

## Risk Factors

Many factors could have an adverse effect on our financial condition, cash flows and results of operations. We are subject to various risks resulting from changing economic, environmental, political, industry, business, financial and climate conditions. The factors we consider most important are described below.

### ***Economic conditions in some of the countries where we operate may adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

The economic conditions in some of the countries where we operate have had and may continue to have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations throughout our operations worldwide. Our results of operations are highly dependent on the results of our operating subsidiaries in the United States, Mexico, South America and Western Europe. Despite measures taken by governments and central banks to address economic difficulties stemming from the global economic recession that began in late 2008, there is still a risk that these measures may not prevent the countries where we operate from experiencing future economic declines. The construction downturn has been more severe in countries that experienced the largest housing market expansion during the years of high credit availability (such as the United States, Spain, Ireland and the United Kingdom). Most government sponsored recovery efforts focus on fostering growth in demand from infrastructure projects. The infrastructure plans announced to date by many countries, including the United States and Mexico, may not stimulate economic growth or yield the expected results because of delays in implementation and/or bureaucratic issues, among other obstacles. A worsening of the economic crisis or delays in implementing any such plans could adversely affect demand for our products.

Recovery in the United States has been slow despite various measures taken by the federal government, including fiscal stimulus. The financial sector, in particular, has been slow to recover. Once the level of public stimulus decreases, it is possible that the private sector will be unable to sustain the U.S. recovery. Also, if the Federal Reserve removes extraordinary liquidity too late (given macroeconomic conditions) from the U.S. economy, such action could prompt an increase in inflationary expectations, capital outflows, a disorderly increase of interest rates and an economic recession. The U.S. economy could still be affected by uncertainty related to the fiscal adjustment and concerns that investments and expenditures will be postponed or canceled. Recovery in the housing sector, which, as of the date of this annual report, is driving demand for cement and building materials in the United States, could stall if recent employment gains falter. Infrastructure spending is dependent upon state fiscal results and political agreements being reached at the federal level.

A contraction of the Mexican economy or a decline in the Mexican construction or housing sectors would have an adverse effect on demand for our products and could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition. Mexico's dependence on the U.S. economy remains very significant and, therefore, any downturn in the economic outlook of the United States may hinder economic growth in Mexico. Exchange rate depreciation and/or volatility in the markets would adversely affect our operational and financial results. Large capital inflows, which are driven by accommodative monetary policies in advanced countries, and the search for higher returns on investments, can generate financial instability through credit booms and asset price bubbles, dampening future economic growth. A reversal of capital inflows resulting from a spike in risk aversion, or when advanced economies begin exiting their accommodative monetary policy, could have adverse effects on the Mexican economy generally and our financial results.

Euro area countries, particularly countries in the periphery, have faced a difficult economic environment due to the sovereign, institutional and financial crises. Although progress has been made through policy actions that are essential to reestablish the consistency of the Euro area (European Central Bank support, banking union, further fiscal integration), stability in the Euro area is still fragile and relevant details of such policies are still in the initial phases. Once these policies are decided, they will still need to be legislated and implemented. Delays and/or incomplete steps could trigger the erosion of incipient market confidence and our financial condition and results of operations could be further affected. Austerity measures being implemented by most European countries could result in larger than expected declines in infrastructure construction activity and demand for our

products. Weaker than expected economic growth and worsening financial conditions could negatively affect residential and private non-residential construction. The risks are more pronounced in those countries with a higher degree of previous market distortions (especially those experiencing real estate bubbles and durable goods overhangs prior to the crisis), such as Spain. In these countries, the adjustment process has been particularly painful and slow, given the severe fiscal constraints, the need for households to repair their balance sheets and the limitations on credit institutions that are in the process of deleveraging. Because of this, the residential adjustment could last longer than anticipated, while non-residential construction could experience a sharper decline than expected. At the same time, social risk in these countries (associated with austerity fatigue) could also negatively affect their economies, which could adversely affect demand for our products and, as a consequence, adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. Moreover, a default by a Eurozone country on their debt or their exit from the Euro could have a negative affect not only on the country, but also on the rest of Europe, which could adversely affect demand for our products and, as a consequence, adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. In the UK, economic recovery is proceeding very slowly despite the sizable monetary stimulus. The UK's exposure to financial market distress (given the weight of the financial sector in its economy) is significant. The significant trade links that Eastern European countries have with Western Europe make some of them susceptible to the Western European recession and political problems. The risk of spillover of financial and economic problems from one country to another is significant. Large financing needs in these countries also represent a significant vulnerability. Central European economies could face cuts in European Union Structural Funds (funds provided by the European Union to member states with the lowest national incomes per capita) in coming years that are larger than those currently being discussed in the European Parliament.

The Central and South American economies are also exposed to the risk of a decrease in overall economic activity. A new financial downturn, lower exports to the United States and Europe, lower remittances and lower commodity prices could represent an important risk for the region in the short term. This may translate into greater economic and financial volatility and lower growth rates, which could have a material adverse effect on demand and/or prices for our products, thereby adversely affecting our business and results of operations. The region is also receiving strong capital inflows associated with the excess of global liquidity, so the risk of asset bubbles, credit booms and economic overheating is also present, as well as the risk of a sudden reversal of flows. Political or economic volatility in the South American, Central American or the Caribbean countries in which we have operations may also have a negative impact on prices and demand for our products, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The Asia-Pacific region will likely be negatively affected if the economic landscape further deteriorates. Increased country risk and/or decreased confidence among global investors would also limit capital inflows and investments in the Asian region. A decline in Chinese economic growth (due to a disorderly correction of its imbalances or otherwise) would have negative spillover effects on the region. In the Middle East region, lower oil revenues and political risk could moderate economic growth and adversely affect construction investments. In Egypt, political instability and social risk persist. The uncertainty caused by this could dampen overall economic activity in Egypt, negatively affecting demand for building materials. Egypt's large financial needs and the impediments to accessing financial support from multilateral institutions (due to the necessity for unpopular economic measures) could trigger a disorderly depreciation of the exchange rate. In addition, Egypt is subject to risks created by legal uncertainty.

Demand for our products is highly related to construction levels and depends, in large part, on residential and commercial construction activity as well as private and public infrastructure spending in the countries where we operate. Declines in the construction industry are correlated with declines in economic conditions. As a result, a deterioration in economic conditions in the countries where we operate could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, we cannot assure you that growth in the GDP of the countries where we operate will translate into a correlated increase in demand for our products.

If the economies of certain major countries where we operate were to continue to deteriorate and fall into an even deeper and longer lasting recession, or even a depression, our business, financial condition and results of operations would be adversely affected.

***Concerns regarding the European debt crisis and market perception concerning the instability of the Euro could affect our operating profits.***

We conduct business in many countries that use the Euro as their currency, or the Eurozone. Concerns persist regarding the debt burden of certain Eurozone countries and their ability to meet future financial obligations, the overall stability of the Euro and the suitability of the Euro as a single currency given the diverse economic and political circumstances in individual Eurozone countries.

These concerns could lead to the reintroduction of individual currencies in one or more Eurozone countries, or in more extreme circumstances, the possible dissolution of the Euro currency entirely. Should the Euro dissolve entirely, the legal and contractual consequences for holders of Euro-denominated obligations would be determined by laws in effect at such time. These potential developments, or market perceptions concerning these and related issues, could adversely affect the value of our Euro-denominated assets and obligations. In addition, concerns over the effect of this financial crisis on financial institutions in Europe and globally could have an adverse effect on the global capital markets, and more specifically on our ability, and the ability of our customers, suppliers and lenders to finance their respective businesses, to access liquidity at acceptable financing costs, if at all, and on the demand for our products.

Significant reductions in or changes to the U.S. federal government's budget or its spending priorities from one period to another, including the potential impact of a sequestration, could adversely affect our customers' and their demand for our products and services and could therefore materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We are subject to the effects of general global economic and market conditions that are beyond our control. If these conditions remain challenging or deteriorate, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially adversely affected. Possible consequences from macroeconomic global challenges such as the debt crisis in certain countries in the European Union or slowing economies in parts of Asia, or the impact of continuing uncertainty associated with the budget "sequestration" in the U.S. federal government on our business, including insolvency of key suppliers resulting in product delays, inability of customers to obtain credit to finance purchases of our products, customer insolvencies and increased risk that customers may delay payments, fail to pay or default on credit extended to them, could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

***The Facilities Agreement contains several restrictions and covenants. Our failure to comply with such restrictions and covenants could have a material adverse effect on us.***

The Facilities Agreement requires us to comply with several financial ratios and tests, including a consolidated coverage ratio of EBITDA to consolidated interest expense, for each period of four consecutive fiscal quarters (measured semi-annually), of not less than (i) 1.50:1 from the period ending December 31, 2012 up to and including the period ending June 30, 2014, (ii) 1.75:1 from the period ending December 31, 2014 up to and including the period ending June 30, 2015, (iii) 1.85:1 for the period ending December 31, 2015, (iv) 2.00:1 for the period ending June 30, 2016 and (v) 2.25:1 for the period of four consecutive fiscal quarters ending December 31, 2016. In addition, the Facilities Agreement allows us a maximum consolidated leverage ratio of total debt (including the Perpetual Debentures) to EBITDA for each period of four consecutive fiscal quarters (measured semi-annually) not to exceed (i) 7.00:1 for each period from the period ending December 31, 2012 up to and including the period ending December 31, 2013, (ii) 6.75:1 for the period ending June 31, 2014, (iii) 6.5:1 for the period ending December 31, 2014, (iv) 6.00:1 for the period ending June 30, 2015, (v) 5.50:1 for the period ending December 31, 2015, (vi) 5.00:1 for the period ending June 30, 2016 and (vii) 4.25:1 for the period ending December 31, 2016. Our ability to comply with these ratios may be affected by economic conditions and volatility in foreign exchange rates, as well as by overall conditions in the financial and capital markets. For the period ended December 31, 2012, we reported to the lenders under the Facilities Agreement a consolidated coverage ratio of 2.10:1 and a consolidated leverage ratio of 5.44:1, each as calculated pursuant to the Facilities

## Table of Contents

Agreement. Pursuant to the Facilities Agreement, we are prohibited from making aggregate annual capital expenditures in excess of U.S.\$800 million (excluding certain capital expenditures, and joint venture investments and acquisitions by CEMEX Latam and its subsidiaries, which capital expenditures, joint venture investments and acquisitions at any time then incurred are subject to a separate aggregate limit of U.S.\$350 million (or its equivalent)).

We are also subject to a number of negative covenants that, among other things, restrict or limit our ability to: (i) create liens; (ii) incur additional debt; (iii) change our business or the business of any obligor or material subsidiary (in each case, as defined in the Facilities Agreement); (iv) enter into mergers; (v) enter into agreements that restrict our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends or repay intercompany debt; (vi) acquire assets; (vii) enter into or invest in joint venture agreements; (viii) dispose of certain assets; (ix) grant additional guarantees or indemnities; (x) declare or pay cash dividends or make share redemptions; (xi) issue shares; (xii) enter into certain derivatives transactions; (xiii) exercise any call option in relation to any perpetual bonds we issue unless the exercise of the call options does not have a materially negative impact on our cash flow; and (xiv) transfer assets from subsidiaries or more than 10% of shares in subsidiaries into or out of CEMEX España or its subsidiaries if those assets or subsidiaries are not controlled by CEMEX España or any of its subsidiaries.

