

Month	Reais per U.S. Dollar	
	High	Low
October 2017	3.28	3.20
November 2017	3.29	3.21
December 2017	3.33	3.23
January 2018	3.27	3.14
February 2018	3.28	3.17
March 2018	3.33	3.21
April 2018 (through April 26, 2018)	3.50	3.31

Source: Central Bank.

The exchange rate on April 26, 2018 was R\$3.49 per U.S.\$1.00.

B. Capitalization and Indebtedness

Not applicable.

C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds

Not applicable.

D. Risk Factors

Risks Relating to Our Business and Industry

Health risks related to our business and the food industry could adversely affect our ability to sell our products. We have been recently subject to significant investigations relating to, among other things, food safety and quality control.

We are subject to risks affecting the food industry generally, including risks posed by contamination or food spoilage, evolving nutritional and health-related concerns, consumer product liability claims, product tampering, the possible unavailability and expense of liability insurance, public perception of product safety for both the industry as a whole and also our products specifically, but not exclusively, as a result of disease outbreaks or the fear of such outbreaks, the potential cost and disruption of a product recall and possible impacts on our image and brands. Among such risks are those related to raising animals, including disease and adverse weather conditions.

Meat can be subject to contamination during processing and distribution. In particular, processed meat may become exposed to various disease-producing pathogens, including *listeria monocytogenes*, *salmonella* and generic *E. coli*. These pathogens can also be introduced to our products during production or as a result of improper handling by third-party food processors, franchisees, distributors, foodservice providers or consumers. Spoilage, especially spoilage due to failure of temperature-control storage and transportation systems, is also a risk. We maintain systems designed to monitor food safety risks throughout all stages of production and distribution, but these systems could fail to function properly and product contamination could still occur. Failures in our systems to ensure food safety could result in harmful publicity that could cause damage to our brands, reputation and image and negatively impact sales, which could have a material adverse impact on our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

Brazilian authorities are investigating the Brazil's meat processing industry in the so-called "*Carne Fraca* Operation." The investigation involves a number of companies in the Brazilian industry and, among other things, include allegations relating to food safety and quality control. On January 22, 2018, the 3rd Public Prosecutor's Office of the State of Goiás, offered a complaint against Mr. Laércio José Brunetto, industrial manager of our Mineiros plant, located in the State of Goiás, by the time of the events of the *Carne Fraca* Operation and current member of our corporate engineering team, and a former employee who was dismissed on August 16, 2016 and was the head of the quality control of the Mineiros plant. Both of them were charged for allegedly committing crimes against consumers, as provided in article 7, item II of Law 8,137/90. In connection with this investigation, there is currently no indictment in Brazil against us for production of products unfit for human consumption or possible harm for the health of consumers. According to the Public Prosecutor's Office, laboratory tests (*dripping tests*) have verified excessive levels of water absorbed by the chicken products apprehended at Mineiros plant. The Public Prosecutor's Office alleges we produced chicken products with higher quantities of water than the limits permitted by the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (*Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento*, or "MAPA"), with potential damages to customers, considering they would be acquiring chicken meat products with inferior weight than those indicated on the product package, since part of the weight of the frozen chicken would consist merely of water contained therein.

On March 5, 2018, BRF learned of a decision issued by a federal judge of the 1st Federal Court of Ponta Grossa - Paraná, authorizing the search and seizure of information and documents from us and certain current and former employees, and the temporary detention of certain individuals. In what media reports have identified as “*Trapaça Operation*,” in total eleven current and former employees of BRF were temporarily detained for questioning, including former Chief Executive Officer Pedro Faria and former Vice President for Global Operations Helio Rubens. All such current and former employees have been released. A number of other BRF employees and former employees were identified for questioning. Based on the judge’s decision authorizing the temporary detention and the search and seizure, the main allegations at this stage involve alleged misconduct relating to quality violations, improper use of feed components, and falsification of tests at certain BRF manufacturing plants and accredited labs.

We are cooperating with authorities and initiated an internal investigation with respect to the allegations.

As a result of the *Trapaça Operation*, on March 5, 2018, we received notice from MAPA that it immediately suspended exports from our Rio Verde/GO, Carambei/PR and Mineiros/GO plants to twelve countries that require specific sanitary requirements for the control of the bacteria group *Salmonella* spp and *Salmonella pullorum*. MAPA temporarily suspended exports from nine other BRF plants to the European Union on March 15, 2018, but revoked the temporary suspension on April 18, 2018. Although to date we have not received any formal notice from Brazilian or European authorities, media reports indicate that the European Union is considering suspending imports of poultry from certain production facilities in Brazil (including ours) supposedly due to sanitary concerns. If the European Union were to implement any such ban of imports from our production facilities, we may not be able to sell our products from such embargoed production plants in the European Union, and depending on the extension of such suspension, our results of operations may be adversely affected if we are not capable of directing any exceeding production capacity resulting from suspension to other markets at similar prices.

Even if our own products are not affected by contamination, our industry may face adverse publicity in certain of its markets if the products of other producers become contaminated, which could result in negative public perception about the safety of our products and reduced consumer demand for our products in the affected category. Significant lawsuits, widespread product recalls, and other negative events faced by us or our competitors could result in a widespread loss of consumer confidence in the safety and quality of our products. Our sales are ultimately dependent on consumer preferences, and any actual or perceived health risks associated with our products could cause customers to lose confidence in the safety and quality of our products and have a material adverse impact on our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

More stringent trade barriers in key export markets may negatively affect our results of operations.

Because of the growing market share of Brazilian poultry, pork and beef products in the international markets, Brazilian exporters are increasingly being affected by measures taken by importing countries to protect local producers. The competitiveness of Brazilian companies has led certain countries to establish trade barriers to limit the access of Brazilian companies to their markets. Trade barriers can consist of both tariffs and non-tariff barriers. In our industry, non-tariff barriers are a particular concern, especially sanitary and technical restrictions.

As a result of the regulators' inquiries and the public announcement of allegations of wrongdoings involving BRF and other companies in the Brazilian meat industry in the context of the *Carne Fraca* Operation and *Trapaça* Operation, some export markets have been temporarily closed and our average selling prices for some products and in some markets have fallen. As a result of the *Trapaça* Operation, on March 5, 2018, we received notice from MAPA that it immediately suspended exports from our Rio Verde/GO, Carambei/PR and Mineiros/GO plants to twelve countries that require specific sanitary requirements for the control of the bacteria group *Salmonella* spp and *Salmonella pullorum*. MAPA temporarily suspended exports from nine other BRF plants to the European Union on March 15, 2018, but revoked the temporary suspension on April 18, 2018. For more information about the "*Trapaça* Operation" see "Item 8. Financial Information-B. Significant Changes-*Carne Fraca* Operation" and "Item 8. Financial Information-B. Significant Changes- *Trapaça* Operation."

Some countries, such as Russia and South Africa, have a history of erecting trade barriers to imports of food products. In Europe, another of our key markets, the European Union has adopted a quota system for certain chicken products and prohibitive tariffs for certain products that do not have quotas in order to mitigate the effects of Brazil's lower production costs on local producers over European producers.

Many developed countries use direct and indirect subsidies to enhance the competitiveness of their producers in other markets. In addition, local producers in some markets may exert political pressure on their governments to prevent foreign producers from exporting to their market, particularly during unfavorable economic conditions. Any of the above restrictions could substantially affect our export volumes and, consequently, our export sales and financial performance. If new trade barriers arise in our key export markets, we may face difficulties in reallocating our products to other markets on favorable terms, and our business, financial condition and results of operations might be adversely affected.

