition

We compete with over ten other major intermodal equipment leasing companies, many smaller lessors, manufacturers of intermodal equipment and companies offering finance leases as distinct from operating leases. It is common for our customers to utilize several leasing companies to meet their equipment needs.

Our competitors compete with us in many ways, including lease pricing, lease flexibility, supply reliability and customer service. In times of weak demand or excess supply, leasing companies often respond by lowering leasing rates and increasing the logistical flexibility offered in their lease agreements. In addition, new entrants into the leasing business have been attracted by the high rate of containerized trade growth in recent years, and they are often aggressive on pricing and lease flexibility.

While we are forced to compete aggressively on price, we attempt to emphasize our supply reliability and high level of customer service to our customers. We invest heavily to ensure adequate equipment availability in high demand locations, dedicate large portions of our organization to building customer relationships and maintaining close day-to-day coordination with customers' operating staffs, and we have developed powerful and user-friendly systems that allow our customers to transact with us through the Internet.

#### Employees

As of December 31, 2015, we employed 174 people in 17 offices, in 11 countries. We believe that our relations with our employees are good and we are not a party to any collective bargaining agreements.

Table of Contents

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Our business, financial condition and results of operations are subject to various risks and uncertainties noted throughout this report, including those discussed below, which may affect the value of our securities. In addition to the risks discussed below, there may be additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently deem less significant that also may adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations, perhaps materially. You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described below and elsewhere in this report. Some statements in our risk factors constitute forward looking statements. Please refer to the section entitled “Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements” in this report.

Risk Factors Relating to TAL

Market conditions are very weak due to a combination of factors, including significant declines in steel prices, new container prices, and used container prices, and slower trade growth, all of which have led to much lower demand for containers.

Market conditions are unusually weak and such weakness is accelerating due to a combination of factors which have significantly reduced TAL’s profitability. There has been an overall decline in worldwide commodity prices, and in particular, steel prices, which have declined approximately 40% from October 2014 through December 2015. Quarter to quarter world containerized trade growth decelerated significantly during 2015 as compared to the respective quarterly periods of 2014. The decline in steel prices, along with slower trade growth that has resulted in a reduced demand for containers, has contributed to a significant decline in the price of new containers, which along with low interest rates, has resulted in market lease rates reaching historically low levels. In addition, TAL has a large number of historically high rate leases that are expiring from 2016 through 2020 and those that have expired or been renegotiated have been re-priced at today’s historically low lease rates. Used equipment is being sold at substantially lower prices, resulting in losses on the sale of equipment. All of the above factors are contributing to the pressure on TAL’s profitability, and these current conditions are expected to continue. If these trends continue, TAL’s profitability will decline further, which could limit the availability of its liquidity and capital resources and therefore constrain its ability to invest in additional containers, pay dividends or repurchase its common shares.

Market lease rates are currently historically very low. As a result, TAL’s profitability may decline due to reduced returns on new investments and reduced profitability on existing containers as leases expire and lease rates are re-priced.

Market leasing rates decreased significantly from 2012 through 2015 due to a substantial decrease in new container prices, widely available low-cost financing for leasing companies and aggressive competition. This decrease in market leasing rates has negatively impacted the expected investment returns on our new container investments and it is reducing the profitability of the existing containers in our fleet as existing leases expire and are re-priced. From 2012 to 2015, the average lease rate in our fleet decreased 11.5% on a CEU basis. If market lease rates remain near their current low level for an extended period of time, we expect the decrease in our average lease rates to accelerate in 2016 and 2017 and have a substantial negative impact on our profitability.

The size of our owned fleet increased significantly from 2010 to 2011 due to our large purchases of new equipment and investments in sale-leaseback transactions. Many of the containers purchased in those years were purchased at relatively high prices and leased out at lease rates well above our portfolio average. As a result, the high level of procurement from 2010 through 2011 has created a concentration of leases with historically high leasing rates that began expiring in 2015 and will continue to expire through 2020. If container prices and market leasing rates remain near their current level for an extended period of time, we could be forced to re-lease those containers at significantly

reduced lease rates. We estimate that the average current market leasing rates for new containers placed on long-term leases are approximately 55% lower than the average lease rates for containers purchased during 2010 and 2011. We also estimate that our annual leasing revenue would decrease by \$1.7 million for each 1% reduction in the average lease rates on the containers purchased in 2010 and 2011.

Container leasing demand can be negatively affected by numerous market factors as well as external political and economic events that are beyond our control. Decreasing leasing demand could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Demand for containers depends largely on the rate of world trade and economic growth. Demand for leased containers is also driven by our customers' "lease vs. buy" decisions. Cyclical recessions can negatively affect lessors' operating results because during economic downturns or periods of reduced trade, shipping lines tend to lease fewer containers, or lease containers only at reduced rates, and tend to rely more on their own fleets to satisfy a greater percentage of their requirements.

## Table of Contents

As a result, during periods of weak global economic activity, container lessors like TAL typically experience decreased leasing demand, decreased equipment utilization, lower average rental rates, decreased leasing revenue, decreased used container resale prices and significantly decreased profitability. These effects can be severe.

For example, our profitability decreased significantly from the third quarter of 2008 to the third quarter of 2009 due to the effects of the global financial crisis, and our profitability would have decreased further if trade activity did not start to recover at the end of 2009. In 2015, TAL's operating performance and profitability was also negatively impacted due to slower global trade growth resulting in reduced demand for leased containers, decreasing utilization, decreases in our lease rental revenue, decreased used container sales prices, and higher operating costs. These conditions have continued, and to some degree accelerated, in the first two months of 2016. If these trends continue, TAL's profitability will be negatively affected, which could constrain its ability to invest in additional containers, pay dividends or repurchase its common shares.

Other general factors affecting demand for leased containers, container utilization and per diem rental rates include:

- the available supply and prices of new and used containers;
- changes in economic conditions, the operating efficiency of our customers and competitive pressures in the shipping industry;
- the availability and terms of equipment financing for our customers;
- fluctuations in interest rates and foreign currency values;
- import/export tariffs and restrictions;
- customs procedures;
- foreign exchange controls; and
- other governmental regulations and political or economic factors that are inherently unpredictable and may be beyond our control.

Any of the aforementioned factors may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Lease rates may still decrease further due to a decrease in new container prices, weak leasing demand, increased competition or other factors, resulting in reduced revenues, lower margins, and reduced profitability and cash flows.

Market leasing rates are typically a function of, among other things, new equipment prices (which are heavily influenced by steel prices), interest rates, the type and length of the lease, the equipment supply and demand balance at a particular time and location, and other factors more fully described below. A decrease in leasing rates can have a materially adverse effect on our leasing revenues, profitability and cash flow.

A decrease in market leasing rates negatively impacts the leasing rates on both our new container investments and the existing containers in our fleet. Most of our existing containers are on operating leases, which means that the lease term is shorter than the expected life of the container, so the lease rate we receive for the container is subject to change at the expiration of the current lease. Lower new container prices, widespread availability of attractively priced



financing, and aggressive competition for new leasing transactions continue to pressure market lease rates, and market lease rates are currently significantly below our portfolio average. As a result, during periods of low market lease rates, including the present period, the average lease rate received for our containers is negatively impacted by both the addition of new containers at low lease rates as well, and more significantly by, the turnover of existing containers from leases with higher lease rates to leases with lower lease rates.

TAL faces risks associated with re-leasing containers after their initial fixed-term leases.

TAL's containers have an economic useful life of approximately 13 to 15 years from the date a container was or is first leased to a customer. However, we may not lease containers for their full useful lives. When we purchase newly-produced containers, we may lease them out under fixed-term leases with contractual terms of one to five years at a lease rate that is, among other things, correlated to the price paid for the container. When these leases expire or are terminated, it may not be

Table of Contents

possible to re-lease these containers at rates that provide a reasonable economic return, or at all. If prevailing container lease rates decline significantly between the time a container is initially leased out and when its initial fixed-term lease expires, or if overall demand for containers declines, we may have to accept lower lease rates or experience a delay in re-leasing these containers, which could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Lessee defaults may adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flow by decreasing revenues and increasing storage, positioning, collection, recovery and lost equipment expenses.

Our containers and chassis are leased to numerous customers. Lease rentals and other charges, as well as indemnification for damage to or loss of our equipment, are payable under the leases and other arrangements by the lessees. Inherent in the nature of the leases and other arrangements for use of the equipment is the risk that once the lease is consummated, we may not receive, or may experience delay in receipt of all of the amounts to be paid in respect of the equipment. A delay or diminution in amounts received under the leases and other arrangements could adversely affect our business and financial prospects and our ability to make payments on our debt. In addition, not all of TAL's customers provide detailed financial information regarding their operations. As a result, customer credit risk is in part assessed on the basis of their reputation in the market, and there can be no assurance that they can or will fulfill their obligations under the contracts we enter into with them. Our customers could incur financial difficulties, or otherwise have difficulty making payments to us when due, for any number of factors that may be beyond our control and which we may be unable to anticipate.

The cash flow from our equipment, principally lease rentals, management fees and proceeds from the sale of owned equipment, is affected significantly by our ability to collect payments under leases and other arrangements for the use of the equipment and our ability to replace cash flows from terminating leases by re-leasing or selling equipment on favorable terms. All of these factors are subject to external economic conditions and performance by lessees and service providers that are beyond our control.

In addition, when lessees or sub-lessees of our containers and chassis default, we may fail to recover all of our equipment, and the containers and chassis we do recover may be returned in damaged condition or to locations where we will not be able to efficiently re-lease or sell them. As a result, we may have to repair and reposition these containers and chassis to other places where we can re-lease or sell them, and we may lose lease revenues and incur additional operating expenses in repossessing, repositioning and storing the equipment.

We believe that the risk of large lessee defaults remains elevated. Persistent excess vessel capacity has led to very low ocean freight rates which has resulted in, for certain carriers, large financial losses over the last several years. Over the next several years, new vessel deliveries are anticipated to remain at a high level. As a result, we expect excess vessel capacity to persist for several more years and expect the financial performance of our customers to remain under pressure.

Our balance sheet includes an allowance for doubtful accounts as well as an equipment reserve related to the expected costs of recovering and remarketing containers currently in the possession of customers that have either defaulted or that we believe currently present a significant risk of loss. However, in accordance with GAAP, we do not maintain a general equipment reserve for equipment on-hire under operating leases to performing customers. As a result, any major customer default could have a significant impact on our profitability upon such default. Such a default could also have a material adverse effect on our business condition and financial prospects.

Our customer base is highly concentrated. A default from any large customer, and especially our largest customer, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and future prospects. In addition, a significant reduction in leasing business from any of our large customers could have a material adverse impact on

demand for our containers and our financial performance.

Our five largest customers represented approximately 55% of our leasing revenues in 2015, with our single largest customer, CMA CGM, representing 16% of our leasing revenues and our second largest customer, NYK Line, representing 12% of our leasing revenues in 2015. No other customer exceeded 10% of our leasing revenues. Furthermore, the shipping industry has been consolidating for a number of years, and further consolidation is expected and could increase the portion of our revenues that come from our largest customers.

Given the high concentration of TAL's customer base, a default by any of its largest customers would result in a major reduction in our leasing revenue, large repossession expenses, potentially large lost equipment charges and a material adverse impact on our performance and financial condition. In addition, the loss or significant reduction in orders from any of TAL's major customers could materially reduce the demand for its containers and result in lower leasing revenue, higher operating expenses and diminished growth prospects.

Table of Contents

Used container sales prices have decreased and may decrease further, leading to lower gains or losses on the disposal of our equipment.

Although our revenues primarily depend upon equipment leasing, our profitability is also affected by the gains or losses we realize on the sale of used containers because, in the ordinary course of our business, we sell certain containers when they are returned by customers upon lease expiration. The volatility of the selling prices and gains or losses from the disposal of such equipment can be very significant. Used container selling prices, which can vary substantially, depend upon, among other factors, the cost of new containers, the global supply and demand balance for containers, the location of the containers, the supply and demand balance for used containers at a particular location, the physical condition of the container, refurbishment needs, materials and labor costs and obsolescence of certain equipment or technology. Most of these factors are outside of our control.

Containers are typically sold if it is in our best interest to do so after taking into consideration local and global leasing and sale market conditions and the age, location, and physical condition of the container. As these considerations vary, gains or losses on sale of equipment will also fluctuate and may be significant if we sell large quantities of containers.

Used container selling prices and the gains or losses that we have recognized from selling used containers have varied widely over the last fifteen years.

Selling prices for used containers and our disposal gains were exceptionally high from 2010 to 2012 due to a generally tight global supply and demand balance for containers. Since then, used container prices have declined. If disposal prices remain at the current low level or decrease further, it will have a significantly negative impact on TAL's financial performance and cash flow. This could constrain TAL's ability to invest in additional containers, pay dividends or repurchase its common shares.

Equipment trading is dependent upon a steady supply of used equipment.

We purchase used containers for resale from our shipping line customers and other sellers. If the supply of equipment becomes limited because these sellers develop other means for disposing of their equipment or develop their own sales network, we may not be able to purchase the inventory necessary to meet our goals, and our equipment trading revenues and our profitability could be negatively impacted.

Abrupt changes in sales prices on equipment purchased for resale could negatively affect our equipment trading margins.

We purchase and sell containers opportunistically as part of our equipment trading segment. We purchase equipment for resale on the premise that we will be able to sell this inventory in a relatively short time frame. If sales prices rapidly deteriorate and we are holding a large inventory of equipment that was purchased when prices for equipment were higher, then our gross margins could decline or become negative.

Our customers may decide to lease fewer containers. Should shipping lines decide to buy a larger percentage of the containers they operate, our utilization rate and level of investment would decrease, resulting in decreased leasing revenues, increased storage costs, increased positioning costs and lower growth.

We, like other suppliers of leased containers, are dependent upon decisions by shipping lines to lease rather than buy their container equipment. Should shipping lines decide to buy a larger percentage of the containers they operate, our utilization rate would decrease, resulting in decreased leasing revenues, increased storage costs and increased

positioning costs. A decrease in the portion of leased containers operated by shipping lines would also reduce our investment opportunities and significantly constrain our growth. Most of the factors affecting the decisions of our customers are outside of our control.

We face extensive competition in the container leasing industry.

We may be unable to compete favorably in the highly competitive container leasing and sales business. We compete with more than ten other major leasing companies, many smaller lessors, manufacturers of container equipment, companies offering finance leases as distinct from operating leases, promoters of container ownership and leasing as a tax shelter investment, shipping lines, which sometimes lease their excess container stocks, and suppliers of alternative types of equipment for freight transport. Some of these competitors may have greater financial resources and access to capital than we do. Additionally, some of these competitors may, at times, accumulate a high volume of underutilized inventories of containers, which could lead to significant downward pressure on lease rates and margins.

Table of Contents

Competition among container leasing companies depends upon many factors, including, among others, lease rates, lease terms (including lease duration, drop-off restrictions and repair provisions), customer service, and the location, availability, quality and individual characteristics of equipment. The highly competitive nature of our industry may reduce lease rates and margins and undermine our ability to maintain our current level of container utilization or achieve our growth plans.

The demand for leased containers is particularly tied to international trade. If international trade were to decrease, it could reduce demand for container leasing, which would materially adversely affect TAL's business, financial condition and results of operations.

A substantial portion of TAL's containers are used in trade involving goods being shipped from exporting countries (e.g., China and other Asian countries) to importing countries (e.g., the United States or European nations). The willingness and ability of international consumers to purchase foreign goods is dependent upon political support for an absence of government-imposed barriers to international trade in goods and services. For example, international consumer demand for foreign goods is related to price; if the price differential between foreign goods and domestically-produced goods were to decrease due to increased tariffs on foreign goods, strengthening in the applicable foreign currencies relative to domestic currencies, rising foreign wages, increasing input or energy costs or other factors, then demand for foreign goods could decrease, which in turn could result in reduced demand for container leasing. A similar reduction in demand for container leasing could result from an increased use of quotas or other technical barriers to restrict trade. The current regime of relatively free trade may not continue, which would materially adversely affect TAL's business, financial condition and results of operations.

If we are unable to finance capital expenditures, our business and growth plans will be adversely affected.

We make capital investments to, among other things, maintain and expand the size of our container fleet as market conditions allow. We have relied heavily on debt financing to help us fund our new container investments. During the financial crisis of 2008 and 2009, bank financing became much more difficult to obtain and the asset securitization market was not available to us. In the future, our bank financing and asset-backed financing capacity could decrease, our financing costs and interest rates could increase, or our future access to the financial markets could be limited, as a result of risks and contingencies, many of which are beyond our control, including: (i) the acceptance by credit markets of the structures and structural risks associated with our bank financing, private placement financing and asset-backed financing arrangements; (ii) the credit ratings provided by credit rating agencies for our asset-backed indebtedness; (iii) third parties requiring changes in the terms and structure of our asset-backed financing arrangements, including increased credit enhancements (such as lower advance rates) or required cash collateral and/or other liquid reserves; or (iv) changes in laws or regulations that negatively impact the terms on which the banks or other creditors may finance us or any of our asset-backed financing arrangements. If we are unsuccessful in obtaining sufficient additional financing on acceptable terms, on a timely basis, or at all, such changes could have a material adverse effect on our liquidity, interest costs, financial condition, cash flows and results of operations.

We have a substantial amount of debt outstanding on a consolidated basis and have significant debt service requirements. This increases the risk that adverse changes in our operating performance, our industry or the financial markets could severely diminish our financial performance and future business and growth prospects, and increases the chance that we might face insolvency due to a default on our debt obligations.

As of December 31, 2015, we had outstanding indebtedness of \$3.2 billion under our asset backed securities, capital lease obligations and other debt facilities. Our interest and debt expense for the year ended December 31, 2015 was \$118.3 million. As of December 31, 2015, our net debt (total debt plus equipment purchases payable less cash) to total revenue earning assets was 76%.

Our substantial amount of debt could have important consequences for investors, including:

making it more difficult for us to satisfy our obligations with respect to our debt facilities. Any failure to comply with such obligations, including a failure to make timely interest or principal payments, or a breach of financial or other restrictive covenants, could result in an event of default under the agreements governing such indebtedness, which could lead to, among other things, an acceleration of our indebtedness or foreclosure on the assets securing our indebtedness and which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, future prospects and solvency;

requiring us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to make payments on our debt, thereby reducing funds available for operations, capital expenditures, future business opportunities and other purposes;

Table of Contents

limiting our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and the industry in which we operate;

- limiting our ability to borrow additional funds, or to sell assets to raise funds, if needed, for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions or other purposes;

making it difficult for us to pay dividends on our common shares or repurchase our common shares;

increasing our vulnerability to general adverse economic and industry conditions, including changes in interest rates; and

placing us at a competitive disadvantage compared to our competitors having less debt.

Despite our substantial leverage, we and our subsidiaries may be able to incur additional indebtedness. This could further exacerbate the risks described above.

We and our subsidiaries may be able to incur substantial additional indebtedness in the future. Although our asset backed securities and other credit facilities contain restrictions on the incurrence of additional indebtedness, such restrictions are subject to a number of qualifications and exceptions, and, under certain circumstances, indebtedness incurred in compliance with such restrictions could be substantial. To the extent that new indebtedness is added to our and our subsidiaries' current debt levels, the risks described above would increase.

We will require a significant amount of cash to service and repay our outstanding indebtedness. This may limit our ability to fund future capital expenditures, pursue future business opportunities, make acquisitions or return cash to our shareholders.

Our high level of indebtedness requires us to make large interest and principal payments. These debt service payments currently represent a significant portion of our cash flow, and if our operating cash flow decreases in the future, or if it becomes more difficult for us to arrange financing to refinance existing debt facilities or fund our new equipment purchases, we may be unable to service and repay our debt.

Additionally, TAL may not be able to refinance any of its indebtedness on commercially reasonable terms or at all. If we cannot service our indebtedness, we may have to take actions such as selling assets, seeking additional equity or reducing or delaying future capital expenditures or other business investments, which could have a material adverse impact on our growth rate, profitability and cash flow. Such actions, if necessary, may not be effected on commercially reasonable terms or at all. Our indebtedness will restrict our ability to sell assets and use the proceeds from such sales in certain ways.

If TAL is unable to generate sufficient cash flow or is otherwise unable to obtain funds necessary to meet required payments of principal and interest on its indebtedness, or if it otherwise fails to comply with the various covenants in the instruments governing its indebtedness, it could be in default under the terms of the agreements governing such indebtedness. In the event of such default, the holders of such indebtedness could elect to declare all the funds borrowed thereunder to be due and payable, together with accrued and unpaid interest, the lenders under TAL's debt facilities could elect to terminate their respective commitments thereunder, cease making further loans and institute foreclosure proceedings against its assets, and it could be forced into bankruptcy or liquidation. If our operating performance declines, we may in the future need to obtain waivers from the required lenders under our debt facilities to avoid being in default. If we breach our covenants under our debt facilities and seek a waiver, we may not be able to obtain a waiver from the required lenders. If this occurs, we would be in default under our debt facilities, the lenders could exercise their rights, as described above, and we could be forced into bankruptcy or liquidation.



Our asset backed securities, institutional notes, and other credit facilities impose significant operating and financial restrictions, which may prevent us from pursuing certain business opportunities and taking certain actions.

Our asset backed securities, institutional notes, and other credit facilities impose, and the terms of any future indebtedness may impose, significant operating, financial and other restrictions on us and our subsidiaries. These restrictions will limit or prohibit, among other things, our ability to:

incur additional indebtedness;

pay dividends on or redeem or repurchase our shares;

Table of Contents

- issue additional capital stock of TAL and our subsidiaries;
- make loans and investments;
- create liens;
- sell certain assets or merge with or into other companies;
- enter into certain transactions with shareholders and affiliates;
- cause our subsidiaries to make dividends, distributions and other payments to TAL; and
- otherwise conduct necessary corporate activities.

These restrictions could adversely affect our ability to finance our future operations or capital needs and pursue available business opportunities. A breach of any of these restrictions could result in a default in respect of the related indebtedness. If a default occurs, the relevant lenders could elect to declare the indebtedness, together with accrued interest and fees, to be immediately due and payable and proceed against any collateral securing that indebtedness, which will constitute substantially all of our material container assets.

Environmental regulations may result in equipment obsolescence or require substantial investments to retrofit existing equipment, especially for our refrigerated containers. Additionally, environmental concerns are leading to significant design changes for new containers that have not been extensively tested, which increases the risks we face from potential technical problems.

Many countries, including the United States, restrict, prohibit or otherwise regulate the use of chemical refrigerants due to their ozone depleting and global warming effects. Our refrigerated containers currently use R134A or 404A refrigerant. While R134A and 404A do not contain CFC's (which have been restricted since 1995), the European Union has instituted regulations beginning in 2011 to phase out the use of R134A in automobile air conditioning systems due to concern that the release of R134A into the atmosphere may contribute to global warming. While the European Union regulations do not currently restrict the use of R134A or 404A in refrigerated containers or trailers, it has been proposed that beginning in 2025 R134A and 404A usage in intermodal containers will be banned, although the final decision has not been made. Further, certain manufacturers of refrigerated containers, including the largest manufacturer of cooling machines for refrigerated containers, have begun testing units that utilize alternative refrigerants, such as carbon dioxide, that may have less global warming potential than R134A and 404A. If future regulations prohibit the use or servicing of containers using R134A or 404A refrigerants, we could be forced to incur large retrofitting expenses. In addition, refrigerated containers that are not retrofitted may become difficult to lease, command lower rental rates and disposal prices, or may have to be scrapped.

Also, the foam insulation in the walls of intermodal refrigerated containers requires the use of a blowing agent that contains hydrochlorofluorocarbons (CFC's, specifically HCFC-141b). Manufacturers are in various stages of phasing out the use of this blowing agent in the manufacturing process. In accordance with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the continued use of HCFC-141b in manufacturing is currently permitted. The European Union ("EU") prohibits the import and the placing on the market in the EU of intermodal containers with insulation made with HCFC-141b ("EU regulation"). However, the European Commission has recognized that notwithstanding its regulation, under international conventions governing free movement of intermodal containers, the use of such intermodal refrigerated containers admitted into EU countries on temporary customs admission should be permitted. Each country in the EU has its own individual and different regulations to implement the EU regulation. TAL has procedures in place that we believe comply with the EU and country regulations. However, if such

intermodal refrigerated containers exceed its temporary customs admission period and/or their custom admissions status changes (e.g., should such container be off-hired) and such intermodal refrigerated containers are deemed placed on the market in the EU, or if TAL's procedures are deemed not to comply with EU or a country's regulation, TAL could be subject to fines and penalties. Also, if future international conventions or regulations prohibit the use or servicing of containers with foam insulation that utilized this blowing agent during the manufacturing process, TAL could be forced to incur large retrofitting expenses and those containers that are not retrofitted may become more difficult to lease and command lower rental rates and disposal prices.

An additional environmental concern affecting our operations relates to the construction materials used in our dry containers. The floors of dry containers are plywood usually made from tropical hardwoods. Due to concerns regarding the de-forestation of tropical rain forests and climate change, many countries which have been the source of these hardwoods have implemented severe restrictions on the cutting and export of these woods. Accordingly, container manufacturers have switched

## Table of Contents

a significant portion of production to more readily available alternatives such as birch, bamboo, and other farm grown wood species. Container users are also evaluating alternative designs that would limit the amount of plywood required and are also considering possible synthetic materials to replace the plywood. These new woods or other alternatives have not proven their durability over the typical 13-15 year life of a dry container, and if they cannot perform as well as the hardwoods have historically, the future repair and operating costs for these containers could be significantly higher and the useful life of the containers may be decreased.

Litigation to enforce our leases and recover our containers has inherent uncertainties that are increased by the location of our containers in jurisdictions that have less developed legal systems.

While almost all of our lease agreements are governed by New York law and provide for the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts located in the state of New York, our ability to enforce the lessees' obligations under the leases and other arrangements for use of the containers often is subject to applicable laws in the jurisdiction in which enforcement is sought. It is not possible to predict, with any degree of certainty, the jurisdictions in which enforcement proceedings may be commenced. Our containers are manufactured primarily in China, and a substantial portion of our containers are leased out of Asia, primarily China, and are used by our customers in a wide range of global trades. Litigation and enforcement proceedings have inherent uncertainties in any jurisdiction and are expensive. These uncertainties are enhanced in countries that have less developed legal systems where the interpretation of laws and regulations is not consistent, may be influenced by factors other than legal merits and may be cumbersome, time-consuming and even more expensive. For example, repossession from defaulting lessees may be difficult and more expensive in jurisdictions whose laws do not confer the same security interests and rights to creditors and lessors as those in the United States and where the legal system is not as well developed. Additionally, even if we are successful in obtaining judgments against defaulting customers, these customers may have limited owned assets and/or heavily encumbered assets and the collection and enforcements of a monetary judgment against them may be unsuccessful. As a result, the remedies available and the relative success and expedience of collection and enforcement proceedings with respect to the containers in various jurisdictions cannot be predicted. As more of our business shifts to areas outside of the United States and Europe, such as China, it may become more difficult and expensive to enforce our rights and recover our containers.

The success of our recovery efforts for defaulted leases has been hampered by undeveloped creditor protections and legal systems in a number of countries. In these situations, we experienced an increase in average recovery costs per unit and a decrease in the percentage of containers recovered in default situations primarily due to excessive charges applied to our containers by the depot or terminal facilities that had been storing the containers for the defaulted lessee. In these cases, the payments demanded by the depot or terminal operators often significantly exceeded the amount of storage costs that we would reasonably expect to pay for the release of the containers. However, our legal remedies were limited in many of the jurisdictions where the containers were being stored, and we were sometimes forced to accept the excessive storage charges to gain control of our containers. If the number and size of defaults increases in the future, and if a large percentage of the defaulted containers are being stored in countries with less developed legal systems, losses resulting from recovery payments and unrecovered containers could be large and our profitability significantly reduced.

We may incur future asset impairment charges.

An asset impairment charge may result from the occurrence of unexpected adverse events or management decisions that impact our estimates of expected cash flows generated from our long-lived assets. We review our long-lived assets, including our container and chassis equipment, goodwill and other intangible assets for impairment, when events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable. We may be required to recognize asset impairment charges in the future as a result of reductions in demand for specific container and chassis types, a weak economic environment, challenging market conditions, events related to particular

customers or asset types, or as a result of asset or portfolio sale decisions by management.

Effective October 1, 2012, we further increased the estimated residual values used in our depreciation calculations for several of our container types from the last increase made in the fourth quarter of 2010. If, in the future, we experience weak demand for these specific container types the amount of a potential impairment charge would be higher than if we had not increased our residual estimates.

Table of Contents

Manufacturers of our equipment may be unwilling or unable to honor manufacturer warranties covering defects in our equipment.

We obtain warranties from the manufacturers of our equipment. When defects in the containers occur, we work with the manufacturers to identify and rectify the problem. However, there is no assurance that manufacturers will be willing or able to honor warranty obligations. If defects are discovered in containers that are not covered by manufacturer warranties we could be required to expend significant amounts of money to repair the containers, the useful lives of the containers could be shortened and the value of the containers reduced.

For example, there has been an increase in the number of premature failures of wood floors on our containers. A shortage of mature tropical hardwood has forced manufacturers to use younger and alternative species of wood to make container floors, and it is likely that the number and magnitude of warranty claims related to premature floor failure will increase. If container manufacturers do not honor warranties covering these failures, or if the failures occur after the warranty period expires, we could be required to expend significant amounts of money to repair or sell containers earlier than expected. This could have a material adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition.

Changes in market price or availability of containers in China could adversely affect our ability to maintain our supply of containers.

China is currently the largest container producing nation in the world, and we currently purchase substantially all of our dry containers, special containers and refrigerated containers from manufacturers based there. Currently, there are two manufacturers controlling a majority of the market. In the event that it were to become more expensive for us to procure containers in China because of further consolidation among container suppliers, a dispute with one of our manufacturers, increased tariffs imposed by the United States or other governments or for any other reason, we would have to seek alternative sources of supply. We may not be able to make alternative arrangements quickly enough to meet our equipment needs, and the alternative arrangements may increase our costs.

We may incur significant costs associated with relocation of leased equipment.

When lessees return equipment to locations where supply exceeds demand, containers are routinely repositioned to higher demand areas. Positioning expenses vary depending on geographic location, distance, freight rates and other factors. Positioning expenses can be significant if a large portion of our containers are returned to locations with weak demand.

We currently seek to limit the number of containers that can be returned to areas where demand for such containers is not expected to be strong. However, future market conditions may not enable us to continue such practices. In addition, we may not be successful in accurately anticipating which port locations will be characterized by weak or strong demand in the future, and our current contracts will not provide much protection against positioning costs if ports that we expect to be strong demand ports turn out to be surplus container ports when the equipment is returned to such ports upon lease expiration. In particular, we could incur significant positioning costs in the future if trade flows change from net exports to net imports in locations such as the main ports in China that we currently consider to be high demand locations and where our leases typically allow large numbers of containers to be returned to us.

Sustained Asian economic, social or political instability could reduce demand for leasing.