The Facilities Agreement also contains a number of affirmative covenants that, among other things, require us to provide periodic financial information to the participating creditors. Pursuant to the Facilities Agreement, however, a number of those covenants and restrictions will automatically cease to apply or become less restrictive if (i) our consolidated leverage ratio for the two most recently completed semi-annual testing periods is less than or equal to 3.50:1; and (ii) no default under the Facilities Agreement is continuing. Restrictions that will cease to apply when we satisfy such conditions include the capital expenditure limitations mentioned above and several negative covenants, including limitations on our ability to declare or pay cash dividends and distributions to shareholders, limitations on our ability to repay existing financial indebtedness, certain asset sale restrictions, the quarterly cash balance sweep, certain mandatory prepayment provisions, and restrictions on exercising call options in relation to any perpetual bonds we issue (provided that creditors will continue to receive the benefit of any restrictive covenants that other creditors receive relating to other financial indebtedness of ours in excess of U.S.\$75 million). At such time, several baskets and caps relating to negative covenants will also increase, including permitted financial indebtedness, permitted guarantees and limitations on liens. However, we cannot assure you that we will be able to meet the conditions for these restrictions to cease to apply prior to the final maturity date under the Facilities Agreement.

The Facilities Agreement contains events of default, some of which may be outside our control. Such events of default include defaults based on (i) non-payment of principal, interest, or fees when due; (ii) material inaccuracy of representations and warranties; (iii) breach of covenants; (iv) bankruptcy (*quiebra*) or insolvency (*concurso mercantil*) of CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V., any other borrower under the Facilities Agreement or any other of our material subsidiaries (as defined in the Facilities Agreement); (v) inability to pay debts as they fall due or by reason of actual financial difficulties, suspension or threatened suspension of payments on debts exceeding U.S.\$50 million or commencement of negotiations to reschedule debt exceeding U.S.\$50 million; (vi) a cross-default in relation to financial indebtedness in excess of U.S.\$50 million; (vii) a change of control with respect to CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.; (viii) certain changes to the ownership of any of our subsidiary obligors under the Facilities Agreement, unless the proceeds of such disposal are used to prepay Facilities Agreement debt; (ix) enforcement of the share security; (x) final judgments or orders in excess of U.S.\$50 million that are neither discharged nor bonded in full within 60 days thereafter; (xi) any restrictions not already in effect as of September 17, 2012 limiting transfers of foreign exchange by any obligor for purposes of performing material obligations under the Facilities Agreement; (xii) any material adverse change arising in the financial condition of CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V. and each of its subsidiaries, taken as a whole, which more than 66.67% of the Facilities Agreement creditors determine would result in our failure, taken as a whole, to perform payment obligations under the Facilities Agreement; and (xiii) failure to comply with laws or our obligations under the Facilities Agreement cease to be legal. If an event of default occurs and is continuing, upon the authorization of 66.67% of

## Table of Contents

the Facilities Agreement creditors, the creditors have the ability to accelerate all outstanding amounts due under the Facilities Agreement. Acceleration is automatic in the case of insolvency.

We cannot assure you that we will be able to comply with the restrictive covenants and limitations contained in the Facilities Agreement. Our failure to comply with such covenants and limitations could result in an event of default, which could materially and adversely affect our business and financial condition.

***If we are unable to comply with the milestones for addressing the maturities of certain indebtedness pursuant to the Facilities Agreement, the maturity date of our indebtedness under the Facilities Agreement will automatically reset, or "spring-back," to earlier dates.***

The Facilities Agreement requires us to (a) on or before March 5, 2014, redeem, purchase, repurchase, refinance or extend the maturity date of 100% of the Eurobonds to a maturity date falling after December 31, 2017, or the maturity date of the indebtedness under the Facilities Agreement will become March 5, 2014, (b) on or before March 15, 2015, redeem, convert into equity, purchase, repurchase, refinance or extend the maturity date of 100% of the 2010 Optional Convertible Subordinated Notes to a maturity date falling after December 31, 2017, or the maturity date of the indebtedness under the Facilities Agreement will become March 15, 2015, (c) on or before September 30, 2015, redeem or extend the maturity date of 100% of the April 2011 Notes to a maturity date falling after December 31, 2017, or the maturity date of the indebtedness under the Facilities Agreement will become September 30, 2015, (d) on or before March 15, 2016, redeem, convert into equity, purchase, repurchase, refinance or extend the maturity date of 100% of the 3.25% Convertible Subordinated Notes due 2016 issued by CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V. to a maturity date falling after December 31, 2017, or the maturity date of the indebtedness under the Facilities Agreement will become March 15, 2016, and (e) on or before December 14, 2016, redeem or extend the maturity date of 100% of the December 2009 Notes to a maturity date falling after December 31, 2017, or the maturity date of the indebtedness under the Facilities Agreement will become December 14, 2016.

We cannot assure you that we will be able to meet any or all of the above milestones for redeeming, converting into equity, purchasing, repurchasing or extending the maturities of our indebtedness. Failure to meet any of these milestones will result in a spring-back of the maturity date of our indebtedness under the Facilities Agreement, and we cannot assure you that at such time we will be able to repay such indebtedness.

***We pledged the capital stock of subsidiaries that represent substantially all of our business as collateral to secure our payment obligations under the Facilities Agreement, the Senior Secured Notes and other financing arrangements.***

As part of the Facilities Agreement, we pledged under pledge agreements or transferred to a trustee under a security trust, as collateral, the Collateral, and all proceeds of the Collateral to secure our payment obligations under the Facilities Agreement and under a number of other financing arrangements for the benefit of the creditors and holders of debt and other obligations that benefit from provisions in their instruments requiring that their obligations be equally and ratably secured. As of December 31, 2012, as adjusted to give effect to the issuance of the March 2013 Notes, the Eurobond Tender Offer and the prepayment of the 2009 Financing Agreement, the Collateral and all proceeds of such Collateral secured (i) Ps174,805 million (U.S.\$13,603 million) (principal amount Ps177,060 million (U.S.\$13,779 million) aggregate principal amount of debt under the Facilities Agreement and other financing arrangements and (ii) Ps9,078 million (U.S.\$706 million) aggregate principal amount of Perpetual Notes, which includes debt of ours held by us. These subsidiaries collectively own, directly or indirectly, substantially all of our operations worldwide. Provided that no default has occurred which is continuing under the Facilities Agreement, the Collateral will be released automatically if we meet specified debt reduction and financial covenant targets.

***We have a substantial amount of debt and other financial obligations maturing in the next several years. If we are unable to secure refinancing on favorable terms or at all, we may not be able to comply with our upcoming payment obligations. Our ability to comply with our principal maturities and financial covenants may depend on us making asset sales, and there is no assurance that we will be able to execute such sales on terms favorable to us or at all.***

As of December 31, 2012, as adjusted to give effect to the issuance of the March 2013 Notes, the Eurobond Tender Offer and the prepayment of the 2009 Financing Agreement, our total debt plus other financial obligations were Ps221,971 million (U.S.\$17,274 million) (principal amount Ps230,863 million (U.S.\$17,966 million)), which does not include approximately Ps6,078 million (U.S.\$473 million) of Perpetual Debentures, but which does include our debt subject to the Facilities Agreement, which was approximately Ps52,406 million (U.S.\$4,078 million) (principal amount Ps53,798 million (U.S.\$4,187 million)). Of such total debt plus other financial obligations amount, approximately Ps5,140 million (U.S.\$400 million) (principal amount Ps4,947 million (U.S.\$385 million)) matures during 2014; Ps21,164 million (U.S.\$1,647 million) (principal amount Ps21,806 million (U.S.\$1,697 million)) matures during 2015; Ps33,654 million (U.S.\$2,619 million) (principal amount Ps35,350 million (U.S.\$2,751 million)) matures during 2016; Ps62,425 million (U.S.\$4,858 million) (principal amount Ps63,543 million (U.S.\$4,945 million)) matures during 2017 (including the remainder of the principal amount of debt under the Facilities Agreement) and Ps92,006 million (U.S.\$7,160 million) (principal amount Ps97,840 million (U.S.\$7,614 million)) matures after 2017. Additionally, as described above, if we are unable to comply with the milestones for addressing the maturities of certain indebtedness pursuant to the Facilities Agreement, the maturity date of our indebtedness under the Facilities Agreement will automatically spring-back to earlier dates.

If we are unable to comply with our upcoming principal maturities under our indebtedness or any milestones for addressing the maturities of certain indebtedness pursuant to the Facilities Agreement, or refinance or extend maturities of our indebtedness, our debt could be accelerated or the maturity date could spring-back. Acceleration of our debt or a spring-back of a maturity date would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition.

Although we have successfully refinanced a substantial portion of our debt maturing in 2014, our ability to comply with our financial covenants and payment obligations under the Facilities Agreement and other indebtedness, in the event we are unable to refinance our maturities or generate sufficient cash flow from operations, may depend on asset sales, and there is no assurance that we will be able to execute such sales on terms favorable to us or at all.

As a result of the restrictions under the Facilities Agreement and other debt instruments, the current global economic environment and uncertain market conditions, we may not be able to complete asset sales on terms that we find economically attractive or at all. Volatility in the credit and capital markets could significantly affect us due to its effect on the availability of funds to potential acquiring parties, including industry peers. In addition, high levels of consolidation in our industry in some jurisdictions may further limit potential assets sales to interested parties due to antitrust considerations. If we are unable to complete asset sales and our cash flow or capital resources prove inadequate, we could face liquidity problems and may not be able to comply with financial covenants and payment obligations under our indebtedness.

In addition, our levels of debt, contractual restrictions, and our need to deleverage may limit our planning flexibility and our ability to react to changes in our business and the industry, and may place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to competitors who may have lower leverage ratios and fewer contractual restrictions. There can also be no assurance that, because of our high leverage ratio and contractual restrictions, we will be able to maintain our operating margins and deliver financial results comparable to the results obtained in the past under similar economic conditions.

***We may not be able to generate sufficient cash to service all of our indebtedness or satisfy our short-term liquidity needs, and we may be forced to take other actions to satisfy our obligations under our indebtedness and our short-term liquidity needs, which may not be successful.***

Historically, we have addressed our liquidity needs (including funds required to make scheduled principal and interest payments, refinance debt, and fund working capital and planned capital expenditures) with operating cash flow, borrowings under credit facilities and receivables and inventory financing facilities, proceeds of debt and equity offerings and proceeds from asset sales.

As of December 31, 2012, we had U.S.\$662 million funded under our securitization programs in the United States, France (which incorporated the sale of trade receivables in the United Kingdom) and Mexico. We cannot assure you that, going forward, we will be able to roll over or renew these programs, which could adversely affect our liquidity.

The continued weakness of the global economic environment and its adverse effects on our operating results may negatively affect our credit rating and the market value of our common stock, our CPOs and our ADSs. If current economic pressures continue or worsen, we may be dependent on the issuance of equity as a source to repay our existing indebtedness, including indebtedness under the Facilities Agreement. Although we have been able to raise debt, equity and equity-linked capital in the recent past, previous conditions in the capital markets in 2008 and 2009 were such that traditional sources of capital were not available to us on reasonable terms or at all. As a result, we cannot assure you that we will be able to successfully raise additional debt or equity capital on terms that are favorable to us or at all.

The Facilities Agreement restricts us from incurring additional debt, subject to a number of exceptions. The limitation on incurrence of debt covenant under the Facilities Agreement permits us to incur a liquidity facility or facilities in an amount not to exceed U.S.\$400 million. In addition, the Facilities Agreement requires (i) proceeds from asset disposals, incurrences of debt and issuances of equity and excess cash flow to be applied to the prepayment of the indebtedness under the Facilities Agreement, subject to our right to retain cash on hand up to U.S.\$625 million in the first three quarters of any fiscal year and U.S.\$725 million in the fourth quarter of any fiscal year, including the amount of undrawn commitments of a permitted liquidity facility or facilities (unless the proceeds are used to refinance existing indebtedness on the terms set forth in the Facilities Agreement), and (ii) proceeds reserved from asset disposals, permitted refinancings and cash on hand to be applied to the repayment of indebtedness under the Facilities Agreement and of other indebtedness as permitted under the Facilities Agreement.

We and our subsidiaries have sought and obtained waivers and amendments to several of our debt instruments relating to a number of financial ratios in the past. Our ability to comply with these ratios may be affected by current global economic conditions and volatility in foreign exchange rates and the financial and capital markets. We may need to seek waivers or amendments in the future. However, we cannot assure you that any future waivers or amendments, if requested, will be obtained. If we or our subsidiaries are unable to comply with the provisions of our debt instruments, and are unable to obtain a waiver or amendment, the indebtedness outstanding under such debt instruments could be accelerated. Acceleration of these debt instruments would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition.