For instance, Saudi Arabia recently considered whether poultry slaughtering practices in Brazil conforms with halal practices in Muslim markets. Brazil uses electric currents to leave poultry unconscious prior to slaughtering and Saudi Arabia raised concerns that such practice may violate the Muslim norm. In March 2018, officials with the Brazilian Agriculture Ministry and representatives of Brazil's animal protein producer association traveled to Saudi Arabia to meet with Saudi Arabian authorities and explain that the electric currents do not kill the poultry. If the Brazilian authorities do not convince the Saudi Arabian authorities that its practices meet halal practices, unless we adapt our poultry slaughtering practices to conform with new practices eventually required by Saudi Arabia, we may not be able to sell the poultry produced by the system using electric currents to Saudi Arabia beginning in May 2018. There can be no assurance that we will be able to promote such adaptation in a timely or cost-effective manner or at all, and any such adaptation may negatively affect our margins in sales to Saudi Arabia if we are not able to pass on these increased costs to our customers.

Raising animals and meat processing involve animal health and disease control risks, which could have an adverse impact on our results of operations and financial condition.

Our operations involve raising poultry and hogs and processing their meat, which require us to maintain certain standards of animal health and control disease. We could be required to destroy animals or suspend the sale or export of some of our products to customers in Brazil and abroad, in the event of an outbreak of disease affecting animals, such as the following: (1) in the case of hogs and certain other animals, foot-and-mouth disease and (H5N1) influenza (discussed below); and (2) in the case of poultry, avian influenza and Newcastle disease. In addition, if the Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome and Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea, which have broken out in Europe and the United States, were to outbreak in Brazil, we could be required to destroy hogs, however currently there is no legislation supporting this action. Destruction of poultry, hogs or other animals would preclude recovery of costs incurred in raising or purchasing these animals and result in additional expense for the disposal of such animals and loss of inventory. An outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease could have an effect on livestock we own and the availability of livestock for purchase. Also, the global effects of avian influenza would impact consumer perception of certain protein products and our ability to access certain markets, which would adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

Outbreaks, or fears of outbreaks, of any animal diseases may lead to cancellation of orders by our customers and, particularly if the disease has the potential to affect humans, create adverse publicity that may have a material adverse effect on consumer demand for our products. Moreover, outbreaks of animal diseases in Brazil may result in foreign governmental action to close export markets to some or all of our products, which may result in the destruction of some or all of these animals. Our poultry business in Brazilian and export markets could also be negatively affected by avian influenza.

Chicken and other birds in some countries, particularly in Asia but also in Europe, the Americas and Africa, have on occasion become infected by highly pathogenic avian influenza in recent years. In a small number of highly-publicized cases, the avian influenza has been transmitted from birds to humans, resulting in illness and, at times, death. Accordingly, health authorities in many countries have taken steps to prevent outbreaks of this viral disease, including destruction of afflicted poultry flocks.

During the last years, some human cases of avian influenza and related deaths were reported, according to the World Health Organization (“WHO”). The cases reported were caused by the H5N1 virus. In 2013, direct human-to-human transmission of the H7N9 virus was proven. Various countries in Asia, the Middle East and Africa reported human cases in the last five years and various European countries reported avian flu cases in poultry. In 2014, there were reports of human cases of avian influenza in Egypt, Indonesia, Cambodia, China and Vietnam. In the Americas, there were reports of human cases of avian influenza in both Canada and the United States. In early 2015, new cases of H5N1 and H5N2 reported in the United States resulted in restrictions on US exports. In 2016, new outbreaks occurred in bird populations across Northern Europe, including France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Finland, and Germany. Middle Eastern and African countries also had outbreaks during 2016.

To date, Brazil has not had a documented case of avian influenza, although there are concerns that an outbreak of avian influenza may occur in the country in the future. Any outbreak of avian influenza in Brazil could lead to required destruction of our poultry flocks, which would result in decreased sales in the poultry industry, prevent recovery of costs incurred in raising or purchasing poultry, and result in additional expense for the disposal of destroyed poultry. In addition, any outbreak of avian influenza in Brazil would likely lead to immediate restrictions on the export of some of our products to key export markets. Preventive actions adopted by Brazilian authorities, if any, may not be effective in precluding the spread of avian influenza within Brazil. In early 2017, Chile, a neighboring country, confirmed the occurrence of avian influenza.

Whether or not an outbreak of avian influenza occurs in Brazil, further outbreaks of avian influenza anywhere in the world could have a negative impact on the consumption of poultry in our key export markets or in Brazil, and a significant outbreak would negatively affect our results of operation and financial condition. Any outbreak could lead to the imposition of costly preventive controls on poultry imports in our export markets. Accordingly, any spread of avian influenza, or increasing concerns about this disease, may have a material and adverse effect on our company.

Climate change may negatively affect our business and results of operations.

We consider the potential effects of climate change when evaluating and managing our operations and supply chain, recognizing the vulnerability of natural resources and agricultural inputs that are essential for our activities. The main risks we have identified relate to the alterations in temperature (average and extreme), changes in rainfall (average and extreme, such as drought, flooding and storms) and lack of water, which could affect agricultural productivity – grains in particular, animal wellbeing and the availability of energy and water. These changes could have a direct impact on our costs, raising the price of agricultural commodities as a result of long periods of drought or excessive rainfall, increasing operating costs to ensure animal wellbeing, increasing the risk of rationing and raising the price of electrical energy through water shortages and the need for other energy sources to supply the demand for electricity. We also consider potential regulatory changes and monitor trends in changes to licensing legislation for greenhouse gas emissions at the domestic and international levels.

Our operations are largely dependent on electricity, and energy-related expenses are one of our highest fixed costs. Energy costs have historically fluctuated significantly over time, and increases in energy costs could result in reduced profits. A significant interruption in energy supply or outright loss of energy at any of our facilities could result in a temporary disruption in production and delivery of products to customers and additional costs.

A significant portion of Brazil’s installed electric generation capacity is currently dependent upon hydroelectric generation facilities. Hydroelectric production is vulnerable to a variety of factors, including precipitation. If the amount of water available to energy producers becomes increasingly scarce due to drought or diversion for other uses, as has occurred in recent years, our energy expenses may increase. For example, following the 2015 drought conditions in the Southeast of Brazil, the availability of power generation from hydroelectric sources was reduced and as a result, our electricity expenses increased during the period.

Among the initiatives we have taken to reduce our exposure to climate change and to maintain our competitiveness in terms of costs is the monitoring of stocks in grains purchases and the constant monitoring of the weather in agricultural regions to guide buying decisions, as well as anticipating price movements in the commodity markets. We also undertake projects to develop more efficient processes that consume less energy. Other initiatives include technological innovations in the animal-raising installations to improve the environment and acclimatization and safeguard the animal's welfare. We may fail to continue to implement programs to mitigate effects of climate change, which may affect our business and results of operations in the future.

Any shortage or lack of water could materially adversely affect our business and results of operations.

A study conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization indicates that, in the next two decades, the demand for water will increase 50% on a global scale. In connection with that, it is estimated that by 2025, 1.8 billion people will live in places with absolute shortage of water and two thirds of the global population will live in water-stressed places. By 2050, the demand for water will jump 55%, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization, on a global scale, including some of our key markets, such as North Africa and the Middle East. Water is an essential input for our businesses, being present from the production of grains and inputs, the agricultural chain through our production processes. As a result, the shortage or lack of water represents a critical risk for our business. On the other hand, we are aware that the industrial use of water may adversely affect its availability. Although Brazil holds nearly a fifth of the world's water reserves, the World Economic Forum warns, year-by-year, that water crises is one of the most relevant Global Risk.