Many of the shipping lines to which we lease containers are entities domiciled in Asian countries. In addition, many of our customers are substantially dependent upon shipments of goods exported from Asia. From time to time,

there have been economic disruptions, financial turmoil and political instability in this region. If these events were to occur in the future, they could adversely affect these customers and lead to reduced demand for leasing of our containers or otherwise adversely affect us.

It may become more expensive for us to store our off-hire containers.

We are dependent on third party depot operators to repair and store our equipment in port areas throughout the world. In many of these locations the land occupied by these depots is increasingly being considered as prime real estate. Accordingly, local communities are considering increasing restrictions on the depot operations which may increase their costs and in some cases force depots to relocate to sites further from the port areas. Additionally, depots in prime locations may become filled to capacity based on market conditions and may refuse additional containers due to space constraints. This could require us to enter into higher-cost storage agreements with third-party depot operators in order to accommodate our customers' turn-in

Table of Contents

requirements and could result in increased costs and expenses for us. If these changes affect a large number of our depots it could significantly increase the cost of maintaining and storing our off-hire containers.

We rely on our information technology systems to conduct our business. If these systems fail to adequately perform their functions, or if we experience an interruption in their operation, our business and financial results could be adversely affected.

The efficient operation of our business is highly dependent on our information technology systems including our equipment tracking and billing system and our customer interface system. For example, these systems allow customers to place pick-up and drop-off orders on the Internet, view current inventory and check contractual terms in effect with respect to any given container lease agreement. We correspondingly rely on such information systems to track transactions, such as container pick-ups and drop-offs, repairs, and to bill our customers for the use and damage to our equipment. We also use the information provided by these systems in our day-to-day business in order to effectively manage our lease portfolio and improve customer service. The failure of these systems to perform as we anticipate could limit our ability to bill customers for the use of our containers, disrupt our business and cause our relationships with our customers to suffer. In addition, our information technology systems are vulnerable to damage or interruption from circumstances beyond our control, including fire, natural disasters, power loss and computer systems failures and viruses. Any such interruption could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Security breaches and other disruptions could compromise TAL's information technology systems and expose us to liability, which could cause its business and reputation to suffer.

In the ordinary course of its business, TAL will collect and store sensitive data on its systems and networks, including TAL's proprietary business information and that of its customers and suppliers, and personally identifiable information of its customers and employees. The secure storage, processing, maintenance and transmission of this information is critical to TAL's operations. Despite the security measures it employs, TAL's information technology systems and networks may be vulnerable to attacks by hackers or breached due to employee error, malfeasance or other disruptions. Any such breach could compromise such systems and networks and the information stored therein could be accessed, publicly disclosed and/or lost or stolen. Any such access, disclosure or other loss of information could result in legal claims or proceedings, liability under laws that protect the privacy of personal information, disruption to its operations, damage to its reputation and/or loss of competitive position.

TAL may not be able to protect its intellectual property rights, which could materially affect TAL's business.

TAL's ability to obtain, protect and enforce its intellectual property rights is subject to general litigation risks, as well as the uncertainty as to the registrability, validity and enforceability of its intellectual property rights in each applicable country. TAL relies on its trademarks to distinguish its services from the services of competitors, and has registered or applied to register a number of these trademarks. However, TAL's trademark applications may not be approved. Third parties may also oppose TAL's trademark applications or otherwise challenge TAL's ownership or use of trademarks. In the event that TAL's trademarks are successfully challenged, TAL could be forced to rebrand its products, which could result in loss of brand recognition and could require TAL to devote resources to advertising and marketing of these new brands. Additionally, from time to time, third parties adopt or use names similar to TAL's, thereby impeding TAL's ability to build brand identity and possibly leading to consumer confusion or to dilution of TAL's trademarks. TAL may not have sufficient resources or desire to defend or enforce its intellectual property rights, and even if TAL seeks to enforce them, there is no guarantee that it will be able to prevent such third-party uses. Furthermore, such enforcement efforts may be expensive, time consuming and could divert management's attention from managing TAL's business.



TAL may be subject to claims by others that TAL is infringing on their intellectual property rights, which could harm TAL's business and negatively impact TAL's results of operations.

Third parties may assert claims that TAL infringes their intellectual property rights and these claims, with or without merit, could be time-consuming to litigate, cause TAL to incur substantial costs and divert management resources and attention in defending the claim. In some jurisdictions, plaintiffs can also seek injunctive relief that may prevent the marketing and selling of TAL's services that infringe on the plaintiff's intellectual property rights. To resolve these claims, TAL may enter into licensing agreements with restrictive terms or significant fees, stop selling or redesign affected services, or pay damages to satisfy contractual obligations to others. If TAL does not resolve these claims in advance of a trial, there is no guarantee that TAL will be successful in court. These outcomes may have a material adverse impact on TAL's operating results and financial condition.

Table of Contents

A number of key personnel are critical to the success of our business.

Most of our senior executives and other management level employees have been with us for over ten years and have significant industry experience. We rely on this knowledge and experience in our strategic planning and in our day-to-day business operations. Our success depends in large part upon our ability to retain our senior management, the loss of one or more of whom could have a material adverse effect on our business. Our success also depends on our ability to retain our experienced sales force and technical personnel as well as recruiting new skilled sales, marketing and technical personnel. Competition for experienced managers in our industry can be intense and we may not be able to successfully recruit, train or retain qualified personnel. If we fail to retain and recruit the necessary personnel, our business and our ability to retain customers and provide acceptable levels of customer service could suffer.

The international nature of the container industry exposes us to numerous risks.

We are subject to risks inherent in conducting business across national boundaries, any one of which could adversely impact our business. These risks include:

• regional or local economic downturns;

• changes in governmental policy or regulation;

• restrictions on the transfer of funds into or out of countries in which we operate;

• compliance with U.S. Treasury sanctions regulations restricting doing business with certain nations or specially designated nationals;

• import and export duties and quotas;

• domestic and foreign customs and tariffs;

• international incidents;

• military outbreaks;

• government instability;

• nationalization of foreign assets;

• government protectionism;

• compliance with export controls, including those of the U.S. Department of Commerce;

• compliance with import procedures and controls, including those of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security;

• potentially negative consequences from changes in tax laws;

• requirements relating to withholding taxes on remittances and other payments by subsidiaries;

• labor or other disruptions at key ports;

• difficulty in staffing and managing widespread operations;

• difficulty in registering intellectual property or inadequate intellectual property protection in foreign jurisdictions; and  
• restrictions on our ability to own or operate subsidiaries, make investments or acquire new businesses in these jurisdictions.

Any one or more of these factors could impair our current or future international operations and, as a result, harm our overall business.

Table of Contents

The lack of an international title registry for containers increases the risk of ownership disputes.

There is no internationally recognized system of recordation or filing to evidence our title to containers nor is there an internationally recognized system for filing security interests in containers. Although this has not occurred to date, the lack of a title recordation system with respect to containers could result in disputes with lessees, end-users, or third parties who may improperly claim ownership of the containers.

Certain liens may arise on our containers.

Depot operators, repairmen and transporters may come into possession of our containers from time to time and have sums due to them from the lessees or sublessees of the containers. In the event of nonpayment of those charges by the lessees or sublessees, we may be delayed in, or entirely barred from, repossessing the containers, or be required to make payments or incur expenses to discharge such liens on the containers.

Changes in financial accounting standards or practices may cause adverse, unexpected financial reporting fluctuations and affect TAL's reported operating results.

GAAP is subject to interpretation by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the "FASB"), the SEC and various bodies formed to promulgate and interpret appropriate accounting principles. A change in accounting standards or practices can have a significant effect on TAL's reported results and may even affect TAL's reporting of transactions completed before the change is effective. New accounting pronouncements and varying interpretations of accounting pronouncements have occurred and may occur in the future. Changes to existing rules or the questioning of current practices may materially adversely affect TAL's reported financial results or the way in which TAL conducts its business.

For example, in May 2013, the FASB and the International Accounting Standards Board issued an exposure draft on lease accounting that could significantly change the accounting and reporting for lease arrangements. The main objective of the proposed standard is to create a new accounting model for both customers and lessors, replacing the existing concepts of operating and capital leases with models based on "right-of-use" concepts. Some customers find leasing attractive because under current GAAP they are not required to include the value (and associated liabilities) of containers leased under operating leases on their balance sheets, thus improving certain financial metrics. If there are future changes in GAAP with regard to how TAL and its customers must account for leases, it could change the way TAL and its customers conduct their businesses, including eliminating for customers the financial statement benefit of entering into operating leases, which could have an adverse effect on TAL's business.

In addition, in May 2014, the FASB issued an accounting standards update on a comprehensive new revenue recognition standard that will supersede the existing revenue recognition guidance. The new accounting guidance creates a framework by which entities will allocate the transaction price to separate performance obligations and recognize revenue when each performance obligation is satisfied. Under the new standard, TAL will be required to use judgment and make estimates, including identifying performance obligations in a contract, estimating the amount of variable consideration to include in the transaction price, allocating the transaction price to each separate performance obligation and determining when performance obligations have been satisfied. The final revenue recognition standard is expected to take effect for TAL in 2017. See "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements - Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements."

Because of TAL's significant international operations, it could be materially adversely affected by violations of the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, the U.K. Bribery Act and similar anti-corruption and anti-bribery laws and regulations.

TAL operates on a global basis, with the vast majority of its revenue generated from leasing its containers to lessees for use in international trade. TAL is also dependent on third-party depot operators to repair and store its containers in port locations throughout the world. TAL's business operations are subject to anti-corruption and anti-bribery laws and regulations, including restrictions imposed by the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (the "FCPA"), as well as the United Kingdom Bribery Act of 2010 (the "U.K. Bribery Act"). The FCPA, the U.K. Bribery Act and similar anti-corruption and anti-bribery laws in other jurisdictions generally prohibit companies and their intermediaries and agents from making improper payments to government officials or any other persons for the purpose of obtaining or retaining business. TAL's internal controls and procedures are designed to ensure that it complies with anti-corruption and anti-bribery laws, rules and regulations and helps mitigate and protect against corruption risks. Any determination of a violation or an investigation into violations of the FCPA or the U.K. Bribery Act or similar anticorruption and anti-bribery laws could have a material and adverse effect on its business, results of operations and financial condition.

## Table of Contents

A failure to comply with export control or economic sanctions laws and regulations could have a material adverse effect on TAL's business, results of operations or financial condition. TAL may be unable to ensure that its agents and/or customers comply with applicable sanctions and export control laws.

TAL faces several risks inherent in conducting its business internationally, including compliance with applicable economic sanctions laws and regulations, such as laws and regulations administered by the U.S. Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC"), the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Commerce. TAL must also comply with all applicable export control laws and regulations of the United States (including but not limited to the U.S. Export Administration Regulations) and other countries. Any determination of a violation or an investigation into violations of export controls or economic sanctions laws and regulations could result in significant criminal or civil fines, penalties or other sanctions and repercussions, including reputational harm that could materially affect TAL's business, results of operations or financial condition.

We may incur increased costs associated with the implementation of new security regulations, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

We may be subject to regulations promulgated in various countries, including the United States, seeking to protect the integrity of international commerce and prevent the use of containers for international terrorism or other illicit activities. For example, the Container Safety Initiative, the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism and Operation Safe Commerce are among the programs administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that are designed to enhance security for cargo moving throughout the international transportation system by identifying existing vulnerabilities in the supply chain and developing improved methods for ensuring the security of containerized cargo entering and leaving the United States. Moreover, the International Convention for Safe Containers, 1972 (CSC), as amended, adopted by the International Maritime Organization, applies to containers and seeks to maintain a high level of safety of human life in the transport and handling of containers by providing uniform international safety regulations. As these regulations develop and change, we may incur increased compliance costs due to the acquisition of new, compliant containers and/or the adaptation of existing containers to meet any new requirements imposed by such regulations. Additionally, certain companies are currently developing or may in the future develop products designed to enhance the security of containers transported in international commerce. Regardless of the existence of current or future government regulations mandating the safety standards of intermodal shipping containers, our competitors may adopt such products or our customers may require that we adopt such products in the conduct of our container leasing business. In responding to such market pressures, we may incur increased costs, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Terrorist attacks could negatively impact our operations and our profitability and may expose us to liability and reputational damage.

Terrorist attacks may negatively affect our operations and profitability. Such attacks have contributed to economic instability in the United States and elsewhere, and further acts of terrorism, violence or war could similarly affect world trade and the industries in which we and our customers operate. In addition, terrorist attacks or hostilities may directly impact ports our containers come in and out of, depots, our physical facilities or those of our suppliers or customers and could impact our sales and our supply chain. A severe disruption to the worldwide ports system and flow of goods could result in a reduction in the level of international trade and lower demand for our containers. The consequences of any terrorist attacks or hostilities are unpredictable, and we may not be able to foresee events that could have an adverse effect on our operations.

It is also possible that one of our containers could be involved in a terrorist attack. Although our lease agreements require our lessees to indemnify us against all damages arising out of the use of our containers, and we carry insurance

to potentially offset any costs in the event that our customer indemnifications prove to be insufficient, our insurance does not cover certain types of terrorist attacks, and we may not be fully protected from liability or the reputational damage that could arise from a terrorist attack which utilizes one of our containers.

Environmental liability may adversely affect our business and financial situation.

We are subject to federal, state, local and foreign laws and regulations relating to the protection of the environment, including those governing the discharge of pollutants to air and water, the management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes and the cleanup of contaminated sites. We could incur substantial costs, including cleanup costs, fines and third-party claims for property damage and personal injury, as a result of violations of or liabilities under environmental laws and regulations in connection with our current or historical operations. Under some environmental laws in the United States and certain other countries, the owner of a leased container may be liable for environmental damage, cleanup or other costs in the event of a spill or discharge of material from a container without regard to the owner's fault. We have not yet experienced any

Table of Contents

such claims, although we cannot assure that we will not be subject to such claims in the future. Liability insurance policies, including ours, usually exclude claims for environmental damage. Some of our lessees may have separate insurance coverage for environmental damage, but we cannot assure that any such policies would cover or otherwise offset any liability we may have as the owner of a leased container. Our standard master tank container lease agreement insurance clause requires our tank container lessees to provide pollution liability insurance. In addition, TAL will typically require its customers to provide it with indemnity against certain losses; however, such insurance or indemnities may not fully protect us against damages arising from environmental damage.

Adverse changes in U.S. tax rules or a reduction in our level of continuing investment in the U. S. could negatively impact our income tax provision or future cash tax payments.

While we record a tax provision in our financial statements, we currently do not pay any meaningful income taxes primarily due to the benefit we receive from accelerated tax depreciation on our container investments. A change in the rules governing the tax depreciation for our containers, in particular, a change that increases the period over which we can depreciate our containers for tax purposes, could reduce or eliminate this tax benefit and significantly increase our cash tax payments.

In addition, even under current tax rules, we need to make substantial, ongoing investments in new containers in order to continue to benefit from the tax deferral generated by accelerated tax depreciation. If our investment level slows due to a decrease in the growth rate of world trade, decisions by our customers to buy more of their containers, a loss of market share to one or more of our peers, or for any other reason, the favorable tax treatment from accelerated tax depreciation would diminish, and we could face significantly increased cash tax payments.

Also, our net deferred tax liability balance includes a deferred tax asset for U.S. federal and various states resulting from net operating loss carryforwards. A reduction to our future earnings, which will lower taxable income, may require us to record a charge against earnings in the form of a valuation allowance, if it is determined that it is more-likely-than-not that some or all of the loss carryforwards will not be realized.

Fluctuations in foreign exchange rates could reduce our profitability.

The majority of our revenues and costs are billed in U.S. dollars. Most of our non-U.S. dollar transactions are individually of small amounts and in various denominations and thus are not suitable for cost-effective hedging. In addition, almost all of our container purchases are paid for in U.S. dollars.

Our operations and used container sales in locations outside of the U.S. have some exposure to foreign currency fluctuations, and trade growth and the direction of trade flows can be influenced by large changes in relative currency values. Adverse or large exchange rate fluctuations may negatively affect our results of operations and financial condition.

Most of our equipment fleet is manufactured in China. Although the purchase price is in U.S. dollars, our manufacturers pay labor and other costs in the local currency, the Chinese Yuan. To the extent that our manufacturers' costs increase due to changes in the valuation of the Chinese Yuan, the dollar price we pay for equipment could be affected.

TAL's operations could be affected by natural or man-made events in the locations in which TAL or its customers or suppliers operate.

TAL will have operations in locations subject to severe weather conditions, natural disasters, the outbreak of contagious disease, or man-made incidents such as chemical explosions, any of which could disrupt its operations. In



addition, its suppliers and customers also have operations in such locations. For example, in 2011, the northern region of Japan experienced a severe earthquake followed by a series of tsunamis resulting in material damage to the Japanese economy. In 2015, a chemical explosion and fire in the port of Tianjin, China damaged or destroyed a small number of TAL's containers and disrupted operations in the port. Similarly, outbreaks of pandemic or contagious diseases, such as H1N1 (swine) flu and the Ebola virus, could significantly reduce the demand for international shipping or could prevent its containers from being discharged in the affected areas or in other locations after having visited the affected areas. Any future natural or man-made disasters or health concerns in the world where TAL has business operations could lead to disruption of the regional and global economies, which could result in a decrease in demand for leased containers.

Increases in the cost of or the lack of availability of insurance could increase our risk exposure and reduce our profitability.

Our lessees and depots are required to maintain all risks physical damage insurance, comprehensive general liability insurance and to indemnify us against loss. We also maintain our own contingent liability insurance and off-hire physical

Table of Contents

damage insurance. Nevertheless, lessees' and depots' insurance or indemnities and our insurance may not fully protect us. The cost of such insurance may increase or become prohibitively expensive for us and our customers and such insurance may not continue to be available.

We also maintain director and officer liability insurance. Potential new accounting standards and new corporate governance regulations may make it more difficult and more expensive for us to obtain director and officer liability insurance, and we may be required to incur substantial costs to maintain increased levels of coverage or it may not continue to be available.

We currently maintain credit insurance that in certain circumstances covers losses and costs incurred due to defaults by our lessees. However, this insurance has significant deductibles, exclusions, payment and other limitations, and therefore may not protect us from losses arising from customer defaults. We typically need to renew these insurance policies on an annual basis, and the cost of such insurance may increase or become prohibitively expensive for us and our customers and such insurance may not continue to be available.

Labor activism and unrest, or failure to maintain satisfactory labor relations, could adversely affect TAL's business, financial condition and results of operations.

Labor activism and unrest could materially adversely affect TAL's operations and thereby materially adversely affect its financial condition and prospects. TAL may experience labor unrest, activism, disputes or actions in the future, some of which may be significant and could materially adversely affect TAL's business, financial condition and results of operations.

The price of our common stock may be highly volatile and may decline regardless of our operating performance.

The trading price of our common shares is likely to be subject to wide fluctuations. Factors affecting the trading price of our common shares may include:

- variations in our financial results;
- changes in financial estimates or investment recommendations by securities analysts following our business;
- the public's response to our press releases, other public announcements and filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission;
- changes in accounting standards, policies, guidance or interpretations or principles;
- future sales of common shares by us and our directors, officers and significant shareholders;
- announcements of technological innovations or enhanced or new products by us or our competitors;
- our failure to achieve operating results consistent with securities analysts' projections;
- the operating and stock price performance of other companies that investors may deem comparable to us;
- changes in our dividend policy and share repurchase programs;
- fluctuations in the worldwide equity markets;

recruitment or departure of key personnel;

our failure to timely address changing customer preferences;

broad market and industry factors; and

other events or factors, including those resulting from war, incidents of terrorism or responses to such events.

In addition, if the market for intermodal equipment leasing company stocks or the stock market in general experiences a loss of investor confidence, the trading price of our common shares could decline for reasons unrelated to our business or

Table of Contents

financial results. The trading price of our common shares might also decline in reaction to events that affect other companies in our industry even if these events do not directly affect us.

If securities analysts do not publish research or reports about our business or if they downgrade our shares, the price of our common shares could decline.

The trading market for our common shares relies in part on the research and reports that industry or financial analysts publish about us or our business or our industry. We have no influence or control over these analysts. Furthermore, if one or more of the analysts who do cover us downgrades our stock, the price of our stock could decline. If one or more of these analysts ceases coverage of our company, we could lose visibility in the market, which in turn could cause our stock price to decline.

Our failure to comply with required public company corporate governance and financial reporting practices and regulations could materially and adversely impact our financial condition, operating results and the price of our common shares. Further, our internal controls over financial reporting may not detect all errors or omissions in the financial statements.

We are subject to meet the regulatory compliance and reporting requirements applicable to us as a public company, including those issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the New York Stock Exchange. Failure to meeting these requirements may lead to adverse regulatory consequences, and could lead to a negative reaction in the financial markets due to a loss of confidence in the reliability of our financial statements. If we fail to maintain effective controls and procedures, we may be unable to provide the required financial information in a timely and reliable manner or otherwise comply with the standards applicable to us as a public company. Any failure by us to timely provide the required financial information could materially and adversely impact our financial condition and the market value of our common shares. Furthermore, testing and maintaining internal controls can divert our management's attention from other matters that are important to our business.

The Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002, as amended (the "Sarbanes-Oxley Act") requires that we maintain effective internal controls for financial reporting and disclosure controls and procedures. If we do not maintain compliance with the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act, or if we or our independent registered public accounting firm identify deficiencies in our internal controls over financial reporting that are deemed to be material weaknesses, we could suffer a loss of investor confidence in the reliability of our financial statements, which could cause the market price of our shares to decline. We can also be subject to sanctions or investigations by the New York Stock Exchange, the Securities and Exchange Commission or other regulatory authorities for failure to comply with public company corporate governance and financial reporting practices and regulations.

Section 404 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act requires an annual management assessment of the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting and a report by our independent registered public accounting firm. If we fail to maintain the adequacy of internal controls over financial accounting, we may not be able to conclude on an ongoing basis that we have effective internal controls over financial reporting in accordance with the Sarbanes Oxley Act and related regulations. Although our management has concluded that adequate internal control procedures are currently in place, no system of internal controls can provide absolute assurance that the financial statements are accurate and free of material errors. As a result, the risk exists that our internal controls may not detect all errors or omissions in the financial statements.

Changes in laws and regulations could adversely affect TAL's business.

All aspects of TAL's business, including leasing, pricing, sales, litigation and intellectual property rights, will be subject to extensive legislation and regulation. Changes in applicable federal and state laws and agency regulations, as

well as the laws and regulations of foreign jurisdictions, could have a material adverse effect on TAL's businesses.

We may decide to pursue acquisitions and joint ventures that may present unforeseen integration obstacles or costs.

We may selectively pursue acquisitions and joint ventures, which could involve a number of risks and present financial, managerial and operational challenges, including:

• dilution of shareholders' ownership interest of TAL if new shares are issued to fund an acquisition;

• potential disruption of our ongoing business and distraction of management;

• difficulty with integration of personnel and financial and other systems;

Table of Contents

hiring additional management and other critical personnel; and

increasing the scope, geographic diversity and complexity of our operations.

In addition, we may encounter unforeseen obstacles or costs in the integration of acquired businesses. Also, the presence of one or more material liabilities of an acquired company that are unknown to us at the time of acquisition may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. Our acquisition and joint venture strategy may not be successfully received by customers, and we may not realize any anticipated benefits from acquisitions or joint ventures.

Risk Factors Relating to the Proposed Mergers involving TAL and Triton Container International Limited (“Triton”) forming Triton International Limited (“Holdco”)

On November 9, 2015, TAL and Triton Container International Limited (“Triton”) announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement under which the companies will combine in an all-stock merger. Under the terms of the Transaction Agreement, upon the closing of the transaction, TAL and Triton will be merged with subsidiaries of a newly-formed holding company Triton International Limited (“Holdco”), which will be domiciled in Bermuda and is expected to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange. TAL shareholders will receive one common share of Triton International for each share of TAL stock owned. TAL shareholders are expected to receive a special dividend of \$0.54 per share upon closing of the transaction, assuming the transaction closes in the second quarter of 2016. The transaction is subject to the approval of TAL’s shareholders. A special meeting of TAL shareholders is anticipated to be held in the second quarter of 2016.

TAL shareholders cannot be sure of the market value of the Holdco common shares to be issued upon completion of the mergers.

TAL shareholders will receive a fixed number of Holdco common shares in the mergers rather than a number of shares with a particular fixed market value. The market value of TAL common stock at the time of the mergers may vary significantly from its price on the date the Transaction Agreement was executed, the date that the proxy statement/prospectus for TAL shareholders relating to the transaction is declared effective by the SEC, the date hereof, or the date on which TAL shareholders vote on the adoption of the Transaction Agreement. Because the TAL exchange ratio will not be adjusted to reflect any changes in the market price of TAL common stock, the market value of the Holdco common shares issued in the mergers and the TAL common stock surrendered in the mergers may be higher or lower than the values of these shares on earlier dates. One hundred percent (100%) of the TAL merger consideration to be received by TAL shareholders will be Holdco common shares.

Changes in the market prices of TAL, and after the completion of the proposed mergers, Holdco common stock, may result from a variety of factors that are beyond the control of TAL, including changes in its business, operations and prospects, regulatory considerations, governmental actions, and legal proceedings and developments. Market assessments of the benefits of the mergers, the likelihood that the mergers will be completed, and general and industry-specific market and economic conditions might also have an effect on the market price of TAL and Holdco common stock. Changes in the market price of TAL and Holdco common stock might also be caused by fluctuations and developments affecting domestic and global securities markets.

The market value of TAL common stock may vary significantly from its price on the date the Transaction Agreement was executed and from the date of this Form 10-K to the date of the completion of the mergers. TAL shareholders are urged to obtain up-to-date prices for the TAL common stock. There is no assurance that the mergers will be completed, that there will not be a delay in the completion of the mergers or that all or any of the anticipated benefits of the mergers will be realized.

Additionally, there is no assurance that Holdco will be able to pay its previously planned annual dividend of \$1.80 per share or its previously planned repurchase of \$250 million of its common shares following the consummation of the mergers, particularly if difficult industry conditions continue. See Holdco's Form S-4/A sections titled "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of Triton - Industry Trends Affecting Our Results of Operations," "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of Triton - Utilization" and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations of Triton - Liquidity and Capital Resources", filed with the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Table of Contents

Actions taken under the antitrust laws may prevent or delay completion of the mergers or reduce the anticipated benefits of the mergers or may require changes to the structure or terms of the mergers.

At any time before or after the mergers are consummated, notwithstanding the early termination of the waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvement Act (“HSR Act”), the receipt of approvals from the German Federal Cartel Office (“FCO”) and the Korean Fair Trade Commission (“KFTC”), any of the Department of Justice (“DOJ”), the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) or U.S. state attorneys general could take action under the antitrust laws in opposition to the mergers, including seeking to enjoin completion of the mergers, condition completion of the mergers upon the divestiture of assets of Triton, TAL or their subsidiaries or impose restrictions on Holdco’s post-merger operations. These could negatively affect the business, financial condition and results of operations of the combined company following completion of the mergers. Any such requirements or restrictions may prevent or delay completion of the mergers or may reduce the anticipated benefits of the mergers, which could also have a material adverse effect on the combined company’s business, financial condition and results of operations. Additionally, TAL and Triton have agreed to take certain actions, conditioned on the closing, and may take other actions that TAL or Triton determines in its sole discretion to take, to the extent necessary to ensure satisfaction, on or prior to the end date, of certain conditions to the closing of the mergers relating to regulatory approvals. Certain of these actions may be taken after receipt of the approval of the shareholders of TAL and it is not currently contemplated that any such shareholder approval would be re-solicited in the event that any of these actions are taken after the TAL special meeting.

Failure to successfully combine the businesses of TAL and Triton in the expected time frame may adversely affect Holdco’s future results.

The success of the mergers will depend, in part, on Holdco’s ability to realize the anticipated benefits from combining the businesses of TAL and Triton as further described in Holdco’s Form S-4/A in the section titled “the Mergers- TAL’s Reasons for the Mergers”, filed with the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission. To realize these anticipated benefits, the businesses of TAL and Triton must be successfully combined. Historically, TAL and Triton have been independent companies, and they will continue to be operated as such until the completion of the mergers. The management of Holdco may face significant challenges in consolidating the functions of TAL and Triton, integrating their respective technologies, organizations, procedures, policies and operations, retaining key personnel, as well as addressing the different business cultures at the two companies. If the combined company is not successfully integrated, the anticipated benefits of the mergers may not be realized fully or at all or may take longer to realize than expected. The integration may also be complex and time consuming, and require substantial resources and effort. The integration process and other disruptions resulting from the mergers may also disrupt each company’s ongoing businesses and/or adversely affect TAL’s or Triton’s relationships with employees, regulators and others with whom they have business or other dealings.

TAL and Triton will be subject to business uncertainties and contractual restrictions while the mergers are pending.

Uncertainty about the effect of the mergers on employees and customers may have an adverse effect on TAL or Triton and consequently on the combined company. These uncertainties may impair TAL’s or Triton’s ability to retain and motivate key personnel and could cause customers and others that deal with TAL or Triton to defer entering into contracts with TAL or Triton or making other decisions concerning TAL or Triton or seek to change existing business relationships with TAL or Triton. In addition, if key employees depart because of uncertainty about their future roles and the potential complexities of the mergers, TAL’s and Triton’s businesses could be harmed. In addition, the Transaction Agreement restricts TAL and Triton from making certain acquisitions and taking other specified actions until the mergers occur without the consent of the other party. These restrictions may prevent TAL and Triton from pursuing attractive business opportunities that may arise prior to the completion of the mergers. See Holdco’s Form S-4/A in the section titled “The Transaction Agreement - Covenants and Agreements” filed with the U. S. Securities and



Exchange Commission for a description of the restrictive covenants applicable to TAL and Triton.

The Transaction Agreement limits TAL's and Triton's ability to pursue alternatives to the mergers.