If the global economic environment deteriorates further and our operating results worsen significantly, if we were unable to complete debt or equity offerings or if our planned divestitures and/or our cash flow or capital resources prove inadequate, we could face liquidity problems and may not be able to comply with our upcoming principal payments under our indebtedness or refinance our indebtedness.



***The indentures governing the Senior Secured Notes and the terms of our other indebtedness impose significant operating and financial restrictions, which may prevent us from capitalizing on business opportunities and may impede our ability to refinance our debt and the debt of our subsidiaries.***

As of December 31, 2012, as adjusted to give effect to the issuance of the March 2013 Notes, the Eurobond Tender Offer and the prepayment of the 2009 Financing Agreement, there were U.S.\$8,697 million and €645 million aggregate principal amount of Senior Secured Notes outstanding under the indentures governing such notes, excluding those held by us. The indentures governing the Senior Secured Notes and the other instruments governing our consolidated indebtedness impose significant operating and financial restrictions on us. These restrictions will limit our ability, among other things, to: (i) incur debt; (ii) pay dividends on stock; (iii) redeem stock or redeem subordinated debt; (iv) make investments; (v) sell assets, including capital stock of subsidiaries; (vi) guarantee indebtedness; (vii) enter into agreements that restrict dividends or other distributions from restricted subsidiaries; (viii) enter into transactions with affiliates; (ix) create or assume liens; (x) engage in mergers or consolidations; and (xi) enter into a sale of all or substantially all of our assets.

These restrictions could limit our ability to seize attractive growth opportunities for our businesses that are currently unforeseeable, particularly if we are unable to incur financing or make investments to take advantage of these opportunities.

These restrictions may significantly impede our ability, and the ability of our subsidiaries, to develop and implement refinancing plans in respect of our debt or the debt of our subsidiaries.

Most of the covenants are subject to a number of important exceptions and qualifications. The breach of any of these covenants could result in a default under the indentures governing the Senior Secured Notes, as well as certain other existing debt obligations, as a result of the cross-default provisions contained in the instruments governing such debt obligations. In the event of a default under the indentures governing the Senior Secured Notes, holders of the Senior Secured Notes could seek to declare all amounts outstanding under such Senior Secured Notes, together with accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to be immediately due and payable. If the indebtedness under the Senior Secured Notes, or certain other existing debt obligations were to be accelerated, we cannot assure you that our assets would be sufficient to repay in full that indebtedness or our other indebtedness.

Furthermore, upon the occurrence of any event of default under the Facilities Agreement, or other credit facilities or any of our other debt, the lenders could elect to declare all amounts outstanding thereunder, together with accrued interest, to be immediately due and payable. If the lenders accelerate payment of those amounts, we cannot assure you that our assets would be sufficient to repay in full those amounts or to satisfy our other liabilities.

In addition, in connection with the entry into new financings or amendments to existing financing arrangements, our and our subsidiaries' financial and operational flexibility may be further reduced as a result of more restrictive covenants, requirements for security and other terms that are often imposed on sub-investment grade entities.

***CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s ability to repay debt and pay dividends depends on our subsidiaries' ability to transfer income and dividends to us.***

CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V. is a holding company with no significant assets other than the stock of its direct and indirect subsidiaries and its holdings of cash and marketable securities. In general, CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s ability to repay debt and pay dividends depends on the continued transfer to it of dividends and other income from its wholly-owned and non-wholly-owned subsidiaries. The ability of CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s subsidiaries to pay dividends and make other transfers to it is limited by various regulatory, contractual and legal constraints. The Facilities Agreement restricts CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s ability to declare or pay cash dividends. In addition, the indentures governing the Senior Secured Notes also limit CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s ability to pay dividends.



The ability of CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s subsidiaries to pay dividends, and make loans and other transfers to it is generally subject to various regulatory, legal and economic limitations. Depending on the jurisdiction of organization of the relevant subsidiary, such limitations may include solvency and legal reserve requirements, dividend payment restrictions based on interim financial results or minimum net worth and withholding taxes on loan interest payments. For example, our subsidiaries in Mexico are subject to Mexican legal requirements, which provide that a corporation may declare and pay dividends only out of the profits reflected in the year-end financial statements that are or have been approved by its stockholders. In addition, such payment can be approved by a subsidiary's stockholders only after the creation of a required legal reserve (equal to one fifth of the relevant company's capital) and compensation or absorption of losses, if any, incurred by such subsidiary in previous fiscal years.

CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V. may also be subject to exchange controls on remittances by its subsidiaries from time to time in a number of jurisdictions. In addition, CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s ability to receive funds from these subsidiaries may be restricted by covenants in the debt instruments and other contractual obligations of those entities.

CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V. currently does not expect that existing regulatory, legal and economic restrictions on its subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends and make loans and other transfers to it will negatively affect its ability to meet its cash obligations. However, the jurisdictions of organization of CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s subsidiaries may impose additional and more restrictive regulatory, legal and/or economic limitations. In addition, CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s subsidiaries may not be able to generate sufficient income to pay dividends or make loans or other transfers to it in the future. Any material additional future limitations on our subsidiaries could adversely affect CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s ability to service our debt and meet its other cash obligations.

***We are subject to restrictions due to non-controlling interests in our consolidated subsidiaries.***

We conduct our business through subsidiaries. In some cases, third-party shareholders hold non-controlling interests in these subsidiaries. Various disadvantages may result from the participation of non-controlling shareholders whose interests may not always be aligned with ours. Some of these disadvantages may, among other things, result in our inability to implement organizational efficiencies and transfer cash and assets from one subsidiary to another in order to allocate assets most effectively.

***We have to service our debt and other financial obligations denominated in U.S. Dollars with revenues generated in Mexican Pesos or other currencies, as we do not generate sufficient revenue in U.S. Dollars from our operations to service all our debt and other financial obligations denominated in U.S. Dollars. This could adversely affect our ability to service our obligations in the event of a devaluation or depreciation in the value of the Peso, or any of the other currencies of the countries in which we operate, compared to the U.S. Dollar. In addition, our consolidated reported results and outstanding indebtedness are significantly affected by fluctuations in exchange rates between the Peso and other currencies.***

A substantial portion of our total debt plus other financial obligations is denominated in U.S. Dollars. As of December 31, 2012, as adjusted to give effect to the issuance of the March 2013 Notes, the Eurobond Tender Offer and the prepayment of the 2009 Financing Agreement, our debt and other financial obligations denominated in U.S. Dollars represented approximately 83% of our total debt plus other financial obligations, which does not include approximately U.S.\$389 million of U.S. Dollar-denominated Perpetual Debentures. Our U.S. Dollar-denominated debt must be serviced with funds generated by our subsidiaries. Although we have substantial U.S. operations, we continue to rely on our non-U.S. assets to generate revenues to service our U.S. Dollar-denominated debt. Consequently, we have to use revenues generated in Mexican Pesos, Euros or other currencies to service our U.S. Dollar-denominated obligations. See "Item 5—Operating and Financial Review and Prospects—Qualitative and Quantitative Market Disclosure—Interest Rate Risk, Foreign Currency Risk and Equity Risk—Foreign Currency Risk." A devaluation or depreciation in the value of the Peso, Euro, Pound or any of the other currencies of the countries in which we operate, compared to the U.S. Dollar, could

adversely affect our ability to service our debt. In 2012, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, the rest of Northern Europe region (which includes our subsidiaries in Ireland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Poland, Hungary and Latvia, and which we refer to as our Rest of Northern Europe region), Spain, Egypt, the rest of the Mediterranean region (which includes our subsidiaries in Croatia, the UAE and Israel, and which we refer to as our Rest of the Mediterranean region) and Colombia, which are our main non-U.S. Dollar-denominated operations, together generated approximately 62% of our total net sales in Peso terms (approximately 21%, 7%, 7%, 6%, 6%, 2%, 3%, 4% and 6%, respectively) before eliminations resulting from consolidation. In 2012, approximately 19% of our net sales in Peso terms were generated in the United States. During 2012, the Peso appreciated approximately 8% against the U.S. Dollar, the Euro appreciated approximately 2% against the Dollar and the Pound appreciated approximately 4% against the U.S. Dollar. If we enter into currency hedges in the future, these may not be effective in covering all our currency-related risks. Our consolidated reported results for any period and our outstanding indebtedness as of any date are significantly affected by fluctuations in exchange rates between the Peso and other currencies, as those fluctuations influence the amount of our indebtedness when translated into Mexican Pesos and also result in foreign exchange gains and losses as well as gains and losses on derivative contracts, including those entered into to hedge our exchange rate exposure.

In addition, as of December 31, 2012, as adjusted to give effect to the issuance of the March 2013 Notes, the Eurobond Tender Offer and the prepayment of the 2009 Financing Agreement, our Euro-denominated total debt plus other financial obligations represented approximately 12% of our total debt plus other financial obligations, which does not include the approximately €64 million aggregate principal amount of Euro-denominated Perpetual Debentures.

***Our use of derivative financial instruments has negatively affected our operations, especially in volatile and uncertain markets.***

We have used, and may continue to use, derivative financial instruments to manage the risk profile associated with interest rates and currency exposure of our debt, to reduce our financing costs, to access alternative sources of financing and to hedge some of our financial risks. However, we cannot assure you that our use of such instruments will allow us to achieve these objectives due to the inherent risks in any derivatives transaction. The Facilities Agreement and other debt instruments significantly restrict our ability to enter into derivative transactions.

As of December 31, 2012, our derivative financial instruments that had a potential impact on other financial income (expense) consisted of equity forward contracts on third-party shares and equity derivatives on shares of CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V. (including our capped call transactions in connection with the 2010 Optional Convertible Subordinated Notes and the 2011 Optional Convertible Subordinated Notes, as well as the conversion options embedded in these notes), a forward instrument over the Total Return Index of the Mexican Stock Exchange, and interest rate derivatives related to energy projects.

Most derivative financial instruments are subject to margin calls in case the threshold set by the counterparties is exceeded. The cash required to cover margin calls in several scenarios may be substantial and may reduce the funds available to us for our operations or other capital needs. The mark-to-market changes in some of our derivative financial instruments are reflected in our statement of operations, which could introduce volatility in our controlling interest net loss and our related ratios. For the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2012, the recognition of changes in the fair value of derivative financial instruments during the applicable period represented a net loss of approximately Ps329 million (U.S.\$26 million) and a net loss of approximately Ps98 million (U.S.\$8 million), respectively. In the current environment, the creditworthiness of our counterparties may deteriorate substantially, preventing them from honoring their obligations to us. We maintain equity derivatives that in a number of scenarios may require us to cover margin calls that could reduce our cash availability. If we enter into new derivative financial instruments, or with respect to our existing derivative financial instruments (including our outstanding equity derivative positions), we may incur net losses from our derivative financial instruments. See notes 2L, 16B, 16D and 16E to our 2012 audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report.

***We may fail to obtain or renew or may experience material delays in obtaining requisite governmental approvals, licenses and permits for the conduct of our business.***

We require various approvals, licenses, permits and certificates in the conduct of our business. We cannot assure you that we will not encounter significant problems in obtaining new or renewing existing approvals, licenses, permits and certificates required in the conduct of our business, or that we will continue to satisfy the conditions to which such approvals, licenses, permits and certificates are granted. There may also be delays on the part of regulatory and administrative bodies in reviewing our applications and granting approvals. If we fail to obtain and/or maintain the necessary approvals, licenses, permits and certificates required for the conduct of our business, we may be required to incur substantial costs or temporarily suspend the operation of one or more of our production facilities, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

***We may not be able to realize the expected benefits from acquisitions, some of which may have a material impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

Our ability to realize the expected benefits from acquisitions depends, in large part, on our ability to integrate acquired operations with our existing operations in a timely and effective manner. These efforts may not be successful. Although we may seek to dispose of assets to reduce our overall leverage and the Facilities Agreement and other debt instruments restrict our ability to acquire assets, we may in the future acquire new operations and integrate such operations into our existing operations, and some of such acquisitions may have a material impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations. We cannot assure you that we will be successful in identifying or acquiring suitable assets in the future. If we fail to achieve the anticipated cost savings from any acquisitions, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

***Higher energy and fuel costs may have a material adverse effect on our operating results.***

Our operations consume significant amounts of power and fuel, the cost of which has significantly increased worldwide in recent years. Power and fuel prices generally reflect a certain volatility, particularly in times of political turbulence in Iran, Iraq and other countries in the Middle East and Africa, such as has been recently experienced. We cannot assure you that our operations would not be materially adversely affected in the future if energy and fuel costs increase.