In order to mitigate these risks, we developed a methodology to evaluate water-related risks in the locations where we have operations in order to understand the specific impacts of our company and others in those regions and, consequently, reduce our water consumption and exposure to water supply risks in each location. It is an initiative regarding water-related risks through which we can assess internal and external aspects impacting water supply and quality and generate a score for each unit. The objective is to carry out internal and external actions to reduce consumption and comply with applicable rules in order to minimize our impact on the environment and the community. We analyzed the micro and macro watersheds composing the region, as well as the industrial activities and characteristics of the use of water resources, in order to understand the local demand growth, anticipating risks. Although we use a methodology developed by us to evaluate water-related risks in our areas of operation, this methodology may fail to accurately assess the water supply or anticipate water-related risks. This could result in us or our key suppliers encountering water shortages. In addition, the increased industrial use of water by water intensive business may also adversely affect the continuing availability and quality of water in Brazil. Whether unexpected or expected, the shortage or lack of water could materially adversely affect our business and results of operations.

We have a governance structure and compliance processes designed to promote our compliance with law, positive image and reputation in the marketplace, but they may fail to ensure compliance with relevant anti-fraud, anti-corruption, anti-bribery, anti-money laundering and other international trade laws and regulations.

We have a framework of antifraud initiatives - including anti-bribery and anti-corruption - that supports all business segments and their commercial standards worldwide. However, we may not be able to mitigate all fraud risk entirely. Any negative reflection on our image or our brand from these or other activities could have a negative impact on our results of operations, as well as our ability to achieve our growth strategy.

We are subject to anti-fraud, anticorruption, anti-bribery, anti-money laundering and other international trade laws and regulations. We are required to comply with the laws and regulations of Brazil and various jurisdictions where we conduct operations. In particular, we are subject to the Brazilian Anti-Corruption Law n° 12,846, the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 ("FCPA"), the United Kingdom Bribery Act of 2010, as well as economic sanction programs, including those administered by the United Nations, the European Union and the United States, including the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC"). The FCPA prohibits providing anything of value to foreign officials for the purposes of obtaining or retaining business or securing any improper business advantage. As part of our business, we may deal with entities and employees that are considered foreign officials for purposes of the FCPA. In addition, economic sanctions programs restrict our dealings with certain sanctioned countries, individuals and entities.

Although we have internal policies and procedures designed to ensure compliance with applicable anti-fraud, anti-bribery and anti-corruption laws and sanctions regulations, potential violations of anti-fraud and anticorruption laws have been identified on occasion as part of our compliance and internal control processes. In addition, we were recently notified of allegations involving potential misconduct by some of our employees in the context of the *Carne Fraca* Operation. For more details, see “Item 8. Financial Information – B. Significant Changes – *Carne Fraca* Operation.” As a result of the *Carne Fraca* Operation and related consequences, we incurred in expenses and recorded provisions for losses in inventories in the total amount of R\$363.4 million in 2017, which significantly impacted our results of operations.

When allegations of non-compliance with applicable anti-fraud, anti-bribery and anti-corruption laws and sanctions regulations arise, we attempt to act promptly to learn relevant facts, conduct appropriate due diligence, and take any appropriate remedial action to address the risk. Given the size of our operations and the complexity of the production chain, there can be no assurance our internal policies and procedures will be sufficient to prevent or detect all inappropriate or unlawful practices, fraud or violations of law or our internal policies and procedures by our employees, directors, officers, partners, or any third-party agents and service providers or that such persons will not take actions in violation of our policies and procedures (or otherwise in violation of the relevant anti-fraud, anti-corruption laws and sanctions regulations) for which we or they may be ultimately held responsible. Violations of anti-fraud, anti-bribery and anti-corruption laws and sanctions regulations could have a material adverse effect on our business, reputation, brand, selling prices, results of operations and financial condition, including as a result of the closure of international markets. We may be subject to one or more enforcement actions, investigations and proceedings by authorities for alleged infringements of these laws. These proceedings may result in penalties, fines, sanctions or other forms of liability. Potential bad developments in the *Carne Fraca* Operation may also negatively affect the market price of our common shares and ADRs.

Failure to maintain adequate internal controls could adversely affect our reputation and business.

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting that provide reasonable assurance of the reliability of the preparation and reporting of our financial statements for external use. Inadequate internal controls may result in our failure to meet public reporting requirements accurately and on a timely basis and harm our reputation. The inherent limitations of internal controls over financial reporting may not prevent or detect all misstatements or fraud, regardless of the adequacy of those controls, and, therefore, we cannot assure that material weaknesses will not be identified in the future.

Our failure to continually innovate and successfully launch new products that address our clients’ needs and requirements, as well as maintain our brand image, could adversely impact our operating results.

Our financial success depends on our ability to anticipate changes in consumer preferences and dietary habits and our ability to successfully develop and launch new products and product variations that are desirable to consumers. We devote significant resources to new product development and product extensions; however, we may not be successful in developing innovative new products or our new products may not be commercially successful. For example, trends towards prioritizing health and wellness present a challenge for developing and marketing successful new lines of products to address these consumer preferences. To the extent that we are not able to effectively gauge the direction of our key markets and successfully identify, develop, manufacture and market new or improved products in these changing markets, in a timely or cost-effective manner, our products, brands, our financial results and our competitive position may suffer, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

We also seek to maintain and extend the image of our brands through marketing, including advertising, consumer promotions and trade spending. Due to inherent risks in the marketplace associated with advertising, promotions and new product introductions, including uncertainties about trade and consumer acceptance, our marketing investments may not prove successful in maintaining or increasing our market share. Continuing global focus on health and wellness, including weight management, increasing media attention to the role of food marketing and bad press about our quality controls and products, including in connection with the *Carne Fraca* Operation and *Trapaça* Operation, could adversely affect our brand image or lead to stricter regulations and greater scrutiny of food marketing practices.

Our success in maintaining, extending and expanding our brand image also depends on our ability to adapt to a rapidly changing media environment, including increasing reliance on social media and online dissemination of advertising campaigns. The growing use of social and digital media increases the speed and extent that information or misinformation and opinions can be shared.

Negative posts or comments about us, our brands or our products on social or digital media could seriously damage our reputation and brand image. If we do not maintain or improve our brand image, then our product sales, financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

Recent and future acquisitions or joint ventures may divert management resources or prove to be disruptive to our company.

We regularly review and pursue opportunities for strategic growth through acquisitions, joint ventures and other initiatives. We have completed several acquisitions in recent years, such as Golden Foods Siam (“GFS”) in Thailand, Campo Austral and Calchaqui in Argentina, Universal Meats (UK) Ltd. (“Universal Meats”) in the United Kingdom, Al Khan Foodstuff LLC (“AFK”) in Oman, and the Qatar National Import and Export Co. (“QNIE”) frozen distribution business in Qatar. We entered into in September 2016 a subscription and purchase agreement for the acquisition of 70% of FFM Further Processing SDN BHD, a food processing company incorporated under the laws of Malaysia. This transaction was completed on October 4, 2016. Additionally, we concluded the acquisition of Banvit Bandirma Vitamili Yem Sanayii A.S. (“Banvit”), the largest poultry producer in Turkey, in May 2017. For more details on certain of these transactions, see “Item 4. Information on the Company—A. History and Development of the Company.” Acquisitions, new businesses and joint ventures, especially involving sizeable enterprises, may present financial, managerial, operational and compliance risks and uncertainties, including:

- challenges in realizing the anticipated benefits of the transaction;
- diversion of management attention from existing businesses;
- difficulty with integrating personnel, especially to different managerial practices;
- disruptions when integrating financial, technological and other systems;
- difficulty identifying suitable candidate businesses or consummating a transaction on terms that are favorable to us;
- challenges in retaining an acquired company’s customers and key employees;
- increased compensation expenses for newly-hired employees;
- exposure to unforeseen liabilities or problems of the acquired companies or joint ventures;
- warranty claims and claims for damages which may be limited in content, timeframe and amount;
- challenges arising from a lack of familiarity with new markets with differing commercial and social norms and customs, which may adversely impact our strategic goals or require us to adapt our marketing and sales model for specific countries;
- compliance with foreign legal and regulatory systems; and

- difficulties in transferring capital to new jurisdictions.