Each of TAL and Triton has agreed that it will not solicit, initiate, knowingly encourage or facilitate inquiries or proposals or engage in discussions or negotiations regarding takeover proposals, subject to limited exceptions, including that each of TAL and Triton may, in certain circumstances, take certain actions in the event TAL receives an unsolicited takeover proposal that constitutes a superior proposal or could reasonably be expected to lead to a superior proposal. Each party has also agreed that its Board of Directors will not change its recommendation to its shareholders or approve any alternative agreement, subject to limited exceptions, including that, at any time prior to the TAL shareholder approval, the TAL Board may make a change in recommendation: (i) in circumstances not involving or relating to a takeover proposal, if the TAL Board concludes in good faith, after consultation with its financial advisor and outside legal counsel, that the failure to take such action would be inconsistent with the exercise of its fiduciary duties to its shareholders under applicable laws; or (ii) in response to a TAL

Table of Contents

Superior Proposal (as defined in the Transaction Agreement), if the TAL Board concludes that a failure to change its recommendation would be inconsistent with the exercise of its fiduciary duties to its shareholders under applicable law and, if requested by the other party, its representatives have negotiated in good faith with the other party regarding any revisions to the terms of the transactions contemplated by the Transaction Agreement proposed by the other party in response to such TAL Superior Proposal. Additionally, the Transaction Agreement provides that under specified circumstances, if the TAL Board determines that a TAL Acquisition Proposal (as defined in the Transaction Agreement) from a TAL Bidder could reasonably be expected to lead to a TAL Superior Proposal and engages in discussions with such TAL Bidder, the TAL shareholders meeting has not occurred, the Triton Board has determined in good faith, after consultation with its financial advisor and outside legal counsel, that a Triton Acquisition Proposal (as defined in the Transaction Agreement) constitutes or could reasonably be expected to lead to a Triton Superior Proposal (as defined in the Transaction Agreement) and, prior to providing any confidential information, Triton has entered into an Acceptable Triton Confidentiality Agreement (as defined in the Transaction Agreement), then Triton and its Board may engage in discussions or provide any confidential information in response to an unsolicited written Triton Acquisition Proposal. The Transaction Agreement also requires TAL to call, give notice of and hold a meeting of its shareholders for the purpose of obtaining the applicable shareholder approval. This special meeting requirement does not apply to TAL in the event that the Transaction Agreement is terminated in accordance with its terms. See Holdco's Form S-4/A in the section titled "The Transaction Agreement - Covenants and Agreements - Shareholders Meetings and Duty to Recommend" as filed with the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition, under specified circumstances, TAL may be required to pay a termination fee of \$19,484,275 if the mergers are not consummated. See Holdco's Form S-4/A in the section titled "The Transaction Agreement - Termination Fees; Expenses" as filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for a description of the circumstances under which such termination fee is payable. Furthermore, upon adoption of the transaction agreement by the TAL shareholders at the TAL special meeting, the right of TAL to terminate the Transaction Agreement in response to a TAL Superior Proposal will terminate. These provisions might discourage a potential competing acquirer that might have an interest in acquiring all or a significant part of TAL from considering or proposing an acquisition, even if it were prepared to pay consideration with a higher price per share than that proposed in the mergers, or might result in a potential competing acquirer proposing to pay a lower price per share to acquire TAL than it might otherwise have been willing to pay.

Certain directors and executive officers of TAL may have interests in the mergers that are different from, or in addition to or in conflict with, TAL shareholders.

Executive officers of TAL negotiated the terms of the Transaction Agreement and the TAL Board approved the Transaction Agreement and unanimously recommends that TAL shareholders vote in favor of the proposal to adopt the Transaction Agreement. These directors and executive officers may have interests in the mergers that are different from, or in addition to or in conflict with, those of TAL shareholders. These interests include the continued employment of certain executive officers of TAL by Holdco, the continued positions of certain directors of TAL as directors of Holdco, and the indemnification of former TAL directors and TAL officers by Holdco and the surviving corporations. With respect to TAL executive officers, these interests also include the treatment in the TAL merger of restricted TAL shares held by executive officers and their participation in TAL's executive severance and executive retention bonus plans. For a discussion of the interests of directors and executive officers in the mergers, see Holdco's Form S-4/A in the section titled "The Mergers - Interests of TAL Officers and Directors in the Mergers" as filed with the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Holdco common shares to be received by TAL shareholders as a result of the mergers will have different rights from shares of TAL common stock.

Following completion of the mergers, TAL shareholders will no longer be shareholders of TAL, but will instead become shareholders of Holdco. There will be important differences between the current rights of TAL shareholders

and the rights of Holdco shareholders. See Holdco's Form S-4/A in the section titled "Comparison of Shareholder Rights" as filed with the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission for a discussion of the different rights associated with Holdco common shares and TAL common stock.

TAL shareholders will have a reduced ownership and voting interest after the mergers and will exercise less influence over management.

After the completion of the mergers, the TAL shareholders will own a smaller percentage of Holdco than they currently own of TAL. Upon completion of the mergers, it is anticipated that former Triton shareholders will hold approximately 55% and former TAL shareholders will hold approximately 45% of the shares of common stock of Holdco issued and outstanding immediately after the consummation of the mergers. Consequently, TAL shareholders, as a group, will have reduced ownership and voting power in the combined company compared to their ownership and voting power in TAL. In particular, TAL shareholders, as a group, will have less than a majority of the ownership and voting power of Holdco and, therefore, will be

Table of Contents

able to exercise less collective influence over the management and policies of Holdco than they currently exercise over the management and policies of TAL. Additionally, significant Triton shareholders will hold significant ownership stakes in Holdco and could, subject to the terms of the Sponsor Shareholders' Agreements (as defined in the Transaction Agreement) with Holdco, have influence over the combined company.

Failure to complete the mergers could negatively impact the stock price, businesses and financial results of TAL.

If the mergers are not completed, the ongoing business of TAL may be adversely affected and TAL will be subject to several risks and consequences, including the following:

TAL may be required, under certain specified circumstances, to pay Triton a termination fee of \$19,484,275 or to reimburse the documented, out-of-pocket fees, costs and expenses incurred by Triton, Holdco, the Merger Subs and their subsidiaries in connection with the Transaction Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby (up to \$3,500,000);

under the Transaction Agreement, TAL is subject to certain restrictions on the conduct of its business prior to completing the mergers which may adversely affect its ability to execute certain of its business strategies; and

matters relating to the mergers may require substantial commitments of time and resources by TAL management, which could otherwise have been devoted to other opportunities that may have been beneficial to TAL as an independent company.

In addition, if the mergers are not completed, TAL may experience negative reactions from the financial markets and from its customers and employees. TAL also could be subject to litigation related to a failure to complete the mergers or to enforce its obligations under the Transaction Agreement. If the mergers are not consummated, TAL cannot assure its shareholders that the risks described will not materially affect the business, financial results and stock price of TAL.

TAL and Triton will incur significant transaction and merger-related transition costs in connection with the mergers.

TAL and Triton expect that they will incur significant, non-recurring costs in the range of \$95 million to \$110 million in connection with consummating the mergers and integrating the operations of both companies. These expected costs include:

- an estimated \$30 million to \$40 million in severance costs;

- approximately \$35 million of costs to maintain employee morale and to retain key employees of which approximately \$25 million is related to a retention plan established in connection with the acquisition of Triton in 2011 by Warburg Pincus and Vestar. As of September 30, 2015, \$18.2 million related to the Triton 2011 retention plan has been accrued in Triton's financial statements; and

- an estimated \$30 million to \$35 million of fees and expenses relating to legal, accounting and other transaction and advisory fees associated with the mergers.

Some of these costs are payable regardless of whether the mergers are completed. Moreover, under certain specified circumstances, TAL may be required to pay a termination fee of \$19,484,275 if the mergers are not consummated or to

reimburse certain fees, costs and expenses incurred by Triton, Holdco, the Merger Subs and their subsidiaries in connection with the Transaction Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby (up to \$3,500,000). See Holdco's Form S-4/A in the section titled "The Transaction Agreement - Termination Fees; Expenses" as filed with the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

The unaudited pro forma combined financial information may not be indicative of what Holdco's actual financial position or results of operations would have been.

The unaudited pro forma combined financial information (which was included in Holdco's Form S-4/A filed with the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission) is not necessarily indicative of what Holdco's actual financial position or results of operations would have been had the mergers been completed on the dates indicated, nor is it indicative of the present operating results of TAL or Triton or the future operating results or financial position of Holdco. The actual financial condition and results of operations of Holdco following the mergers may not be consistent with, or evident from, these pro forma financial statements. In addition, the assumptions used in preparing the pro forma financial statements may not prove to be accurate, and

Table of Contents

other factors may affect Holdco's financial condition or results of operations following the mergers. Any potential decline in Holdco's financial condition or results of operations may cause significant variations in the share price of Holdco. See Holdco's Form S-4/A in the section titled "Unaudited Pro Forma Combined Financial Information" as filed with the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission for more information.

TAL, Triton and, subsequently, the combined company must continue to retain, motivate and recruit executives and other key employees, which may be difficult in light of uncertainty regarding the mergers, and failure to do so could negatively affect the combined company.

For the mergers to be successful, during the period before the mergers are completed, both TAL and Triton must continue to retain, motivate and recruit executives and other key employees. Moreover, the combined company must be successful at retaining and motivating key employees following the completion of the mergers. Experienced employees in the industries in which TAL and Triton operate are in high demand and competition for their talents can be intense. Employees of both TAL and Triton may experience uncertainty about their future role with the combined company until, or even after, strategies with regard to the combined company are announced or executed. The potential distractions of the mergers may adversely affect the ability of TAL, Triton or, following completion of the mergers, the combined company, to retain, motivate and recruit executives and other key employees and keep them focused on applicable strategies and goals. A failure by TAL, Triton or, following the completion of the mergers, the combined company, to attract, retain and motivate executives and other key employees during the period prior to or after the completion of the mergers could have a negative impact on the business of TAL, Triton or the combined company.

If the mergers are not completed, TAL's common stock could be materially adversely affected.

The mergers are subject to customary conditions to closing, including the approval of TAL's shareholders. In addition, TAL and Triton may terminate the Transaction Agreement under certain circumstances. If TAL and Triton do not complete the mergers, the market price of TAL's common stock may fluctuate to the extent that the current market price of those shares reflects a market assumption that the mergers will be completed. Further, whether or not the mergers are completed, TAL and Triton will also be obligated to pay certain investment banking, legal and accounting fees and related expenses in connection with the mergers, which could negatively impact results of operations when incurred. If the mergers are not completed, TAL cannot assure its shareholders that additional risks will not materialize or not materially adversely affect the business, results of operations and stock price.

The termination fee contained in the Transaction Agreement may discourage other companies from trying to acquire TAL.

TAL has agreed to pay a termination fee of \$19,484,275 to Triton if, under certain circumstances, the Transaction Agreement is terminated and a competing offer is accepted by TAL. This fee could discourage other companies from trying to acquire TAL.

The opinion rendered by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated to the TAL Board will not reflect changes in circumstances between signing the Transaction Agreement and the closing of the mergers.

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("BofA Merrill Lynch") rendered an opinion to the TAL Board, dated November 9, 2015, to the effect that, as of that date and based on and subject to the assumptions made, procedures followed, factors considered and limitations and qualifications described in the written opinion, the TAL exchange ratio (taking into account the Triton merger) was fair, from a financial point of view, to holders of TAL common stock. The BofA Merrill Lynch opinion does not speak as of the time the mergers will be completed or as of any date other than the date of such opinion. Because the TAL Board does not anticipate asking BofA Merrill Lynch

to update its opinion, the TAL Board will not receive an opinion to the fairness from a financial point of view of the TAL exchange ratio (taking into account the Triton Merger) to TAL as of any time other than November 9, 2015. Subsequent changes in the operations and prospects of TAL or Triton, general market and economic conditions and other factors (including the continued deterioration of market conditions in the container leasing industry), on which the BofA Merrill Lynch opinion was in part based, may significantly alter the value of TAL or Triton, the market price of shares of TAL's common stock or the relative value of TAL and Triton by the time the mergers are completed. See Holdco's Form S-4/A in the section titled "The Mergers - Opinion of TAL's Financial Advisor" as filed with the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Table of Contents

Risk Factors Relating to Holdco after Completion of the Mergers

All related "Risk Factors related to TAL" discussed above are also included in the Risk Factors related to Holdco after the completion of the mergers.

Holdco may be unable to successfully integrate Triton's and TAL's operations.

The merger involves the integration of two companies that previously operated independently. The difficulties of combining the companies' operations include integrating personnel, departments, systems, operating procedures, office infrastructures and information technologies and retaining key employees. Failures in integrating operations or the loss of key personnel could have a material adverse effect on the business and results of operations of the combined company. For example, the failure to properly transfer data and information to the selected information systems from the discontinued information systems or the failure of the systems to handle the additional data and larger volume of transactions or to perform as anticipated could limit our ability to bill customers for the use of our containers, disrupt our business and cause our relationships with customers to suffer.

Holdco's relatively greater size may make it more difficult for Holdco to sell its used containers.

Holdco's relatively greater size in the container leasing industry may result in purchasers of used intermodal containers shifting their business to other potential sellers of used containers as such purchasers seek to diversify the parties from which they effect such purchases or placing additional competitive pressure on the price at which Holdco is able to sell its used containers, particularly when the market environment for sales of used containers is weak, each of which could result in a material decrease in the used container disposition proceeds that Holdco realizes relative to the historical used container disposition proceeds realized by TAL and Triton.

Increases in the cost of or the lack of availability of insurance could increase Holdco's risk exposure and reduce its profitability.

Holdco will obtain director and officer liability insurance at the time of the closing of the mergers. Potential new accounting standards and new corporate governance regulations may make it more difficult and more expensive for Holdco to obtain director and officer liability insurance, or it may not continue to be available.

TAL and Triton currently maintain credit insurance that in certain circumstances covers losses and costs incurred due to defaults by their lessees. This insurance, unless its terms are modified, will terminate upon the closing of the mergers and new insurance policies will have to be obtained. The cost of such insurance may increase or become prohibitively expensive for TAL Triton and Holdco and such insurance may not continue to be available.

U.S. investors in Holdco could suffer adverse tax consequences if Holdco is characterized as a passive foreign investment company for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Based upon the nature of Holdco's business activities, Holdco may be classified as a passive foreign investment company ("PFIC") for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Such characterization could result in adverse U.S. tax consequences to direct or indirect U.S. investors in Holdco common shares. For example, if Holdco is a PFIC, Holdco's U.S. investors could become subject to increased tax liabilities under U.S. tax laws and regulations and could become subject to burdensome reporting requirements. The determination of whether or not Holdco is a PFIC is made on an annual basis and depends on the composition of Holdco's income and assets from time to time. Specifically, for any taxable year, Holdco will be classified as a PFIC for U.S. tax purposes if either:

75% or more of Holdco's gross income in a taxable year is passive income; or



the average percentage of Holdco's assets (which includes cash) by value in a taxable year which produce or are held for the production of passive income is at least 50%.

In applying these tests, Holdco is treated as owning or generating directly Holdco's pro rata share of the assets and income of any corporation in which Holdco owns at least 25% by value. If you are a U.S. holder and Holdco is a PFIC for any taxable year during which you own Holdco common shares, you could be subject to adverse U.S. tax consequences. In such a case, under the PFIC rules, unless a U.S. holder is permitted to and does elect otherwise under the Code, such U.S. holder would be subject to special tax rules with respect to excess distributions and any gain from the disposition of Holdco common shares. In

## Table of Contents

particular, the excess distribution or gain will be treated as if it had been recognized ratably over the holder's holding period for Holdco common shares, and amounts allocated to prior years starting with the first taxable year of Holdco during which Holdco was a PFIC will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the highest prevailing tax rates on ordinary income for that year plus an interest charge.

Based on the expected composition of Holdco's income, valuation of Holdco's assets and Holdco's election to treat certain of Holdco's subsidiaries as disregarded entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes, Holdco does not expect that it should be treated as a PFIC for Holdco's current taxable year or for the foreseeable future. However, because the PFIC determination in Holdco's case is made by taking into account all of the relevant facts and circumstances regarding Holdco's business without the benefit of clearly defined bright line rules, it is possible that Holdco may be a PFIC for any taxable year or that the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") may challenge Holdco's determination concerning its PFIC status.

Holdco may become subject to unanticipated tax liabilities that may have a material adverse effect on Holdco's results of operations.

Holdco is a Bermuda company, and Holdco believes that the income derived from Holdco's operations will not be subject to tax in Bermuda, which currently has no corporate income tax. Holdco further believes that a significant portion of the income derived from Holdco's operations will not be subject to tax in many other countries in which Holdco conducts activities or in which Holdco's customers or containers are located. However, this belief is based on the anticipated nature and conduct of Holdco's business, which may change. It is also based on Holdco's understanding of the tax laws of the countries in which Holdco conducts activities or in which Holdco's customers that use Holdco's containers are resident. The tax positions Holdco takes in various jurisdictions are subject to review and possible challenge by taxing authorities and to possible changes in law that may have retroactive effect.

Holdco's results of operations could be materially and adversely affected if Holdco becomes subject to a significant amount of unanticipated tax liabilities.

The calculation of Holdco's income tax expense requires significant judgment and the use of estimates.

Holdco will periodically assess its tax positions based on current tax developments, including enacted statutory, judicial and regulatory guidance. In analyzing Holdco's overall tax position, consideration will be given to the amount and timing of recognizing income tax liabilities and benefits. In applying the tax and accounting guidance to the facts and circumstances, income tax balances are adjusted as Holdco considers appropriate through the income tax provision. Holdco accounts for income tax positions on uncertainties by recognizing the effect of income tax positions only if those positions are more-likely-than-not of being sustained, and maintains reserves for income tax positions it believes are not more-likely-than-not of being sustained. Recognized income tax positions are measured at the largest amount that is greater than 50% likely of being realized. However, due to the significant judgment required in estimating those reserves, actual amounts paid, if any, could differ significantly from those estimates.

Concentration of ownership among Holdco's Sponsor Shareholders may prevent new investors from influencing significant corporate decisions and may result in conflicts of interest.

Following the completion of this offering, the Sponsor Shareholders will own approximately 42% of Holdco's outstanding common shares. Warburg Pincus will own approximately 27% of Holdco's common shares; Vestar will own approximately 15% of Holdco's common shares. Under the Sponsor Shareholders Agreements, following the closing of the mergers, Warburg Pincus will have the ongoing right to designate two individuals to serve on the Holdco Board, and Vestar will have the ongoing right to designate one individual to serve on the Holdco Board, in each case subject to the approval by the Holdco Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of any individuals

so designated. The rights of Warburg Pincus and Vestar to designate individuals to serve on the Holdco Board are subject to reduction as their respective ownership of Holdco common shares declines. The Sponsor Shareholders Agreements provide certain restrictions on the Sponsor Shareholders. However, the concentration of influence in the Sponsor Shareholders may delay, deter or prevent acts that would be favored by Holdco's other shareholders, who may have interests different from those of Holdco's Sponsor Shareholders. For example, Holdco's Sponsor Shareholders could delay or prevent an acquisition, merger or amalgamation deemed beneficial to other shareholders, or cause, or seek to cause, Holdco to take courses of action that, in their judgment, could enhance their investment in Holdco, but which might involve risks to Holdco's other shareholders or adversely affect Holdco or Holdco's other shareholders. Holdco's Sponsor Shareholders may be able to cause or prevent a change in control of Holdco or a change in the composition of the Holdco Board and could preclude any unsolicited acquisition of Holdco. This may have the effect of delaying, preventing or deterring a change in control. In addition, this significant concentration of share ownership may materially adversely affect

Table of Contents

the trading price of Holdco's common shares because investors often perceive disadvantages in owning common shares in companies with significant concentrations of ownership.

Further, the Holdco bye-laws provide that Holdco, on behalf of itself and its subsidiaries, renounces any interest or expectancy it or its subsidiaries may have in (or in being offered an opportunity to participate in) business opportunities that are from time to time presented to any of Warburg Pincus or Vestar and their respective affiliated funds, or any of their respective officers, directors, agents, shareholders, members, partners, affiliates and subsidiaries (other than Holdco and its subsidiaries), even if the opportunity is one that Holdco or its subsidiaries might reasonably be deemed to have pursued or had the ability or desire to pursue if granted the opportunity to do so. The Holdco bye-laws provide that no such person will be liable to Holdco or any of its subsidiaries (for breach of any duty or otherwise), as a director or officer or otherwise, by reason of the fact that such person pursues or acquires such business opportunity, directs such business opportunity to another person or fails to present such business opportunity, or information regarding such business opportunity, to Holdco or its subsidiaries; provided, that the foregoing will not apply to any such person who is a director or officer of Holdco, if such business opportunity is expressly offered to such director or officer in writing solely in his or her capacity as a director or officer of Holdco. This may cause the strategic interests of Holdco's Sponsor Shareholders to differ from, and conflict with, the interests of Holdco and of Holdco's other shareholders in material respects.

Future sales of Holdco common shares, or the perception in the public markets that such sales may occur, may depress the Holdco share price.

Sales of substantial amounts of Holdco common shares in the public market after this offering, or the perception that such sales could occur, could adversely affect the price of Holdco common shares and could impair Holdco's ability to raise capital through the sale of additional shares.

Holdco has agreed to use reasonable best efforts to conduct a registered, underwritten public offering prior to the date that is six months from the closing of the mergers, unless the Triton debt agreements have been amended in a manner that a transfer by certain Triton shareholders would not trigger a change of control (as defined in the Triton debt agreements), or all such debt agreements have been terminated and have not been replaced with new debt agreements that contain similar change of control provisions that would be triggered by any such transfer. In addition, to the extent that Pritzker Shareholders (as defined in Exhibit G to the Transaction Agreement) or Sponsor Shareholders sell, or indicate an intent to sell, substantial amounts of Holdco's common shares in the public market after the contractual lock-ups and other legal restrictions on resale lapse, the trading price of the Holdco common shares could decline significantly. These factors could also make it more difficult for Holdco to raise additional funds through future offerings of its common shares or other securities.

Issuing additional common shares or other equity securities or securities convertible into equity for financing or in connection with Holdco's incentive plans, acquisitions or otherwise may dilute the economic and voting rights of Holdco's existing shareholders or reduce the market price of the Holdco common shares or both. Upon liquidation, holders of Holdco's debt securities, if issued, and lenders with respect to other borrowings would receive a distribution of Holdco's available assets prior to the holders of Holdco common shares. Debt securities convertible into equity could be subject to adjustments in the conversion ratio pursuant to which certain events may increase the number of equity securities issuable upon conversion. Holdco's decision to issue securities in any future offering will depend on market conditions and other factors beyond its control, which may materially adversely affect the amount, timing or nature of Holdco's future offerings. Thus, holders of Holdco common shares bear the risk that Holdco's future offerings may reduce the market price of Holdco's common shares. See Holdco's Form S-4/A in the section titled "Description of Holdco Common Shares" as filed with the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

In the future, Holdco may also issue its securities in connection with investments or acquisitions. The amount of Holdco common shares issued in connection with an investment or acquisition could constitute a material portion of Holdco's then-outstanding common shares. Any issuance of additional securities in connection with investments or acquisitions may result in dilution to existing Holdco shareholders.

Holdco is incorporated in Bermuda and a significant portion of its assets will be located outside the United States. As a result, it may not be possible for shareholders to enforce civil liability provisions of the federal or state securities laws of the United States against Holdco.

Holdco is incorporated under the laws of Bermuda and a significant portion of its assets will be located outside the United States. It may not be possible to enforce court judgments obtained in the United States against Holdco in Bermuda or in countries, other than the United States, where Holdco will have assets, based on the civil liability provisions of the federal or state securities laws of the United States. In addition, there is some doubt as to whether the courts of Bermuda and other

Table of Contents

countries would recognize or enforce judgments of United States courts obtained against Holdco or Holdco's officers or directors based on the civil liability provisions of the federal or state securities laws of the United States or would hear actions against Holdco or those persons based on those laws. Holdco has been advised by its legal advisors in Bermuda that the United States and Bermuda do not currently have a treaty providing for the reciprocal recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters. Therefore, a final judgment for the payment of money rendered by any federal or state court in the United States based on civil liability, whether or not based solely on United States federal or state securities laws, would not automatically be enforceable in Bermuda. Similarly, those judgments may not be enforceable in countries, other than the United States, where Holdco will have assets.

Bermuda law differs from the laws in effect in the United States and may afford less protection to shareholders.

Holdco's shareholders might have more difficulty protecting their interests than would shareholders of a corporation incorporated in a jurisdiction of the United States. As a Bermuda company, Holdco is governed by the Bermuda Companies Act 1981, as amended, which we refer to as the Bermuda Companies Act. The Bermuda Companies Act differs in some material respects from laws generally applicable to United States corporations and shareholders, including the provisions relating to interested directors, mergers, amalgamations and acquisitions, takeovers, shareholder lawsuits and indemnification of directors. See Holdco's Form S-4/A in the section titled "Description of Holdco Common Shares" as filed with the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Certain provisions of the Sponsor Shareholders Agreements, Holdco's memorandum of association and amended and restated bye-laws and Bermuda law could hinder, delay or prevent a change in control of Holdco that you might consider favorable, which could also adversely affect the price of Holdco common shares.

Certain provisions under the Sponsor Shareholders Agreements, Holdco's memorandum of association and amended and restated bye-laws and Bermuda law could discourage, delay or prevent a transaction involving a change in control of Holdco, even if doing so would benefit Holdco's shareholders. These provisions may include customary anti-takeover provisions and certain rights of our Sponsor Shareholders with respect to the designation of directors for nomination and election to the Holdco Board, including the ability to appoint members to each board committee.

Anti-takeover provisions could substantially impede the ability of Holdco's public shareholders to benefit from a change in control or change of Holdco's management and board of directors and, as a result, may materially adversely affect the market price of Holdco common shares and Holdco shareholders ability to realize any potential change of control premium. These provisions could also discourage proxy contests and make it more difficult for you and other shareholders to elect directors of your choosing and to cause Holdco to take other corporate actions you desire. See Holdco's Form S-4/A in the section titled "Description of Holdco Common Shares" as filed with the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Table of Contents

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

Office Locations. As of December 31, 2015, our employees are located in 17 offices in 11 different countries. We have 6 offices in the U.S. including our headquarters in Purchase, New York. We have 11 offices outside the U.S. We lease all of our office space.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

From time to time we are a party to litigation matters arising in connection with the normal course of our business. While we cannot predict the outcome of these matters, in the opinion of our management, any liability arising from these matters will not have a material adverse effect on our business. Nevertheless, unexpected adverse future events, such as an unforeseen development in our existing proceedings, a significant increase in the number of new cases or changes in our current insurance arrangements could result in liabilities that have a material adverse impact on our business.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

Table of Contents

## PART II

## ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS, AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Our common stock has been traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "TAL" since October 12, 2005. Prior to that time, there was no public market for our common stock.

The following table reflects the range of high and low sales prices, as reported on the New York Stock Exchange, for our common stock in each quarter of the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014.

	High	Low
2015:		
Fourth Quarter	\$20.90	\$13.11
Third Quarter	\$32.49	\$13.27
Second Quarter	\$42.93	\$31.22
First Quarter	\$43.87	\$39.19
2014:		
Fourth Quarter	\$45.91	\$37.67
Third Quarter	\$47.60	\$41.09
Second Quarter	\$45.63	\$41.18
First Quarter	\$57.60	\$40.35

On February 23, 2016, the closing price of our common stock was \$10.74, as reported on the New York Stock Exchange. On that date, there were approximately 48 holders of record of our common stock and approximately 28,335 beneficial holders, based on information obtained from our transfer agent.



Table of Contents

## PERFORMANCE GRAPH

The graph below compares our cumulative shareholder returns with the S&P 500 Stock Index and the Russell 2000 Stock Index for the five years ended December 31, 2015. The graph assumes that the value of the investment in our common stock, the S&P 500 Stock Index and the Russell 2000 Stock Index was \$100 as of December 31, 2010, and that all dividends were reinvested.

Comparison of Cumulative Total Return  
Five Years Ended December 31, 2015

Company / Index	Base Period as of 12/31/2010	INDEXED RETURNS FOR THE YEARS ENDED				
		12/31/2011	12/31/2012	12/31/2013	12/31/2014	12/31/2015
TAL International Group, Inc.	100.00	99.62	134.58	228.22	187.52	73.47
S&P 500 Index	100.00	102.11	118.45	156.81	178.28	180.78
Russell 2000 Index	100.00	95.82	111.49	154.77	162.33	155.17

Table of Contents

## Dividends

We paid the following quarterly dividends during the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 on our issued and outstanding common stock:

Record Date	Payment Date	Aggregate Payment	Per Share Payment
December 2, 2015	December 23, 2015	\$14.8 Million	\$0.45
September 2, 2015	September 23, 2015	\$23.7 Million	\$0.72
June 3, 2015	June 24, 2015	\$23.7 Million	\$0.72
March 3, 2015	March 24, 2015	\$23.7 Million	\$0.72
December 2, 2014	December 23, 2014	\$23.8 Million	\$0.72
September 3, 2014	September 24, 2014	\$24.2 Million	\$0.72
June 3, 2014	June 24, 2014	\$24.2 Million	\$0.72
March 3, 2014	March 24, 2014	\$24.2 Million	\$0.72

Historically, most of our dividends have been treated as a return of capital, and we believe that 100% of our dividends paid in 2015 will also be treated as a return of capital to TAL shareholders. The taxability of the dividends to TAL shareholders does not impact TAL's corporate tax position. Investors should consult with a tax advisor to determine the proper tax treatment of these distributions.

## Merger

On November 9, 2015, TAL and Triton announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement under which the companies will combine in an all-stock merger. Under the terms of the Transaction Agreement, TAL and Triton will combine under a newly-formed holding company, Triton International Limited ("Holdco"), which will be domiciled in Bermuda and is expected to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange. TAL International shareholders will receive one common share of Holdco for each share of TAL International stock owned. TAL International shareholders will also receive a special dividend of \$0.54 per share upon closing of the transaction. The transaction is subject to the approval of TAL's shareholders. A special meeting is anticipated to be held in the second quarter of 2016.

## Treasury Stock &amp; Stock Repurchase Program

During 2015, TAL repurchased 81,915 shares at an average price of \$41.40, and in 2014, TAL repurchased 818,085 shares at an average price of \$42.01. As part of the joint announcement of the TAL and Triton transaction on November 9, 2015, a share repurchase program of up to \$250 million was announced, which supplants all prior stock repurchase programs, and is expected to be initiated upon the close of the transaction.

## Recent Sales of Unregistered Securities; Use of Proceeds From Registered Securities

None.

Table of Contents

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following table sets forth certain selected historical financial, operating and other data of TAL International Group, Inc. The selected historical consolidated statements of income data, balance sheet data and other financial data for each of the five years ended December 31, 2015 were derived from the Company's audited Consolidated Financial Statements and related notes. The data below should be read in conjunction with, and is qualified by reference to, our Management's Discussion and Analysis and our Consolidated Financial Statements and notes thereto contained elsewhere in this report. The historical results are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected in any future period.