In addition, if our efforts to increase our use of alternative fuels are unsuccessful, we would be required to use traditional fuels, which would increase our energy and fuel costs and could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***The introduction of substitutes for cement, concrete or aggregates into the market and the development of new construction techniques could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

Materials such as plastic, aluminum, ceramics, glass, wood and steel can be used in construction as a substitute for cement, concrete or aggregates. In addition, other construction techniques, such as the use of dry wall, could decrease the demand for cement, concrete and/or aggregates. Further, research aimed at developing new construction techniques and modern materials may introduce new products in the future that reduce the demand for cement, concrete and/or aggregates. The use of substitutes for cement, concrete or aggregates could cause a significant reduction in the demand and prices for our products.

***We operate in highly competitive markets and if we do not compete effectively, our results of operations will be harmed.***

The markets in which we operate are highly competitive and are served by a variety of established companies with recognized brand names, as well as new market entrants. Companies in these markets compete based on a variety of factors, often employing aggressive pricing strategies to gain market share. For example, CEMEX Colombia's results of operations have been negatively affected in the past by the pricing strategies of its competitors. Our ability to increase our net sales depends, in part, on our ability to compete effectively and maintain or increase our market share. We compete with different types of companies and based on different factors in each market. For example, in the relatively consolidated cement and ready-mix concrete industries, we generally compete based on quality and value proposition. In the more fragmented market for aggregates, we generally compete based on capacity and price. In certain areas of the markets in which we compete, some of our competitors may be more established, benefit from greater brand recognition or have greater manufacturing and distribution channels and other resources than we do. If we are not able to compete effectively, we may lose market share, our net sales could decline or grow at a slower rate and our business and results of operations would be harmed.

***A substantial amount of our total assets consists of intangible assets, including goodwill. We have recognized charges for goodwill impairment in the past, and if market or industry conditions deteriorate further, additional impairment charges may be recognized.***

Our audited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IFRS, under which goodwill is not amortized and is tested for impairment when impairment indicators exist or at least once a year during the fourth quarter of each year, by determining the recoverable amount of the groups of cash-generating units to which goodwill has been allocated, which recoverable amount consists of the higher of the corresponding fair value, less cost to sell, and the corresponding value in use, represented by the discounted amount of estimated future cash flows expected to be generated by those groups of cash-generating units to which goodwill has been allocated. An impairment loss is recognized under IFRS if the recoverable amount is lower than the net book value of the groups of cash-generating units to which goodwill has been allocated. We determine the discounted amount of estimated future cash flows over periods of 5 to 10 years, depending on each specific country's economic cycle. If the value in use of a group of cash-generating units to which goodwill has been allocated is lower than its corresponding carrying amount, we determine its corresponding fair value using methodologies generally accepted in the markets to determine the value of entities, such as multiples of operating EBITDA and/or by reference to other market transactions. Impairment tests are sensitive to the projected future prices of our products, trends in administrative, selling and distribution expenses, local and international economic trends in the construction industry, as well as the long-term growth expectations in the different markets, among other factors. We use pre-tax discount rates, which are applied to pre-tax cash flows for each reporting unit. Undiscounted cash flows are significantly sensitive to the growth rates in perpetuity used. Likewise, discounted cash flows are significantly sensitive to the discount rate used. The higher the growth rate in perpetuity applied, the higher the amount of undiscounted future cash flows by reporting unit obtained. Conversely, the higher the discount rate applied, the lower the amount of discounted estimated future cash flows by reporting unit obtained. See note 15C to our 2012 audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report.

Due to the important role that economic factors play in testing goodwill for impairment, a further downturn in the economies where we operate could necessitate new impairment tests and a possible downward readjustment of our goodwill for impairment under IFRS. Such an impairment test could result in additional impairment charges which could be material to our financial statements.

***We are subject to litigation proceedings, including antitrust proceedings, that could harm our business if an unfavorable ruling were to occur.***

From time to time, we are and may become involved in litigation and other legal proceedings relating to claims arising from our operations in the normal course of business. As described in, but not limited to, "Item 4—Information on the Company—Regulatory Matters and Legal Proceedings" of this annual report, we are currently subject to a number of significant legal proceedings, including, but not limited to, those relating to tax matters in Mexico, as well as antitrust investigations in Europe. In addition, our Egyptian subsidiary, Assiut Cement Company ("ACC"), is involved in an Egyptian legal proceeding relating to our acquisition of ACC. Litigation is subject to inherent uncertainties, and unfavorable rulings may occur. We cannot assure you that these or other legal proceedings will not materially affect our ability to conduct our business in the manner that we expect or otherwise adversely affect us should an unfavorable ruling occur.

***Our operations are subject to environmental laws and regulations.***

Our operations are subject to a broad range of environmental laws and regulations in each of the jurisdictions in which we operate. The enactment of stricter laws and regulations, or stricter interpretation of existing laws or regulations, may impose new risks or costs on us or result in the need for additional investments in pollution control equipment, which could result in a material decline in our profitability.

In late 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") issued the final portland cement national emission standard ("Portland Cement NESHAP") for hazardous air pollutants under the federal Clean Air Act ("CAA"). This rule required portland cement plants to limit emissions of mercury, total hydrocarbons, hydrochloric acid and particulate matter by September 2013. The EPA also promulgated New Source Performance Standards (the "NSPS") for cement plants at the same time. CEMEX, along with others in its industry, challenged these rules in administrative and judicial proceedings. In December 2011, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals remanded the Portland Cement NESHAP to EPA and directed the agency to recompute the standards, but rejected all challenges to the NSPS rule. In February 2013, EPA issued a revised final NESHAP rule that relaxed emissions limits for particulate matter as compared to the 2010 NESHAP rule, left the emissions limits for mercury, total hydrocarbons, and hydrochloric acid unchanged, and moved the compliance deadline to September 2015. It is expected that the revised Portland Cement NESHAP rule will again be challenged in federal court. We are unable to predict whether such a challenge would result in the rule being remanded again to EPA, or whether such a remand would result in a more or less stringent Portland Cement NESHAP. If the final Portland Cement NESHAP and NSPS rules result in more stringent emission requirements for portland cement plants, these rules could have a material impact on our business operations, which we expect would be consistent with the impact on the cement industry as a whole.

In February 2013, EPA issued revised final emissions standards under the CAA for commercial and industrial solid waste incinerators ("CISWI"). Under the CISWI rule, if a material being used in a cement kiln as an alternative fuel is classified as a solid waste, the plant must comply with CISWI standards. The CISWI rule covers nine pollutants, and imposes more stringent emissions limits on certain pollutants also regulated under the Portland Cement NESHAP. The CISWI rule may be challenged in federal court. We are unable to predict whether such a challenge would result in the rule being remanded to EPA, or whether such a remand would result in a more or less stringent CISWI standards. If the CISWI rule takes effect in its current form, and if kilns at CEMEX plants are determined to be CISWI kilns due to the use of certain alternative fuels, the emissions standards imposed by the CISWI rule could have a material impact on our business operations.

In June 2010, EPA proposed regulating Coal Combustion Products ("CCPs") generated by electric utilities and independent power producers as a hazardous or special waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. CEMEX uses CCPs as a raw material in the cement manufacturing process, as well as a supplemental cementitious material in some of our ready-mix concrete products. It is too early to predict how EPA will ultimately regulate CCPs, but if CCPs are regulated as a hazardous or special waste in the future, it may

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## [Table of Contents](#)

result in changes to the formulation of our products away from those formulations that employ CCPs as a raw or supplemental cementitious material. Based on current information, we believe, although we cannot assure you, that such matters will not have a material impact on us. EPA has not announced a timetable for issuing the final CCP rule, although one is expected in 2013.

The cement manufacturing process requires the combustion of large amounts of fuel and creates carbon dioxide ("CO<sub>2</sub>") as a by-product of the calcination process. Therefore, efforts to address climate change through federal, state, regional and international laws and regulations requiring reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases ("GHGs") can create economic risks and uncertainties for our business. Such risks could include the cost of purchasing allowances or credits to meet GHG emission caps, the cost of installing equipment to reduce emissions to comply with GHG limits or required technological standards, or decreased profits or losses arising from decreased demand for our goods or higher production costs resulting directly or indirectly from the imposition of legislative or regulatory controls. EPA has promulgated a series of regulations pertaining to emissions of GHGs from industrial sources. EPA issued the Mandatory Reporting of GHGs Rule, effective December 29, 2009, which requires certain covered sectors, including cement manufacturing, with GHG emissions above an established threshold to inventory and report their GHG emissions annually on a facility-by-facility basis. We do not expect this rule to have a material economic impact on us.

In 2010, EPA issued a final rule that establishes GHG thresholds for the New Source Review Prevention of Significant Deterioration ("PSD") and Title V Operating Permit programs. The rule "tailors" the requirements of these CAA permitting programs to limit which facilities will be required to obtain PSD and Title V permits for GHG emissions. Cement production facilities are included within the categories of facilities required to obtain permits, provided that their GHG emissions exceed the thresholds in the tailoring rule. The PSD program requires new major sources of regulated pollutants and major modifications at existing major sources to secure pre-construction permits, which establish, among other things, limits on pollutants based on Best Available Control Technology ("BACT"). According to EPA's rules, stationary sources, such as cement manufacturing, which are already regulated under the PSD program for non-GHG pollutants, need to apply for a PSD permit for any GHG emissions increases above 75,000 tons/year of carbon dioxide equivalent ("CO<sub>2</sub>E"). Therefore, new cement plants and existing plants undergoing modification which are major sources for non-GHG pollutants regulated under the CAA need to acquire a PSD permit for construction or modification activities that increase CO<sub>2</sub>E by 75,000 or more tons/year, and would have to determine and install BACT controls for those emissions. Furthermore, any new source that emits 100,000 tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>E or any existing source that emits 100,000 tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>E and undergoes modifications that would emit 75,000 tons/year of CO<sub>2</sub>E, must comply with PSD obligations. Although this has been challenged in litigation, it is now in effect and facilities in the United States are complying with these requirements. Complying with these PSD permitting requirements can involve significant costs and delay. The costs of future GHG-related regulation of our facilities through these efforts or others could have a material economic impact on our U.S. operations and the U.S. cement manufacturing industry.

On the legislative front, during the past few years, various bills have been introduced in the U.S. Congress seeking to establish caps or other limits on GHG emissions. Any legislation imposing significant costs or limitations on raw materials, fuel or production, or requirements for reductions of GHG emissions, could have a significant impact on the cement manufacturing industry and a material economic impact on our U.S. operations, including competition from imports in countries where such costs are not imposed on manufacturing.