Acquisitions outside of Brazil may present additional difficulties and new political and countries risks, such as compliance with foreign legal and regulatory systems, difficulties to transfer capital, integration of personnel to different managerial practices and would increase our exposure to risks associated with international operations.

We may be unable to realize synergies and efficiency gains from our recent acquisitions in the timeframe we anticipate or at all, because of integration or other challenges. In addition, we may be unable to identify, negotiate or finance future acquisitions or other strategic initiatives particularly as part of our international growth strategy, successfully or at favorable terms, or to effectively integrate these acquisitions or joint venture businesses with our current businesses. Any future joint ventures or acquisitions of businesses, technologies, services or products might require us to obtain additional equity or debt financing, which may not be available on favorable terms, or at all. Future acquisitions and joint ventures may also result in unforeseen operating difficulties and expenditures, as well as strain on our organizational culture.

Political and economic risks in regions and countries where we have exposure could limit the profitability of our operations and our ability to execute our strategy in these regions.

Since we have expanded our operations around the world, we are subject to a variety of situations that may adversely affect our financial results. In the regions where we have production and distribution activities, we are subject, among others, to the following risks:

- governmental inertia;
- geopolitical risk and conflicts (including war, terrorism and civil unrest);
- imposition of exchange or price controls;
- imposition of restrictions on exports of our products or imports of raw materials necessary for our production (including embargos from countries where we have production and/or distribution activities);
- fluctuation of local currencies against the real;
- nationalization of our property;
- increase in export tax and income tax rates for our products; and
- unilateral (governmental) institutional and contractual changes, including controls on investments and limitations on new projects.

As a result of these factors, our results of operations and financial condition in the regions where we have production and distribution activities may be adversely affected, and we may experience in the future significant variability in our revenue on both an annual and a quarterly basis from those operations. For instance, it is unclear to us if the recent diplomatic crisis between Qatar and other Arab countries may lead to measures (such as trade embargo) that could ultimately impact our current operations in Qatar and in the region. The impact of these changes on our ability to deliver on our planned projects and execute our strategy cannot be ascertained with any degree of certainty, and these changes may, therefore, have an adverse effect on our operations and financial results.

Deterioration of general economic and political conditions could negatively impact our business.

Our business may be adversely affected by changes in Brazilian and global economic and political conditions, which may result in increased volatility in our markets and contribute to net losses.

Brazilian economy is expected to recover more consistently in 2018, resuming gross domestic product (“GDP”) growth and creating more jobs. However, there are a few political risks: (1) presidential elections and (2) structural reforms. Both factors will bring high volatility to the domestic financial markets in the short term, and might hinder economic recovery in a longer term. In this scenario, improvement of the labor market and income growth may be limited, which could disfavor a substantial improvement of consumption. Other factors that may harm our business is the unfolding of the *Carne Fraca* Operation, which impacted the credibility of the whole sector and led some importers to ban specific slaughterhouses, of which a few remain banned until the present time, and also of the unfolding of the *Trapaça* Operation. As a result, exported volume declined and will be reallocated in other destinations.

Furthermore, on June 23, 2016, the United Kingdom held an in-or-out referendum on the United Kingdom’s membership within the European Union, the result of which favored the exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union, or “Brexit.” A process of negotiation will determine the future terms of the United Kingdom’s relationship with the European Union. The potential impact of Brexit on our market share, sales, profitability and results of operations is unclear. Depending on the terms of Brexit, economic conditions in the United Kingdom, the European Union and global markets may be adversely affected by reduced growth and volatility. The uncertainty before, during and after the period of negotiation could also have a negative economic impact and increase volatility in the markets, particularly in the Eurozone.

Our results of operations are subject to cyclicity and volatility affecting both our raw material prices and our selling prices.

Our business is largely dependent on the cost and supply of corn, soy meal, soybeans, hogs and other raw materials, as well as the selling prices of our poultry and pork. These prices are determined by supply and demand, which may fluctuate significantly, and other factors over which we have little or no control. These other factors include, among others, fluctuations in local and global poultry and hog production levels, environmental and conservation regulations, economic conditions, weather, animal and crop diseases, cost of international freight and exchange rate and interest rate fluctuations.

Our industry, both in Brazil and abroad, is generally characterized by cyclical periods of higher prices and profitability, followed by overproduction, leading to periods of lower prices and profitability. We are not able to mitigate these risks entirely.

Natural disasters, pandemics or extreme weather, including floods, excessive cold or heat, hurricanes or other storms, as well as any interruption we can observe in our plants that may require the temporary re-allocation of plant functions to other facilities could impair the health or growth of livestock or interfere with our operations due to power outages, damage to our production and processing facilities or disruption in transportation channels or information systems, among other issues.

Our international sales are subject to a broad range of risks associated with international operations.

International sales account for a significant portion of our net sales in line with our global strategy, representing 50.2% in 2015, 52.3% in 2016 and 51.0% in 2017. Our major international markets include the Middle East (particularly Saudi Arabia), Asia (particularly Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and China), Europe, Eurasia (particularly Russia) Africa and Americas (particularly Argentina), where we are subject to many of the same risks described below in relation to Brazil. Our future financial performance will depend, to a significant extent, on the economic, political and social conditions in our main export markets.

Our future ability to conduct business in our export markets could be adversely affected by factors beyond our control, such as the following:

- exchange rate and interest rate fluctuations;
- commodities price volatility;

- deterioration in international economic conditions;
- political risks, such as turmoil, government policies, difficulties to transfer capital and political instability;
- decreases in demand, particularly from large markets such as China;
- imposition of increased tariffs, anti-dumping duties or other trade barriers;
- strikes or other events affecting ports and other transport facilities;
- compliance with differing foreign legal and regulatory regimes;
- strikes, not only of our employees, but also of port employees, truck drivers, customs agents, sanitary inspection agents and other government agents at the Brazilian ports from which we export our products;
- sabotage affecting our products; and
- bad press related to the Brazilian meat processing industry, including in connection with the *Carne Fraca* Operation and *Trapaça* Operation.

The market dynamics of our important export markets can change quickly and unpredictably due to these factors, the imposition of trade barriers of the type described above and other factors, which together can significantly affect our export volumes, selling prices and results of operations.

Any of these risks could adversely affect our business and results of operations. In addition, flooding and similar events affecting the infrastructure necessary for the export of our products could adversely affect our revenues and results of operations.

We face significant competition from Brazilian and foreign producers, which could adversely affect our financial performance.

We face strong competition from other Brazilian producers in our domestic market and from Brazilian and foreign producers in our international markets. The Brazilian market for whole poultry, poultry and pork cuts is highly fragmented. Small producers can also be important competitors, some of which operate in the informal economy and are able to offer lower prices by meeting lower quality standards. Competition from small producers is a primary reason why we sell most of our frozen (*in natura*) meat products in the export markets and is a barrier to expanding our sales of those products in the domestic market. With respect to exports, we compete with other large, vertically integrated Brazilian producers that have the ability to produce quality products at low cost, as well as with foreign producers.

In addition, the potential growth of the Brazilian market for processed food, poultry, pork and beef and Brazil's low production costs are attractive to international competitors. Although the main barrier to these companies has been the need to build a comprehensive distribution network and a network of outgrowers, international competitors with significant resources could undertake to build these networks or acquire and expand existing networks.

The Brazilian poultry and pork cuts markets, in particular, are highly price-competitive and sensitive to product substitution. Even if we remain a low-cost producer, customers may seek to diversify their sources of supply by purchasing a portion of the products they need from producers in other countries, as some of our customers in key export markets have begun to do. We expect that we will continue to face strong competition in all of our markets and anticipate that existing or new competitors may broaden their product lines and extend their geographic scope. Any failure by us to respond to product, pricing and other moves by competitors may negatively affect our financial performance.