41

---

Table of Contents

	Year Ended December 31,				
	(Dollars and shares in thousands, except per share data)				
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Statements of Income Data:					
Leasing revenues:					
Operating leases	\$591,665	\$573,778	\$552,640	\$511,189	\$434,668
Finance leases	15,192	18,355	14,728	13,781	16,394
Other revenues	1,147	1,873	2,485	3,227	3,301
Total leasing revenues	608,004	594,006	569,853	528,197	454,363
Equipment trading revenues	62,195	56,436	73,004	60,975	62,324
Equipment trading expenses	(58,001 )	(49,246 )	(62,726 )	(53,431 )	(51,330 )
Trading margin	4,194	7,190	10,278	7,544	10,994
Net (loss) gain on sale of leasing equipment	(13,646 )	6,987	26,751	44,509	51,969
Operating expenses:					
Depreciation and amortization(1)	242,538	224,753	205,073	193,466	152,576
Direct operating expenses	48,902	33,076	27,142	25,039	18,157
Administrative expenses	51,154	45,399	44,197	43,991	42,727
Provision (reversal) for doubtful accounts	133	212	2,827	(208 )	162
Total operating expenses	342,727	303,440	279,239	262,288	213,622
Operating income	255,825	304,743	327,643	317,962	303,704
Other expenses (income):					
Interest and debt expense	118,280	109,265	111,725	114,629	105,470
Write-off of deferred financing costs	895	5,192	4,000	—	1,143
Net loss (gain) on interest rate swaps(2)	205	780	(8,947 )	2,469	27,354
Total other expenses	119,380	115,237	106,778	117,098	133,967
Income before income taxes	136,445	189,506	220,865	200,864	169,737
Income tax expense	48,233	65,461	77,699	70,732	60,013
Net income	\$88,212	\$124,045	\$143,166	\$130,132	\$109,724
Earnings Per Share Data:					
Basic income per share applicable to common stockholders	\$2.68	\$3.70	\$4.28	\$3.92	\$3.39
Diluted income per share applicable to common stockholders	\$2.67	\$3.68	\$4.25	\$3.87	\$3.34
Weighted average common shares outstanding:					
Basic	32,861	33,482	33,483	33,224	32,414
Diluted	32,979	33,664	33,694	33,623	32,821
Cash dividends paid per common share	\$2.61	\$2.88	\$2.68	\$2.35	\$1.99

Depreciation expense was reduced by \$5.2 million quarterly (\$3.4 million after tax or \$0.10 per diluted share) with (1) the quarter ended December 31, 2012 as the result of the increase in residual value estimates included in the Company's depreciation policy (see Note 2 in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements).

(2) Net losses and gains on interest rate swaps are primarily due to changes in interest rates, and reflect changes in the fair value of interest rate swaps not designated as cash flow hedges.

Table of Contents

	As of December 31, (In thousands, except fleet data)					
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	
Balance Sheet Data (end of period):						
Cash and cash equivalents (including restricted cash)	\$89,209	\$114,781	\$98,001	\$101,680	\$175,343	
Accounts receivable, net	95,709	85,681	74,174	71,363	56,491	
Revenue earning assets, net	4,160,928	3,953,764	3,730,122	3,418,446	2,857,233	
Total assets	4,434,076	4,242,047	4,016,209	3,674,744	3,173,275	
Debt, net of unamortized deferred financing costs	3,216,488	3,007,905	2,788,846	2,577,565	2,211,557	
Stockholders' equity	665,012	666,528	691,918	615,975	562,802	
Other Financial Data:						
Capital expenditures	704,178	670,529	660,492	831,826	815,730	
Proceeds from sale of equipment leasing fleet, net of selling costs	125,525	165,990	140,724	133,367	123,659	
Selected Fleet Data(1)(2):						
Dry container units	1,351,170	1,189,707	1,105,433	1,021,642	847,902	
Refrigerated container units	70,505	65,010	64,030	57,229	50,751	
Special container units	56,118	56,180	56,761	57,198	48,039	
Tank container units	11,243	9,282	8,100	6,608	5,396	
Chassis	21,216	19,116	13,724	13,146	10,789	
Equipment trading units	21,135	32,448	40,374	45,860	46,767	
Total container units/chassis	1,531,387	1,371,743	1,288,422	1,201,683	1,009,644	
Total containers/chassis in TEU	2,512,667	2,249,619	2,113,215	1,957,776	1,645,868	
Total containers/chassis in cost equivalent units(3)	3,105,911	2,778,284	2,640,743	2,404,516	2,044,012	
Average utilization %(4)	96.0	% 97.6	% 97.4	% 97.9	% 98.7	%

(1)Includes both owned and managed units, as well as units on finance leases.

(2)Calculated as of the end of the relevant period.

The Company has included total fleet count information based on cost equivalent units (CEU). CEU is a ratio used to convert the actual number of containers in the Company's fleet to a figure based on the relative purchase price of various equipment types to that of a 20 foot dry container. For example, the CEU ratio for a 40 foot standard height dry container is 1.6, and a 40 foot high cube refrigerated container is 10.0. These CEU ratios are from the Company's debt agreements and may differ slightly from CEU ratios used by others in the industry.

(4) Average utilization is computed by dividing total units on lease (in CEU) by the total units in the Company's fleet (in CEU) excluding new units not yet leased and off-hire units designated for sale.

Table of Contents

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The statements in this discussion regarding industry outlook, our expectations regarding our future performance, liquidity and capital resources and other non-historical statements are subject to numerous risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, the risks and uncertainties described under "Risk Factors" and "Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" as discussed elsewhere in this Form 10-K. Our actual results may differ materially from those contained in or implied by any forward-looking statements.

**Our Company**

We are one of the world's largest and oldest lessors of intermodal containers and chassis. Intermodal containers are large, standardized steel boxes used to transport freight by ship, rail or truck. Because of the handling efficiencies they provide, intermodal containers are the primary means by which many goods and materials are shipped internationally. Chassis are used for the transportation of containers domestically.

We operate our business in one industry, intermodal transportation equipment, and have two business segments:

• **Equipment leasing**—we own, lease and ultimately dispose of containers and chassis from our lease fleet, as well as manage containers owned by third parties.

• **Equipment trading**—we purchase containers from shipping line customers, and other sellers of containers, and resell these containers to container retailers and users of containers for storage or one-way shipment.

**Operations**

Our consolidated operations include the acquisition, leasing, re-leasing and subsequent sale of multiple types of intermodal containers and chassis. As of December 31, 2015, our total fleet consisted of 1,531,387 containers and chassis, representing 2,512,667 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU). We have an extensive global presence, offering leasing services through 17 offices in 11 countries and approximately 230 third party container depot facilities in approximately 40 countries as of December 31, 2015. Our customers are among the largest shipping lines in the world. For the year ended December 31, 2015, our twenty largest customers accounted for 82% of our leasing revenues, our five largest customers accounted for 55% of our leasing revenues, and our largest customer, CMA CGM, accounted for 16% of our leasing revenues. NYK Line accounted for 12% of our leasing revenues in 2015.

Table of Contents

The following tables provide the composition of our equipment fleet (owned and managed) as of the dates indicated (in units, TEU and cost-equivalent units, or "CEU"):

	Equipment Fleet in Units (1)			Equipment Fleet in TEU(1)		
	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
Dry	1,351,170	1,189,707	1,105,433	2,190,940	1,928,482	1,790,975
Refrigerated	70,505	65,010	64,030	134,204	123,342	122,579
Special	56,118	56,180	56,761	102,081	102,065	101,954
Tank	11,243	9,282	8,100	11,243	9,282	8,100
Chassis	21,216	19,116	13,724	38,210	33,877	24,505
Equipment leasing fleet	1,510,252	1,339,295	1,248,048	2,476,678	2,197,048	2,048,113
Equipment trading fleet	21,135	32,448	40,374	35,989	52,571	65,102
Total	1,531,387	1,371,743	1,288,422	2,512,667	2,249,619	2,113,215
	Equipment Fleet in CEU(1)					
	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014		December 31, 2013		
Operating leases	2,801,607	2,475,518		2,290,636		
Finance leases	197,225	197,537		211,365		
Equipment trading fleet	107,079	105,229		138,742		
Total	3,105,911	2,778,284		2,640,743		

(1) As of December 31, 2015, the Company had 1.0%, 1.0%, and 0.7% of managed equipment in units, TEU, and CEU, respectively.

In the equipment fleet tables above, we have included total fleet count information based on CEU. CEU is a ratio used to convert the actual number of containers in our fleet to a figure based on the relative purchase prices of our various equipment types to that of a 20 foot dry container. For example, the CEU ratio for a 40 foot standard height dry container is 1.6, and a 40 foot high cube refrigerated container is 10.0. The CEU ratios used in this calculation are from our debt agreements and may differ slightly from CEU ratios used by others in the industry.

We lease five types of equipment: (1) dry freight containers, which are used for general cargo such as manufactured component parts, consumer staples, electronics and apparel, (2) refrigerated containers, which are used for perishable items such as fresh and frozen foods, (3) special containers, which are used for heavy and over-sized cargo such as marble slabs, building products and machinery, (4) tank containers, which are used to transport bulk liquid products such as chemicals, and (5) chassis, which are used for the transportation of containers domestically. Our in-house equipment sales group manages the sale process for our used containers and chassis from our equipment leasing fleet and buys and sells used and new containers and chassis acquired from third parties.

Table of Contents

The percentage of our equipment fleet by equipment type as of December 31, 2015 and the percentage of our leasing revenues by equipment type for the year ended December 31, 2015 are as follows:

Equipment Type	Percent of total fleet in units		Percent of total fleet in CEU		Percent of leasing revenues	
Dry	88.2	%	61.6	%	65.4	%
Refrigerated	4.6		22.1		19.8	
Special	3.7		4.4		6.7	
Tank	0.7		5.8		3.4	
Chassis	1.4		2.7		3.1	
Equipment leasing fleet	98.6		96.6		98.4	
Equipment trading fleet	1.4		3.4		1.6	
Total	100.0	%	100.0	%	100.0	%

We generally lease our equipment on a per diem basis to our customers under three types of leases: long-term leases, finance leases and service leases. Long-term leases, typically with initial contractual terms ranging from three to eight years, provide us with stable cash flow and low transaction costs by requiring customers to maintain specific units on-hire for the duration of the lease. Finance leases, which are typically structured as full payout leases, provide for a predictable recurring revenue stream with the lowest cost to the customer as customers are generally required to retain the equipment for the duration of its useful life. Service leases command a premium per diem rate in exchange for providing customers with a greater level of operational flexibility by allowing the pick-up and drop-off of units during the lease term. We also have expired long-term leases whose fixed terms have ended but for which the related units remain on-hire and for which we continue to receive rental payments pursuant to the terms of the initial contract. Some leases have contractual terms that have features reflective of both long-term and service leases and we classify such leases as either long-term or service leases, depending upon which features we believe are predominant. The following table provides a summary of our equipment leasing fleet portfolio by lease type, based on CEU as of the dates indicated below:

Lease Portfolio	December 31, 2015		December 31, 2014		December 31, 2013	
Long-term leases	68.7	%	68.9	%	68.0	%
Finance leases	7.7		8.0		9.2	
Service leases	15.7		17.7		18.0	
Expired long-term leases (units remaining on-hire)	7.9		5.4		4.8	
Total	100.0	%	100.0	%	100.0	%

As of December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013, our long-term and finance leases combined had average remaining contractual term of approximately 42 months, 41 months, and 44 months, respectively, assuming no leases are renewed.



Table of Contents

## Operating Performance

Our profitability is primarily determined by the extent to which our leasing and other revenues exceed our ownership, operating and administrative expenses. Our profitability is also impacted by the gains or losses that we realize on the sale of our used equipment and the net sales margins on our equipment trading activities.

Our leasing revenues are primarily driven by the size of our owned fleet, our equipment utilization and the average lease rates in our lease portfolio. Our leasing revenues also include ancillary fees driven by container pick-up and drop-off volumes. Leasing revenues for the year ended December 31, 2015 increased 2.4% from 2014.

**Fleet size.** As of December 31, 2015, our owned fleet included 3,082,839 CEU, an increase of 12.0% from December 31, 2014. The increase in our owned fleet size in 2015 was primarily due to our purchases of new containers and the completion of several large sale-leaseback transactions. In 2015, we invested approximately \$625 million in our owned fleet, purchasing approximately 138,000 TEU of new containers and approximately 266,000 TEU of used containers through sale-leaseback transactions. Most of TAL's new container purchases were made in the first few months of the year, and we completed several large sale-leaseback transactions throughout the year. In general, market forecasters had expected global containerized trade growth to be in the range of 5-6% in 2015, and the initial expectation for solid trade growth supported leasing demand early in the year. However, global containerized trade growth has been less than expected this year, and we did not benefit from a traditional summer peak season for dry containers. Container pick-ups on our early lease commitments have proceeded slowly, and our investments in new containers have been limited during the second half of the year.

**Utilization.** Our average utilization was 96.0% during 2015, a decrease from 97.6% in 2014, and our ending utilization was 93.0%, down from 98.1% at the end of 2014. Weaker than expected trade growth in 2015 has led to increased drop-off volumes, decreased pick-up volumes and lower utilization. Drop-off volumes in our sale-leaseback portfolio have been particularly high since these leases are generally structured to provide maximum redelivery flexibility. We expect our utilization will continue to trend down during the first quarter of 2016 as the first quarter typically represents the weakest season for dry containers. However, our utilization remains at a high level and continues to be supported by the high percentage of our units that are on-hire to customers on long-term or finance leases. New container production has also been limited since the middle of 2015, and we expect that our utilization will rebound in 2016 if trade growth is at least moderately positive.

The following tables set forth our equipment fleet utilization (1) for the periods indicated below:

Average Utilization	Year Ended December 31,	Quarter Ended			
		December 31,	September 30,	June 30,	March 31,
2015	96.0%	93.7%	95.8%	97.1%	97.9%
2014	97.6%	98.1%	97.9%	97.3%	97.1%
2013	97.4%	97.0%	97.3%	97.5%	97.7%
Ending Utilization		Quarter Ended			
		December 31,	September 30,	June 30,	March 31,
2015		93.0%	94.7%	96.6%	97.7%
2014		98.1%	98.1%	97.7%	96.9%
2013		97.2%	97.0%	97.5%	97.6%

(1) Utilization is computed by dividing our total units on lease (in CEU) by the total units in our fleet (in CEU) excluding new units not yet leased and off-hire units designated for sale.

Table of Contents

**Average lease rates.** Average lease rates for our dry container product line decreased by 6.4% in 2015 compared to 2014. New container prices have decreased significantly over the last several years and this decrease accelerated in 2015 due to a significant drop in steel prices in China. Very low long-term interest rates and aggressive competition for new leasing transactions has combined with falling container prices to push market lease rates to historical low levels and market lease rates for dry containers are currently well below our portfolio average. Low market lease rates negatively impact our overall average lease rates as we add new containers to our fleet and as leases covering existing containers expire and are re-priced. If market lease rates remain near their current low level, we expect the decrease in our average dry container lease rates will accelerate in 2016 and 2017 due to the large number of leases with high lease rates that are scheduled to expire in those years.

Average lease rates for refrigerated containers decreased by 3.0% in 2015 compared to 2014. For several years our average lease rates for refrigerated containers have been negatively impacted by the addition of new refrigerated containers placed on lease at rates lower than our portfolio average. The cost of refrigerated containers has trended down over the last few years, which has led to lower market lease rates. Lease rates for new refrigerated containers are also being negatively impacted by aggressive pricing from new entrants seeking to build market share.

The average lease rates for special containers decreased by 0.7% in 2015 compared to 2014. This decrease is mainly the result of certain lease renegotiations.

**Equipment disposals.** During 2015, we recognized a \$13.6 million loss on the sale of our used containers compared to a gain of \$7.0 million in 2014. This decrease is primarily due to lower average sale prices. Average used container selling prices in 2015 decreased approximately 19% from our average prices in 2014 due to the impact of lower new container prices and increased disposal volumes by leasing companies and shipping lines in response to the weaker containerized trade volumes.

Our disposal losses in 2015 included impairment charges taken against our inventory of containers held for sale. We regularly assess the market value of our containers held for sale and mark the containers to the lower of cost or market. The decrease in container prices during 2015 resulted in impairment losses of \$14.0 million in 2015 compared to impairment losses of \$4.3 million in 2014 for these assets. The size of the impairment losses was driven by an increase in the number of containers held for sale. Lower demand and higher drop off volumes has resulted in the sales inventory growing from approximately 22,200 units at the end of 2014 to approximately 50,100 units at the end of 2015.

**Equipment ownership expenses.** Our ownership expenses, which consist of depreciation and interest expense, increased by \$26.7 million or 8.0% in 2015 as compared to 2014. There was a one-time \$1.3 million charge to interest expense in 2015 related to an early buyout of equipment financed under capital leases. Excluding this charge, ownership costs increased 7.6% from 2014, which is generally in line with the 7.2% growth in the average net book value of our revenue earning assets.

**Credit performance.** We recorded a \$0.1 million provision for doubtful accounts during 2015, compared to a provision of \$0.2 million in 2014. While our credit performance during 2015 was strong, our overall concern about credit risk remains heightened due to the difficult market conditions facing our customers. Many of the major shipping lines have reported modest or negative profitability over the last several years due to persistent excess vessel capacity and weak freight rates. Several shipping lines are also currently undertaking significant financial restructurings due to high current financial leverage and ongoing sizable losses. In addition, it is anticipated that the volume of new vessels entering service over the next several years will cause the global container vessel fleet to grow at a higher rate than global containerized trade. As a result, we expect freight rates and our customers' financial performance to remain under pressure.

**Operating expenses.** Our direct operating expenses were \$48.9 million in 2015, compared to \$33.1 million in 2014, an increase of 47.7%. This increase was driven by higher storage costs of \$7.6 million resulting from an increase in the number of idle units and higher redelivery and repair related costs of \$7.5 million due to a higher volume of redeliveries.

**Administrative expenses.** Our administrative expenses were \$51.2 million in 2015 compared to \$45.4 million in 2014, an increase of 12.8%. The increase was mainly due to \$7.5 million of transaction costs related to the pending merger with Triton.



Table of Contents

## Dividends

We paid the following quarterly dividends during the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 on our issued and outstanding common stock:

Record Date	Payment Date	Aggregate Payment	Per Share Payment
December 2, 2015	December 23, 2015	\$14.8 Million	\$0.45
September 2, 2015	September 23, 2015	\$23.7 Million	\$0.72
June 3, 2015	June 24, 2015	\$23.7 Million	\$0.72
March 3, 2015	March 24, 2015	\$23.7 Million	\$0.72
December 2, 2014	December 23, 2014	\$23.8 Million	\$0.72
September 3, 2014	September 24, 2014	\$24.2 Million	\$0.72
June 3, 2014	June 24, 2014	\$24.2 Million	\$0.72
March 3, 2014	March 24, 2014	\$24.2 Million	\$0.72

Historically, most of our dividends have been treated as a non-taxable return of capital, and we believe that 100% of our dividends paid in 2015 will also be treated as a return of capital to TAL shareholders. The taxability of the dividends to TAL shareholders does not impact TAL's corporate tax position. Investors should consult with a tax adviser to determine the proper tax treatment of these distributions.

## Merger

On November 9, 2015, TAL and Triton announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement under which the companies will combine in an all-stock merger. Under the terms of the Transaction Agreement, TAL and Triton will combine under a newly-formed holding company, Triton International Limited ("Holdco"), which will be domiciled in Bermuda and is expected to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange. TAL International shareholders will receive one common share of Holdco for each share of TAL International stock owned. TAL International shareholders will also receive a special dividend of \$0.54 per share upon closing of the transaction. The transaction is subject to the approval of TAL's shareholders. A special meeting is anticipated to be held in the second quarter of 2016.

## Treasury Stock &amp; Stock Repurchase Program

During 2015, TAL repurchased 81,915 shares at an average price of \$41.40, and in 2014, TAL repurchased 818,085 shares at an average price of \$42.01. As part of the joint announcement of the TAL and Triton transaction on November 9, 2015, a share repurchase program of up to \$250 million was announced, which supplants all prior stock repurchase programs, and is expected to be initiated upon the close of the transaction.

Table of Contents

## Results of Operations

The following table summarizes our results of operations for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013 (in thousands of dollars):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Leasing revenues:			
Operating leases	\$591,665	\$573,778	\$552,640
Finance leases	15,192	18,355	14,728
Other revenues	1,147	1,873	2,485
Total leasing revenues	608,004	594,006	569,853
Equipment trading revenues	62,195	56,436	73,004
Equipment trading expenses	(58,001)	(49,246)	(62,726)
Trading margin	4,194	7,190	10,278
Net (loss) gain on sale of leasing equipment	(13,646)	6,987	26,751
Operating expenses:			
Depreciation and amortization	242,538	224,753	205,073
Direct operating expenses	48,902	33,076	27,142
Administrative expenses	51,154	45,399	44,197
Provision for doubtful accounts	133	212	2,827
Total operating expenses	342,727	303,440	279,239
Operating income	255,825	304,743	327,643
Other expenses:			
Interest and debt expense	118,280	109,265	111,725
Write-off of deferred financing costs	895	5,192	4,000
Net loss (gain) on interest rate swaps	205	780	(8,947)
Total other expenses	119,380	115,237	106,778
Income before income taxes	136,445	189,506	220,865
Income tax expense	48,233	65,461	77,699
Net income	\$88,212	\$124,045	\$143,166

Table of Contents

## Comparison of Year Ended December 31, 2015 to Year Ended December 31, 2014

Leasing revenues. The principal components of our leasing revenues are presented in the following table. Per diem revenue represents revenue earned under operating lease contracts. Fee and ancillary lease revenue represent fees billed for the pick-up and drop-off of containers in certain geographic locations and billings of certain reimbursable operating costs such as repair and handling expenses. Finance lease revenue represents interest income earned under finance lease contracts.

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2015	2014
	(in thousands)	
Leasing revenues:		
Operating lease revenues:		
Per diem revenue	\$553,155	\$545,561
Fee and ancillary lease revenue	38,510	28,217
Total operating lease revenue	591,665	573,778
Finance lease revenue	15,192	18,355
Other revenues	1,147	1,873
Total leasing revenues	\$608,004	\$594,006

Total leasing revenues were \$608.0 million in 2015, compared to \$594.0 million in 2014, an increase of \$14.0 million, or 2.4%.

Per diem revenue increased by \$7.6 million, or 1.4%, compared to 2014. The primary reasons for this increase are as follows:

- \$31.9 million increase due to an increase of approximately 149,700 CEU in the average number of units on-hire under operating leases; partially offset by a

- \$24.3 million decrease due to a 5.3% decrease in average CEU per diem rates.

Fee and ancillary lease revenue increased by \$10.3 million in 2015, compared to 2014 primarily due to a 95% increase in drop-off volumes.

Finance lease revenue decreased by \$3.2 million in 2015, compared to 2014 due to a decrease in the average size of our finance lease portfolio and a decrease in the average interest rate.

Table of Contents

Equipment Trading Activities. Equipment trading revenues represent the proceeds on the sale of equipment purchased for resale. Equipment trading expenses represent the cost of equipment sold, including costs associated with the acquisition, maintenance and selling of trading inventory, such as positioning, repairs, handling and storage costs, and estimated direct selling and administrative costs.

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2015	2014
	(in thousands)	
Equipment trading revenues	\$62,195	\$56,436
Equipment trading expenses	(58,001	) (49,246
Equipment trading margin	\$4,194	\$7,190

The equipment trading margin was \$4.2 million in 2015 compared to \$7.2 million in 2014, a decrease of \$3.0 million. The trading margin decreased \$3.4 million due to lower per unit margins on equipment sold partially offset by an increase of \$0.4 million due to an increase in sales volume.

Net (loss) gain on sale of leasing equipment. Loss on sale of equipment was \$13.6 million in 2015 compared to a gain on sale of equipment of \$7.0 million in 2014, a decrease of \$20.6 million. The decrease in sales results was mainly due to a 19% decrease in used dry container selling prices.

Depreciation and amortization. Depreciation and amortization was \$242.5 million in 2015, compared to \$224.8 million in 2014, an increase of \$17.7 million or 7.9%. Depreciation expense increased by \$24.1 million due to the net increase in the size of our depreciable fleet, partially offset by a decrease of \$6.4 million due to equipment becoming fully depreciated.

Direct operating expenses. Direct operating expenses primarily consist of our costs to repair equipment returned off lease, store the equipment when it is not on lease and reposition equipment that has been returned to locations with weak leasing demand.

Direct operating expenses were \$48.9 million in 2015, compared to \$33.1 million in 2014, an increase of \$15.8 million. This increase was driven by higher storage costs of \$7.6 million resulting from an increase in the number of idle units, and higher redelivery and repair related costs of \$7.5 million due to a higher volume of redeliveries.

Administrative expenses. Administrative expenses were \$51.2 million in 2015 compared to \$45.4 million in 2014, an increase of \$5.8 million or 12.8%. This increase was mainly due to an increase in transaction costs of \$7.5 million related to the pending merger with Triton.

Provision for doubtful accounts. Our provision for doubtful accounts was \$0.1 million in 2015 compared to a provision of \$0.2 million in 2014.

Interest and debt expense. Interest and debt expense was \$118.3 million in 2015, compared to \$109.3 million in 2014, an increase of \$9.0 million or 8.2%. Interest and debt expense increased \$9.0 million due to a higher average debt balance of \$3,158.2 million in 2015, compared to \$2,916.9 million in 2014. Interest and debt expense also increased \$1.3 million in 2015 due to an early buyout on certain capital lease obligations. This increase was partially offset by a decrease of \$1.3 million due to a lower average effective interest rate of 3.65% in 2015 compared to 3.69% in 2014.

Table of Contents

**Net loss on interest rate swaps.** Net loss on interest rate swaps was \$0.2 million in 2015, compared to a loss of \$0.8 million in 2014. While the large majority of our interest rate swap agreements have been designated as hedges and generally do not impact the income statement as their market value changes, a small portion of our interest rate swaps are not designated as hedges and thus are subject to revaluation. The fair value of these non-designated interest rate swap agreements decreased during 2015 due to a decrease in long-term interest rates. Under the majority of our interest rate swap agreements, we make interest payments based on fixed interest rates and receive payments based on the applicable prevailing variable interest rate. As long-term interest rates decreased during 2015, the current market rate on interest rate swap agreements with similar terms decreased relative to our existing interest rate swap agreements, which caused the fair value of our existing interest rate swap agreements to decrease.

**Income tax expense.** Income tax expense was \$48.2 million in 2015, compared to \$65.5 million in 2014. The effective tax rate was 35.3% in 2015 and 34.5% in 2014. Our effective tax rate in 2014 includes changes in state apportionment factors for several states that required an adjustment to the deferred tax balance.

While we record income tax expense, we do not currently pay any significant federal, state or foreign income taxes due to the availability of net operating loss carryovers and accelerated tax depreciation for our equipment. The majority of the expense recorded for income taxes is recorded as a deferred tax liability on the balance sheet. We anticipate that the deferred income tax liability will continue to grow for the foreseeable future.

**Comparison of Year Ended December 31, 2014 to Year Ended December 31, 2013**

**Leasing revenues.** The principal components of our leasing revenues are presented in the following table. Per diem revenue represents revenue earned under operating lease contracts; fee and ancillary lease revenue represent fees billed for the pick-up and drop-off of containers in certain geographic locations and billings of certain reimbursable operating costs such as repair and handling expenses; and finance lease revenue represents interest income earned under finance lease contracts.

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2014	2013
	(in thousands)	
Leasing revenues:		
Operating lease revenues:		
Per diem revenue	\$545,561	\$528,499
Fee and ancillary lease revenue	28,217	24,141
Total operating lease revenue	573,778	552,640
Finance lease revenue	18,355	14,728
Other revenues	1,873	2,485
Total leasing revenues	\$594,006	\$569,853

Total leasing revenues were \$594.0 million in 2014, compared to \$569.9 million in 2013, an increase of \$24.1 million, or 4.2%.

Per diem revenue increased by \$17.1 million, or 3.2%, compared to 2013. The primary reasons for this increase are as follows:

- \$37.6 million increase due to an increase of approximately 156,300 CEU in the average number of units on-hire under operating leases; partially offset by a

- \$20.5 million decrease due a 4.5% decrease in lower average CEU per diem rates.

Fee and ancillary lease revenue increased by \$4.1 million in 2014, compared to 2013 primarily due to a \$3.2 million increase in reimbursable costs and an increase of \$1.1 million in fee revenue due to higher pick-up and drop-off volumes.

Finance lease revenue increased by \$3.6 million in 2014, compared to 2013 due to an increase in the average size of our finance lease portfolio, partially offset by a decrease in the average interest rate.



Table of Contents

**Equipment Trading Activities.** Equipment trading revenues represent the proceeds on the sale of equipment purchased for resale. Equipment trading expenses represent the cost of equipment sold, including costs associated with the acquisition, maintenance and selling of trading inventory, such as positioning, repairs, handling and storage costs, and estimated direct selling and administrative costs.

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2014	2013
	(in thousands)	
Equipment trading revenues	\$56,436	\$73,004
Equipment trading expenses	(49,246	) (62,726
Equipment trading margin	\$7,190	\$10,278

The equipment trading margin was \$7.2 million in 2014 compared to \$10.3 million in 2013, a decrease of \$3.1 million. The trading margin decreased \$2.0 million due to lower per unit margins on equipment sold and decreased by \$0.9 million due to lower sales volume.

**Net gain on sale of leasing equipment.** Gain on sale of equipment was \$7.0 million in 2014 compared to \$26.8 million in 2013, a decrease of \$19.8 million. The primary reasons for this decrease are as follows:

\$20.1 million decrease due to a decrease of approximately 23% in used dry container selling prices;

\$2.5 million decrease due to larger gains in 2013 related to units declared lost by one of our customers, which was not repeated in 2014, partially offset by a

\$2.6 million increase due to an increase in sales volume.

**Depreciation and amortization.** Depreciation and amortization was \$224.8 million in 2014, compared to \$205.1 million in 2013, an increase of \$19.7 million or 9.6%. Depreciation expense increased by \$23.9 million due to the net increase in the size of our depreciable fleet, partially offset by a decrease of \$4.2 million due to equipment becoming fully depreciated.

**Direct operating expenses.** Direct operating expenses primarily consist of our costs to repair equipment returned off lease, store the equipment when it is not on lease and reposition equipment that has been returned to locations with weak leasing demand.

Direct operating expenses were \$33.1 million in 2014, compared to \$27.1 million in 2013, an increase of \$6.0 million primarily driven by the following:

\$1.8 million increase in repair expense due to larger drop-off volume of dry containers;

\$1.8 million increase in operating, handling and repositioning expenses resulting from a larger volume of pick-up and drop-off activity;

\$1.6 million increase in storage costs due to an increase in the number of idle units, mainly an increase in the number of containers held for sale; and a

\$0.6 million increase in survey costs due to increased procurement activity.

**Administrative expenses.** Administrative expenses were \$45.4 million in 2014 compared to \$44.2 million in 2013, an increase of \$1.2 million or 2.7%. This increase was mainly due to increased employment costs and greater foreign exchange losses on Euro and GBP denominated assets.

**Provision for doubtful accounts.** Our provision for doubtful accounts was \$0.2 million in 2014 compared to a provision of \$2.8 million in 2013. In 2013, we recorded a provision related to payment defaults and estimated recovery costs for several small regional shipping lines. We made no such provisions for defaults in 2014.

**Interest and debt expense.** Interest and debt expense was \$109.3 million in 2014, compared to \$111.7 million in 2013, a decrease of \$2.4 million or 2.1%. The decrease in interest and debt expense was mainly driven by a \$9.2 million decrease due to a lower average effective interest rate of 3.69% in 2014 compared to 4.01% in 2013. This was primarily offset by an increase of \$6.8 million due to a higher average debt balance of \$2,916.9 million in 2014, compared to \$2,750.1 million in 2013.