In addition to pending U.S. federal regulation and legislation, states and regions are establishing or seeking to establish their own programs to reduce GHG emissions, including from manufacturing sectors. For example, California passed AB 32 into law in 2006, which, among other things, seeks a statewide reduction of GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and places responsibility with the California Air Resources Board ("CARB") to develop the implementing regulations which, among other things, requires the minimization of leakage to the extent feasible. In October 2011, CARB approved a cap-and-trade program that went into effect on January 1, 2013 for the utility and industrial sectors, including the cement sector. Under the current regulatory framework,

## [Table of Contents](#)

we expect that CARB will distribute free emission allowances to industrial facilities under an output-based benchmark system based on each industrial sector's leakage risk. The cement sector was placed in the high leakage risk category. Based on its placement in the high leakage risk category we expect that the cement industry as a whole will receive a free allowance allocation rate of approximately 94% of its emission obligation in 2013 which would decline ratably with the cap adjustment to 87% in 2020. The output-based benchmark system creates incentives for industrial facilities to reduce their GHG intensity. We are actively pursuing initiatives to substitute lower carbon fuels for fossil fuels, improve our energy efficiency and utilize renewable power in an effort to economically reduce our direct and indirect GHG emission intensities. However, even with these ongoing efforts and the expected distribution of free allowances and CARB-mandated power rebates to us, we cannot assure you that the overall costs of complying with a cap-and-trade program will not have a material impact on our operations in California.

In 2007, CARB approved a regulation that will require California equipment owners/operators to reduce diesel particulate and nitrogen oxide emissions from in-use off-road diesel equipment and to meet progressively more restrictive emission targets. In 2008, CARB approved a similar regulation for in-use on-road diesel equipment. The emission targets will require us to retrofit our California-based equipment with diesel emission control devices or replace equipment with new engine technology in accordance with certain deadlines, which will result in higher equipment related expenses or capital investments. We may incur substantial expenditures to comply with these requirements. In December 2010, CARB amended both regulations to grant economic relief to affected fleets by extending certain compliance dates and modifying compliance requirements.

In the European Union, cement plants are regulated according to two directives which have been transposed into domestic law by member states. The first is the Directive on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (2008/1/EC) ("IPPC Directive"), which adopts an integrated approach by taking into account the whole environmental performance of the plant. It requires cement works to have a permit containing emission limit values and other conditions based on the application of best available techniques ("BAT") with a view to preventing or, where this is not practicable, minimising emissions of pollutants likely to be emitted in significant quantities in air, water or land. Permit conditions also have to address energy efficiency, waste minimization, prevention of accidental emissions and site restoration. To assist the permitting authorities and companies in determining the BAT, the European Commission organises an exchange of information between experts from the member states, industry and environmental organisations. This results in the adoption and publication by the European Commission of BAT Reference Documents ("BREFs") for the industry sectors covered by the IPPC Directive. A key element of the BREFs are the conclusions on BAT ("BAT conclusions") which are used as a reference for setting permit conditions.

The second Directive relates to the Incineration of Waste (2000/76/EC) ("Incineration Directive"). Its aim is to prevent or limit, as far as practicable, negative effects on the environment, in particular pollution by emissions in air, soil, surface water and groundwater and the resulting risks to human health, from incineration and co-incineration plants, the latter including cement and lime kilns. The Incineration Directive seeks to achieve its aim by setting and maintaining stringent operational conditions and technical requirements, as well as emission limit values for a range of pollutants including dust, nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, hydrogen chloride, heavy metals and dioxins.

On 6 January 2011, the Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU) ("IED") came into force. The IED updates and merges seven pieces of existing legislation, including the IPPC Directive and the Incineration Directive which it will eventually replace. It will apply to new installations from 6 January 2013 and to existing installations (other than large combustion plants) from 6 January 2014. Under the IED, operators of industrial installations, including cement plants, are required to obtain an integrated permit from the relevant permitting authority in the member states. As with the IPPC Directive, permit conditions, including emission limit values, must be based on BAT. However, there is an important difference between the two directives. Under the IPPC Directive, the BAT reference documents are considered as guidance only. This is not the case under the IED. Where BAT conclusions specify emission levels, permitting authorities are required to set emission limit values



that do not exceed these levels. They may derogate from this requirement only where the costs associated with the achievement of the emission levels associated with the BAT disproportionately outweigh the environmental benefits due to the geographical location, the local environmental conditions or the technical characteristics of the installation concerned. The permitting authorities must document the reasons for the derogation from the emission limit values in the permit, including the result of the cost-benefit assessment. In April 2013, the European Commission published new BAT conclusions under the IED for Cement, Lime and Magnesium Oxide, together with specific emission levels. While it is too early to assess what impact the IED will have on our operations, it is reasonable to assume that there will be an impact given the change in regulatory approach heralded by the legislation and the fact that it will be key to the permitting of the cement industry in the EU.

On the international front, we actively monitor negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ("UNFCCC"). In 1997, as part of the UNFCCC, 197 governments adopted the Kyoto Protocol to limit and reduce GHG emissions. The Kyoto Protocol set legally binding emission reduction targets for 37 industrialised countries and the European Union. Under the Kyoto Protocol, industrialised countries agreed to reduce their collective GHG emissions by 5% against 1990 levels over the five year period 2008-2012 ("first commitment period"); future mandatory targets were expected to be established for commitment periods after 2012. To compensate for the sting of binding targets, the Kyoto Protocol allows three "flexibility" mechanisms to be used by parties in meeting their emission limitation commitments: the Clean Development Mechanism ("CDM"), Joint Implementation ("JI") and International Emissions Trading.

In November-December 2012, at the UN Climate Change Conference in Doha, Qatar, certain parties, including the UK and the European Union, adopted the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol and committed to reduce GHG emissions by at least 18% below 1990 levels in the eight year period from 2013 to 2020 ("second commitment period").

We operate in countries that are signatories to the Kyoto Protocol, including European Union member states. Hence, our operations in the United Kingdom, Spain, Germany, Latvia and Poland, as well as our operations in Croatia, which is in the process of EU accession, are subject to binding caps on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions imposed pursuant to the European Union's emissions trading system ("ETS") that was established by Directive 2003/87/EC to implement the Kyoto Protocol. Under the ETS, a cap or limit is set on the total amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that can be emitted by the power plants, energy-intensive installations (including cement plants) and commercial airlines that are covered by the system. The cap is reduced over time, so that the total amount of emissions will decrease. Within the cap, companies receive or buy emission allowances. These allowances are tradable so as to enable companies that manage to reduce their emissions to sell their excess allowances to companies that are not reaching their emissions objectives. In addition to carbon allowances, the ETS also allows the use of Kyoto Protocol units (the Emission Reduction Unit, representing a tonne of carbon saved by a project under the JI mechanism, and the Certified Emission Reduction unit under the CDM). The ETS recognizes these units as equivalent to its carbon allowances and allows them to be used by companies for compliance up to a certain limit to offset their carbon emissions in the EU. After each year, a company must surrender enough carbon allowances to cover all its emissions. Failure to meet the emissions caps is subject to significant monetary penalties. For further detail, see "Item 3—Key Information—Risk Factors—Our operations are subject to environmental laws and regulations."

The ETS consists of three trading phases: Phase I which lasted from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2007, Phase II, which lasted from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2012, and was intended to meet commitments under the Kyoto first commitment period, and Phase III which commenced on 1 January 2013 and will end on 31 December 2020. Prior to the commencement of each of ETS Phases I and II, each member state was responsible for publishing its National Allocation Plan, a document which sets out a national cap on the total amount of carbon allowances during each relevant trading phase and the methodology by which the cap would be allocated to the different sectors in the ETS and their respective installations. Each member state's cap contributed to an overall EU cap on emissions, where one carbon allowance must be surrendered to account for 1 tonne of carbon emitted. The carbon allowances were mostly distributed for free by each member state to its ETS

installations, although some member states also used a fraction of their material cap for auctioning, mainly to power generators. Under ETS Phase III, however, the system of National Allocation Plans has been replaced by a single EU-wide, top-down, cap on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, with allocation for all installations made according to harmonized EU rules and set out in each member state's National Implementation Measures. Restrictions have been introduced on the extent to which Kyoto Protocol units can be used to offset EU carbon emissions, and auctioning, not free allocation, has become the default method for distributing allowances. For those allowances that are still given away free, as discussed below, harmonized rules apply based on EU-wide benchmarks of emissions performance.

EU policymakers see the free allocation of allowances as a principle way to reduce the risk of carbon leakage—that is, the risk that energy-intensive industries, facing higher costs because of the ETS, will move their facilities beyond the EU's borders to countries that do not have climate change controls, thus resulting in a leakage of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions without any environmental benefits. In 2009, a list of ETS sectors deemed to be at significant risk of carbon leakage was formally adopted by the European Commission, following agreement by member states and the European Parliament. The list included the cement production sector, on the basis that the additional costs imposed by the ETS would lead to a 30% or more increase in production costs as a proportion of the "gross value added". Sectors classified as deemed to be at significant risk of carbon leakage will continue to receive 100% of their benchmark allocation of allowances free of charge during 2013 and 2014. By contrast, sectors that are not considered at risk of carbon leakage will receive 80% of their benchmark allowances for free in 2013, declining to 30% by 2020.

In accordance with European Commission Decision of 27 April 2011 (2011/278/EU), the number of allowances to be allocated to installations for free will be based on a combination of historic activity levels at that installation and an EU benchmark of carbon efficiency for the production of a particular product—for example, clinker. An installation's historic activity level is calculated by taking the median of its annual production levels during the baseline period, either 2005 to 2008 or, where historic activity levels are higher, 2009/10. The product benchmark is based on the average carbon emissions of the top 10% most "carbon efficient" EU installations for a particular product during 2007/8, where carbon efficiency is measured by carbon intensity or carbon emission per tonne of product. Based on these criteria, we expect that the aggregate amount of allowances that will be annually allocated for free to CEMEX in Phase III of the ETS will be sufficient to operate, assuming that the cement industry continues to be considered at significant risk of carbon leakage. However, a review of the sectors deemed to be at significant risk is to take place in 2014 and it is possible that the cement industry could lose that status. Indeed, commentators argue that many of the assumptions that were used to determine which sectors should be deemed to be at significant risk are now obsolete. For example, the 2009 quantitative analysis that was relied upon forecast that ETS prices would stabilise at €30/ton CO<sub>2</sub>, but in fact prices are significantly lower than that. A determination that the cement industry should no longer be regarded as at significant risk of carbon leakage could have a material impact on our operations.

An installation can only receive its full allocation of free allowances if it is deemed to have not partially ceased under the "partial cessation rule" of the ETS. Partial cessation applies where a sub-installation which contributes at least 30% of the installation's final annual amount of emissions allocated, or contributes to more than 50,000 allowances, reduces its activity level by at least 50% of its historic activity levels. If activity levels are reduced to between 50% and 75% of the historic activity level, the amount of free carbon allowances the sub-installation will receive will reduce by half in the following year; if activity levels are reduced by 75% to 90% compared to historic activity levels, the amount of free carbon allowances the sub-installation will receive will reduce by 75% in the following year; and if activity levels are reduced by 90% or more compared to historic activity levels, no allowances shall be allocated free of charge the following year in respect of the sub-installation concerned. This represents a change from ETS Phase II, in which the rules for partial cessation were defined by each member state's NAP and often did not result in any reduction in the level of free allocation, but an installation was no longer entitled to a free allocation from the following year if it had permanently ceased operating. The new rules are therefore more stringent, and to the extent that they result in our plants foregoing free carbon allowances, they could represent a significant loss of revenue, since carbon allowances are also tradable.

## [Table of Contents](#)

As a result of continuing uncertainty regarding final allocation of free allowances, it is premature to draw conclusions regarding the overall position of all of our European cement plants. Also, separate cap-and-trade schemes may be adopted in individual countries outside the European Union. For example, since 2013 in Croatia, who are due to become members of the European Union on July 1, 2013 after which their scheme will in due course be incorporated into that of the EU ETS.

Under the ETS, we seek to reduce the impact of any excess emissions by either reducing the level of CO<sub>2</sub> released in our facilities or by implementing CDM projects under the Kyoto Protocol in emerging markets. We have registered 12 CDM projects; in total, these projects have the potential to reduce almost 1.7 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-E emissions per year. If we are not successful in implementing emission reductions in our facilities or obtaining credits from CDM projects, we may have to purchase a significant amount of allowances in the market, the cost of which may have a significant impact on our operating results.