Increased regulation of food safety and animal welfare could increase our costs and adversely affect our results of operations.

Our manufacturing facilities and products are subject to governmental inspections and extensive regulation in the food safety area, including governmental food processing controls in all countries in which we operate, including internationally and in Brazil. We already incur significant costs in connection with the compliance with applicable rules. Changes in government regulations relating to food safety or animal welfare could require us to make additional investments or incur additional costs to meet the necessary specifications for our products. Our products are often inspected outside of Brazil by foreign food safety officials, and any failure to pass those inspections can result in us being required to return all or part of a shipment to Brazil, recall certain products, destroy all or part of a shipment or incur costs because of delays in delivering products to our customers. Any tightening of food safety or animal welfare regulations could result in increased costs and could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations, financial condition and prospects. In addition, we adopt worldwide animal welfare practices to serve our clients even though Brazil has limited regulations regarding animal welfare.

Our performance depends on favorable labor relations with our employees and our compliance with labor laws. Any deterioration of those relations or increase in labor costs could adversely affect our business.

As of December 31, 2017, we had approximately 108,234 employees worldwide. All of our production employees, in Brazil and in countries where there is a labor union force, are represented by labor unions. Upon the expiration of existing collective bargaining agreements or other collective labor agreements, we may not reach new agreements without union action and any such agreements may not be on terms satisfactory to us, which could result in us paying higher wages or benefits to union workers. If we are unable to negotiate acceptable union agreements, we may become subject to work stoppages or strikes.

Labor costs are among our most significant expenditures. Such costs represented approximately 14.8% of our cost of sales in 2017, increasing 0.8 percentage points compared to 2016, especially due to the consolidation of Banvit in our results of operations. In the event of an employee contractual structure review, additional operational expenses could be incurred. Additionally, during our normal business operation, we outsource some of our labor force, therefore being subject to the contingencies that may arise from this relationship. These contingencies may involve claims directly against us as if we were the direct employer of those outsourced workers or claims seeking our subsidiary liability. In the event that a significant amount of these contingencies materializes in an unfavorable outcome against us, we may be held liable for amounts higher than our provisions, which may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial and operational condition and results of operations. In addition, if the outsourced activities are deemed by the authorities to be core activities, outsourcing may be considered illegal and the outsourced workers may be considered our employees, which would result in a significant increase in our costs and could subject us to administrative and judicial procedures by the relevant authorities and fines. We are also subject to increases in our labor costs due to Brazilian inflation and increases in health insurance. Material increases in our labor costs could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition and prospects.

Environmental laws and regulations require increasing expenditures for compliance.

We, like other Brazilian food producers, are subject to extensive Brazilian federal, state and local environmental laws, regulations, authorizations and licenses concerning, among other things, the interference with protected areas (conservation units, archeological areas and permanent preservation areas), handling and disposal of waste, discharges of pollutants into the air, water and soil, atmospheric emissions, noise and clean-up of contamination, all of which affect our business. Water management is especially crucial, posing many challenges to our operations. In Brazil, water use regulations impact farming operations, industrial production and hydroelectric power. Any failure to comply with any of these laws and regulations or any lack of authorizations or licenses could result in administrative and criminal penalties, such as fines, cancellation of authorizations or revocation of licenses, in addition to negative publicity and civil liability for remediation or compensation for environmental damage without any caps. We cannot operate a plant if the required environmental permit is not valid or updated. Civil penalties may include summons, fines, temporary or permanent bans, the suspension of subsidies by public bodies and the temporary or permanent shutdown of commercial activities. Criminal penalties include fines, temporary interdiction of rights and prison (for individual offenders) and liquidation, temporary interdiction of rights, fines and community services (for legal entities).

Furthermore, pursuant to Brazilian environmental legislation, the corporate entity of a company will be disregarded (such that the owners of the company will be liable for its debts) if necessary to guarantee the payment of costs related to the recovery of environmental damages, whenever the legal entity is deemed by a court to be an obstacle to reimbursement of damages caused to the quality of the environment.

We have incurred, and will continue to incur, capital and operating expenditures to comply with these laws and regulations. Because of the possibility of unanticipated regulatory measures or other developments, particularly as environmental laws become more stringent in Brazil, the amount and timing of future expenditures required to maintain compliance could increase from current levels and could adversely affect the availability of funds for capital expenditures and other purposes. Compliance with existing or new environmental laws and regulations, as well as obligations in agreements with public entities, could result in increased costs and expenses.

Our plants are subject to environmental and operational licensing, based on their pollution potential and usage of natural resources. If, for example, one of our plants is built or expanded without an environmental license or if our environmental licenses expire, are not timely renewed or have their request of renewal dismissed by the competent environmental authority, we may incur fines and other administrative penalties, such as suspension of operations or closing of the facilities in question. Those same penalties may also be applicable in the case of failure to fulfill the conditions of validity foreseen in the environmental licenses already held by us. Currently, some of our environmental licenses are in the renewal process, and we cannot guarantee that environmental agencies will approve our renewal requests within the required legal period. Brazilian Complementary Law No. 140/2011 establishes that renewal of environmental licenses must be requested at least 120 days in advance of its expiration, so that the license may be automatically extended until a final decision from the environmental authority is reached. In the interim, we are permitted to continue operations under the respective license, during the renewal process. In addition, if since the issuance of a license under renewal there have been regulatory changes in the environmental standards that the plant is required to meet, the environmental agency may condition the renewal upon expensive facility upgrades, which might result in delays or disruptions, or, in the worst-case scenario, result in a denial of the license.

We are also subject to similar environmental laws and restrictions in all jurisdictions where we have plants and operations.

Unfavorable outcomes in legal proceedings may reduce our liquidity and negatively affect us.

We are defendants in civil, labor and tax proceedings and are also subject to consent agreements (*Termo de Ajustamento de Conduta*, or “TAC”). Under IFRS, we classify the risk of adverse results in legal proceedings as “remote,” “possible” or “probable.” We disclose the aggregate amounts of these proceedings that we have judged possible or probable, to the extent the amounts are known or reasonably estimable, and we record provisions only for losses that we consider probable. See “Item 8. Financial Information—Legal Proceedings” and Note 26 of our consolidated financial statements.

We are not required to record provisions for proceedings in which our management judges the risk of loss to be possible or remote. However, the amounts involved in some of these proceedings are substantial, and eventual losses on them could be significantly high. Even for the amounts recorded as provisions for probable losses, a judgment against us would have an impact on our cash flow if we were required to pay those amounts and the eventual losses could be higher than the provisions we have recorded. Unfavorable decisions in our legal proceedings may, therefore, reduce our liquidity and have a material adverse impact on our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

With regard to tax contingencies, we are currently defendants in a number of cases, which include, for example, disputes about the offset of tax credits and the use of tax incentives in several states that have not yet reached a final ruling at Brazilian courts. In addition, we may face risks arising from potential impairment of input state VAT that we accumulate on exportations. We have a case involving Tax on the Circulation of Merchandise and Services (*Imposto Sobre a Circulação de Mercadorias e Serviços*, or “ICMS”) on sales of staple foods (*cesta básica*) on which the Supreme Court of Brazil has ruled against us. The case is currently pending judgment of a last appeal and, if the final decision is upheld against some or all of BRF’s operations, it could have a significant impact on our liquidity and financial results. See “Item 8. Financial Information—A. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information—Legal Proceedings—Tax Proceedings.”

As of December 31, 2017, we had R\$1,773.2 million in provisions for contingencies, of which R\$407.5 million was for civil contingencies, R\$303.4 million was for tax contingencies, R\$691.7 million was for labor contingencies and R\$370.6 million was for contingent liabilities.