Table of Contents

**Net loss (gain) on interest rate swaps.** Net loss on interest rate swaps was \$0.8 million in 2014, compared to a gain of \$8.9 million in 2013. While the large majority of our interest rate swap agreements have been designated as hedges and generally do not impact the income statement as their market value changes, a small portion of our interest rate swaps are not designated as hedges and thus are subject to revaluation. The fair value of these non-designated interest rate swap agreements decreased during 2014 due to a decrease in long-term interest rates. Under the majority of our interest rate swap agreements, we make interest payments based on fixed interest rates and receive payments based on the applicable prevailing variable interest rate. As long-term interest rates decreased during 2014, the current market rate on interest rate swap agreements with similar terms decreased relative to our existing interest rate swap agreements, which caused the fair value of our existing interest rate swap agreements to decrease.

**Income tax expense.** Income tax expense was \$65.5 million in 2014, compared to \$77.7 million in 2013. The effective tax rate was 34.5% in 2014 and 35.2% in 2013. Our effective tax rate decreased due to changes in state apportionment factors for several states which lowered our state effective tax rate.

While we record income tax expense, we do not currently pay any significant federal, state or foreign income taxes due to the availability of net operating loss carryovers and accelerated tax depreciation for our equipment. The majority of the expense recorded for income taxes is recorded as a deferred tax liability on the balance sheet. We anticipate that the deferred income tax liability will continue to grow for the foreseeable future.

**Business Segments**

We operate our business in one industry, intermodal transportation equipment, and in two business segments, Equipment leasing and Equipment trading.

**Equipment leasing**

We own, lease and ultimately dispose of containers and chassis from our leasing fleet, as well as manage containers owned by third parties. Equipment leasing segment revenues represent leasing revenues from operating and finance leases, fees earned on managed container leasing activities, as well as other revenues. Expenses related to equipment leasing include direct operating expenses, administrative expenses, depreciation expense and interest expense. The Equipment leasing segment also includes gains and losses on the sale of owned leasing equipment.

**Equipment trading**

We purchase containers from shipping line customers and other sellers of containers, and resell these containers to container retailers and users of containers for storage or one-way shipment. Equipment trading segment revenues represent the proceeds on the sale of containers purchased for resale. Expenses related to equipment trading include the cost of containers purchased for resale that were sold and related selling costs, as well as direct operating expenses, administrative expenses and interest expense.

**Segment income before income taxes**

The following table lists the income before income taxes for the Equipment leasing and Equipment trading segments for the periods indicated:

	Year Ended December 31,			% Change Between	
	2015	2014	2013	2015 and 2014	2014 and 2013
	(in thousands)				
Income before income taxes(1)					
Equipment leasing segment	\$128,259	\$180,356	\$198,210	(28.9)%	(9.0)%
Equipment trading segment	9,286	15,122	17,708	(38.6)%	(14.6)%
Total	\$137,545	\$195,478	\$215,918		

(1) Income before income taxes excludes net losses on interest rate swaps and the write-off of deferred financing costs. Equipment leasing income before income taxes. Income before income taxes for the Equipment leasing segment was \$128.3 million in 2015 compared to \$180.4 million in 2014, a decrease of \$52.1 million. This decrease was mainly due to the following:

- a \$20.6 million year over year decline on the sale of leasing equipment mainly driven by lower selling prices;



Table of Contents

an increase in direct operating expenses of \$16.0 million mainly due to higher storage costs resulting from an increase in the number of idle units and higher redelivery and repair related costs due to higher volume of redeliveries; Leasing margin (leasing revenues net of depreciation and amortization and interest and debt expense) decreased \$10.2 million mainly due to lower average per diem rates and an increase in our average debt balance. This decrease was partially offset by an increase in the fleet size and average number of units on hire; and

- an increase in administrative expenses of \$5.3 million mainly due to costs related to the pending merger.

Income before income taxes for the Equipment leasing segment was \$180.4 million in 2014 compared to \$198.2 million in 2013, a decrease of \$17.8 million. This decrease was mainly due to a decrease in the gain on the sale of leasing equipment of \$19.8 million mostly due to lower selling prices. In addition, direct operating expenses increased \$5.8 million. This decrease was partially offset by an increase in the leasing margin (leasing revenues net of depreciation and amortization and interest and debt expense) of \$6.5 million due to an increase in the fleet size and average number of units on-hire and a reduction in our average effective interest rate.

Equipment trading income before income taxes. Income before income taxes for the Equipment trading segment was \$9.3 million in 2015, compared to \$15.1 million in 2014, a decrease of \$5.8 million. This decrease was primarily due to a decline in the equipment trading margin due to lower per unit margins on equipment sold offset by higher sales volume. This decrease was also due to a decrease in the leasing margin.

Income before income taxes for the Equipment trading segment was \$15.1 million in 2014, compared to \$17.7 million in 2013, a decrease of \$2.6 million. This decrease was primarily due to a decline in the equipment trading margin due to lower per unit margins on equipment sold and lower sales volume.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Our principal sources of liquidity are cash flows provided by operating activities, proceeds from the sale of our leasing equipment, principal payments on finance lease receivables and borrowings under our credit facilities. Our cash in-flows and borrowings are used to finance capital expenditures, meet debt service requirements and pay dividends.

We continue to have sizable cash in-flows. For the year ended December 31, 2015, cash provided by operating activities, together with the proceeds from the sale of our leasing equipment and principal payments on our finance leases, was \$568.9 million. In addition, as of December 31, 2015 we had \$58.9 million of unrestricted cash and \$243.1 million of additional borrowing capacity under our current credit facilities (excluding deferred financing costs).

As of December 31, 2015, major committed cash outflows in the next 12 months include \$346.4 million of scheduled principal payments on our existing debt facilities and \$87.0 million of committed but unpaid capital expenditures.

We believe that cash provided by operating activities and existing cash, proceeds from the sale of our leasing equipment, principal payments on our finance lease receivables and availability under our borrowing facilities will be sufficient to meet our obligations over the next 12 months.

At December 31, 2015, our outstanding indebtedness was comprised of the following (amounts in millions):

	Current Amount Outstanding	Current Maximum Borrowing Level
Asset backed securitization (ABS) term notes	\$1,151.5	\$1,151.5
Term loan facilities	973.1	1,071.2
Asset backed warehouse facility	610.0	650.0
Revolving credit facilities	445.0	550.0
Capital lease obligations	62.1	62.1
Total Debt	3,241.7	3,484.8
Deferred financing costs	(25.2)	) —
Debt, net of unamortized deferred financing costs	\$3,216.5	\$3,484.8

The maximum commitment levels depicted in the chart above may not reflect the actual availability under all of the credit facilities. Certain of these facilities are governed by borrowing bases that limit borrowing capacity to an established percentage of relevant assets.



## Table of Contents

As of December 31, 2015, we had \$1,314.5 million of total debt outstanding on facilities with fixed interest rates. These fixed rate facilities are scheduled to mature between 2016 and 2024, and had a weighted average effective interest rate of 3.65% as of December 31, 2015.

As of December 31, 2015, we had \$1,927.2 million of total debt outstanding on facilities with interest rates based on floating rate indices (primarily LIBOR). These floating rate facilities are scheduled to mature between 2016 and 2021, and had a weighted average effective interest rate of 2.04% as of December 31, 2015. Including the impact of our interest rate swaps, the weighted average effective interest rate on our floating rate facilities was 2.96% as of December 31, 2015.

We economically hedge the risks associated with fluctuations in interest rates on a portion of our floating rate borrowings by entering into interest rate swap agreements that convert a portion of our floating rate debt to a fixed rate basis, thus reducing the impact of interest rate changes on future interest expense. As of December 31, 2015, we had interest rate swaps in place with a net notional amount of \$1,123.0 million to fix the floating interest rates on a portion of our floating rate debt obligations, with a weighted average fixed leg interest rate of 2.00% and a weighted average remaining term of 6.6 years.

As of December 31, 2015, the Company had a combined \$2,437.5 million of total debt on facilities with fixed interest rates or floating interest rates that have been synthetically fixed through interest rate swap contracts. This accounts for 75.2% of total debt. These facilities had a weighted average remaining term of 5.2 years.

### Asset Backed Securitization Term Notes

Our Asset Backed Securitization ("ABS") facilities have been the largest funding source used to finance our existing container fleet and new container purchases. Under these facilities, our indirect wholly-owned subsidiaries issue asset backed notes. The issuance of asset backed notes is the primary business objective of those subsidiaries.

Our borrowings under the ABS facilities amortize in monthly installments. The borrowing capacity under the ABS facilities is determined by applying an advance rate against the sum of the net book values of designated eligible containers and accounts receivable for sold containers not aged more than 60 days plus 100% of restricted cash. Advance rates under the ABS facilities range from 82% to 87%. We are required to maintain restricted cash balances on deposit in designated bank accounts equal to five to nine months of interest expense depending on the type of facility.

### Term Loan Facilities

We utilize our term loan facilities as an important funding source for the purchase of containers and other equipment. The term loan facilities amortize in monthly or quarterly installments.

The borrowing capacity under the term loan facilities is determined by applying an advance rate in the range of 80% to 90% against the net book values of designated eligible containers, which is determined under the terms of each facility.

### Asset Backed Warehouse Facility

The asset backed warehouse facility had a maximum borrowing capacity of \$650 million as of December 31, 2015 (the maximum borrowing capacity increased to \$750 million on January 20, 2016). Under the amended facility effective as of October 10, 2014, funds are available on a revolving basis until October 10, 2017, after which if the facility is not refinanced, the notes will convert to term notes with a maturity date of October 10, 2021. We primarily use the proceeds of this facility to finance the acquisition of equipment.

The borrowing capacity under the asset backed warehouse facility is determined by applying the advance rate of 81% against the sum of the net book values of designated eligible containers and accounts receivable for sold containers not outstanding more than 60 days plus 100% of restricted cash. The Company is required to maintain restricted cash balances on deposit in a designated bank account equal to three months of interest expense.

### Revolving Credit Facilities

We have two revolving credit facilities which have a maximum borrowing capacity of \$100 million and \$450 million and maturity dates of November 30, 2016 and March 12, 2018, respectively. These facilities generally provide for an advance rate against eligible assets defined by the terms of their respective agreements.

### Capital Lease Obligations

We have entered into a series of lease transactions with various financial institutions to finance chassis and containers. Each lease is accounted for as a capital lease, with interest expense recognized on a level yield basis over the period preceding early purchase options, if any, which is generally five to ten years from the transaction date.

**Deferred Financing Costs**

Deferred financing costs represent the fees incurred in connection with the Company's debt obligations, and are amortized using the effective interest method or on a straight-line basis over the term of the related obligation, depending on the type of

Table of Contents

debt obligation to which they relate. Unamortized deferred financing costs are written off when the related debt obligations are refinanced or extinguished prior to maturity, and are determined to be an extinguishment of debt.

**Debt Covenants**

We are subject to certain financial covenants under our debt agreements. As of December 31, 2015, we were in compliance with all such covenants. Below are the primary financial covenants to which we are subject:

• Minimum Earnings Before Interest and Taxes ("Covenant EBIT") to Cash Interest Expense;

• Minimum Tangible Net Worth ("TNW"); and

• Maximum Indebtedness to TNW.

**Non-GAAP Measures**

We primarily rely on our results measured in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") in evaluating our business. Covenant EBIT, Cash Interest Expense, TNW, and Indebtedness are non-GAAP financial measures defined in our debt agreements that are used to determine our compliance with certain covenants contained in our debt agreements and should not be used as a substitute for analysis of our results as reported under GAAP. However, we believe that the inclusion of this non-GAAP information provides additional information to investors regarding our debt covenant compliance.

**Minimum Covenant EBIT to Cash Interest Expense**

For the purpose of this covenant, Covenant EBIT is calculated based on the cumulative sum of our earnings for the last four quarters (excluding income taxes, interest expense, amortization, net gain or loss on interest rate swaps and certain non-cash charges). Cash Interest Expense is calculated based on interest expense adjusted to exclude interest income, amortization of deferred financing costs, and the difference between current and prior period interest expense accruals.

Minimum Covenant EBIT to Cash Interest Expense is calculated on a consolidated basis and for our wholly-owned special purpose entities ("SPEs"), whose primary activity is to issue asset backed notes. Covenant EBIT for each of our SPEs is calculated based on the net earnings generated by the assets pledged as collateral for the underlying debt issued. The actual Covenant EBIT to Cash Interest Expense ratio for each SPE may differ depending on the specific net earnings associated with those pledged assets. As of December 31, 2015, the minimum and actual consolidated Covenant EBIT to Cash Interest Expense ratio and Covenant EBIT to Cash Interest Expense ratio for each of the issuers of our debt facilities whose initial borrowing capacity was approximately \$200 million or greater were as follows:

Entity/Issuer	Minimum Covenant EBIT to Cash Interest Expense Ratio	Actual Covenant EBIT to Cash Interest Expense Ratio
Consolidated	1.10	2.36
TAL Advantage I, LLC	1.10	4.70
TAL Advantage III, LLC	1.30	2.59
TAL Advantage V, LLC	1.10	2.35*

\*Reflects the weighted average for all series of notes issued by TAL Advantage V, LLC. Each series of notes must comply separately with this covenant, and as of December 31, 2015, each series is in compliance.

**Minimum TNW and Maximum Indebtedness to TNW Covenants**

We are required to meet consolidated Minimum TNW and Maximum Indebtedness to TNW covenants. For the purpose of calculating these covenants, all amounts are based on the consolidated balance sheet of TAL International Group, Inc. TNW is calculated as total tangible assets less total indebtedness, which includes equipment purchases payable and, in certain cases, the fair value of derivative instruments liability.

For the majority of our debt facilities, the Minimum TNW is calculated as \$321.4 million plus 50% of cumulative net income or loss since January 1, 2006, which as of December 31, 2015 was \$742.0 million. As of December 31, 2015, the actual Consolidated TNW for each of our SPEs and for the \$450 million revolving credit facility was \$1,092.6 million. As of December 31, 2015, the maximum and actual Indebtedness to TNW ratios for each of the issuers of our



debt facilities whose

58

---

Table of Contents

initial borrowing capacity was approximately \$200 million or greater was as follows:

Entity/Issuer	Maximum Indebtedness to TNW Ratio	Actual Indebtedness to TNW Ratio
Consolidated	4.75	3.07
TAL Advantage I, LLC	4.75	3.01
TAL Advantage III, LLC	4.75	2.99
TAL Advantage V, LLC	4.75	2.99

As of December 31, 2015, our outstanding debt on facilities whose initial borrowing capacity was approximately \$200 million or greater was approximately \$2.8 billion. Outstanding debt on the remaining facilities of \$0.4 billion have various other debt covenants, all of which the Company is in compliance with as of December 31, 2015.

Failure to comply with these covenants could result in a default under the related credit agreements and/or could result in the acceleration of our outstanding debt if we were unable to obtain a waiver from the creditors.

**Cash Flow**

The following table sets forth certain cash flow information for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013 (in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$400,478	\$398,807	\$366,688
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchases of leasing equipment and investments in finance leases	\$(704,178 )	\$(670,529 )	\$(660,492 )
Proceeds from sale of equipment, net of selling costs	125,525	165,990	140,724
Cash collections on finance lease receivables, net of income earned	42,860	47,607	39,470
Other	(101 )	(253 )	84
Net cash (used in) investing activities	\$(535,894 )	\$(457,185 )	\$(480,214 )
Net cash provided by financing activities	\$115,191	\$68,635	\$116,558

**Operating Activities**

Net cash provided by operating activities increased by \$1.7 million to \$400.5 million in 2015, compared to \$398.8 million in 2014. The majority of this increase is comprised of the following:

- Earnings excluding non-cash expenses decreased by \$15.5 million;
- in 2014, we paid \$5.0 million to terminate certain interest rate swap agreements and replaced them with new interest rate swap contracts that have a longer duration. In 2015, we did not terminate any interest rate swap agreements;
- we had fewer net purchases of equipment bought for resale in 2015, for a net increase to cash provided by operating activities of \$1.8 million; and
- accounts payable and other accruals increased \$8.8 million mainly due to higher repair and storage costs from increased drop-off activity and lower utilization.

Net cash provided by operating activities increased by \$32.1 million to \$398.8 million in 2014, compared to \$366.7 million in 2013. The majority of this increase is comprised of the following:

- Earnings excluding non-cash expenses increased by \$19.8 million;
- in 2014, we paid \$5.0 million to terminate certain interest rate swap agreements and replaced them with new interest rate swap contracts that have a longer duration, while in 2013, we paid \$24.2 million for such terminations. This resulted in an increase in operating cash flows of \$19.2 million; and
- we had fewer net purchases of equipment bought for resale in 2014, for a net increase to cash provided by operating activities of \$4.5 million.

Table of Contents

•This increase in net cash provided by operating activities was partially offset by increases in our accounts receivable and customer deferred revenue which decreased operating cash flows by \$12.8 million compared to 2013. In addition, we received more cash in advance of amounts due in 2013 than in 2014.

Investing Activities

Net cash used in investing activities increased by \$78.7 million to \$535.9 million in 2015 compared to \$457.2 million in 2014. This increase was primarily due to an increase in the purchase of leasing equipment of \$33.6 million related to payments for equipment ordered at the end of 2014, but paid for in 2015. In addition, we had lower proceeds from the sale of equipment of \$40.5 million due to lower selling prices on equipment sold and a decrease in cash collections on finance lease receivables of \$4.7 million due to a smaller portfolio.

Net cash used in investing activities decreased by \$23.0 million to \$457.2 million in 2014 compared to \$480.2 million in 2013 primarily due to an increase in proceeds from the sale of equipment due to higher disposal volumes and an increase in principal payment on finance leases partially offset by an increase in purchases of leasing equipment.

Financing Activities

Net cash provided by financing activities increased by \$46.6 million to \$115.2 million in 2015 compared to \$68.6 million in 2014. This increase was primarily due to a decrease in purchases of treasury stock of \$29.9 million, a decrease in dividends paid of \$10.6 million, and a decrease of \$11.8 million of restricted cash requirements. This increase was partially offset by a decrease in net borrowings under our various debt facilities of \$6.2 million.

Net cash provided by financing activities decreased by \$48.0 million to \$68.6 million in 2014 compared to \$116.6 million in 2013. This decrease was primarily due to purchases of treasury stock of \$34.4 million, an increase in dividends paid of \$6.7 million, and a net increase in restricted cash of \$13.2 million in 2014 partially offset by an increase in net borrowings under our various debt facilities of \$9.2 million.

Table of Contents

## Contractual Obligations

We are party to various operating and capital leases and are obligated to make payments related to our long-term borrowings. We are also obligated under various commercial commitments, including obligations to our equipment manufacturers. Our equipment manufacturer obligations are in the form of conventional accounts payable, and are satisfied by cash flows from operations and long-term financing activities.

The following table summarizes our contractual obligations and commercial commitments as of December 31, 2015:

Contractual Obligations:	Contractual Obligations by Period					
	Total	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 and thereafter
	(dollars in millions)					
Principal debt obligations	\$3,179.9	\$319.1	\$294.3	\$751.6	\$527.7	\$1,287.2
Interest on debt obligations(1)	481.1	100.8	93.2	80.0	64.0	143.1
Capital lease obligations(2)	66.5	29.9	18.8	17.8	—	—
Operating leases (mainly facilities)	6.3	1.8	1.3	1.1	2.0	0.1
Purchase obligations:						
Equipment purchases payable	20.0	20.0	—	—	—	—
Equipment purchase commitments	67.0	67.0	—	—	—	—
Total contractual obligations	\$3,820.8	\$538.6	\$407.6	\$850.5	\$593.7	\$1,430.4

(1) Amounts include actual for fixed interest debt and estimated interest for floating rate debt based on December 31, 2015 rates and the net effect of our interest rate swaps.

(2) Amounts include interest.

## Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of December 31, 2015, we did not have any relationships with unconsolidated entities or financial partnerships, which are often referred to as structured finance or special purpose entities, which would have been established for the purpose of facilitating off-balance sheet arrangements. We are, therefore, not exposed to any financing, liquidity, market or credit risk that could arise if we had engaged in such relationships.

## Table of Contents

### Critical Accounting Policies

Our Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared in conformity with United States generally accepted accounting principles, which require us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts and disclosures reported in the Consolidated Financial Statements and accompanying notes. Our estimates are based on historical experience and currently available information. Actual results could differ from such estimates. The following paragraphs summarize our critical accounting policies. Additional accounting policies are discussed in the notes to our historical financial statements contained elsewhere in this Form 10-K.

#### Revenue Recognition

##### Operating Leases with Customers

We enter into long-term leases and service leases with ocean carriers, principally as lessor in operating leases, for marine cargo equipment. Long-term leases provide our customers with specified equipment for a specified term. Our leasing revenues are based upon the number of equipment units leased, the applicable per diem rate and the length of the lease. Long-term leases typically have initial contractual terms ranging from three to eight years. Revenues are recognized on a straight-line basis over the life of the respective lease. Advance billings are deferred and recognized in the period earned. Service leases do not specify the exact number of equipment units to be leased or the term that each unit will remain on-hire, but allow the lessee to pick-up and drop-off units at various locations specified in the lease agreement. Under a service lease, rental revenue is based on the number of equipment units on-hire for a given period. Revenue for customers considered to be non-performing is deferred and recognized when the amounts are received.

In accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the "FASB") Accounting Standards Codification No. 605, Revenue Recognition ("ASC 605"), we recognize billings to customers for damages and certain other operating costs as leasing revenue as it is earned based on the terms of the contractual agreements with the customer. As principal, we are responsible for fulfillment of the services, supplier selection and service specifications, and have ultimate responsibility to pay the supplier for the services whether or not it collects the amount billed to the lessee.

##### Finance Leases with Customers

We enter into finance leases as lessor for some of the equipment in our fleet. The net investment in finance leases represents the receivables due from lessees, net of unearned income. Unearned income is recognized on a level yield basis over the lease term and is recorded as leasing revenue. Finance leases are usually long-term in nature, typically ranging for a period of four to eight years and typically include an option to purchase the equipment at the end of the lease term for an amount determined to be a bargain.

##### Equipment Trading Revenues and Expenses

Equipment trading revenues represent the proceeds from the sale of equipment purchased for resale and are recognized as units are sold and delivered to the customer. The related expenses represent the cost of equipment sold as well as other selling costs that are recognized as incurred and are reflected as equipment trading expenses in the consolidated statements of income.

Table of Contents

## Leasing Equipment

In general, we purchase new equipment from equipment manufacturers for the purpose of leasing such equipment to customers. We also purchase used equipment with the intention of selling such equipment in one or more years from the date of purchase. Used units are typically purchased with an existing lease in place or were previously owned by one of our third party owner investors.

Leasing equipment is recorded at cost and depreciated to an estimated residual value on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. The estimated useful lives and residual values of our leasing equipment are based on historical disposal experience and our expectations for future used container prices. We review our depreciation policies on a regular basis to determine whether changes have taken place that would suggest that a change in depreciation policies, useful lives of equipment or the assigned residual values is warranted.

In 2012, after conducting our regular depreciation policy review, we decided to increase the estimated residual values used in our equipment depreciation policy. The new residual value estimates were put into effect beginning October 1, 2012. The estimated useful lives and residual values for the majority of our leasing equipment purchased new from the factory are as follows:

	Residual Values (\$)	
	Useful Lives (Years)	Effective October 1, 2012
Dry containers		
20 foot	13	\$1,000
40 foot	13	\$1,200
40 foot high cube	13	\$1,400
Refrigerated containers		
20 foot	12	\$2,500
40 foot high cube	12	\$3,500
Special containers		
40 foot flat rack	14	\$1,500
40 foot open top	14	\$2,300
Tank containers	20	\$3,000
Chassis	20	\$1,200

Depreciation on leasing equipment starts on the date of initial on-hire.

For leasing equipment acquired through sale-leaseback transactions, we often adjust our estimates for remaining useful life and residual values based on current conditions in the sale market for older containers and our expectations for how long the equipment will remain on-hire to the current lessee.

Costs incurred to place new equipment into service, including costs to transport the equipment to its initial on-hire location, are capitalized. We charge to expense inspection costs on new equipment and repair and maintenance costs that do not extend the lives of the assets at the time the costs are incurred, and include these costs in direct operating expenses.

If indicators of impairment are present, a determination is made as to whether the carrying value of our fleet exceeds its estimated future undiscounted cash flows. Leasing equipment is tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that its carrying amount may not be recovered. Key indicators of impairment on leasing equipment include, among other factors, a sustained decrease in operating profitability, a sustained decrease in utilization, or indications of technological obsolescence.

When testing for impairment, leasing equipment is generally grouped by equipment type, and is tested separately from other groups of assets and liabilities. Some of the significant estimates and assumptions used to determine future undiscounted cash flows and the measurement for impairment are the remaining useful life, expected utilization, expected future lease rates and expected disposal prices of the equipment. We consider the assumptions on expected utilization and the remaining useful life to have the greatest impact on our estimate of future undiscounted cash flows. These estimates are principally based on our historical experience and management's judgment of market conditions.

An allowance is recorded in the provision for doubtful accounts for equipment on lease to customers considered to be non-performing. The allowance is based on a percentage of the net book value of equipment on-hire to those customers that, based on historical experience, we believe will ultimately not be recovered.

Table of Contents

Equipment Held for Sale

When leasing equipment is returned off lease, we make a determination of whether to repair and re-lease the equipment or sell the equipment. At the time we determine that equipment will be sold, we reclassify the appropriate amounts previously recorded as leasing equipment to equipment held for sale. In accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Codification No. 360, Property, Plant and Equipment ("ASC 360"), equipment held for sale is carried at the lower of its estimated fair value, based on current transactions, less costs to sell, or carrying value; depreciation on such assets is halted and disposals generally occur within 90 days. Subsequent changes to the fair value of those assets, either increases or decreases, are recorded as adjustments to the carrying value of the equipment held for sale; however, any such adjustments may not exceed the respective equipment's carrying value at the time it was initially classified as held for sale. Initial write downs of assets held for sale are recorded as an impairment charge and are included in net gain on sale of leasing equipment. Realized gains and losses resulting from the sale of equipment held for sale are recorded as net gain on sale of leasing equipment, and cash flows associated with the disposal of equipment held for sale are classified as cash flows from investing activities.

Equipment purchased for resale and included in the Equipment Trading Segment is reported as equipment held for sale when the time frame between when equipment is purchased and when it is sold is expected to be short, less than one year.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

Our allowance for doubtful accounts is provided based upon a review of the collectability of our receivables. This review is based on the risk profile of the receivables, credit quality indicators such as the level of past-due amounts, and economic conditions. Generally, we do not require collateral on accounts receivable balances. An account is considered past due when a payment has not been received in accordance with the contractual terms. Accounts are generally charged off after an analysis is completed which indicates that collection of the full principal balance is in doubt. Changes in economic conditions or other events may necessitate additions or deductions to the allowance for doubtful accounts. The allowance for doubtful accounts is intended to provide for losses inherent in the receivables, and requires the application of estimates and judgments as to the outcome of collection efforts and the realization of collateral, among other things. We believe our allowance for doubtful accounts is adequate to provide for credit losses inherent in existing receivables. The Company does not maintain a general reserve against the possibility of lost equipment and recovery expenses for customers currently not in default.



Table of Contents

## Income Taxes

We account for income taxes in accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Codification No. 740, Income Taxes ("ASC 740") using the asset and liability method, which requires recognition of deferred tax assets and liabilities for expected future tax consequences of temporary differences that currently exist between the tax basis and financial reporting basis of our assets and liabilities. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. In assessing our ability to realize deferred tax assets, we consider whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized.

If applicable, we accrue income tax liabilities for unrecognized tax benefits resulting from uncertain tax positions by evaluating whether the weight of available evidence indicates that it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained in an audit and measure the tax benefit as the largest amount that is more than 50% likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement. Potential interest and penalties associated with such uncertain tax positions are recorded as a component of income tax expense.

## Deferred Financing Costs

Deferred financing costs represent the fees incurred in connection with our debt obligations, and are amortized using the effective interest method or on a straight-line basis over the term of the related obligation, depending on the type of debt obligation to which they relate. Unamortized deferred financing costs are written off when the related debt obligations are refinanced or extinguished prior to maturity, and are determined to be an extinguishment of debt.

## Goodwill

We account for goodwill in accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Codification No. 350, Intangibles—Goodwill and Other ("ASC 350"). ASC 350 requires goodwill and other intangible assets with indefinite lives to be reviewed for impairment annually, or more frequently if circumstances indicate a possible impairment. In connection with the acquisition that occurred in 2004, we recorded \$71.9 million of goodwill. Effective July 1, 2013, the Company acquired the assets and business of Martec Leasing (a worldwide supplier of rolltrailers) where we recorded \$2.6 million of goodwill. Management determined that the Company has two reporting units, Equipment leasing and Equipment trading, and allocated \$73.5 million and \$1.0 million, respectively, to each reporting unit. We have elected to bypass the qualitative approach permitted under ASC 350 for testing goodwill for impairment, but may elect to perform the qualitative approach to test goodwill for impairment in future periods.

The annual impairment test is conducted by comparing the Company's carrying amount to the fair value of the Company using a market capitalization approach. Given the recent decline in the Company's market capitalization, the Company also assessed the fair value of its reporting units based on a discounted cash flow valuation model. The key assumptions applied to the cash flow projections were discount rates, new container prices, near-term revenue growth rates, and perpetual growth rates. These assumptions contemplated business, market and overall economic conditions. Based on the results of this testing, the Company determined that the fair values of each of its reporting units exceeded their respective carrying amounts. Furthermore, management performed sensitivity analyses on the fair values resulting from the discounted cash flow valuation models utilizing more conservative assumptions that reflect reasonably likely future changes in the discount rates and perpetual growth rates in each of the reporting units. The discount rates were increased by 200 basis points with no impairment indicated. The perpetual growth rates were decreased by 100 basis points with no impairment indicated. The above sensitivity analyses, while useful, should not be used as a sole predictor of future potential impairment. A thorough analysis of all the facts and circumstances existing at that time would need to be performed to determine if recording an impairment loss would be appropriate. If the carrying value of the entity exceeds its market capitalization, then a second step would be performed that compares the implied fair value of goodwill with the carrying amount of goodwill. The determination of the implied fair value of goodwill would require management to compare the estimated fair value of the reporting units to the estimated fair value of the assets and liabilities of the reporting units. Any excess fair value represents the implied fair value of goodwill. To the extent that the carrying amount of goodwill exceeds its implied fair value, an impairment loss would be recorded. Based on our annual review of goodwill, conducted in the fourth quarter of 2015, no impairment of goodwill existed.



Table of Contents

## ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Market risk represents the risk of changes in value of a financial instrument, derivative or non-derivative, caused by fluctuations in interest rates, foreign exchange rates and equity prices. Changes in these factors could cause fluctuations in the results of our operations and cash flows. In the ordinary course of business, we are exposed to fluctuations in interest rates.

**Interest Rate Risk**

We enter into interest rate swap agreements to fix the interest rates on a portion of our floating rate debt. We assess and manage the external and internal risk associated with these derivative instruments in accordance with our overall operating goals. External risk is defined as those risks outside of our direct control, including counterparty credit risk, liquidity risk, systemic risk and legal risk. Internal risk relates to those operational risks within the management oversight structure and includes actions taken in contravention of our policy.