Given the uncertain nature of the actual or potential statutory and regulatory requirements for GHG emissions at the federal, state, regional and international levels, we cannot predict the impact on our operations or financial condition or make a reasonable estimate of the potential costs to us that may result from such requirements. However, the impact of any such requirements, whether individually or cumulatively, could have a material economic impact on our operations in the United States and in other countries.

Cement production raises a number of health and safety issues. As is the case with other companies in our industry, some of our aggregate products contain varying amounts of crystalline silica, a common mineral. Also, some of our construction and material processing operations release, as dust, crystalline silica that is in the materials being handled. Excessive, prolonged inhalation of very small-sized particles of crystalline silica has allegedly been associated with respiratory disease (including silicosis). As part of our annual due diligence, we work with our stakeholders to verify that certain health and safety protocols are in place as regards the management of silica and its health effects. Nonetheless, under various laws we may be subject to future claims related to exposure to these or other substances.

Other health and safety issues include: burns arising from contact with hot cement kiln dust or dust on preheater systems; noise, including from chutes and hoppers, milling plants, exhaust fans and blowers; the potential for dioxin formation if chlorine-containing alternative fuels are introduced into kilns; plant cleaning and maintenance activities involving working at height or in confined or other awkward locations, and the storage and handling of coal and petcoke, which, in their finely ground state, can pose a risk of fire or explosion. While we actively seek to minimise the risk posed by these issues, personal injury claims may be made, and substantial damages awarded, against us. We may also be required to change our operational practices, involving material capital expenditure.

Under certain environmental laws and regulations, liability associated with investigation or remediation of hazardous substances can arise at a broad range of properties, including properties currently or formerly owned or operated by CEMEX, as well as facilities to which we sent hazardous substances or wastes for treatment, storage or disposal. Such laws and regulations may apply without regard to causation or knowledge of contamination. We occasionally evaluate various alternatives with respect to our facilities, including possible dispositions or closures. Investigations undertaken in connection with these activities (or ongoing operational or construction activities) may lead to hazardous substance releases or discoveries of historical contamination that must be remediated, and closures of facilities may trigger compliance requirements that are not applicable to operating facilities. While compliance with these laws and regulations has not materially adversely affected our operations in the past, we cannot assure you that these requirements will not change and that compliance will not adversely affect our operations in the future. Furthermore, we cannot assure you that existing or future circumstances or developments with respect to contamination will not require us to make significant remediation or restoration expenditures.

As part of our insurance-risk governance approach, from time to time we evaluate the need to address the financial consequences of environmental laws and regulations through the purchase of insurance. As a result we

## [Table of Contents](#)

do arrange certain types of environmental impairment insurance policies for both site-specific, as well as multi-site locations. We also organize non-specific environmental impairment insurance as part of the provision of a broader corporate insurance strategy. These latter insurance policies are designed to offer some assistance to our financial flexibility to the extent that the specifics of an environmental incident could give rise to a financial liability. However, we cannot assure you that a given environmental incident will be covered by the environmental insurance we have in place, or that the amount of such insurance will be sufficient to offset the liability arising from the incident.

See "Item 4–Information on the Company–Regulatory Matters and Legal Proceedings–Environmental Matters."

***We are an international company and are exposed to risks in the countries in which we have significant operations or interests.***

We are dependent, in large part, on the economies of the countries in which we market our products. The economies of these countries are in different stages of socioeconomic development. Consequently, like many other companies with significant international operations, we are exposed to risks from changes in foreign currency exchange rates, interest rates, inflation, governmental spending, social instability and other political, economic or social developments that may materially affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

As of December 31, 2012, we had operations in Mexico, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Rest of Northern Europe (which includes our subsidiaries in Ireland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Poland, Hungary and Latvia, as well as trading activities in Scandinavia and Finland), Egypt, Spain, Rest of the Mediterranean (which includes our subsidiaries in Croatia, the UAE and Israel), Colombia and Rest of South America and the Caribbean (which includes our subsidiaries in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Argentina and other assets in the Caribbean region), the Philippines and Rest of Asia (which includes our subsidiaries in Thailand, Bangladesh, China and Malaysia).

For a geographic breakdown of our net sales for the year ended December 31, 2012, see "Item 4–Information on the Company–Geographic Breakdown of Net Sales for the Year Ended December 31, 2012."

Our operations in the South America and the Caribbean region are faced with several risks that are more significant than in other countries. These risks include political instability and economic volatility. For example, on August 18, 2008, Venezuelan officials took physical control of the facilities of CEMEX Venezuela, S.A.C.A., or CEMEX Venezuela, following the issuance on May 27, 2008 of governmental decrees confirming the expropriation of all of CEMEX Venezuela's assets, shares and business.

Our operations in Egypt, the UAE and Israel have experienced instability as a result of, among other things, civil unrest, extremism and the deterioration of general diplomatic relations in the region. We cannot assure you that political turbulence in Egypt, Libya and other countries in Africa and the Middle East will abate in the near future or that neighboring countries will not be drawn into conflicts or experience instability. In addition, our operations in Egypt are subject to political risks, such as confiscation, expropriation and/or nationalization. See "Item 4–Information on the Company–Regulatory Matters and Legal Proceedings–Other Legal Proceedings–Egypt Share Purchase Agreement."

In January 2011, protests and demonstrations demanding a regime change began taking place across Egypt, which resulted in former President Hosni Mubarak resigning from his post on February 11, 2011. Subsequently, Mr. Mubarak transferred government powers to the Egyptian Army. The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces of Egypt dissolved the Egyptian parliament, suspended the nation's constitution, and formed a committee to recommend constitutional changes to facilitate a political transition through democratic elections. Following some delays, elections for a new parliament took place between November 2011 and January 2012. Elections

held in May and June of 2012 witnessed the victory of Mohamed Morsi as the fifth president of Egypt. Despite a return to civilian rule, demonstrations and protests have continued to take place across Egypt. Although CEMEX's operations in Egypt have not been immune from disruptions resulting from the turbulence in Egypt, CEMEX continues with its cement production, dispatch and sales activities as of the date of this annual report. Risks to CEMEX's operations in Egypt include a potential reduction in overall economic activity in Egypt, which could affect demand for building materials, and interruptions in services, such as banking, which could have a material adverse effect on our operations in Egypt.

There have been terrorist attacks and ongoing threats of future terrorist attacks in countries in which we maintain operations. We cannot assure you that there will not be other attacks or threats that will lead to an economic contraction or erection of material barriers to trade in any of our markets. An economic contraction in any of our major markets could affect domestic demand for cement and could have a material adverse effect on our operations.

***Our operations can be affected by adverse weather conditions.***

Construction activity, and thus demand for our products, decreases substantially during periods of cold weather, when it snows or when heavy or sustained rainfalls occur. Consequently, demand for our products is significantly lower during the winter in temperate countries and during the rainy season in tropical countries. Winter weather in our European and North American operations significantly reduces our first quarter sales volumes, and to a lesser extent our fourth quarter sales volumes. Sales volumes in these and similar markets generally increase during the second and third quarters because of normally better weather conditions. However, high levels of rainfall can adversely affect our operations during these periods as well. Such adverse weather conditions can adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations if they occur with unusual intensity, during abnormal periods, or last longer than usual in our major markets, especially during peak construction periods.

***We will be adversely affected by any significant or prolonged disruption to our production facilities.***

Any prolonged and/or significant disruption to our production facilities, whether due to repair, maintenance or servicing, industrial accidents, unavailability of raw materials such as energy, mechanical equipment failure, human error or otherwise, will disrupt and adversely affect our operations. Additionally, any major or sustained disruptions in the supply of utilities such as water or electricity or any fire, flood or other natural calamities or communal unrest or acts of terrorism may disrupt our operations or damage our production facilities or inventories and could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We typically shut down our facilities to undertake maintenance and repair work at scheduled intervals. Although we schedule shut downs such that not all of our facilities are shut down at the same time, the unexpected shut down of any facility may nevertheless affect our business, financial condition and results of operations from one period to another.

***We are dependent on information technology and our systems and infrastructure, as well as those provided by our third-party service providers, face certain risks, including cyber security risks.***

We rely on a variety of information technology and automated operating systems to manage or support our operations. The proper functioning of these systems is critical to the efficient operation and management of our business. In addition, these systems may require modifications or upgrades as of a result of technological changes or growth in our business. These changes may be costly and disruptive to our operations, and could impose substantial demands on management time. Our systems, as well as those provided by our third-party service providers, may be vulnerable to damage or disruption caused by circumstances beyond our control, such as physical or electronic break-ins, catastrophic events, power outages, natural disasters, computer system or

network failures, viruses or malware, unauthorized access and cyber attacks. Although we take steps to secure our systems and electronic information, these security measures may not be adequate. Any significant disruption to our systems could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***Activities in our business can be dangerous and can cause injury to people or property in certain circumstances.***

Our production facilities require individuals to work with chemicals, equipment and other materials that have the potential to cause harm and injury when used without due care. An accident or injury that occurs at our facilities could result in disruptions to our business and have legal and regulatory consequences and we may be required to compensate such individuals or incur other costs and liabilities, any and all of which could adversely affect our reputation, business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

***Labor activism and unrest, or failure to maintain satisfactory labor relations, could adversely affect our results of operations.***

Labor activism and unrest may adversely affect our operations and thereby adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects. Although our operations have not been affected by any significant labor dispute in the past, we cannot assure you that we will not experience labor unrest, activism, disputes or actions in the future, some of which may be significant and could adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

***Our insurance coverage may not cover all the risks to which we may be exposed.***

We face the risks of loss and damage to our property and machinery due to fire, theft and natural disasters such as floods. Such events may cause a disruption to or cessation of our operations. While we believe that we have adequate and sufficient coverage, in line with industry practices, in some instances our insurance coverage may not be sufficient to cover all of our potential unforeseen losses and liabilities. In addition, our insurance coverage may not cover all the risks to which we may be exposed. If our losses exceed our insurance coverage, or if we are not covered by the insurance policies we have taken up, we may be liable to cover any shortfall or losses. Our insurance premiums may also increase substantially because of such claims. In such circumstances, our financial results may be adversely affected.

***Our success depends on key members of our management.***

Our success depends largely on the efforts and strategic vision of our executive management team. The loss of the services of some or all of our executive management could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The execution of our business plan also depends on our ongoing ability to attract and retain additional qualified employees. For a variety of reasons, particularly with respect to the competitive environment and the availability of skilled labor, we may not be successful in attracting and retaining the personnel we require. If we are unable to hire, train and retain qualified employees at a reasonable cost, we may be unable to successfully operate our business or capitalize on growth opportunities and, as a result, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected.

***The Mexican tax consolidation regime may have an adverse effect on our cash flow, financial condition and net income.***

During November 2009, the Mexican Congress approved a general tax reform, effective as of January 1, 2010. Specifically, the tax reform requires CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V. to retroactively pay taxes (at current rates) on items in past years that were eliminated in consolidation or that reduced consolidated taxable income

("Additional Consolidation Taxes"). This tax reform requires CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V. to pay taxes on certain previously exempt intercompany dividends, certain other special tax items, and operating losses generated by members of the consolidated tax group not recovered by the individual company generating such losses within the succeeding 10-year period, which may have an adverse effect on our cash flow, financial condition and net income. This tax reform also increases the statutory income tax rate from 28% to 30% for the years 2010 to 2012, 29% for 2013, and 28% for 2014 and future years. However, in December 2012, the Federal Revenue Law (Ley de Ingresos de la Federación) applicable in 2013, established that the statutory income tax rate remained at 30% in 2013, then lowered it to 29% for 2014 and 28% for 2015 and future years.

For the 2010 fiscal year, CEMEX was required to pay (at the new, 30% tax rate) 25% of the Additional Consolidation Taxes for the period between 1999 and 2004, with the remaining 75% payable as follows: 25% in 2011, 20% in 2012, 15% in 2013 and 15% in 2014. Additional Consolidation Taxes arising after 2004 are taken into account in the sixth fiscal year after their occurrence and will be payable over the succeeding five years in the same proportions (25%, 25%, 20%, 15% and 15%).