We are also currently being investigated in the *Carne Fraca* Operation and *Trapaça* Operation, which may result in penalties, fines and sanctions from governmental authorities or other forms of liability. For more information about the “*Carne Fraca* Operation” and “*Trapaça* Operation” see “Item 8. Financial Information-B. Significant Changes–*Carne Fraca* Operation” and “Item 8. Financial Information-B. Significant Changes–*Trapaça* Operation.” Any investigation from governmental authorities currently unknown to us with respect to any arguably unlawful business practice may also result in penalties, fines and sanctions or other forms of liability.

On March 12, 2018, a purported shareholder class action lawsuit was filed in the U.S. Federal District Court in the Southern District of New York alleging, among other things, that BRF and certain of its officers and/or directors engaged in securities fraud or other unlawful business practices related to the regulatory issues described above. Because this lawsuit is in its early stage, the possible loss or range of losses, if any, arising from this litigation cannot be estimated. While we believe that the claims against us are without merit and will continue to defend against the litigation vigorously, in the event that this litigation is decided against us, or we enter into an agreement to settle, there can be no assurance that an unfavorable outcome would not have a material impact on us.

Our inability or failure to protect our intellectual property and any intellectual property infringement against us could have a negative impact on our operating results.

Our ability to compete effectively depends in part on our rights to trademarks, logos and other intellectual property rights we own or license. We have not sought to register or protect every one of our trademarks in every country in which they are or may be used, which means that third parties may be able to limit or challenge our trademark rights there. Furthermore, because of the differences in foreign intellectual property or proprietary rights laws, we may not receive the same level of legal protection in every country in which we operate. Litigation may be necessary to enforce our intellectual property rights, and if we do not prevail, we could suffer a material adverse impact on our business, goodwill, financial position, results of operations and cash flows. Further, third parties may allege that our intellectual property and/or business activities infringe their own intellectual property or proprietary rights, and any litigation in this regard would be costly, regardless of the merits. If we are unsuccessful in defending any such third-party claims, or to settle such claims, we could be required to pay damages and/or enter into license agreements, which might not be available under favorable terms. We may also be forced to rebrand or redesign our products to avoid the infringement, which could result in significant costs in certain markets. If we are found to infringe any third party’s intellectual property, we could suffer a material adverse impact on our reputation, business, financial position, results of operations and cash flows.

Damages not covered by our insurance policies might result in losses for us, which could have an adverse effect on our business.

Certain kinds of losses cannot be insured against via third-party insurance, and our insurance policies are subject to liability limits and exclusions. For example, ammonia leakage, natural disasters or other catastrophic events may cause damage or disruption to our operations, international commerce and the global economy, and thus could have a material adverse effect on us. Additionally, we are exposed to certain product quality risks, such as criminal contamination, bird flu and salmonella that can impact our operations and which are not covered under insurance. If an event that cannot be insured occurs, or the damages are higher than our policy limits, we may incur significant costs. In addition, we could be required to pay indemnification to parties affected by such an event. In addition, even where we incur losses that are ultimately covered by insurance, we may incur additional expenses to mitigate the loss, such as shifting production to different facilities. These costs may not be fully covered by our insurance.

From time to time, our installations may be affected by fires as was the case with our Toledo/PR unit in 2014 and other units in 2016, such as Chapecó/SC and Paranaguá/PR, and more recently in Lajeado/RS in 2017, besides electrical damages or explosion in substations, or widespread truck driver strikes. Although our business interruption insurance covers certain losses in connection with disruptions to our operations, all of our direct and indirect costs and intangible costs may not be covered by our insurance. Any similar event at these or other facilities in the future could have a material adverse impact on our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects

Significant changes to the board composition may result in significant changes to our business strategy.

On March 5, 2018, we called for an Extraordinary General Shareholders' Meeting to be held jointly with the Ordinary General Shareholders' Meeting on April 26, 2018, or our 2018 Shareholders' Meeting, at the request of two of our significant shareholders, PREVI and PETROS, which jointly own more than 20% of our capital stock. In their request, PREVI and PETROS called for (i) removal of all current members of the Board of Directors; (ii) approval of the number of 10 members to compose the Board of Directors; (iii) election of new members to fill the positions on the Board of Directors; and (iv) election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors. On April 6, 2018, at an Extraordinary Meeting of our current Board of Directors, it submitted to our shareholders an alternative composition to our Board *vis-à-vis* the one proposed by PREVI and PETROS. Later on, five out of the ten candidates appointed by our Board of Directors to comprise this alternative Board composition presented us a request for their names to be withdrawn from such composition. Also, on April 12, 2018, we received from Aberdeen Asset Management PLC, for and on behalf of the investment funds and portfolios under management of companies belonging to its economic group, which, according to its declaration, jointly own more than 5% of our capital stock, a request for the adoption of the cumulative voting system for the election of the members of the Board of Directors to be held at our 2018 Shareholders' Meeting. On April 13, 2018, Mr. Luiz Fernando Furlan, our shareholder (and Board member), proposed Ms. Luiza Helena Trajano Inácio Rodrigues and Mr. Vicente Falconi Campos as candidates for the composition of the Board of Directors. On April 17, 2018, the shareholders Walter Fontana Filho and Vicente Falconi Campos proposed as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors, once duly elected, Mr. Luiz Fernando Furlan and Ms. Luiza Helena Trajano Inácio Rodrigues, respectively. On April 18, 2018, Mr. Abilio dos Santos Diniz, Tarpon Investimentos S.A. and PETROS, proposed Mr. Pedro Pullen Parente to the position of member of our Board of Directors and as its Chairman. On April 19, 2018, a voting agreement was executed by and between PREVI, PETROS, investment funds represented by their manager Tarpon Gestora de Recursos S.A. and Mr. Abilio dos Santos Diniz, as holders, directly and indirectly, of 32.80% of the shares issued us, on a number of issues regarding the matters to be discussed at our 2018 Shareholders' Meeting (including the election of members of our Board of Directors). Also on April 19, 2018, our Board of Directors decided, in connection with the election of its members for a new term, for the appointment of the following names to compose the slate of our Board of Directors, in case of withdrawal of the request for cumulative voting presented by Aberdeen Asset Management PLC: Mr. Augusto Marques da Cruz Filho, Mr. Dan Ioschpe, Ms. Flávia Buarque de Almeida, Mr. Francisco Petros Oliveira Lima Papatathanasiadis, Mr. José Luiz Osório, Mr. Luiz Fernando Furlan, Mr. Pedro Pullen Parente, Mr. Roberto Antônio Mendes, Mr. Roberto Rodrigues and Mr. Walter Mallieni Jr. The appointment of Messrs. Pedro Pullen Parente and Augusto Marques da Cruz Filho to run for Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, was also approved and the composition proposed by our Board of Directors matched with the composition of our Board of Directors proposed by significant shareholders under the voting agreement discussed above (assuming that the request for cumulative voting presented would be withdrawn). Ms. Luiza Helena Trajano Inácio Rodrigues withdrew her name from the list of candidates to be elected in the 2018 Shareholders' Meeting.

On April 25, 2018, Aberdeen Asset Management PLC sent a letter withdrawing its request for the adoption of the cumulative voting system at our 2018 Shareholders' Meeting, however the Brazilian Securities and Exchange Commission (*Comissão de Valores Mobiliários*), or the CVM, delivered to us a letter immediately prior to the beginning of our 2018 Shareholders' Meeting demanding the adoption of the cumulative voting system in our 2018 Shareholders' Meeting as other shareholders had previously delivered to us their votes based on such system. As a consequence, we adopted the cumulative voting system in our 2018 Shareholders' Meeting.