The primary external risk of our interest rate swap agreements is counterparty credit exposure, which is defined as the ability of a counterparty to perform its financial obligations under a derivative agreement. All of our derivative agreements are with highly rated financial institutions. Credit exposures are measured based on the market value of outstanding derivative instruments. Both current and potential exposures are calculated for each derivative agreement to monitor counterparty credit exposure.

As of December 31, 2015, we had net interest rate swap agreements in place to fix interest rates on a portion of our borrowings under debt facilities with floating interest rates as summarized below:

Net Notional Amount	Weighted Average Fixed Leg (Pay) Interest Rate	Weighted Average Remaining Term
\$1,123 Million	2.00%	6.6 years

During 2015, we designated certain interest rate swap agreements as cash flow hedges at their inception. In 2015, we recognized unrealized losses of \$31.0 million, in accumulated other comprehensive (loss) related to changes in the fair value of the designated agreements. Prior to March 2013, we typically did not apply hedge accounting for our interest rate swap agreements. Changes in the fair value of non-designated interest rate swap agreements are recognized in the consolidated statements of income as net gains or losses on interest rate swaps. We recognized net activity on interest rate swaps for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 as follows (amounts in millions):

	December 31,	
	2015	2014
Net loss on interest rate swaps	\$0.2	\$0.8

Since 58% of our floating rate debt is hedged using interest rate swaps, our interest expense is not significantly affected by changes in interest rates. However, a 100 basis point increase in the interest rates on our floating rate debt (primarily LIBOR) would result in an increase of approximately \$7.3 million in interest expense over the next 12 months.

Table of Contents

**ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA**

The Consolidated Financial Statements and financial statement schedule listed under Item 15—Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules are filed as a part of this Item 8. Supplementary financial information may be found in Note 13 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

**ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

None.

**ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

**MANAGEMENT'S REPORT REGARDING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DISCLOSURE CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

We carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our President and Chief Executive Officer along with our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K. Based upon their evaluation of these disclosure controls and procedures, our President and Chief Executive Officer along with the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer concluded, as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K, that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

**MANAGEMENT'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act). Our internal control over financial reporting is a process designed with the participation of our principal executive officer and principal financial officer or persons performing similar functions to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of our financial statements for external reporting purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Our internal control over financial reporting includes policies and procedures that: (a) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect our transactions and dispositions of assets; (b) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and that our receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of our management and Board of Directors; and (c) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of our assets that could have a material effect on our financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, our internal controls and procedures may not prevent or detect misstatements. A control system, no matter how well conceived and operated, can only provide reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, have been detected. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

As of December 31, 2015, our management, with the participation of our President and Chief Executive Officer and our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the framework established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission ("COSO" 2013). Based on this evaluation, management has determined that TAL International Group, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting is effective as of December 31, 2015.

Ernst & Young LLP, the independent registered public accounting firm that audited our 2015 consolidated financial statements included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, has issued an attestation report on our internal control over financial reporting. The report appears elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.



Table of Contents

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm  
The Board of Directors and Stockholders of  
TAL International Group, Inc.

We have audited TAL International Group, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (2013 Framework) (the COSO criteria). TAL International Group, Inc.'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 TAL International Group, Inc.'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 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 its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that 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, TAL International Group, Inc. maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015, based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of TAL International Group, Inc. as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2015 of TAL International Group, Inc. and our report dated February 29, 2016 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

New York, New York  
February 29, 2016

Table of Contents

Changes in Internal Controls

There were no changes in our internal controls over financial reporting (as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) during the Company's last fiscal quarter ended December 31, 2015, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal controls over financial reporting.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

Not applicable.

Table of Contents

**PART III**

**ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The information required by Item 10, Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant, is incorporated herein by reference to an amendment to this Form 10-K to be filed by the Company not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this report. Information concerning Section 16(a) beneficial ownership reporting compliance and the audit committee is incorporated herein by reference to an amendment to this Form 10-K to be filed not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this report.

**ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The information required by Item 11, Executive Compensation, is incorporated herein by reference to an amendment to this Form 10-K to be filed by the Company not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this report.

**ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS**

The information required by Item 12, Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters, is incorporated herein by reference to an amendment to this Form 10-K to be filed by the Company not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this report.

**ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE**

The information required by Item 13, Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence, is incorporated herein by reference to an amendment to this Form 10-K to be filed by the Company not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this report.

**ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES**

The information required by Item 14, Principal Accountant Fees and Services, is incorporated herein by reference to an amendment to this Form 10-K to be filed by the Company not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this report.



Table of Contents

## PART IV

## ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

## (a)(1) Financial Statements

The following financial statements are included in Item 8 of this report:

	Page
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	<u>F-2</u>
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014</u>	<u>F-3</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Income for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013</u>	<u>F-4</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013</u>	<u>F-5</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013</u>	<u>F-6</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013</u>	<u>F-7</u>
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	<u>F-8</u>

## (a)(2) Financial Statement Schedule

The following financial statement schedule for the Company is filed as part of this report:

<u>Schedule II—Valuation and Qualifying Accounts</u>	<u>S-1</u>
--	------------

Schedules not listed above have been omitted because the information required to be set forth therein is not applicable or is shown in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements or notes thereto.

## (a)(3) List of Exhibits

The following exhibits are filed as part of and incorporated by reference into this Annual Report on Form 10-K:

Exhibit No.	Description
3.1	Second Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of TAL International Group, Inc. (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 3.1 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-K filed on March 20, 2006)
3.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of TAL International Group, Inc. (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 3.1 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 8-K filed on November 10, 2015)
4.1	Form of Common Stock Certificate (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.1 to Amendment No. 3 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form S-1 filed on October 5, 2005, file number 333-126317)
4.2	Amended and Restated Indenture dated as of April 12, 2006 by and between TAL Advantage I LLC and U. S. Bank National Association (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.35 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on May 12, 2006)
4.3	First Supplemental Indenture between TAL Advantage I LLC and U.S. Bank National Association dated June 26, 2007 to the Amended and Restated Indenture dated as of April 12, 2006 (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.58 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on August 8, 2008)
4.4	Second Supplemental Indenture between TAL Advantage I LLC and U.S. Bank National Association dated November 19, 2007 to the Amended and Restated Indenture dated as of April 12, 2006 (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.59 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on August 8, 2008)
4.5	Amended and Restated Series 2005-1 Supplement dated as of April 12, 2006 between Advantage I LLC and U. S. Bank National Association (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.40 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on May 12, 2006)



Table of Contents

Exhibit No.	Description
4.6	Amended and Restated Management Agreement dated as of April 12, 2006 by and between TAL International Container Corporation and TAL Advantage I LLC (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.36 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on May 12, 2006)
4.7	Amended and Restated Contribution and Sale Agreement dated as of April 12, 2006 by and between TAL International Container Corporation and TAL Advantage I LLC (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.37 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on May 12, 2006)
4.8	Amended and Restated Series 2005-1 Note Purchase Agreement dated as of April 7, 2006 by and between TAL Advantage I LLC, the Noteholders from time to time party thereto and the other financial institutions from time to time party thereto (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.41 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on May 12, 2006)
4.9	Series 2006-1 Supplement dated as of April 12, 2006 by and between TAL Advantage I LLC and U. S. Bank National Association (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.38 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on May 12, 2006)
4.10	Series 2006-1 Note Purchase Agreement dated as of April 7, 2006 by and between TAL Advantage I LLC, TAL International Container Corporation, and Fortis Securities LLC and Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.39 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on May 12, 2006)
4.11	Intercreditor Agreement Dated April 12, 2006 by and among TAL International Container Corporation, TAL Advantage I LLC, U. S. Bank National Association and Fortis Capital Corp. (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.11 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-K filed on March 3, 2009)
4.12	Credit Agreement, dated as of July 31, 2006, by and among TAL International Container Corporation, Fortis Capital Corp. and the Lenders party thereto (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.43 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 8-K filed on August 4, 2006)
4.13	Amendment No. 1 dated July 13, 2007 to Credit Agreement, dated as of July 31, 2006, by and among TAL International Container Corporation, Fortis Capital Corp. and the Lenders party thereto (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.47 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 8-K filed on July 17, 2007)
4.14	Security Agreement, dated as of July 31, 2006, by and among TAL International Container Corporation and Fortis Capital Corp. (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.44 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 8-K filed on August 4, 2006)
4.15	Pledge Agreement, dated as of July 31, 2006, by and among TAL International Container Corporation and Fortis Capital Corp. (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.45 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 8-K filed on August 4, 2006)
4.16	Guaranty, dated as of July 31, 2006, made by TAL International Group, Inc. (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.46 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 8-K filed on August 4, 2006)
4.17	

Edgar Filing: TAL International Group, Inc. - Form 10-K

Third Supplemental Indenture between TAL Advantage I LLC and U.S. Bank National Association dated June 23, 2008 to the Amended and Restated Indenture dated as of April 12, 2006 (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.61 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on August 8, 2008)

4.18 Management Agreement dated as of October 23, 2009 between TAL International Container Corporation and TAL Advantage III LLC (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.33 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-K filed on March 1, 2010)

4.19 Contribution and Sale Agreement dated as of October 23, 2009 between TAL International Container Corporation and TAL Advantage III LLC (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.34 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-K filed on March 1, 2010)

72

---

Table of Contents

Exhibit No.	Description
4.20	Amendment No. 1 dated as of July 16, 2010 to the Management Agreement dated as of October 23, 2009 by and between TAL Advantage III LLC and TAL International Container Corporation (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.54 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on July 30, 2010)
4.21	Amended and Restated Indenture dated as of August 12, 2011 by and between TAL Advantage III LLC and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.65 to TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on October 28, 2011)
4.22	Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated November 30, 2011, by and among TAL International Container Corporation, The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC as Administrative Agent and as Collateral Agent, RBS Securities, Inc. as Sole Arranger, and the Lenders from time to time party thereto (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.45 to TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-K filed on February 22, 2012)
4.23	Amended and Restated Security Agreement dated November 30, 2011, by and among TAL International Container Corporation and The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC as Collateral Agent (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.46 to TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-K filed on February 22, 2012)
4.24	Amended and Restated Pledge Agreement dated November 30, 2011, by and among TAL International Container Corporation, as Pledgor in favor of The Royal Bank of Scotland PLC in its capacity as Collateral Agent, as Pledgee (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.47 to TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-K filed on February 22, 2012)
4.25	Amended and Restated Guaranty dated November 30, 2011 made by TAL International Group, Inc. (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.48 to TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-K filed on February 22, 2012)
4.26	Amendment No. 2 dated December 22, 2011 to the Credit Agreement dated July 31, 2006, by and among TAL International Container Corporation, Fortis Bank NA/SV, assignee of Fortis Capital Corp. and the Lenders party thereto (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.49 to TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-K filed on February 22, 2012)
4.27	Indenture, dated as of February 27, 2013, by and between TAL Advantage V, LLC and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Indenture Trustee (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.52 to TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on April 30, 2013)
4.28	Series 2013-1 Supplement dated as of February 27, 2013, by and between TAL Advantage V, LLC and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Indenture Trustee (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.53 to TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on April 30, 2013)
4.29	Management Agreement dated as of February 27, 2013, by and between TAL International Container Corporation and TAL Advantage V LLC (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.54 to TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on April 30, 2013)
4.30	Contribution and Sale Agreement dated as of February 27, 2013 by and between TAL International Container Corporation and TAL Advantage V LLC (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.55 to

Edgar Filing: TAL International Group, Inc. - Form 10-K

TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on April 30, 2013)

4.31 Transition Agent Agreement dated as of February 27, 2013 by and between Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, TAL International Container Corporation and TAL Advantage V LLC (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.56 to TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on April 30, 2013)

4.32 Series 2013-1 Note Purchase Agreement dated as of February 20, 2013 by and between TAL Advantage V LLC, TAL International Container Corporation, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, RBS Securities Inc. and RBC Capital Markets, LLC (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.57 to TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on April 30, 2013)

73

---

Table of Contents

Exhibit No.	Description
4.33	Credit Agreement, dated as of March 12, 2013, by and among TAL International Container Corporation, the Lenders from time to time party thereto, Bank of America N.A. as Administrative Agent and Collateral Agent, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC and RBC Capital Markets, as Joint Lead Arrangers (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.58 to TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on April 30, 2013)
4.34	Security Agreement dated March 12, 2013, by and among TAL International Container Corporation and Bank of America N.A. as Collateral Agent (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.59 to TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on April 30, 2013)
4.35	Guaranty dated March 12, 2013 made by TAL International Group, Inc. (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.60 to TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on April 30, 2013)
4.36	Omnibus Amendment No. 1 dated July 2, 2013 to the Amended and Restated Indenture, Series 2009-1 Supplement and Series 2009-1 Note Purchase Agreement by and between TAL Advantage III LLC and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, and the other Noteholders from time to time party thereto and the other financial institutions from time to time party thereto (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.63 to TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on July 30, 2013)
4.37	Fourth Supplemental Indenture between TAL Advantage I LLC and U.S. Bank National Association dated July 5, 2013 to the Amended and Restated Indenture dated as of April 12, 2006 (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.64 to TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on July 30, 2013)
4.38	Series 2013-2 Note Purchase Agreement dated as of October 31, 2013 by and between TAL Advantage V LLC, TAL International Container Corporation, and Nomura Securities International, Inc. (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.60 to TAL International Group Inc.'s Form 10-K filed on February 20, 2014)
4.39	Series 2013-2 Supplement dated as of November 7, 2013, by and between TAL Advantage V, LLC and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Indenture Trustee (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.61 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-K filed on February 20, 2014)
4.40	Amendment No. 1 dated November 8, 2013 to the 2013-1 Supplement dated February 27, 2013, by and among TAL Advantage V LLC and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Indenture Trustee (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.62 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-K filed on February 20, 2014)
4.41	Amendment No. 2 dated as of February 26, 2014, to the Indenture dated as of February 27, 2013 between TAL Advantage V LLC, as the Issuer and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as the Indenture Trustee (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.63 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on April 29, 2014)
4.42	Series 2014-1 Supplement dated as of February 27, 2014 by and between TAL Advantage V LLC as the Issuer and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association as the Indenture Trustee (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.64 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on April 29, 2014)
4.43	

Edgar Filing: TAL International Group, Inc. - Form 10-K

Series 2014-1 Note Purchase Agreement dated as of February 19, 2014 by and between TAL Advantage V LLC, as Issuer, TAL International Container Corporation, as Manager, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, RBC Capital Markets, LLC, and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, as Initial Purchasers (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.65 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on April 29, 2014)

4.44 Term Loan Agreement dated as of April 2, 2014 by and between TAL International Container Corporation, as Borrower, the Lenders from time to time party thereto, as Lenders, Suntrust Bank, as Administrative Agent and as Collateral Agent, Suntrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc., as Lead Arranger, and ING Belgium SA/NV, as Syndication Agent (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.66 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on April 29, 2014)

74

---



Table of Contents

Exhibit No.	Description
4.45	Security Agreement dated as of April 2, 2014, by and among TAL International Container Corporation and Suntrust Bank as Collateral Agent (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.67 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on April 29, 2014)
4.46	Guaranty dated as of April 2, 2014, made by TAL International Group, Inc. (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.68 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on April 29, 2014)
4.47	Series 2014-2 Supplement dated as of May 19, 2014 by and between TAL Advantage V LLC, as Issuer and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as the Indenture Trustee (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.69 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on July 30, 2014)
4.48	Series 2014-2 Note Purchase Agreement dated as of May 8, 2014 by and between TAL Advantage V LLC, as Issuer, TAL International Container Corporation, as Manager, BNP Paribas Securities Corp., Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, and RBC Capital Markets, LLC as Initial Purchasers (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.70 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on July 30, 2014)
4.49	Amendment No. 2 dated October 10, 2014 to the Amended and Restated Indenture, dated as of August 12, 2011, by and between TAL Advantage III LLC, as Issuer and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Indenture Trustee (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.71 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on October 29, 2014)
4.50	Second Amended and Restated 2009-1 Supplement dated as of October 10, 2014 by and between TAL Advantage III LLC, as Issuer and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Indenture Trustee (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.72 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on October 29, 2014)
4.51	Second Amended and Restated Series 2009-1 Note Purchase Agreement dated as of October 10, 2014 by and between TAL Advantage III LLC, as Issuer and the Noteholders from time to time party thereto and the other financial institutions from time to time party hereto (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.73 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on October 29, 2014)
4.52	Amendment No. 2 dated October 10, 2014 to the Management Agreement dated October 23, 2009 by and between TAL Advantage III LLC, as Issuer and TAL International Container Corporation, as Manager (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.74 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-Q filed on October 29, 2014)
4.53	Credit Agreement dated as of November 7, 2014 by and between TAL International Container Corporation, as Borrower, the Lenders from time to time party hereto, as Lenders, First Niagara Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent, as Collateral Agent, and as Joint Lead Arranger and Joint Bookrunner, ING Belgium SA/NV, as Syndication Agent, Joint Lead Arranger and Joint Bookrunner, and Wells Fargo Equipment Finance, Inc. and PNC Bank, National Association, as Co-documentation Agents

Edgar Filing: TAL International Group, Inc. - Form 10-K

- 4.54 Security Agreement dated as of November 7, 2014, by and among TAL International Container Corporation and First Niagara Bank, N.A. as Collateral Agent
- 4.55 Guaranty dated as of November 7, 2014, made by TAL International Group, Inc.
- 4.56 Series 2014-3 Supplement dated as of November 25, 2014 by and between TAL Advantage V LLC, as Issuer and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as the Indenture Trustee
- 4.57 Series 2014-3 Note Purchase Agreement dated as of November 18, 2014 by and between TAL Advantage V LLC, as Issuer, TAL International Container Corporation, as Manager, RBC Capital Markets, LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, ABN Amro Securities (USA) LLC, Nomura Securities International, Inc., and Mizuho Securities USA Inc. as Initial Purchasers

75

---

Table of Contents

Exhibit No.	Description
4.58	* Modification of Term Loan Agreement dated as of February 5, 2016 by and between TAL International Container Corporation, as Borrower, the Lenders from time to time party thereto, as Lenders, Suntrust Bank, as Administrative Agent and as Collateral Agent, Suntrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc., as Lead Arranger, and ING Belgium SA/NV, as Syndication Agent
10.1	Amended and Restated Management Subscription Agreement, dated as of October 11, 2005, by and among TAL International Group, Inc., Brian M. Sondey, Chand Khan, Frederico Baptista, Adrian Dunner, John C. Burns, Bernd Schackier and John Pearson (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.9 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-K filed on March 20, 2006)
10.2	Amended and Restated Tax Sharing Agreement, dated as of August 1, 2005, by and among TAL International Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries named therein (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.12 to Amendment No. 1 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form S-1 filed on August 26, 2005, file number 333-126317)
10.3	+ Employment Agreement, dated as of November 3, 2004, by and between TAL International Group, Inc. and Brian M. Sondey (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.13 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form S-1 filed on June 30, 2005, file number 333-126317)
10.4	+ Form of Indemnity Agreement between TAL International Group, Inc., certain of its subsidiaries, each of their respective current directors and certain of their respective current officers (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.22 to Amendment No. 2 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form S-1 filed on September 20, 2005, file number 333-126317)
10.5	+ 2005 Management Omnibus Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 10.33 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 10-K filed on March 20, 2006)
10.6	+ 2014 Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 4.4 to TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form S-8 filed on July 30, 2014)
14.1	Code of Ethics (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 14.1 to the TAL International Group, Inc.'s Form 8-K filed on April 3, 2006)
21.1	* List of Subsidiaries
23.1	* Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
24.1	* Powers of Attorney (included on the signature page to this Annual Report on Form 10-K)
31.1	* Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended
31.2	* Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Rules 13a-14(a) and 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended
32.1	** Certification by Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350

32.2       \*\* Certification by Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350

101.INS       XBRL Instance Document

101.SCH       XBRL Instance Extension Schema

101.CAL       XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase

76

---

Table of Contents

Exhibit No.      Description  
101.DEF          XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase

101.LAB          XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase

101.PRE          XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase

+ Indicates a management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

\* Filed herewith.

\*\* Furnished herewith.

(b) Exhibits.

The Company hereby files as part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K the exhibits listed in Item 15(a)(3) set forth above.

(c) Financial Statement Schedules

The Company hereby files as part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K the financial statement schedule listed in Item 15(a)(2) set forth above.

Table of Contents

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.

Date: February 29, 2016

TAL International Group, Inc.

By: /s/ BRIAN M. SONDEY

Brian M. Sondey

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY AND SIGNATURES

We, the undersigned officers and directors of TAL International Group, Inc. hereby severally constitute and appoint Brian M. Sondey and John Burns and each of them singly, our true and lawful attorneys, with the power to them and each of them singly, to sign for us and in our names in the capacities indicated below, any amendments to this Annual Report on Form 10-K, and generally to do all things in our names and on our behalf in such capacities to enable TAL International Group, Inc. to comply with the provisions of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and all the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant, in the capacities indicated, on the 29th day of February, 2016.

Signature	Title(s)
/s/ BRIAN M. SONDEY Brian M. Sondey	Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer), Director
/s/ JOHN BURNS John Burns	Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)
/s/ MICHELLE GALLAGHER Michelle Gallagher	Vice President and Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)
/s/ MALCOLM P. BAKER Malcolm P. Baker	Director
/s/ CLAUDE GERMAIN Claude Germain	Director
/s/ KENNETH HANAU Kenneth Hanau	Director
/s/ HELMUT KASPERS Helmut Kaspers	Director
/s/ FREDERIC H. LINDEBERG Frederic H. Lindeberg	Director

Table of Contents

INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Page
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	<u>F-2</u>
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2015 and 2014</u>	<u>F-3</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Income for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013</u>	<u>F-4</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013</u>	<u>F-5</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013</u>	<u>F-6</u>
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013</u>	<u>F-7</u>
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	<u>F-8</u>
<u>Schedule II—Valuation and Qualifying Accounts</u>	<u>F-33</u>

F-1

---

Table of Contents

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm  
The Board of Directors and Stockholders of  
TAL International Group, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of TAL International Group, Inc. as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2015. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule listed in the Index Item 15(a)(2). These financial statements and schedule are the responsibility of the TAL International Group Inc.'s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and 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, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of TAL International Group, Inc. at December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2015, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Also, in our opinion, the related financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), TAL International Group, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (2013 Framework) and our report dated February 29, 2016 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

New York, New York  
February 29, 2016



Table of Contents

## TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

## Consolidated Balance Sheets

(Dollars in thousands, except share data)

	December 31,	
	2015	2014
<b>ASSETS:</b>		
Leasing equipment, net of accumulated depreciation and allowances of \$1,218,826 and \$1,055,864	\$3,908,292	\$3,674,031
Net investment in finance leases, net of allowances of \$805 and \$1,056	177,737	219,872
Equipment held for sale	74,899	59,861
Revenue earning assets	4,160,928	3,953,764
Unrestricted cash and cash equivalents	58,907	79,132
Restricted cash	30,302	35,649
Accounts receivable, net of allowances of \$1,314 and \$978	95,709	85,681
Goodwill	74,523	74,523
Other assets	13,620	11,400
Fair value of derivative instruments	87	1,898
Total assets	\$4,434,076	\$4,242,047
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY:</b>		
Equipment purchases payable	\$20,009	\$88,336
Fair value of derivative instruments	20,348	10,394
Accounts payable and other accrued expenses	56,096	57,877
Net deferred income tax liability	456,123	411,007
Debt, net of unamortized deferred financing costs of \$25,245 and \$32,937	3,216,488	3,007,905
Total liabilities	3,769,064	3,575,519
Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, \$0.001 par value, 500,000 shares authorized, none issued	—	—
Common stock, \$0.001 par value, 100,000,000 shares authorized, 37,167,134 and 37,006,283 shares issued respectively	37	37
Treasury stock, at cost, 3,911,843 and 3,829,928 shares	(75,310)	(71,917)
Additional paid-in capital	511,297	504,891
Accumulated earnings	248,183	246,766
Accumulated other comprehensive (loss)	(19,195)	(13,249)
Total stockholders' equity	665,012	666,528
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$4,434,076	\$4,242,047

The accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

Table of Contents

## TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

## Consolidated Statements of Income

(Dollars and shares in thousands, except earnings per share)

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Leasing revenues:			
Operating leases	\$591,665	\$573,778	\$552,640
Finance leases	15,192	18,355	14,728
Other revenues	1,147	1,873	2,485
Total leasing revenues	608,004	594,006	569,853
Equipment trading revenues	62,195	56,436	73,004
Equipment trading expenses	(58,001)	(49,246)	(62,726)
Trading margin	4,194	7,190	10,278
Net (loss) gain on sale of leasing equipment	(13,646)	6,987	26,751
Operating expenses:			
Depreciation and amortization	242,538	224,753	205,073
Direct operating expenses	48,902	33,076	27,142
Administrative expenses	51,154	45,399	44,197
Provision for doubtful accounts	133	212	2,827
Total operating expenses	342,727	303,440	279,239
Operating income	255,825	304,743	327,643
Other expenses:			
Interest and debt expense	118,280	109,265	111,725
Write-off of deferred financing costs	895	5,192	4,000
Net loss (gain) on interest rate swaps	205	780	(8,947)
Total other expenses	119,380	115,237	106,778
Income before income taxes	136,445	189,506	220,865
Income tax expense	48,233	65,461	77,699
Net income	\$88,212	\$124,045	\$143,166
Net income per common share—Basic	\$2.68	\$3.70	\$4.28
Net income per common share—Diluted	\$2.67	\$3.68	\$4.25
Cash dividends paid per common share	\$2.61	\$2.88	\$2.68
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding—Basic	32,861	33,482	33,483
Dilutive stock options and restricted stock	118	182	211
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding—Diluted	32,979	33,664	33,694

The accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

Table of Contents

## TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

## Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

(Dollars in thousands)

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Net income	\$88,212	\$124,045	\$143,166
Other comprehensive (loss) income:			
Change in fair value of derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges (net of income tax effect of \$(10,930), \$(18,248) and \$6,380, respectively)	(20,038	) (33,814	) 11,643
Reclassification of realized loss on interest rate swap agreements designated as cash flow hedges (net of income tax effect of \$6,884, \$4,789 and \$2,626, respectively)	12,588	9,106	4,844
Amortization of net loss on terminated derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges (net of income tax effect of \$921, \$875 and \$1,067, respectively)	1,697	1,604	1,953
Foreign currency translation adjustment	(193	) (215	) 60
Other comprehensive (loss) income, net of tax	(5,946	) (23,319	) 18,500
Comprehensive income	\$82,266	\$100,726	\$161,666

The accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

F-5

Table of Contents

## TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

## Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity

(Dollars in thousands, except share amounts)

	Common Stock		Treasury Stock		Additional Paid-in Capital	Accumulated Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss) Income		
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount			Cash Flow Hedges	Foreign Currency Translation	Total
Balance at December 31, 2012	36,697,366	\$37	3,011,843	\$(37,535)	\$493,456	\$168,447	\$(7,481)	\$(949)	\$(8,430)
Stock compensation-restricted stock activity, net of retirements	142,944	—	—	—	5,216	(176)	—	—	—
Stock options exercised, net of retirements	18,468	—	—	—	182	(241)	—	—	—
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	143,166	—	—	—
Foreign currency translation adjustment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60	60
Change in fair value-cash flow hedges, net of income tax effect of \$6,380	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,643	—	11,643
Reclassification of realized loss on interest rate swap agreements designated as cash flow hedges, net of income tax effect of \$2,626	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,844	—	4,844
Amortization of net loss on terminated derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges, net of income tax effect of \$1,067	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,953	—	1,953
Common stock dividends declared	—	—	—	—	—	(90,704)	—	—	—
Balance at December 31, 2013	36,858,778	\$37	3,011,843	\$(37,535)	\$498,854	\$220,492	\$10,959	\$(889)	\$10,070
Stock compensation-restricted stock activity, net of retirements	144,555	—	—	—	5,984	(287)	—	—	—
Stock options exercised, net of retirements	2,950	—	—	—	53	—	—	—	—
Treasury stock acquired	—	—	818,085	(34,382)	—	—	—	—	—
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	124,045	—	—	—
Foreign currency translation adjustment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(215)	(215)

Change in fair value-cash flow hedges, net of income tax effect of \$(18,248)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(33,814 )	—	(33,814 )
Reclassification of realized loss on interest rate swap agreements designated as cash flow hedges, net of income tax effect of \$4,789	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,106	—	9,106
Amortization of net loss on terminated derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges, net of income tax effect of \$875	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,604	—	1,604
Common stock dividends declared	—	—	—	—	—	(97,484 )	—	—	—
Balance at December 31, 2014	37,006,283	\$37	3,829,928	\$(71,917)	\$504,891	\$246,766	\$(12,145)	\$(1,104)	\$(13,249)
Stock compensation-restricted stock activity, net of retirements	158,750	—	—	—	6,452	—	—	—	—
Stock options exercised, net of retirements	2,101	—	—	—	38	—	—	—	—
Treasury stock acquired (Reduction) to tax benefits from stock compensation	—	—	81,915	(3,393 )	—	—	—	—	—
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	88,212	—	—	—
Foreign currency translation adjustment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(193 )	(193 )
Change in fair value-cash flow hedges, net of income tax effect of \$(10,930)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(20,038 )	—	(20,038 )
Reclassification of realized loss on interest rate swap agreements designated as cash flow hedges, net of income tax effect of \$6,884	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,588	—	12,588
Amortization of net loss on terminated derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges, net of income tax effect of \$921	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,697	—	1,697
Common stock dividends declared	—	—	—	—	—	(86,795 )	—	—	—

Edgar Filing: TAL International Group, Inc. - Form 10-K

Balance at December 31, 2015 37,167,134 \$37 3,911,843 \$(75,310) \$511,297 \$248,183 \$(17,898) \$(1,297) \$(19,195)

The accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

F-6

---

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.  
 Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows  
 (Dollars in thousands)

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income	\$88,212	\$124,045	\$143,166
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	242,538	224,753	205,073
Amortization of deferred financing costs	7,602	7,729	7,260
Amortization of net loss on terminated derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges	2,618	2,479	3,020
Amortization of lease intangibles	3,713	130	—
Net loss (gain) on sale of leasing equipment	13,646	(6,987)	(26,751)
Net loss (gain) on interest rate swaps	205	780	(8,947)
Write-off of deferred financing costs	895	5,192	4,000
Deferred income taxes	48,233	65,461	77,699
Stock compensation charge	6,452	5,984	5,216
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Net equipment (purchased) sold for resale activity	(4,878)	(6,671)	(11,186)
Net realized loss on interest rate swaps terminated prior to their contractual maturities	—	(4,953)	(24,235)
Accounts receivable	(10,028)	(11,507)	(2,811)
Net (deferred revenue)	(7,098)	(5,696)	(1,572)
Accounts payable and other accrued expenses	8,123	(720)	(3,982)
Income taxes payable	—	67	(220)
Other assets	245	(1,279)	958
Net cash provided by operating activities	400,478	398,807	366,688
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchases of leasing equipment and investments in finance leases	(704,178)	(670,529)	(660,492)
Proceeds from sale of equipment, net of selling costs	125,525	165,990	140,724
Cash collections on finance lease receivables, net of income earned	42,860	47,607	39,470
Other	(101)	(253)	84
Net cash (used in) investing activities	(535,894)	(457,185)	(480,214)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Purchases of treasury stock	(4,446)	(34,382)	—
Stock options exercised, related activity, and excess tax benefits from stock compensation	38	(234)	(235)
Financing fees paid under debt facilities	(805)	(16,702)	(13,897)
Borrowings under debt facilities and proceeds under capital lease obligations	665,000	1,828,545	1,206,735
Payments under debt facilities and capital lease obligations	(464,183)	(1,605,666)	(993,011)
Decrease (increase) in restricted cash	5,347	(6,523)	6,711
Common stock dividends paid	(85,760)	(96,403)	(89,745)
Net cash provided by financing activities	115,191	68,635	116,558
Net (decrease) increase in unrestricted cash and cash equivalents	\$(20,225)	\$10,257	\$3,032
Unrestricted cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	79,132	68,875	65,843
Unrestricted cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$58,907	\$79,132	\$68,875

Supplemental disclosures:

Interest paid	\$ 108,488	\$ 99,895	\$ 101,535
Income taxes (refunded) paid	\$—	\$(67	) \$225
Supplemental non-cash investing activities:			
Accrued and unpaid purchases of equipment	\$ 20,009	\$ 88,336	\$ 112,268

The accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of these statements.