On June 30, 2010, CEMEX paid approximately Ps325 million (approximately U.S.\$25 million as of December 31, 2012, based on an exchange rate of Ps12.85 to U.S.\$1.00) of Additional Consolidation Taxes. This first payment represented 25% of the Additional Consolidation Taxes for the period between 1999 and 2004. On March 31, 2011, CEMEX paid approximately Ps506 million (approximately U.S.\$39 million as of December 31, 2012, based on an exchange rate of Ps12.85 to U.S.\$1.00). This amount covered the second payment, which together with the first payment represented 50% of the Additional Consolidation Taxes for the period between 1999 and 2004, and also included the first payment of 25% of the Additional Consolidation Taxes corresponding to 2005. On March 30, 2012, CEMEX paid Ps698 million (approximately U.S.\$54 million as of December 31, 2012, based on an exchange rate of Ps12.85 to U.S.\$1.00). This third payment together with the first and second payments represented 70% of the Additional Consolidation Taxes for the "1999-2004" period, 50% of the Additional Consolidation Taxes for the "2005" period and it also included the first payment of 25% of the Additional Consolidation Taxes for the "2006" period. As of December 31, 2012, our estimated payment schedule of taxes payable resulting from changes in the tax consolidation regime is as follows: approximately Ps2 billion in 2013; approximately Ps2.6 billion in 2014; approximately Ps2.7 billion in 2015; and approximately Ps7.2 billion in 2016 and thereafter. As of December 31, 2012, we have paid an aggregate amount of approximately Ps1.5 billion of Additional Consolidation Taxes. See "Item 4—Information on the Company—Regulatory Matters and Legal Proceedings—Tax Matters" and notes 20 and 19D to our 2012 audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report.

On February 15, 2010, we filed a constitutional challenge (*juicio de amparo*) to the January 1, 2010 tax reform described above. However, we cannot assure you that we will prevail in this constitutional challenge. On June 3, 2011 we were notified of a favorable verdict at the first stage of the trial; the Mexican tax authorities filed an appeal (*recurso de revisión*) before the Mexican Supreme Court, which is pending.

***It may be difficult to enforce civil liabilities against us or our directors, executive officers and controlling persons.***

We are a publicly traded stock corporation with variable capital (*sociedad anónima bursátil de capital variable*) organized under the laws of Mexico. Substantially all of our directors and officers and some of the persons named in this annual report reside in Mexico, and all or a significant portion of the assets of those persons may be, and the majority of our assets are, located outside the United States. As a result, it may not be possible for you to effect service of process within the United States upon such persons or to enforce against them or against us in U.S. courts judgments predicated upon the civil liability provisions of the federal securities laws of the United States. We have been advised by our General Counsel, Lic. Ramiro G. Villarreal, that there is doubt as to the enforceability in Mexico, either in original actions or in actions for enforcement of judgments of U.S. courts, of civil liabilities predicated on the U.S. federal securities laws.



***The protections afforded to non-controlling shareholders in Mexico are different from those in the United States and may be more difficult to enforce.***

Under Mexican law, the protections afforded to non-controlling shareholders are different from those in the United States. In particular, the legal framework and case law pertaining to disputes between shareholders and us, our directors, our officers or our controlling shareholders, if any, are less developed under Mexican law than under U.S. law. Mexican law generally only permits shareholder derivative suits (i.e., suits for our benefit as opposed to the direct benefit of our shareholders) and there are different procedural requirements for bringing shareholder lawsuits, such as shareholder derivative suits, which differ from those you may be familiar with under U.S. and other laws. There is also a substantially less active plaintiffs' bar dedicated to the enforcement of shareholders' rights in Mexico than in the United States. As a result, in practice it may be more difficult for our non-controlling shareholders to enforce their rights against us or our directors or controlling shareholders than it would be for shareholders of a U.S. company.

***ADS holders may only vote the Series B shares represented by the CPOs deposited with the ADS depository through the ADS depository and are not entitled to vote the Series A shares represented by the CPOs deposited with the ADS depository or to attend shareholders' meetings.***

Under the terms of the ADSs and CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s by-laws, a holder of an ADS has the right to instruct the ADS depository to exercise voting rights only with respect to Series B shares represented by the CPOs deposited with the depository, but not with respect to the Series A shares represented by the CPOs deposited with the depository. ADS holders will not be able to directly exercise their right to vote unless they withdraw the CPOs underlying their ADSs (and, in the case of non-Mexican holders, even if they do so, they may not vote the Series A shares represented by the CPOs) and may not receive voting materials in time to ensure that they are able to instruct the depository to vote the CPOs underlying their ADSs or receive sufficient notice of a shareholders' meeting to permit them to withdraw their CPOs to allow them to cast their vote with respect to any specific matter. In addition, the depository and its agents may not be able to send out voting instructions on time or carry them out in the manner an ADS holder has instructed. As a result, ADS holders may not be able to exercise their right to vote and they may lack recourse if the CPOs underlying their ADSs are not voted as they requested. In addition, ADS holders are not entitled to attend shareholders' meetings. ADS holders will also not be permitted to vote the CPOs underlying the ADSs directly at a shareholders' meeting or to appoint a proxy to do so without withdrawing the CPOs. If the ADS depository does not receive voting instructions from a holder of ADSs in a timely manner such holder will nevertheless be treated as having instructed the ADS depository to give a proxy to a person we designate to vote the B shares underlying the CPOs represented by the ADSs in his/her discretion. The ADS depository or the custodian for the CPOs on deposit may represent the CPOs at any meeting of holders of CPOs even if no voting instructions have been received. The CPO trustee may represent the A shares and the B shares represented by the CPOs at any meeting of holders of A shares or B shares even if no voting instructions have been received. By so attending, the ADS depository, the custodian or the CPO trustee, as applicable, may contribute to the establishment of a quorum at a meeting of holders of CPOs, A shares or B shares, as appropriate.

***Non-Mexicans may not hold CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s Series A shares directly and must have them held in a trust at all times.***

Non-Mexican investors in CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s CPOs or ADSs may not directly hold the underlying Series A shares, but may hold them indirectly through CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s CPO trust. Upon the early termination or expiration of the 30-year term of CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s CPO trust, the Series A shares underlying CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s CPOs held by non-Mexican investors must be placed into a new trust similar to the current CPO trust for non-Mexican investors to continue to hold an economic interest in such shares. We cannot assure you that a new trust similar to the CPO trust will be created or that the relevant authorization for the creation of the new trust or the transfer of our Series A shares to such new trust will be obtained. In that event, since non-Mexican holders currently cannot hold Series A shares directly, they may be required to sell all of their Series A shares to a Mexican individual or corporation.

## Table of Contents

### Preemptive rights may be unavailable to ADS holders.

ADS holders may be unable to exercise preemptive rights granted to CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s shareholders, in which case ADS holders could be substantially diluted following future equity or equity-linked offerings. Under Mexican law, whenever CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V. issues new shares for payment in cash or in kind, CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V. is generally required to grant preemptive rights to CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s shareholders, except if the shares are issued in respect of a public offering or if the relevant shares underlie convertible securities. However, ADS holders may not be able to exercise these preemptive rights to acquire new shares unless both the rights and the new shares are registered in the United States or an exemption from registration is available. We cannot assure you that we would file a registration statement in the United States at the time of any rights offering.

### Mexican Peso Exchange Rates

Mexico has had no exchange control system in place since the dual exchange control system was abolished in November 1991. The Mexican Peso has floated freely in foreign exchange markets since December 1994, when the Mexican Central Bank (*Banco de México*) abandoned its prior policy of having an official devaluation band. Since then, the Peso has been subject to substantial fluctuations in value. The Peso depreciated against the U.S. Dollar by approximately 20.5% in 2008, appreciated against the U.S. Dollar by approximately 5% and 6% in 2009 and 2010, respectively, depreciated against the U.S. Dollar by approximately 11.5% in 2011 and appreciated against the U.S. Dollar by approximately 9% in 2012. These percentages are based on the exchange rate that we use for accounting purposes, or the CEMEX accounting rate. The CEMEX accounting rate represents the average of three different exchange rates that are provided to us by Banco Nacional de México, S.A., integrante del Grupo Financiero Banamex, or Banamex. For any given date, the CEMEX accounting rate may differ from the noon buying rate for Mexican Pesos in New York City published by the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

The following table sets forth, for the periods and dates indicated, the end-of-period, average and high and low points of the CEMEX accounting rate as well as the noon buying rate for Mexican Pesos, expressed in Mexican Pesos per U.S.\$1.00.

Year Ended December 31,	CEMEX Accounting Rate				Noon Buying Rate			
	End of Period	Average(1)	High	Low	End of Period	Average(1)	High	Low
2008	13.74	11.21	13.96	9.87	13.83	11.15	13.92	9.92
2009	13.09	13.51	15.57	12.62	13.06	13.50	15.41	12.63
2010	12.36	12.67	13.21	12.15	12.38	12.64	13.19	12.16
2011	13.96	12.45	14.21	11.50	13.95	12.43	14.25	11.51
2012	12.85	13.16	14.37	12.56	12.96	13.15	14.37	12.63
<b>Monthly (2012)</b>								
October	13.10				13.09		13.09	12.71
November	12.96				12.92		13.25	12.92
December	12.85				12.96		13.01	12.72
<b>Monthly (2013)</b>								
January	12.70				12.73		12.79	12.59
February	12.79				12.78		12.88	12.63
March	12.34				12.32		12.80	12.32
April(2)	12.26				12.23		12.34	12.07

- (1) The average of the CEMEX accounting rate or the noon buying rate for Mexican Pesos, as applicable, on the last day of each full month during the relevant period.
- (2) April noon buying rates and CEMEX accounting rates are through April 19, 2013.

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## [Table of Contents](#)

On April 19, 2013, the CEMEX accounting rate was Ps12.26 to U.S.\$1.00. Between January 1, 2013 and April 19, 2013, the Peso appreciated by approximately 5.97% against the U.S. Dollar, based on the noon buying rate for Mexican Pesos.

For a discussion of the financial treatment of our operations conducted in other currencies, see “–Selected Consolidated Financial Information.”

### **Selected Consolidated Financial Information**

Our consolidated financial statements as of and for the three years ended December 31, 2012 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements and have been prepared in accordance with IFRS. For our annual reports prior to fiscal year 2011, the first year we adopted IFRS, our consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with MFRS. The regulations of the SEC do not require foreign private issuers that prepare their financial statements on the basis of IFRS (as published by IASB) to reconcile such financial statements to U.S. GAAP. As such, while CEMEX has in the past reconciled its consolidated financial statements prepared in accordance with MFRS to U.S. GAAP, those reconciliations are no longer presented in our filings with the SEC.

The financial data set forth below as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 and for each of the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 have been derived from, and should be read in conjunction with, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, our 2012 audited consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included elsewhere in this annual report.

The operating results of newly acquired businesses are consolidated in our financial statements beginning on the acquisition date. Therefore, all periods presented do not include operating results corresponding to newly acquired businesses before we assumed control. As a result, the financial data for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 may not be comparable to that of prior periods.

Non-Peso amounts included in the financial statements are first translated into U.S. Dollar amounts, in each case at a commercially available or an official government exchange rate for the relevant period or date, as applicable, and those U.S. Dollar amounts are then translated into Peso amounts at the CEMEX accounting rate, described under “–Mexican Peso Exchange Rates,” as of the relevant period or date, as applicable.

The U.S. Dollar amounts provided below and, unless otherwise indicated elsewhere in this annual report, are translations of Peso amounts at an exchange rate of Ps12.85 to U.S.\$1.00, the CEMEX accounting rate as of December 31, 2012. However, in the case of transactions conducted in U.S. Dollars, we have presented the U.S. Dollar amount of the transaction and the corresponding Peso amount that is presented in our consolidated financial statements. These translations have been prepared solely for the convenience of the reader and should not be construed as representations that the Peso amounts actually represent those U.S. Dollar amounts or could be converted into U.S. Dollars at the rate indicated. The noon buying rate for Mexican Pesos on December 31, 2012 was Ps12.96 to U.S.\$1.00. Between January 1, 2013 and April 19, 2013, the Peso appreciated by approximately 5.97% against the U.S. Dollar, based on the noon buying rate for Mexican Pesos.