As a result of the adoption of the cumulative voting system, the voting slate system originally proposed by both (1) PREVI and PETROS and (2) our Board were not adopted, and the election of our Board members at our 2018 Shareholders' Meeting were candidate-based (rather than slate-based). All candidates proposed by our Board of Directors and significant shareholders as discussed above to become members of our Board were elected in our 2018 Shareholders' Meeting. See "Item 6. Directors and Senior Management and Employees-A. Directors and Senior Management-Board of Directors" for further information regarding our recently elected Board members and "Item 10. Additional Information-B. Memorandum and Articles of Association-Board of Directors", for further information regarding the mechanics of cumulative voting system in shareholders meetings of a Brazilian corporation like us.

Only 4 out of the 10 members of our Board of Directors elected in our 2018 Shareholders' Meeting were previously members of our Board of Directors. Substantial changes in the composition of the Board of Directors may result in significant changes to our business strategy and give cause for changes at our senior management.

We depend on members of our senior management and on our ability to recruit and retain qualified professionals to implement our strategy.

We depend on members of our senior management and other qualified professionals to implement our business strategies. Efforts to recruit and retain professionals may result in significant additional expenses, which could adversely affect our results. In addition, loss of key professionals may adversely affect our ability to implement our strategy, as well as expenses associated to these losses can impact our results. We have experienced in 2017 and 2018 a significant number of departures of senior management, including two of our previous CEOs, CFO, general counsel and VP of operations.

Breaches, disruptions, or failures of our information technology systems derived or not from cybersecurity threats could disrupt our operations and negatively impact our business.

Information technology is an important part of our business operations and we increasingly rely on information technology systems to manage business data and increase efficiencies in our production and distribution facilities and inventory management processes. We also use information technology to process financial information and results of operations for internal reporting purposes and to comply with regulatory, legal and tax requirements. In addition, we depend on information technology for digital marketing and electronic communications between our facilities, personnel, customers and suppliers.

Like other companies, our information technology systems may be vulnerable to a variety of interruptions and cybersecurity threats and incidents, including during the process of upgrading or replacing software, databases or components thereof, natural disasters, terrorist attacks, telecommunications failures, computer viruses, cyber-attacks, hackers, unauthorized access attempts and other security issues. Integrating newly-acquired companies into the system can be uniquely problematic. We have implemented technology security initiatives and disaster recovery plans to mitigate our exposure to these risks, but these measures may not be adequate or sufficient and there can be no assurance that these measures will be successful in preventing a cybersecurity, general information security incident or a disruption of our information technology systems. A significant failure of our systems, including failures that prevent our systems from functioning as intended, could cause transaction errors, processing inefficiencies, loss of customers and sales, have negative consequences on our employees and our business partners and have a negative impact on our operations or business reputation.

In addition, if we are unable to prevent security breaches, we may suffer financial and reputational damage or penalties because of the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information belonging to us or to our partners, customers, consumers or suppliers. Also, the disclosure of non-public sensitive information through external media channels could lead to the loss of intellectual property or damage our reputation and brand image.

As cybersecurity threats, and government and regulatory oversight of associated risks continue to evolve, we may be required to expend additional resources to remediate, enhance or expand upon the cybersecurity protection and security measures we currently maintain.

Risks Relating to Our Indebtedness

We have substantial indebtedness, and our leverage could negatively affect our ability to refinance our indebtedness and grow our business.

At December 31, 2017, our total consolidated debt (comprised of short-term and long-term debt) was R\$20.4 billion.

Our substantial indebtedness could have major consequences for us, including:

- requiring that a substantial portion of our cash flows from operations be used for the payment of principal and interest on our debt, reducing the funds available for our operations, capital expenditures or other capital needs;
- limiting our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and the industry in which we operate because our available cash flow after paying principal and interest on our debt might not be sufficient to make the capital and other expenditures necessary to address these changes;
- increasing our vulnerability to general adverse economic and industry conditions because, during periods in which we experience lower earnings and cash flows, we would be required to devote a proportionally greater amount of our cash flows to paying principal and interest on debt;
- limiting our ability to obtain additional financing in the future to fund working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and general corporate requirements;
- increasing our expenditures due to depreciations of the Brazilian real, which can lead to an increased amount of capital needed to service indebtedness that are denominated in U.S. dollars;
- making it difficult for us to refinance our indebtedness or to refinance such indebtedness on terms favorable to us, including with respect to existing accounts receivable securitizations;
- placing us at a competitive disadvantage compared to competitors that are relatively less leveraged and that may be better positioned to withstand economic downturns; and
- exposing our current and future borrowings made at floating interest rates to increases in interest rates.

In view of our current credit metrics and according to the policies and guidelines set by rating agencies in order to evaluate a company's creditworthiness, as well as other factors, our credit rating has been recently downgraded, and we are currently rated below "investment grade" for two out of three rating agencies that rate us.

We have substantial debt that matures in each of the next several years.

As of December 31, 2017, we had R\$5,031.3 million of debt that matures in 2018, R\$3,983.9 million of debt that matures in 2019, R\$1,684.7 million of debt that matures in 2020, R\$125.4 million of debt that matures in 2021, and R\$9,619.0 million of debt that matures in 2022 and thereafter.

A substantial portion of our outstanding debt is denominated in foreign currencies, primarily U.S. dollars. As of December 31, 2017, we had R\$11,101.3 million of foreign currency debt, including R\$1,438.6 million of short-term foreign currency debt. Our U.S. dollar-denominated debt must be serviced by funds generated from sales by our subsidiaries, the majority of which are not denominated in U.S. dollars. Consequently, when we do not generate sufficient U.S. dollar revenues to cover that debt service, we must use revenues generated in reais or other currencies to service our U.S. dollar-denominated debt. Depreciation in the value of the real 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. Foreign currency hedge agreements may not be effective in covering these currency-related risks.

Any future uncertainty in the stock and credit markets could also negatively impact our ability to access additional short-term and long-term financing, which could negatively impact our liquidity and financial condition. If, in future years:

- the pressures on credit return as a result of disruptions in the global stock and credit markets,
- our operating results worsen significantly,
- we are unable to complete any necessary divestitures of non-core assets and our cash flow or capital resources prove inadequate, or
- we are unable to refinance any of our debt that becomes due,

We could face liquidity problems and may not be able to pay our outstanding debt when due, which could have a material adverse effect on our consolidated business and financial condition.

The terms of our indebtedness impose significant restrictions on us.

The instruments governing our consolidated indebtedness impose significant restrictions on us. These restrictions may limit, directly or indirectly, our ability, among other things, to undertake the following actions:

- borrow money;
- make investments;
- sell assets, including capital stock of subsidiaries;
- guarantee indebtedness;
- enter into agreements that restrict dividends or other distributions from certain subsidiaries;
- enter into transactions with affiliates;
- create or assume liens; and
- engage in mergers or consolidations.

Although the covenants to which we are subject have exceptions and qualifications, the breach of any of these covenants could result in a payment default under the terms of other existing debt obligations. Upon the occurrence of such an event of default, all amounts outstanding under the applicable debt instruments and the debt issued under other debt instruments containing cross-default or cross-acceleration provisions, together with accrued and unpaid interest, if any, might become or be declared immediately due and payable. If such indebtedness were to be accelerated, we may have insufficient funds to repay in full any such indebtedness. In addition, in connection with the entry into new financings or amendments to existing financing arrangements, our subsidiaries' financial and operational flexibility may be further reduced as a result of the imposition of covenants that are more restrictive, the requirements for additional security, and other terms.

Risks Relating to Brazil

Brazilian economic, political and other conditions, and Brazilian government policies or actions in response to these conditions, may negatively affect our business, results of operations and the market prices of our common shares or the ADRs.