F-7

---



Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1—Description of the Business, Basis of Presentation, Business Combination

A. Description of the Business

TAL International Group, Inc. ("TAL" or the "Company") leases intermodal transportation equipment, primarily maritime containers, and provides maritime container management services, through a worldwide network of offices, third party depots and other facilities. The Company operates in both international and domestic markets. The majority of the Company's business is derived from leasing its containers to shipping line customers through a variety of long-term (including finance leases) and short-term contractual lease arrangements. The Company also sells its own containers and containers purchased from third parties for resale. TAL also enters into management agreements with third party container owners under which the Company manages the leasing and selling of containers on behalf of the third party owners.

On November 9, 2015, TAL and Triton announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement under which the companies will combine in an all-stock merger. Under the terms of the Transaction Agreement, TAL and Triton will combine under a newly-formed holding company, Triton International Limited ("Triton International"), which will be domiciled in Bermuda and is expected to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange. TAL International shareholders will receive one common share of Triton International for each share of TAL International stock owned. TAL International shareholders will also receive a special dividend of \$0.54 per share upon closing of the transaction. The transaction is subject to the approval of TAL's shareholders. A special meeting is anticipated to be held in the second quarter of 2016.

B. Basis of Presentation

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Certain reclassifications have been made to the accompanying prior period financial statements and notes to conform to the current year's presentation.

Note 2—Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Principles of Consolidation

The Consolidated Financial Statements include the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries. All intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated in consolidation.

Cash and Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash

Cash and cash equivalents consist of all cash balances and highly liquid investments having original maturities of three months or less at the time of purchase.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

The Company's allowance for doubtful accounts is provided based upon a review of the collectability of its receivables. This review is based on the risk profile of the receivables, credit quality indicators such as the level of past-due amounts, and economic conditions. Generally, the Company does not require collateral on accounts receivable balances. An account is considered past due when a payment has not been received in accordance with the contractual terms. Accounts are generally charged off after an analysis is completed which indicates that collection of the full principal balance is in doubt. Changes in economic conditions or other events may necessitate additions or deductions to the allowance for doubtful accounts. The allowance for doubtful accounts is intended to provide for losses inherent in the receivables, and requires the application of estimates and judgments as to the outcome of collection efforts and the realization of collateral, among other things. The Company believes its allowance for doubtful accounts is adequate to provide for credit losses inherent in its existing receivables.

F-8

---

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 2—Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

## Concentration of Credit Risk

The Company's equipment lease and trade receivables subject it to potential credit risk. The Company extends credit to its customers based upon an evaluation of each customer's financial condition and credit history. The Company's largest customer is CMA CGM, which accounted for 16%, 16%, and 17% of the Company's leasing revenues in 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively. NYK Line accounted for 12% of our leasing revenues in 2015. No other customer exceeded 10% of the Company's leasing revenues in 2015, 2014, and 2013.

## Net Investment in Finance Leases

The amounts reported as net investment in finance leases are recorded at the present value of the aggregate future minimum lease payments, including any purchase options granted to customers, less allowances for uncollectible amounts. Allowances are provided based upon a review of the collectability of gross finance lease receivables, including the underlying collateral, and considers the risk profile of the receivables, credit quality indicators such as the level of past due amounts, if any, and economic conditions. Finance lease receivables are generally charged off after an analysis is completed which indicates that collection of the full principal balance is in doubt. Interest from these leases is recognized over the term of the lease using the effective interest method as a component of leasing revenues.

## Leasing Equipment

In general, the Company purchases new equipment from equipment manufacturers for the purpose of leasing such equipment to customers. The Company also purchases used equipment with the intention of selling such equipment in one or more years from the date of purchase. Used units are typically purchased with an existing lease in place or were previously owned by one of the Company's third party owner investors.

Leasing equipment is recorded at cost and depreciated to an estimated residual value on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. The estimated useful lives and residual values of the Company's leasing equipment are based on historical disposal experience and the Company's expectations for future used container sale prices. The Company reviews its depreciation policies on a regular basis to determine whether changes have taken place that would suggest that a change in its depreciation policies, useful lives of its equipment or the assigned residual values is warranted.

The estimated useful lives and residual values for the majority of the Company's leasing equipment purchased new from the factory are as follows:

	Residual Values (\$)	
	Useful Lives (Years)	Effective October 1, 2012
Dry containers		
20 foot	13	\$1,000
40 foot	13	\$1,200
40 foot high cube	13	\$1,400
Refrigerated containers		
20 foot	12	\$2,500
40 foot high cube	12	\$3,500
Special containers		
40 foot flat rack	14	\$1,500
40 foot open top	14	\$2,300
Tank containers	20	\$3,000
Chassis	20	\$1,200

Depreciation on leasing equipment starts on the date of initial on-hire.

For leasing equipment acquired through sale-leaseback transactions, we often adjust our estimates for remaining useful life and residual values based on current conditions in the sale market for older containers and our expectations

for how long the equipment will remain on-hire to the current lessee.

Costs incurred to place new equipment into service, including costs to transport the equipment to its initial on-hire location, are capitalized. The Company charges to expense inspection costs on new equipment and repair and maintenance costs that do not extend the lives of the assets at the time the costs are incurred, and includes these costs in direct operating expenses.

F-9

---

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 2—Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

If indicators of impairment are present, a determination is made as to whether the carrying value of the Company's fleet exceeds its estimated future undiscounted cash flows. Leasing equipment is tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that its carrying amount may not be recovered. Key indicators of impairment on leasing equipment include, among other factors, a sustained low level of operating profitability, sustained low level of utilization, or indications of technological obsolescence.

When testing for impairment, leasing equipment is generally grouped by equipment type, and is tested separately from other groups of assets and liabilities. Some of the significant estimates and assumptions used to determine future undiscounted cash flows and the measurement for impairment are the remaining useful life, expected utilization, expected future lease rates and expected disposal prices of the equipment. The Company considers the assumptions on expected utilization and the remaining useful life to have the greatest impact on its estimate of future undiscounted cash flows. These estimates are principally based on the Company's historical experience and management's judgment of market conditions.

The net book value of the Company's leasing equipment by equipment type as of the dates indicated was (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2015	2014
Dry container units	\$2,738,123	\$2,563,183
Refrigerated container units	673,526	637,115
Special container units	213,904	208,841
Tank container units	175,302	172,871
Chassis	107,437	92,021
Total	\$3,908,292	\$3,674,031

Included in the amounts above are units not on lease at December 31, 2015 and 2014 with a total net book value of \$516.6 million and \$261.8 million, respectively. Amortization on equipment purchased under capital lease obligations is included in depreciation and amortization expense in the consolidated statements of income.

The Company provides an allowance recorded in the provision for doubtful accounts for equipment on lease to customers considered to be non-performing. The allowance is based on a percentage of the net book value of equipment on-hire to those customers that, based on historical experience, the Company believes will ultimately not be recovered. In certain cases, the equipment allowance includes an accrual for costs expected to be incurred for the portion of units on-hire that the Company believes it will recover. As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, the Company's allowance for equipment on lease was \$0.2 million and \$0.6 million, respectively.

Equipment Held for Sale

When leasing equipment is returned off lease, the Company makes a determination of whether to repair and re-lease the equipment or sell the equipment. At the time the Company determines that equipment will be sold, it reclassifies the appropriate amounts previously recorded as leasing equipment to equipment held for sale. In accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Codification No. 360, Property, Plant and Equipment ("ASC 360"), equipment held for sale is carried at the lower of its estimated fair value, based on current transactions, less costs to sell, or carrying value; depreciation on such assets is halted and disposals generally occur within 90 days. Subsequent changes to the fair value of those assets, either increases or decreases, are recorded as adjustments to the carrying value of the equipment held for sale; however, any such adjustments may not exceed the respective equipment's carrying value at the time it was initially classified as held for sale. Initial write downs of assets held for sale are recorded as an impairment charge and are included in net gain on sale of leasing equipment. Realized gains and losses resulting from the sale of equipment held for sale are recorded as net gain on sale of leasing equipment, and cash flows associated with the disposal of equipment held for sale are classified as cash flows from investing activities.

Equipment purchased for resale and included in the Equipment Trading Segment is reported as equipment held for sale when the time frame between when equipment is purchased and when it is sold is expected to be short, less than

one year.

F-10

---

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 2—Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

## Goodwill

The Company accounts for goodwill in accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Codification No. 350, Intangibles—Goodwill and Other ("ASC 350"). ASC 350 requires goodwill and other intangible assets with indefinite lives to be reviewed for impairment annually, or more frequently if circumstances indicate a possible impairment. In connection with the acquisition that occurred in 2004, the Company recorded \$71.9 million of goodwill. Effective July 1, 2013, the Company acquired the assets and business of Martec Leasing (a worldwide supplier of rolltrailers) where the Company recorded \$2.6 million of goodwill. Management determined that the Company has two reporting units, Equipment leasing and Equipment trading, and allocated \$73.5 million and \$1.0 million, respectively, to each reporting unit. The Company has elected to bypass the qualitative approach permitted under ASC 350 for testing goodwill for impairment, but may elect to perform the qualitative approach to test goodwill for impairment in future periods.

The annual impairment test is conducted by comparing the Company's carrying amount to the fair value of the Company using a market capitalization approach. Given the recent decline in the Company's market capitalization, the Company also assessed the fair value of its reporting units based on a discounted cash flow valuation model. The key assumptions applied to the cash flow projections were discount rates, new container prices, near-term revenue growth rates, and perpetual growth rates. These assumptions contemplated business, market and overall economic conditions. Based on the results of this testing, the Company determined that the fair values of each of its reporting units exceeded their respective carrying amounts.

If the carrying value of the entity exceeds its market capitalization, then a second step would be performed that compares the implied fair value of goodwill with the carrying amount of goodwill. The determination of the implied fair value of goodwill would require management to compare the estimated fair value of the reporting units to the estimated fair value of the assets and liabilities of the reporting units. Any excess fair value represents the implied fair value of goodwill. To the extent that the carrying amount of goodwill exceeds its implied fair value, an impairment loss would be recorded. Based on the Company's annual review of goodwill, conducted in the fourth quarter of 2015, no impairment of goodwill existed.

## Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The Company believes that the carrying amounts of its cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, equipment purchases payable, and accounts payable approximated their fair value as of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014.

Fair value represents the price that would be received upon the sale of an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Company utilizes the following fair value hierarchy when selecting inputs for its valuation techniques, with the highest priority given to Level 1:

• Level 1—Financial assets and liabilities whose values are based on observable inputs such as quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets (unadjusted).

• Level 2—Financial assets and liabilities whose values are based on observable inputs such as (i) quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; (ii) quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; or (iii) model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs are observable in active markets.

• Level 3—Financial assets and liabilities whose values are derived from valuation techniques based on one or more significant unobservable inputs.

The Company does not measure net investment in finance leases or debt, net of unamortized deferred financing costs at fair value in its consolidated balance sheets. The fair value, which was measured using Level 2 inputs, and the carrying value of the Company's net investment in finance leases and debt, net of unamortized deferred financing costs are listed in the table below as of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 (in thousands).





Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 2—Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Assets		
Net investment in finance leases, net of allowances - carrying value	\$ 177,737	\$ 219,872
Net investment in finance leases, net of allowances - fair value	\$ 180,565	\$ 222,399
Liabilities		
Debt, net of unamortized deferred financing costs - carrying value	\$ 3,216,488	\$ 3,007,905
Debt(1) - estimated fair value	\$ 3,210,722	\$ 3,027,853

(1) Excludes unamortized deferred financing costs of \$25.2 million and \$32.9 million as of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively.

For the fair value of derivatives, please refer to Note 4 - "Derivative Instruments".

The Company estimated the fair value of its net investment in finance leases and debt instruments based on the net present value of its future receipts or payments, using a discount rate which reflects the Company's estimate of current market interest rates and spreads as of the balance sheet date.

Pursuant to the requirements of "Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-03 ("ASU No. 2015-03"), Imputation of Interest (Topic 835): Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs" of April 2015 and No. 2015-15 ("ASU No. 2015-15"), Imputation of Interest (Topic 835): Presentation and Subsequent Measurement of Debt Issuance Costs Associated with Line-of-Credit Agreements, of August 2015, we have evaluated the impact of the adoption of these standards on our Consolidated Financial Statements. Deferred financing costs in 2014 were reclassified from assets to liabilities to be in conformity with the 2015 presentation as required by ASU No. 2015-03 and ASU No. 2015-15.

**Revenue Recognition****Operating Leases with Customers**

The Company enters into long-term leases and service leases with ocean carriers, principally as lessor in operating leases, for marine cargo equipment. Long-term leases provide our customers with specified equipment for a specified term. The Company's leasing revenues are based upon the number of equipment units leased, the applicable per diem rate and the length of the lease. Long-term leases typically have initial contractual terms ranging from three to eight years. Revenues are recognized on a straight-line basis over the life of the respective lease. Advance billings are deferred and recognized in the period earned. Service leases do not specify the exact number of equipment units to be leased or the term that each unit will remain on-hire, but allow the lessee to pick-up and drop-off units at various locations specified in the lease agreement. Under a service lease, rental revenue is based on the number of equipment units on-hire for a given period. Revenue for customers considered to be non-performing is deferred and recognized when the amounts are received.

In accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Codification No. 605, Revenue Recognition ("ASC 605"), the Company recognizes billings to customers for damages and certain other operating costs as leasing revenue as it is earned based on the terms of the contractual agreements with the customer. As principal, the Company is responsible for fulfillment of the services, supplier selection and service specifications, and has ultimate responsibility to pay the supplier for the services whether or not it collects the amount billed to the lessee.

**Finance Leases with Customers**

The Company enters into finance leases as lessor for some of the equipment in its fleet. The net investment in finance leases represents the receivables due from lessees, net of unearned income. Unearned income is recognized on a level yield basis over the lease term and is recorded as leasing revenue. Finance leases are usually long-term in nature, typically ranging for a period of four to eight years and typically include an option to purchase the equipment at the end of the lease term for an amount determined to be a bargain.

**Other Revenues**

The Company manages equipment which is owned by third parties and it earns management fees based on the income earned by the leasing and sales of such equipment. Management fees are recognized as services are provided. The Company collects amounts billed and pays operating costs as agent on behalf of the third parties that own such equipment. These billings and operating costs are not included in revenue and expense; instead, the net amounts owed to these equipment owners are

F-12

---

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

Note 2—Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

reflected as accrued expenses in the Company's financial statements until paid as required by our contracts. As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, approximately \$1.0 million and \$2.2 million, respectively, was reflected in accounts payable and other accrued expenses, which represent unpaid net earnings owed to third party owners of managed equipment.

Other revenues also includes fee income for third party positioning of equipment.

Equipment Trading Revenues and Expenses

Equipment trading revenues represent the proceeds from the sale of equipment purchased for resale and are recognized as units are sold and delivered to the customer. The related expenses represent the cost of equipment sold as well as other selling costs that are recognized as incurred and are reflected as equipment trading expenses in the consolidated statements of income.

Direct Operating Expenses

Direct operating expenses are directly related to the Company's equipment under and available for lease. These expenses primarily consist of the Company's costs to repair and maintain the equipment, to reposition the equipment, to store the equipment when it is not on lease and to inspect newly manufactured equipment. These costs are recognized when incurred. Certain positioning costs may be capitalized when incurred to place new equipment on an initial lease.

Derivative Instruments

The Company uses derivatives in the management of its interest rate exposure on its long-term borrowings and its foreign currency rate exposure on certain of its foreign currency based finance lease receivables. The Company accounts for derivative instruments in accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Codification No. 815, Derivatives and Hedging ("ASC 815"). ASC 815 requires that all derivative instruments be recorded on the balance sheet at their fair value and establishes criteria for both the designation and effectiveness of hedging activities.

Income Taxes

The Company accounts for income taxes in accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Codification No. 740, Income Taxes ("ASC 740") using the asset and liability method, which requires recognition of deferred tax assets and liabilities for expected future tax consequences of temporary differences that currently exist between the tax basis and financial reporting basis of the Company's assets and liabilities. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. In assessing the ability to realize deferred tax assets, the Company considers whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized.

If applicable, the Company accrues income tax liabilities for unrecognized tax benefits resulting from uncertain tax positions by evaluating whether the weight of available evidence indicates that it is more likely than not that the position will be sustained in an audit and measures the tax benefit as the largest amount that is more than 50% likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement. Potential interest and penalties associated with such uncertain tax positions are recorded as a component of income tax expense. As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, the Company had no liabilities related to uncertain tax positions.

Foreign Currency Translation and Remeasurement

The net assets and operations of foreign subsidiaries included in the Consolidated Financial Statements are attributable primarily to the Company's U.K. subsidiary. The accounts of this subsidiary have been converted at rates of exchange in effect at year end as to balance sheet accounts and at the weighted average of exchange rates for the year as to statements of income accounts. The effects of changes in exchange rates in translating foreign subsidiaries' financial statements are included in stockholders' equity as accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income.

The Company also has certain cash accounts, certain finance lease receivables and certain obligations that are denominated in currencies other than the Company's functional currency. These assets and liabilities are generally denominated in Euros or British Pounds, and are remeasured at each balance sheet date at the exchange rates in effect as of those dates. The impact of changes in exchange rates on the remeasurement of assets and liabilities are included

in administrative expenses.

#### Stock-Based Compensation

The Company accounts for stock-based compensation in accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Codification No. 718, Compensation—Stock Compensation ("ASC 718") which requires that compensation costs relating to stock-based payment transactions be recognized in the financial statements. The cost is measured at the grant date, based on the calculated fair value of the award, and is recognized as an expense over the employee's requisite service period (generally the vesting period of the equity award).

F-13

---

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

Note 2—Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Comprehensive Income

Comprehensive income includes net income, net gains and losses and related amortization, net of income taxes, on derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges, and foreign currency translation adjustments.

Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share is computed by dividing income available to common shareholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted earnings per share reflect the potential dilution that would occur if securities or other contracts to issue common stock were exercised or converted into common stock, utilizing the treasury stock method.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, the Company excluded 133,048 shares of restricted stock from the calculation of weighted average shares outstanding for diluted earnings per share because their effects were anti-dilutive. There were no anti-dilutive restricted stock or options to purchase shares of common stock excluded from the calculations of weighted average shares outstanding for diluted earnings per share for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the Consolidated Financial Statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09 ("ASU No. 2014-09"), Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606). This new standard will replace all current U.S. GAAP guidance on this topic and eliminate all industry-specific guidance. Leasing revenue recognition is specifically excluded from this ASU, and therefore, the new standard will only apply to Equipment Trading revenues and sales of leasing equipment. In August 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-14, Revenue from Contracts with Customers, which defers by one year the effective date of ASU 2014-09 until reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods within that annual period. Earlier application is permitted as of annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016, including interim reporting periods within that reporting period. ASU No. 2014-09 allows for either full retrospective or modified retrospective adoption. The Company is evaluating the transition method that will be elected and the potential effects of adopting the provisions of ASU No. 2014-09.

In August 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-15 ("ASU 2014-15"), Presentation of Financial Statements (Topic 205): Disclosure of Uncertainties about an Entity's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern. This standard requires management to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that financial statements are issued and to disclose those conditions if management has concluded that substantial doubt exists. Subsequent to adoption, this guidance will need to be applied by management at the end of each annual period and interim period therein to determine what, if any, impact there will be on the Consolidated Financial Statements in a given reporting period. These changes become effective for the Company for the 2016 annual period. Management has determined that the adoption of these changes will not have an impact on the Consolidated Financial Statements as this standard is disclosure only.

In April 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-03 ("ASU No. 2015-03"), Imputation of Interest (Topic 835): Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs. This standard changes the presentation of debt issuance costs in the financial statements but does not affect the recognition and measurement of debt issuance costs. The ASU specifies that debt issuance costs related to a note shall be reported in the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the face amount of that note and that amortization of debt issuance

costs also shall be reported as interest expense. The ASU's basis for conclusions observes that in practice, debt issuance costs incurred before the associated funding is received (i.e., before the issuance of the debt liability) are deferred on the balance sheet until that debt liability amount is recorded. These changes will become effective for the Company beginning after December 15, 2015. The Company has adopted ASU No. 2015-03 and has no impact on its income or cash flows and no material impact on its financial position.

In August 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-15 ("ASU No. 2015-15"), Imputation of Interest (Topic 835): Presentation and Subsequent Measurement of Debt Issuance Costs

F-14

---

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 2—Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Associated with Line-of-Credit Agreements. This standard updates ASU No. 2015-03 which was issued in April 2015, as ASU No. 2015-03 does not address the presentation or subsequent measurement of debt issuance costs related to line-of-credit arrangements. Given the absence of authoritative guidance with ASU No. 2015-03 for debt issuance costs related to line-of-credit arrangements, the SEC would not object to an entity deferring and presenting debt issuance costs as an asset and subsequently amortizing the deferred debt issuance costs over the term of the line-of-credit arrangement, regardless of whether there are any outstanding borrowings on the line-of-credit arrangement. These changes will become effective for the Company beginning after December 15, 2015. The Company has adopted ASU No. 2015-15 in conjunction with ASU No. 2015-03, and has no impact on its income or cash flows and no material impact on its financial position.

In November 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-17 ("ASU No. 2015-17"), Income Taxes (Topic 740): Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes. Current GAAP requires an entity to separate deferred income tax liabilities and assets into current and non-current amounts in a classified statement of financial position. Stakeholders informed the Board that the requirement results in little or no benefit to users of financial statements because the classification does not generally align with the time period in which the recognized deferred tax amounts are expected to be recovered or settled. In addition, there are costs incurred by an entity to separate deferred income tax liabilities and assets into a current and non-current amount. To simplify the presentation of deferred income taxes, the amendments in ASU No. 2015-17 require that deferred tax liabilities and assets be classified as non-current in a classified statement of financial position. These changes will become effective for the Company beginning after December 15, 2016. The Company believes that the adoption of ASU No. 2015-17 will have no impact on its financial position as the Company does not have any material current income tax liabilities and assets on its balance sheet.

## Note 3—Debt

Debt consisted of the following (amounts in thousands):

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Asset backed securitization (ABS) term notes	\$1,151,497	\$1,504,183
Term loan facilities	973,130	858,973
Asset backed warehouse facility	610,000	420,000
Revolving credit facilities	445,000	160,000
Capital lease obligations	62,106	97,686
Total Debt	3,241,733	3,040,842
Deferred financing costs	(25,245)	(32,937)
Debt, net of unamortized deferred financing costs	\$3,216,488	\$3,007,905

As of December 31, 2015, the Company had \$1,314.5 million of total debt outstanding on facilities with fixed interest rates. These fixed rate facilities had a weighted average effective interest rate of 3.99% in 2015, are scheduled to mature between 2016 and 2024, and had a weighted average remaining term of 4.1 years as of December 31, 2015.

As of December 31, 2015, the Company had \$1,927.2 million of total debt outstanding on facilities with interest rates based on floating rate indices (primarily LIBOR). These floating rate facilities had a weighted average effective interest rate of 2.16% in 2015, are scheduled to mature between 2016 and 2021, and had a weighted average remaining term of 3.4 years as of December 31, 2015. Including the impact of our interest rate swaps, the weighted average effective interest rate on our floating rate facilities was 3.36% in 2015.

The Company economically hedges the risks associated with fluctuations in interest rates on a portion of its floating rate borrowings by entering into interest rate swap agreements that convert a portion of its floating rate debt to a fixed rate basis, thus reducing the impact of interest rate changes on future interest expense. As of December 31, 2015, the Company had interest rate swaps in place with a net notional amount of \$1,123.0 million and a weighted average

remaining term of 6.6 years to fix the floating interest rates on a portion of its floating rate debt obligations. These interest rate swaps had a weighted average fixed leg interest rate of 2.00% in 2015 (see Note 4 for additional information on the Company's interest rate swap agreements).

F-15

---



Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

Note 3—Debt (Continued)

As of December 31, 2015, the Company had \$2,437.5 million of total debt which is at fixed rates or is effectively fixed due to interest rate swap contracts. This accounts for 75.2% of total debt. These facilities had a weighted average remaining term of 5.2 years.

Asset Backed Securitization Term Notes

The Company's Asset Backed Securitization ("ABS") facilities have been used to finance its existing container fleet and new container purchases. Under the facilities, indirect wholly owned subsidiaries of the Company issue asset backed notes. The issuance of asset backed notes is the primary business objective of those subsidiaries.

The Company's borrowings under the ABS facilities amortize in monthly installments. The borrowing capacity under the ABS facilities is determined by applying an advance rate against the sum of the net book values of designated eligible containers and accounts receivable for sold equipment not outstanding more than 60 days plus 100% of restricted cash. The net book values for purposes of calculating the Company's borrowing capacity is the original equipment cost depreciated over 13, 12, and 20 years to between 15% to 40% of original equipment cost, depending on the type of equipment. Advance rates under the ABS facilities range from 82% to 87%. The Company is required to maintain restricted cash balances on deposit in designated bank accounts equal to five to nine months of interest expense depending on the type of facility.

Term Loan Facilities

The Company utilizes its term loan facilities as an important funding source for the purchase of containers and other equipment. The term loan facilities generally amortize in monthly installments. Two of the term loans have revolving periods, the first with an initial two year revolving period followed by a three year term period with a maturity date of November 7, 2019 and a second with an initial one year revolving period followed by a five year term period with a maturity date of December 19, 2020.

The borrowing capacity under the term loan facilities is determined by applying an advance rate in the range of 80% to 90% against the net book values of designated eligible containers, which is determined under the terms of each facility.

Asset Backed Warehouse Facility

The asset backed warehouse facility has a maximum borrowing capacity of \$650.0 million. Under the facility, funds are available on a revolving basis until October 10, 2017, after which if the facility is not refinanced, the notes will convert to term notes with a maturity date of October 10, 2021. The term notes will amortize on a level basis over the four year term period to 60% of the outstanding balance. We primarily use the proceeds of this facility to finance the acquisition of equipment.

The borrowing capacity under the asset backed warehouse facility is determined by applying the advance rate of 81% against the sum of the net book values of designated eligible containers and accounts receivable for sold containers not outstanding more than 60 days plus 100% of restricted cash. The net book value for purposes of calculating the Company's borrowing capacity is the original equipment cost depreciated over 13, 12, and 20 years to 40%, 25%, and 15% of original equipment cost for dry containers, refrigerated containers, and tank containers, respectively. The Company is required to maintain restricted cash balances on deposit in a designated bank account equal to three months of interest expense.

Revolving Credit Facilities

The Company's revolving credit facilities have a maximum borrowing capacity of \$550.0 million with maturity dates on November 30, 2016 and March 12, 2018. These facilities generally provide for an advance rate against eligible assets defined by the terms of their respective agreements.



Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 3—Debt (Continued)

Debt maturities excluding capital lease obligations (amounts in thousands):

Years ending December 31,

2016	\$ 318,992
2017	294,281
2018	751,564
2019	527,623
2020	278,933
2021 and thereafter	1,008,234
Total	\$3,179,627

## Capital Lease Obligations

The Company has entered into a series of lease transactions with various financial institutions to finance chassis and containers. Each lease is accounted for as a capital lease, with interest expense recognized on a level yield basis over the period preceding early purchase options, if any, which is generally five to ten years from the transaction date.

At December 31, 2015, future lease payments under these capital leases were as follows (in thousands):

Years ending December 31,

2016	\$29,923	
2017	18,771	
2018	17,818	
2019	—	
Total future payments	66,512	
Less: amount representing interest	(4,406	)
Capital lease obligations	\$62,106	

## Deferred Financing Costs

Deferred financing costs represent the fees incurred in connection with the Company's debt obligations, and are amortized using the effective interest method or on a straight-line basis over the term of the related obligation, depending on the type of debt obligation to which they relate. Unamortized deferred financing costs are written off when the related debt obligations are refinanced or extinguished prior to maturity, and are determined to be an extinguishment of debt.

## Note 4—Derivative Instruments

## Interest Rate Swaps

The Company has entered into interest rate swap agreements to manage interest rate risk exposure. The majority of interest rate swap agreements utilized by TAL effectively modify the Company's exposure to interest rate risk by converting a portion of its floating rate debt to a fixed rate basis, thus reducing the impact of interest rate changes on future interest expense. Such agreements involve the receipt of floating rate amounts in exchange for fixed rate interest payments over the lives of the agreements without an exchange of the underlying principal amounts. In limited instances, the Company has also entered into interest rate swap agreements that involve the receipt of fixed rate amounts in exchange for floating rate interest payments. The counterparties to the Company's interest rate swap agreements are highly rated financial institutions. In the unlikely event that the counterparties fail to meet the terms of the interest rate swap agreements, the Company's exposure is limited to the interest rate differential on the notional amount at each monthly settlement period over the life of the agreements. The Company does not anticipate any non-performance by the counterparties. Substantially all of the assets of certain indirect, wholly owned subsidiaries of the Company have been pledged as collateral for the underlying indebtedness and the amounts payable under the interest rate swap agreements for each of these entities. In addition, certain assets of TAL International Container Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, are pledged as collateral for various credit facilities and the amounts payable under certain interest rate swap agreements.



Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 4—Derivative Instruments (Continued)

As of December 31, 2015, the Company had net interest rate swap agreements in place to fix the floating interest rates on a portion of the borrowings under its debt facilities as summarized below:

Net Notional	Weighted Average	Weighted Average
Amount(1)	Fixed Leg (Pay) Interest Rate(2)	Remaining Term(2)
\$1,123 Million	2.00%	6.6 years

As of December 31, 2015, the net notional amount outstanding on the Company's interest rate swap agreements is comprised of \$1,223 million of pay-fixed rate/receive-floating rate agreements and \$100.0 million of pay-floating rate/receive-fixed rate agreements. The Company entered into the pay-floating rate/receive-fixed rate agreements at (1) the parent company level to offset the cash flows on certain pay-fixed rate/receive-floating rate agreements of certain wholly owned subsidiaries. The pay-floating rate/receive-fixed rate and pay-fixed rate/receive-floating rate agreements have terms that offset each other.

The calculations of weighted average fixed (pay) leg interest rate and weighted average remaining term on the (2) Company's interest rate swap agreements reflect the impact of the pay-floating rate/receive-fixed rate agreements and the pay-fixed rate/receive-floating rate agreements which offset.

The following table represents pre-tax amounts in accumulated other comprehensive (loss) related to interest rate swap agreements (in millions) expected to be recognized in income over the next 12 months:

	Year Ended	
	December 31,	
	2015	
Unrealized loss on derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges	\$(16.1	)
Amortization of loss on terminated derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges	\$(2.2	)

Amounts recorded in accumulated other comprehensive (loss) attributable to these terminated interest rate swap agreements may be recognized in earnings immediately in conjunction with a termination of the related debt balances.

**Fair Value of Derivative Instruments**

Under the criteria established by ASC 820, the Company has elected to use the income approach to value its interest rate swap and foreign currency rate swap agreements, using observable Level 2 market expectations at the measurement date and standard valuation techniques to convert future amounts to a single present amount (discounted) assuming that participants are motivated, but not compelled to transact. The Level 2 inputs for the interest rate swap and forward valuations are limited to quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets (specifically futures contracts and spot currency rates) and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability (specifically forward currency points, LIBOR cash and swap rates, basis swap adjustments and credit risk at commonly quoted intervals).

F-18

---

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 4—Derivative Instruments (Continued)

## Location of Derivative Instruments in Financial Statements

Derivative Instrument	Fair Value of Derivative Instruments (In Millions)							
	Asset Derivatives				Liability Derivatives			
	December 31, 2015		December 31, 2014		December 31, 2015		December 31, 2014	
	Balance Sheet	Fair Value	Balance Sheet	Fair Value	Balance Sheet	Fair Value	Balance Sheet	Fair Value
Interest rate swap contracts, designated as cash flow hedges	Fair value of derivative instruments	\$0.1	Fair value of derivative instruments	\$1.7	Fair value of derivative instruments	\$19.2	Fair value of derivative instruments	\$9.4
Interest rate swap contracts, not designated	Fair value of derivative instruments	—	Fair value of derivative instruments	0.1	Fair value of derivative instruments	1.1	Fair value of derivative instruments	1.0
Foreign exchange contracts, not designated	Fair value of derivative instruments	—	Fair value of derivative instruments	0.1	Fair value of derivative instruments	—	Fair value of derivative instruments	—
Total derivatives		\$0.1		\$1.9		\$20.3		\$10.4

Effect of Derivative Instruments on Consolidated Statements of Income and Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income  
(In Millions)

	Location of Loss (Gain) on Derivative Instruments	Year Ended December 31,		
		2015	2014	2013
Realized loss on interest rate swap agreements	Interest expense	\$20.6	\$15.1	\$12.3
Amortization of realized net loss on terminated derivative instruments, designated as cash flow hedges	Interest expense	2.6	2.5	3.0
Change in fair value of derivatives, designated as cash flow hedges	Other comprehensive income	31.0	52.1	(18.0)
Net loss (gain) on interest rate swaps, not designated	Net loss (gain) on interest rate swaps	0.2	0.8	(8.9)
Foreign exchange agreements, not designated	Administrative expenses	—	0.1	0.3

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 5—Net Investment in Finance Leases

The following table represents the components of the net investment in finance leases (in thousands):

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Gross finance lease receivables (1)	\$211,530	\$267,720
Allowance on gross finance lease receivables	(805	) (1,056
Gross finance lease receivables, net of allowance	210,725	266,664
Unearned income (2)	(32,988	) (46,792
Net investment in finance leases (3)	\$177,737	\$219,872

(1) At the inception of the lease, the Company records the total minimum lease payments, executory costs, if any, and unguaranteed residual value as gross finance lease receivables. The gross finance lease receivable is reduced as customer payments are received. The unguaranteed residual value is generally equal to the purchase option at the end of the lease. Approximately \$2.6 million and \$5.6 million of unguaranteed residual value at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, were included in gross finance lease receivables. There were no executory costs included in gross finance lease receivables as of December 31, 2015 and 2014.

(2) The difference between the gross finance lease receivable and the fair value of the equipment at the lease inception is recorded as unearned income. Unearned income together with initial direct costs, are amortized to income over the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of return. There were no unamortized initial direct costs as of December 31, 2015 and 2014.

(3) As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, approximately 52% and 48%, respectively, of the Company's net investment in finance leases were with Hapag Lloyd AG, and approximately 15% and 19%, respectively, of the Company's net investment in finance leases were with Mediterranean Shipping Company.

Contractual maturities of the Company's gross finance lease receivables subsequent to December 31, 2015 are as follows (in thousands):

Years ending December 31,	
2016	\$50,716
2017	39,982
2018	34,130
2019	31,577
2020	26,717
2021 and thereafter	28,408
Total	\$211,530

The Company evaluates potential losses in its finance lease portfolio by regularly reviewing the specific receivables in the portfolio and analyzing historical loss experience. The Company's historical loss experience on its gross finance lease receivables, after considering equipment recoveries, was less than 1%. Net investment in finance lease receivables is generally charged off after an analysis is completed which indicates that collection of the full balance is remote.

In order to estimate its allowance for losses contained in the gross finance lease receivables, the Company categorizes the credit worthiness of the receivables in the portfolio based on internal customer credit ratings, which are reviewed and updated, as appropriate, on an ongoing basis. The internal customer credit ratings are developed based on a review of the financial performance and condition, operating environment, geographical location and trade routes of our customers.





Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 5—Net Investment in Finance Leases (Continued)

The categories of gross finance lease receivables based on the Company's internal customer credit ratings can be described as follows:

Tier 1—These customers are typically large international shipping lines who have been in business for many years and have world class operating capabilities and significant financial resources. In most cases, the Company has had a long commercial relationship with these customers and currently maintains regular communication with them at several levels of management, which provides TAL with insight into the customer's current operating and financial performance. In the Company's view, these customers have the greatest ability to withstand cyclical downturns and would likely have greater access to needed capital than lower rated customers. The Company views the risk of default for Tier 1 customers to range from minimal to modest.

Tier 2—These customers are typically either smaller shipping lines with less operating scale or shipping lines with a high degree of financial leverage, and accordingly the Company views these customers as subject to higher volatility in financial performance over the business cycle. The Company generally expects these customers to have less access to capital markets or other sources of financing during cyclical downturns. The Company views the risk of default for Tier 2 customers as moderate.

Tier 3—Customers in this category exhibit volatility in payments on a regular basis, thus they are considered non-performing. The Company has initiated or implemented plans to recover equipment on lease to these customers and believes that default is likely, or has already occurred.

Based on the above categories, the Company's gross finance lease receivables are as follows (in thousands):

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Tier 1	\$ 179,909	\$ 244,136
Tier 2	31,621	23,584
Tier 3	—	—
Gross finance lease receivables	\$ 211,530	\$ 267,720

The Company considers an account past due when a payment has not been received in accordance with the terms of the related lease agreement. As of December 31, 2015, approximately \$0.1 million and \$0.3 million of the Company's Tier 1 and Tier 2 gross finance lease receivables were past due, substantially all of which were aged approximately 31 days. As of December 31, 2015, none of the Company's gross finance lease receivables were in non-accrual status. The Company categorizes customers as non-accrual based on the credit ratings described above and recognizes income on gross finance lease receivables in non-accrual status as collections are made.

The following table represents the activity of the Company's allowance on gross finance lease receivables for the periods presented (in thousands):

	Beginning Balance	Additions/ (Reversals)	Other (a)	Ending Balance
Finance Lease—Allowance for doubtful accounts:				
For the year ended December 31, 2015	\$ 1,056	\$ (251 )	\$ —	\$ 805
For the year ended December 31, 2014	\$ 1,057	\$ —	\$ (1 )	\$ 1,056
For the year ended December 31, 2013	\$ 897	\$ 159	\$ 1	\$ 1,057

(a) Primarily relates to the effect of foreign currency translation.

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 6—Capital Stock and Stock Options

## Dividends

We paid the following quarterly dividends during the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 on our issued and outstanding common stock:

Record Date	Payment Date	Aggregate Payment	Per Share Payment
December 2, 2015	December 23, 2015	\$14.8 Million	\$0.45
September 2, 2015	September 23, 2015	\$23.7 Million	\$0.72
June 3, 2015	June 24, 2015	\$23.7 Million	\$0.72
March 3, 2015	March 24, 2015	\$23.7 Million	\$0.72
December 2, 2014	December 23, 2014	\$23.8 Million	\$0.72
September 3, 2014	September 24, 2014	\$24.2 Million	\$0.72
June 3, 2014	June 24, 2014	\$24.2 Million	\$0.72
March 3, 2014	March 24, 2014	\$24.2 Million	\$0.72

## Treasury Stock &amp; Stock Repurchase Program

During 2015, TAL repurchased 81,915 shares at an average price of \$41.40, and in 2014, TAL repurchased 818,085 shares at an average price of \$42.01. As part of the joint announcement of the TAL and Triton transaction on November 9, 2015, a share repurchase program of up to \$250 million was announced, which supplants all prior stock repurchase programs, and is expected to be initiated upon the close of the transaction.

## Stock Based Compensation Plans

In October 2005, the Company adopted the TAL International Group, Inc. 2005 Management Omnibus Incentive Plan (the "2005 Plan"), which provides for the issuance of awards in the form of stock options, stock appreciation rights and restricted stock. A total of 2,500,000 shares of common stock were reserved for issuance under the 2005 Plan.

The Company records compensation cost relating to stock based payment transactions in accordance with ASC 718.

The cost is measured at the grant date, based on the calculated fair value of the award, and is recognized as an expense over the employee's requisite service period (generally the vesting period of the equity award) on a straight-line basis.

The Company recognized \$6.5 million, \$6.0 million, and \$5.2 million of compensation costs that were reported in administrative expenses for the years ended 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively, which relate to the Company's stock based compensation plans as a result of restricted shares granted during the years 2011 through 2015.

Total unrecognized compensation cost of approximately \$5.9 million as of December 31, 2015 related to restricted shares granted during 2015, 2014, and 2013 will be recognized over the remaining weighted average vesting period of approximately 1.7 years.

The options granted from the 2005 Management Omnibus Incentive Plan expired on October 17, 2015. No further grants will be made under the 2005 Management Omnibus Incentive Plan but the terms of the 2005 Management Omnibus Incentive Plan will continue to apply to awards previously granted under the plan.

The Company's stock based compensation plans consist of the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan and the 2005 Management Omnibus Incentive Plan. Following the approval by the Company's shareholders of the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan, no further options have been granted and 158,750 shares have been issued under the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan as of December 31, 2015.

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 6—Capital Stock and Stock Options (Continued)

Stock option activity under the Plans for the year ended December 31, 2015 was as follows:

	Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Life (Yrs)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (\$ in 000's)
Outstanding: January 1, 2015	27,891	\$18.00	0.8	\$713
Granted	—	\$—	—	\$—
Exercised	(2,101)	\$18.00	—	\$44
Forfeited	(25,790)	\$—	—	\$—
Outstanding: December 31, 2015	—	\$—	—	\$—
Exercisable: December 31, 2015	—	\$—	—	\$—

Restricted stock activity for the year ended December 31, 2015 was as follows:

	Number of shares outstanding	Weighted Average Grant date fair value
Nonvested at January 1, 2015	372,500	\$40.13
Granted	158,750	41.24
Vested(1)	(141,000)	34.98
Nonvested at December 31, 2015	390,250	\$42.45

(1)The fair value of restricted stock awards that vested during 2015 was \$5.7 million.

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 6—Capital Stock and Stock Options (Continued)

## Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss)

Accumulated other comprehensive (loss) consisted of the following as of the dates indicated (in thousands and net of tax effects):

	Cash Flow Hedges	Foreign Currency Translation	Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss) Income
Balance as of December 31, 2013	\$10,959	\$(889	) \$10,070
Change in fair value of derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges	(33,814	) —	(33,814 )
Reclassification of realized loss on interest rate swap agreements designated as cash flow hedges	9,106	—	9,106
Amortization of net loss on derivative instruments previously designated as cash flow hedges	1,604	—	1,604
Foreign currency translation adjustment	—	(215	) (215 )
Other comprehensive (loss)	(23,104	) (215	) (23,319 )
Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$(12,145	) \$(1,104	) \$(13,249 )
	Cash Flow Hedges	Foreign Currency Translation	Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss)
Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$(12,145	) \$(1,104	) \$(13,249 )
Change in fair value of derivative instruments designated as cash flow hedges	(20,038	) —	(20,038 )
Reclassification of realized loss on interest rate swap agreements designated as cash flow hedges	12,588	—	12,588
Amortization of net loss on derivative instruments previously designated as cash flow hedges	1,697	—	1,697
Foreign currency translation adjustment	—	(193	) (193 )
Other comprehensive (loss)	(5,753	) (193	) (5,946 )
Balance as of December 31, 2015	\$(17,898	) \$(1,297	) \$(19,195 )

The following table presents reclassifications out of Accumulated other comprehensive (loss) for the period indicated (in thousands):

	Balance as of December 31, 2015	Balance as of December 31, 2014	Affected Line Item in the Consolidated Statements of Income
Realized loss on interest rate swap agreements, designated as cash flow hedges	\$19,472	\$13,895	Interest and debt expense
Amortization of net loss on derivative instruments previously designated as cash flow hedges	2,618	2,479	Interest and debt expense
Amounts reclassified from Accumulated other comprehensive loss before income tax	22,090	16,374	Income before income taxes
Income tax (benefit)	(7,805	) (5,664	)

			Income tax expense
Amounts reclassified from Accumulated other comprehensive loss	\$ 14,285	\$ 10,710	Net income

F-24

---

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 7—Segment and Geographic Information

## Industry Segment Information

The Company's operations include the acquisition, leasing, re-leasing and subsequent sale of multiple types of intermodal containers and chassis. Intermodal containers are large, standardized steel boxes used to transport freight by ship, rail or truck. Chassis are used for the transportation of containers domestically. The Company leases five types of equipment: (1) dry freight containers, which are used for general cargo such as manufactured component parts, consumer staples, electronics and apparel, (2) refrigerated containers, which are used for perishable items such as fresh and frozen foods, (3) special containers, which are used for heavy and oversized cargo such as marble slabs, building products and machinery, (4) tank containers which are used to transport bulk liquid products such as chemicals, and (5) chassis, which are used for the transportation of containers domestically.

The Company conducts its business activities in one industry, intermodal transportation equipment, and has two reporting segments:

• **Equipment leasing**—the Company owns, leases and ultimately disposes of containers and chassis from its lease fleet, as well as manages leasing activities for containers owned by third parties.

• **Equipment trading**—the Company purchases containers from shipping line customers, and other sellers of containers, and resells these containers to container retailers and users of containers for storage or one-way shipment. Included in the Equipment trading segment revenues are leasing revenues from equipment purchased for resale that is currently on lease until the containers are dropped off.

The following tables show segment information for the periods indicated and the consolidated totals reported (dollars in thousands):

Year Ended December 31, 2015	Equipment Leasing	Equipment Trading	Totals
Total leasing revenues	\$598,020	\$9,984	\$608,004
Trading margin	—	4,194	4,194
Net (loss) on sale of leasing equipment	(13,646	) —	(13,646
Depreciation and amortization expense	241,104	1,434	242,538
Interest and debt expense	116,244	2,036	118,280
Income before income taxes(1)	128,259	9,286	137,545
Equipment held for sale at December 31	55,727	19,172	74,899
Goodwill at December 31	73,523	1,000	74,523
Total assets at December 31	4,380,657	53,419	4,434,076
Purchases of leasing equipment and investments in finance leases(2)	684,283	19,895	704,178

F-25

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 7—Segment and Geographic Information (Continued)

Year Ended December 31, 2014	Equipment Leasing	Equipment Trading	Totals
Total leasing revenues	\$581,421	\$12,585	\$594,006
Trading margin	—	7,190	7,190
Net gain on sale of leasing equipment	6,987	—	6,987
Depreciation and amortization expense	223,487	1,266	224,753
Interest and debt expense	107,050	2,215	109,265
Income before income taxes(1)	180,356	15,122	195,478
Equipment held for sale at December 31	28,906	30,955	59,861
Goodwill at December 31	73,523	1,000	74,523
Total assets at December 31	4,175,212	66,835	4,242,047
Purchases of leasing equipment and investments in finance leases(2)	668,028	2,501	670,529

  

Year Ended December 31, 2013	Equipment Leasing	Equipment Trading	Totals
Total leasing revenues	\$556,690	\$13,163	\$569,853
Trading margin	—	10,278	10,278
Net gain on sale of leasing equipment	26,751	—	26,751
Depreciation and amortization expense	203,157	1,916	205,073
Interest and debt expense	109,175	2,550	111,725
Income before income taxes(1)	198,210	17,708	215,918

(1) Segment income before income taxes excludes net losses on interest rate swaps of \$0.2 million, net losses on interest rate swaps of \$0.8 million, and net gains on interest swaps of \$8.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively, and the write-off of deferred financing costs of \$0.9 million, \$5.2 million, and \$4.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively.

(2) Represents cash disbursements for purchases of leasing equipment and investments in finance lease as reflected in the consolidated statements of cash flows for the periods indicated, but excludes cash flows associated with the purchase of equipment held for resale.

There are no intercompany revenues or expenses between segments. Additionally, certain administrative expenses have been allocated between segments based on an estimate of services provided to each segment. A portion of the Company's equipment purchased for resale was purchased through certain sale-leaseback transactions with our shipping line customers. Due to the expected longer term nature of these transactions, these purchases are reflected as leasing equipment as opposed to equipment held for sale and the cash flows associated with these transactions are and will be reflected as purchases of leasing equipment and proceeds from the sale of equipment in investing activities in the Company's consolidated statements of cash flows.



Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 7—Segment and Geographic Information (Continued)

## Geographic Segment Information

The Company earns its revenues from international containers which are deployed by its customers in a wide variety of global trade routes. Substantially all of the Company's leasing related revenue is denominated in U.S. dollars.

The following table represents the geographic allocation of equipment leasing revenues for the periods indicated based on customers' primary domicile (in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Total revenues:			
United States of America	\$42,602	\$34,206	\$32,506
Asia	286,209	274,467	247,353
Europe	264,147	263,723	265,845
Other International	15,046	21,610	24,149
Total	\$608,004	\$594,006	\$569,853

As all of the Company's containers are used internationally, where no one container is domiciled in one particular place for a prolonged period of time, substantially all of the Company's long-lived assets are considered to be international.

The following table represents the geographic allocation of equipment trading revenues for the periods indicated based on the location of sale (in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Total revenues:			
United States of America	\$11,393	\$8,724	\$7,719
Asia	26,993	26,794	39,965
Europe	12,227	17,946	11,964
Other International	11,582	2,972	13,356
Total	\$62,195	\$56,436	\$73,004

## Note 8—Net (Loss) Gain on Sale of Leasing Equipment

The net (loss) gain on sale of leasing equipment consists of the following (in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Impairment (loss) on equipment held for sale	\$(14,020)	) \$(4,326	) \$(1,838
Gain on sale of equipment-net of selling costs	374	11,313	28,589
Net (loss) gain on sale of leasing equipment	\$(13,646)	) \$6,987	\$26,751

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 9—Income Taxes

The following table sets forth the income tax expense for the periods indicated (in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Deferred taxes:			
Federal	\$47,954	\$65,020	\$76,761
State	412	587	1,105
Foreign	(133	) (146	) (167
Total	\$48,233	\$65,461	\$77,699

A reconciliation of the U.S. federal statutory income tax rate to the effective income tax rate is provided below:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Federal income taxes at the statutory rate	35.0	% 35.0	% 35.0
State income taxes (net of Federal income tax benefit)	0.2	0.2	0.3
Foreign income taxed at other than the Federal statutory rate	0.1	(0.1	) (0.1
Change in enacted tax rates(1)	—	(0.6	) (0.1
Effect of permanent differences and other, net	—	—	0.1
Effective income tax rate	35.3	% 34.5	% 35.2

Several states have enacted changes to their apportionment factors. These changes resulted in a decrease in the Company's overall effective tax rate for 2014. The Company adjusts its deferred tax assets and liabilities through income tax expense on the date which rate changes are enacted. Accordingly, the Company recorded a reduction of \$1.2 million in 2014 in income tax expense to reflect the impact of these changes in state apportionment factors.

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 9—Income Taxes (Continued)

Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are comprised of the following (in thousands):

	December 31,	
	2015	2014
Deferred income tax assets:		
Net operating loss carryforwards	\$ 192,139	\$ 134,329
Allowance for losses	827	959
Derivative instruments	10,147	7,556
Deferred income	8,561	9,230
Accrued liabilities and other	873	99
	212,547	152,173
Deferred income tax liabilities:		
Accelerated depreciation	650,027	542,447
Goodwill amortization	18,574	16,720
Derivative instruments	69	673
Other	—	3,340
	668,670	563,180
Net deferred income tax liability	\$ 456,123	\$ 411,007

The Company has U.S. Federal net operating loss carryforwards of approximately \$564 million at December 31, 2015. These losses will expire in 2026 through 2036. The Company has unrecognized excess tax benefits related to stock-based compensation costs of \$6.5 million that it expects to credit to stockholders' equity in future periods. The Company expects to fully utilize these losses to offset future taxable income that will be generated by the reversal of temporary differences, mainly accelerated depreciation, prior to their expiration. The Company continues to monitor changes in its stock ownership which can potentially trigger annual limitations to the amount of net operating losses that may be utilized in future years under Internal Revenue Code Section 382. The Company does not believe any of its net operating loss carryforwards are currently subject to Section 382 limitations.

The Company does not provide for U.S. federal income taxes on undistributed earnings from its U.K. subsidiary because it is the Company's policy to permanently reinvest its foreign earnings outside of the U.S. These foreign earnings could become subject to additional tax if they are loaned to the Company, remitted as dividends, or if the Company sells the stock of its U.K. subsidiary. It is not practicable to estimate the amount or timing of the additional tax, if any, that eventually might be paid on these foreign earnings. As of December 31, 2015 the Company's cumulative undistributed earnings were \$5.7 million.

In accordance with the requirement to determine if the Company has any unrecognized tax benefits, the Company has continued to evaluate all tax positions and has determined that the cumulative effect of any uncertain tax positions and resulting unrecognized tax benefits did not have a material effect on the Company's consolidated results of operations and financial position. As of January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015, the Company did not have any material unrecognized tax benefits. There were no increases or decreases in unrecognized tax benefits during the year resulting from prior period tax positions, current period tax positions, settlements with tax authorities or the lapse of any statute of limitations, and no material changes in unrecognized tax benefits are expected over the next twelve months. Accordingly, there is no impact to the Company's effective tax rate. Estimated interest and penalties related to potential underpayment on any unrecognized tax benefits would be classified as a component of tax expense in the consolidated statements of income. The Company has not recorded any interest or penalties associated with unrecognized tax benefits. The 2013, 2014, and 2015 tax years remain subject to examination by major tax jurisdictions.

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 10—Savings Plan

The Company's employees participate in a defined contribution plan generally covering all of its U.S. salaried employees. Under the provisions of the Plan, an employee is fully vested with respect to Company contributions after four years of service. The Company matches employee contributions up to 3% of qualified compensation and may, at its discretion, make voluntary contributions. Contributions for each of the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013 were approximately \$0.3 million.

## Note 11—Rental Income under Operating Leases

The following are the minimum future rentals at December 31, 2015 due to TAL under non-cancelable operating leases, assuming the minimum contractual lease term, of the Company's equipment (in thousands):

Years ending December 31,	
2016	\$352,666
2017	258,382
2018	200,269
2019	135,082
2020	89,343
2021 and thereafter	138,437
Total	\$1,174,179

## Note 12—Commitments and Contingencies

## Lease Commitments

The Company has cancelable and non-cancelable operating lease agreements principally for facilities and for equipment used in the Company's operations. Total rent expense was \$2.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively.

Future minimum rental commitments under non-cancelable operating leases at December 31, 2015 were as follows (in thousands):

Years ending December 31,	
2016	\$1,769
2017	1,294
2018	1,149
2019	1,996
2020 and thereafter	97
Total	\$6,305

F-30

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

Note 12—Commitments and Contingencies (Continued)

Residual Value Guarantees

During 2008, the Company entered into commitments for equipment residual value guarantees in connection with certain finance leases that were sold or brokered to financial institutions. The guarantees represent the Company's commitment that these assets will be worth a specified amount at the end of certain lease terms (if the lessee does not default on the lease) which expire in 2016. At December 31, 2015, the maximum potential amount of the guarantees under which the Company could be required to perform was approximately \$27.1 million. The carrying values of the guarantees of \$1.1 million have been deferred and are included in accounts payable and accrued expenses. Under the criteria established by ASC 820, the Company performed fair value measurements of the guarantees at origination using Level 2 inputs, which were based on significant other observable inputs other than quoted prices, either on a direct or indirect basis. The Company accounts for the residual value guarantees under Accounting Standards Codification 460, Guarantees. The Company expects that the market value of the equipment covered by the guarantees will equal or exceed the value of the guarantees and therefore, no contingent loss has been provided as of December 31, 2015.

Purchase Commitments

At December 31, 2015, the Company had commitments to purchase equipment in the amount of \$67.0 million payable in 2016.

Contingencies

The Company is party to various pending or threatened legal or regulatory proceedings arising in the ordinary course of its business. Based upon information presently available, management of the Company does not expect any liabilities arising from these matters to have a material effect on the consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows of the Company.

Indemnities

The revolving credit facility, ABS facilities, asset backed warehouse facility and term loan facilities contain standard provisions present in loans of these types which obligate the Company to reimburse the lenders thereunder for any increased costs associated with continuing to hold the loans thereunder on its books which arise as a result of broadly defined regulatory changes, including changes in reserve requirements and bank capital requirements. These indemnities would have the practical effect of increasing the interest rate on the Company's debt if they were to be triggered. In all cases, the Company has the right to repay the applicable loan and avoid the increased costs. The term of these indemnities matches the length of the related term of the applicable loan.

Table of Contents

TAL INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## Note 13—Selected Quarterly Financial Data (Unaudited)

The following table sets forth certain key interim financial information for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014:

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
	(In thousands, except per share amounts)			
2015				
Total leasing revenues	\$ 148,975	\$ 150,838	\$ 154,426	\$ 153,765
Trading margin	\$ 1,414	\$ 1,521	\$ 1,191	\$ 68
Net (loss) on sale of leasing equipment	\$(1,449 )	\$(660 )	\$(2,854 )	\$(8,683 )
Net income	\$25,757	\$26,670	\$22,511	\$13,274
Net income per basic common share	\$0.78	\$0.81	\$0.69	\$0.40
Net income per diluted common share	\$0.78	\$0.81	\$0.68	\$0.40
2014				
Total leasing revenues	\$ 144,767	\$ 144,723	\$ 150,524	\$ 153,992
Trading margin	\$ 1,648	\$ 2,215	\$ 1,713	\$ 1,614
Net gain on sale of leasing equipment	\$3,096	\$2,461	\$870	\$560
Net income	\$30,011	\$29,362	\$32,617	\$32,055
Net income per basic common share	\$0.89	\$0.87	\$0.97	\$0.97
Net income per diluted common share	\$0.89	\$0.87	\$0.97	\$0.96

## Note 14—Foreign Currency Activities

The Company recorded net foreign currency exchange losses of \$0.7 million, \$0.9 million, and \$0.4 million in the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013, respectively. The net foreign currency exchange losses resulted primarily from fluctuations in exchange rates related to the Company's Euro and Pound Sterling transactions and related assets and liabilities.

## Note 15—Subsequent Events

## Quarterly Dividend

On February 24, 2016, the Company's Board of Directors approved and declared a \$0.45 per share quarterly cash dividend on its issued and outstanding common stock, payable on March 24, 2016 to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 10, 2016.

## Debt Facilities

On January 20, 2016, TAL Advantage III LLC, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of TAL International Group, Inc., increased the credit limit on its asset backed warehouse credit facility from \$650 million to \$750 million. All other terms and conditions of the facility remain the same.

On February 5, 2016, TAL International Container Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of TAL International Group, Inc., as Borrower, entered into a Modification of Term Loan Agreement with SunTrust Bank, as Administrative Agent and Collateral Agent, and the lenders thereto to modify the Term Loan Agreement dated April 2, 2014 ("Term Loan Agreement") to make Incremental Loans in the aggregate amount of \$100 million. The Incremental Loans have the same maturity date and interest rate as the outstanding Term Loans and all other terms and conditions of the Term Loan Agreement remain the same. The proceeds will be used to finance the acquisition of equipment and for other general corporate purposes. After giving effect to such Incremental Loans, the unpaid principal balance of all the Term Loans made under the Term Loan Agreement is \$407,125,000 as of February 5, 2016.

Related to the above, TAL Advantage I LLC, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of TAL International Group, Inc., has also given notice to noteholders that it will repay in full the TAL Advantage I LLC Series 2005-1 Notes on February 11, 2016 and the TAL Advantage I LLC Series 2006-1 Notes on February 22, 2016.



Table of Contents

## SCHEDULE II

TAL International Group, Inc.

Valuation and Qualifying Accounts

Years ended December 31, 2015, 2014, and 2013

(In thousands)

	Beginning Balance	Additions/ (Reversals)	(Write-offs)/ Reversals	Other(a)	Ending Balance
Finance Lease-Allowance for doubtful accounts:					
For the year ended December 31, 2015	\$ 1,056	\$(251 )	\$—	\$—	\$ 805
For the year ended December 31, 2014	\$ 1,057	\$—	\$—	\$(1 )	\$ 1,056
For the year ended December 31, 2013	\$ 897	\$ 159	\$—	\$ 1	\$ 1,057
Accounts Receivable-Allowance for doubtful accounts:					
For the year ended December 31, 2015	\$ 978	\$ 385	\$(46 )	\$(3 )	\$ 1,314
For the year ended December 31, 2014	\$ 948	\$ 131	\$(99 )	\$(2 )	\$ 978
For the year ended December 31, 2013	\$ 692	\$ 299	\$(44 )	\$ 1	\$ 948
Allowance for equipment loss:					
For the year ended December 31, 2015	\$ 571	\$—	\$(364 )	\$—	\$ 207
For the year ended December 31, 2014	\$ 1,348	\$ 89	\$(866 )	\$—	\$ 571
For the year ended December 31, 2013	\$ 21	\$ 2,369	\$(1,046 )	\$ 4	\$ 1,348

(a) Primarily relates to the effect of foreign currency translation.