**CEMEX, S.A.B. DE C.V. and Subsidiaries**  
**Selected Consolidated Financial Information**

	As of and For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2010	2011	2012
	(in millions of Mexican Pesos, except ratios and share and per share amounts)		
<b>Statement of Operations Information:</b>			
Net sales	Ps 177,641	Ps 189,887	Ps 197,036
Cost of sales(1)	(127,845)	(136,167)	(138,711)
Gross profit	49,796	53,720	58,325
Administrative, selling and distribution expenses	(39,060)	(41,656)	(41,125)
Operating earnings before other expenses, net(2)	10,736	12,064	17,200
Other expense, net	(6,335)	(5,449)	(5,692)
Operating earnings(2)	4,401	6,615	11,508
Financial items(3)	(15,276)	(18,841)	(17,358)
Equity in income (loss) of associates	(487)	(334)	728
Loss before income tax	(11,362)	(12,560)	(5,122)
Non-controlling net income	46	21	662
Controlling interest net loss	(13,482)	(24,788)	(11,881)
Basic loss per share(4)(5)	(0.39)	(0.71)	(0.34)
Diluted loss per share(4)(5)	(0.39)	(0.71)	(0.34)
Number of shares outstanding(4)(6)(7)	30,065	31,410	32,808
<b>Balance Sheet Information:</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	8,354	16,128	12,478
Property, machinery and equipment, net	221,271	233,709	212,301
Total assets	504,881	541,652	478,770
Short-term debt	5,618	4,673	596
Long-term debt	188,776	203,798	177,539
Non-controlling interest and Perpetual Debentures(8)	19,443	16,602	14,488
Total controlling stockholders' equity	163,744	155,101	141,112
<b>Other Financial Information:</b>			
Net working capital(9)	18,692	23,690	19,667
Book value per share(4)(7)(10)	5.45	4.94	4.30
Operating margin	6.0%	6.4%	8.7%
Operating EBITDA(11)	29,844	29,600	34,384
Ratio of Operating EBITDA to interest expense(11)	2.0	1.8	1.9
Capital expenditures	6,963	7,577	10,026
Depreciation and amortization	19,108	17,536	17,184
Net cash flow provided by operating activities before interest and income taxes paid in cash	25,952	23,616	29,897
Basic loss per CPO(4)(5)	(1.17)	(2.13)	(1.02)
Total debt plus other financial obligations	210,619	249,372	218,026
Total debt plus other financial obligations, as adjusted to give effect to the issuance of the March 2013 Notes, the Eurobond Tender Offer and the prepayment of the 2009 Financing Agreement(12)	—	—	221,971

- (1) Cost of sales includes depreciation, amortization and depletion of assets involved in production, freight expenses of raw materials used in our producing plants, delivery expenses of our ready-mix concrete business and expenses related to storage in producing plants. Our cost of sales excludes (i) expenses related to personnel and equipment comprising our selling network and those expenses related to warehousing at

## Table of Contents

- the points of sale, which are included as part of our administrative and selling expenses line item, and (ii) freight expenses of finished products from our producing plants to our points of sale and from our points of sale to our customers' locations, which are all included as part of our distribution expenses line item.
- (2) The line item "Operating earnings before other expenses, net" was titled by CEMEX in prior years as "Operating income." The line item "Operating earnings" was titled by CEMEX in prior years as "Operating income after other expenses, net." See note 2A to our 2012 audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report.
- (3) Financial items includes financial expenses and our other financial (expense) income, net, which includes our financial income, results from financial instruments, net (derivatives and marketable securities), foreign exchange results, effects of net present value on assets and liabilities and others, net. See note 7 to our 2012 audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report.
- (4) CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s capital stock consists of Series A shares and Series B shares. Each of CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s CPOs represents two Series A shares and one Series B share. As of December 31, 2012, approximately 99.2% of CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s outstanding share capital was represented by CPOs. Each of CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s ADSs represents ten CPOs.
- (5) Loss per share are calculated based upon the weighted average number of shares outstanding during the year, as described in note 22 to our 2012 audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report. Basic loss per CPO is determined by multiplying the basic loss per share for each period by three (the number of shares underlying each CPO). Basic loss per CPO is presented solely for the convenience of the reader and does not represent a measure under IFRS.
- (6) CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V. did not declare a dividend for fiscal years 2010, 2011 and 2012. At each of CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s 2010, 2011 and 2012 annual general ordinary shareholders' meetings, held on February 24, 2011, February 23, 2012 and March 21, 2013, respectively, CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V.'s shareholders approved a recapitalization of retained earnings. New CPOs issued pursuant to each such recapitalization were allocated to shareholders on a pro-rata basis. As a result, shares equivalent to approximately 401 million CPOs, approximately 418.7 million CPOs and approximately 437.5 million CPOs were allocated to shareholders on a pro-rata basis in connection with the 2010, 2011 and 2012 recapitalizations, respectively. In each case, CPO holders received one new CPO for each 25 CPOs held and ADS holders received one new ADS for each 25 ADSs held. There was no cash distribution and no entitlement to fractional shares.
- (7) Based upon the total number of shares outstanding at the end of each period, expressed in millions of shares, and includes shares subject to financial derivative transactions, but does not include shares held by our subsidiaries.
- (8) As of December 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012, non-controlling interest includes U.S.\$1,320 million (Ps16,310 million), U.S.\$938 million (Ps13,089 million) and U.S.\$473 million (Ps6,078 million), respectively, that represents the nominal amount of Perpetual Debentures, denominated in U.S. Dollars and Euros, issued by consolidated entities. In accordance with IFRS, these securities qualify as equity due to their perpetual nature and the option to defer the coupons.
- (9) Net working capital equals trade receivables, less allowance for doubtful accounts plus inventories, net, less trade payables.
- (10) Book value per share is calculated by dividing the total controlling stockholders' equity by the number of shares outstanding.
- (11) Operating EBITDA equals operating earnings before other expenses, net, amortization and depreciation expenses. Operating EBITDA and the ratio of Operating EBITDA to interest expense are presented because we believe that they are widely accepted as financial indicators of our ability to internally fund capital expenditures and service or incur debt. Operating EBITDA and such ratios should not be considered as indicators of our financial performance, as alternatives to cash flow, as measures of liquidity or as being comparable to other similarly titled measures of other companies. Under IFRS, while there are line items that are customarily included in statements of operations prepared pursuant to IFRS, such as net sales, operating costs and expenses and financial revenues and expenses, among others, the inclusion of certain subtotals, such as operating earnings before other expenses, net, and the display of such statement of operations varies significantly by industry and company according to specific needs. Operating EBITDA is

## Table of Contents

reconciled below to operating earnings before other expenses, net, as reported in the statements of operations, and to net cash flows provided by operating activities before interest and income taxes paid in cash, as reported in the statement of cash flows. Interest expense under IFRS does not include coupon payments and issuance costs of the Perpetual Debentures issued by consolidated entities of approximately Ps1,624 million in 2010, approximately Ps1,010 million in 2011 and approximately Ps453 million in 2012, as described in note 20D to our 2012 audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this annual report.

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2010	2011	2012
(in millions of Mexican Pesos)			
<b>Reconciliation of operating EBITDA to net cash flows provided by operating activities before interest and income taxes paid in cash</b>			
Operating EBITDA	Ps 29,844	Ps 29,600	Ps 34,384
Less:			
Operating depreciation and amortization expense	19,108	17,536	17,184
Operating earnings before other expenses, net	10,736	12,064	17,200
Plus/minus:			
Changes in working capital excluding income taxes	(623)	(727)	(2,048)
Depreciation and amortization expense	19,108	17,536	17,184
Other items, net	(3,269)	(5,257)	(2,439)
Net cash flow provided by operating activities before interest and income taxes paid in cash	Ps 25,952	Ps 23,616	Ps 29,897

- (12) The table below shows a reconciliation of total debt plus other financial obligations to total debt plus other financial obligations, as adjusted to give effect to the issuance of the March 2013 Notes, the Eurobond Tender Offer and the prepayment of the 2009 Financing Agreement.

(Amounts in millions)	As of December 31, 2012				
	Less than 1 year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	More than 5 Years	Total
Total debt plus other financial obligations	Ps 7,574	30,022	96,070	84,360	218,026
Total debt plus other financial obligations	U.S.\$ 590	2,336	7,476	6,565	16,967
<b>Effect of March 2013 Notes, the Eurobond Tender Offer and the Prepayment of the 2009 Financing Agreement</b>					
March 2013 Notes	U.S.\$ —	—	—	595	595
Eurobonds	U.S.\$ —	(241)	—	—	(241)
2009 Financing Agreement	U.S.\$ —	(47)	—	—	(47)
Total debt and other financial obligations, as adjusted to give effect to the issuance of the March 2013 Notes, the Eurobond Tender Offer and the prepayment of the 2009 Financing Agreement	U.S.\$ 590	2,048	7,476	7,160	17,274
Total debt and other financial obligations, as adjusted to give effect to the issuance of the March 2013 Notes, the Eurobond Tender Offer and the prepayment of the 2009 Financing Agreement	Ps 7,582	26,317	96,067	92,006	221,971

**Item 4—Information on the Company**

Unless otherwise indicated, references in this annual report to our sales and assets, including percentages, for a country or region are calculated before eliminations resulting from consolidation, and thus include intercompany balances between countries and regions. These intercompany balances are eliminated when calculated on a consolidated basis.

**Business Overview**

CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V. is a publicly traded stock corporation with variable capital, or *sociedad anónima bursátil de capital variable*, organized under the laws of Mexico, with our principal executive offices in Avenida Ricardo Margáin Zozaya #325, Colonia Valle del Campestre, Garza García, Nuevo León, 66265, México. Our main phone number is (+ 5281) 8888-8888.

CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V. was founded in 1906 and was registered with the Mercantile Section of the Public Registry of Property and Commerce in Monterrey, N.L., Mexico, on June 11, 1920 for a period of 99 years. At our 2002 annual general ordinary shareholders' meeting, this period was extended to the year 2100. Beginning April 2006, CEMEX's full legal and commercial name is CEMEX, Sociedad Anónima Bursátil de Capital Variable.

CEMEX is one of the largest cement companies in the world, based on annual installed cement production capacity as of December 31, 2012 of approximately 94.8 million tons. We are the largest ready-mix concrete company in the world with annual sales volumes of approximately 55 million cubic meters and one of the largest aggregates companies in the world with annual sales volumes of approximately 159 million tons, in each case based on our annual sales volumes in 2012. We are also one of the world's largest traders of cement and clinker, having traded approximately 8.8 million tons of cement and clinker in 2012. CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V. is a holding company primarily engaged, through our operating subsidiaries, in the production, distribution, marketing and sale of cement, ready-mix concrete, aggregates, clinker and other construction materials throughout the world, and that provides reliable construction-related services to customers and communities in more than 50 countries throughout the world.

We operate globally, with operations in Mexico, the United States, Northern Europe, the Mediterranean, South America and the Caribbean and Asia. We had total assets of approximately Ps479 billion (U.S.\$37 billion) as of December 31, 2012, and an equity market capitalization of approximately Ps152,429.58 million (U.S.\$13,386.05 million) as of April 19, 2013.

As of December 31, 2012, our main cement production facilities were located in Mexico, the United States, Spain, Egypt, Germany, Colombia, the Philippines, Poland, the Dominican Republic, the United Kingdom, Croatia, Panama, Latvia, Puerto Rico, Thailand, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. As of December 31, 2012, our assets (after eliminations), cement plants and installed capacity, on an unconsolidated basis by region, were as set forth below. Installed capacity, which refers to theoretical annual production capacity, represents gray cement equivalent capacity, which counts each ton of white cement capacity as approximately two tons of gray cement capacity, and includes installed capacity of cement plants that have been temporarily closed.