The Brazilian economy has historically been characterized by interventions by the Brazilian government and unstable economic cycles. The Brazilian government has often changed monetary, price controls, taxation, credit, tariff and other policies to influence the course of Brazil's economy. Our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects as well as the market prices of our common shares or the American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs") may be adversely affected by, among others, the following factors:

- exchange rate fluctuations;
- expansion or contraction of the Brazilian economy, as measured by rates of growth in GDP;
- high inflation rates;
- changes in fiscal or monetary policies;
- commodities price volatility;
- increase in interest rates;
- exchange controls and restrictions on remittances abroad;
- volatility and liquidity of domestic capital and credit markets;
- natural disasters and changes in climate or weather patterns;
- energy or water shortages or rationalization, particularly in light of water shortages in parts of Brazil;
- changes in environmental regulation;
- social and political instability, particularly in light of recent protests against the government;
- strikes, not only of our employees, but also of port employees, truck drivers, other transport facilities, customs agents, sanitary inspection agents and other government agents; and
- other economic, political, diplomatic and social developments in or affecting Brazil, including with respect to alleged unethical or illegal conduct of certain figures in the Brazilian government and legislators, which are currently under investigation.

The Brazilian economy has experienced a sharp downturn in recent years due, in part, to the interventionist economic and monetary policies of the Brazilian government and the global drop in commodity prices. GDP growth rates were 1.9%, 3.0% and 0.5% in 2012, 2013 and 2014, respectively, but GDP decreased 3.5% in 2015 and 2016, respectively. In 2017, GDP grew 1.0%, following a two-year contraction, while inflation and interest rates decreased significantly to 2.95% and 7.0%, respectively, from 6.29% and 13.75%, respectively, in 2016. Unemployment had a slight improvement to 11.8%, although still at a high level. For 2018, there is an expectation of improvement of the economic indicators, as the economy will probably resume growth.

The acting Brazilian government has proposed the general terms of a fiscal reform to stimulate the economy and reduce the forecasted budget deficit for 2018, but it is uncertain whether the acting Brazilian government will be able to gather the required support in the Brazilian Congress to pass additional specific reforms. For instance, due to limitations imposed by the Brazilian constitution, it is no longer expected that a broader social security reform will be approved by the Brazilian Congress this year. As of the date of this annual report, many of the proposed public expenses in Brazil's budget have been maintained and it is not clear whether other expenses will be reduced or entirely eliminated. If some or all of these public expenses are maintained, Brazil will continue to run a budget deficit for 2018 and the years going forward. We cannot predict the effects of this budget deficit on the Brazilian economy. We cannot predict which policies the Brazilian federal government may adopt or change or the effect that any such policies might have on our business and on the Brazilian economy. Any such new policies or changes to current policies may have a material adverse impact on our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects. Our results of operations and financial condition may be adversely affected by the economic conditions in Brazil and, in addition, protests, strikes and corruption scandals have led to a decrease in confidence and a political crisis.

Following the legal and administrative impeachment process, Brazil's Senate removed President Dilma Rousseff from office on August 31, 2016 for infringement of budgetary laws. Former Vice-President Michel Temer, who has been *de facto* President since Ms. Rousseff's suspension in May, was sworn in by the Senate to serve out the remainder of the presidential term until 2018. However, the resolution of the political and economic crisis in Brazil still depends on the outcome of the "Lava Jato" investigation and approval of reforms that are expected to be promoted by the new President. Further, the recent decision of the Superior Electoral Court (*Tribunal Superior Eleitoral*) that acquitted Dilma Rousseff and Michel Temer on charges of illegal campaign financing may be reversed by the Brazilian Supreme Court (*Superior Tribunal Federal*) if the appeals filed with the Brazilian Supreme Court are accepted, which may cause the annulment of the presidential election of 2014 and require President Michel Temer to leave the office of president. In addition, a number of requests for impeachment have been filed against Mr. Temer, as well as criminal charges by the Brazilian Federal Prosecutor's Office, which could also result in his removal from office, after allegations surfaced that Mr. Temer had allegedly been leading a political corruption related criminal organization. Furthermore, a Brazilian federal appeals court unanimously upheld the conviction of former President Luis Inácio Lula da Silva on corruption charges uncovered by the "Lava Jato" investigation. This decision may still be appealed to the Brazilian Supreme Court and the Superior Court of Justice (*Superior Tribunal de Justiça*) even though both court recently rejected the *habeas corpus* filed by Mr. Lula da Silva. On April 7, 2018, Lula da Silva began his prison sentence. We cannot predict whether these investigations and lawsuits as well as the imprisonment of Mr. Lula da Silva, a popular political leader, will bring about further economic and political instability or if new allegations against high officers of the Brazilian federal government will arise in the future. In addition, we cannot predict the results of any such investigations, including their effects over the Brazilian economy. The development of such cases may negatively affect the economic environment in Brazil, and consequently, us. The political crisis could worsen the economic conditions in Brazil, which may increase production and supply chain costs and adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition. Uncertainty as to whether the Brazilian government will implement changes in policies or regulations affecting these or other factors in the future may contribute to economic uncertainty in Brazil and to heightened volatility in our production operations.

In October 2018, general elections will be held in Brazil for the election of its next president for a four-year term as well as for senators and federal congressmen. We cannot predict the policies the future president may adopt or change during his mandate or the effect that any such policies might have on our business and on the Brazilian economy. Any new policies or changes to current policies may have a material adverse effect on us.

Inflation, and government measures to curb inflation, may adversely affect the Brazilian economy, the Brazilian securities market, our business and operations, financial condition and the market prices of our common shares or the ADRs.

Brazil experienced high inflation rates in the past. According to the IPCA, Brazilian consumer price inflation rates were 5.9% in 2013, 6.4% in 2014, 10.7% in 2015, 6.3% in 2016 and 2.95% in 2017. See "Item. 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects—A. Operating Results—Principal Factors Affecting Our Results of Operations—Brazilian and Global Economic Conditions" and "—Effects of Exchange Rate Variations and Inflation."

Although the market is currently forecasting that the inflation level will return to the Central Bank's target in 2018, it is impossible to dismiss the possibility of higher inflation, taking into account the historic behavior of the country's economy and the recurring political instability. Periods of higher inflation slow the growth rate of the Brazilian economy, which may lead to lower growth in consumption of food products. Inflation also is likely to continue to put pressure on industry costs of production and expenses, which will force companies to search for innovative solutions in order to remain competitive. We may not be able to pass this cost onto our customers and, as a result, it may reduce our profit margins and net profit. In addition, high inflation generally leads to higher domestic interest rates, and, as a result, the costs of servicing our debt may increase, resulting in lower net profit. In addition, inflation and its effect on domestic interest rates can lead to reduced liquidity in the domestic capital and lending markets, which could affect our ability to refinance our indebtedness in those markets and may have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and the market prices of our common shares or the ADRs.

Fluctuations in interest rates may have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and the market prices of our common shares or the ADRs.

The interest rate is one of the instruments used by the Central Bank to keep inflation under control or to stimulate the economy. If interest rates decrease, the population has greater access to credit and consumes more. This increase in demand can push prices if the industry is not prepared to meet higher consumption. On the other hand, if interest rates go up, the monetary authority inhibits consumption and investment once they get more expensive. Another consequence is the greater return paid by government securities, directly impacting other investments that become less attractive. Investment in public debt absorbs money that would fund the productive sector.

On December 31, 2017, 38.2% of our total liabilities with respect to indebtedness corresponding to the amount of R\$20,444.4 million were either (1) denominated in (or swapped into) *reais* and bears interest based on Brazilian floating interest rates, such as the Long-Term Interest Rate (*Taxa de Juros de Longo Prazo*, or “TJLP”), the interest rate used in our financing agreements with Brazilian National Bank for Economic and Social Development (*Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Econômico e Social*, or “BNDES”) and the Interbank Deposit Certificate Rate (*Certificado de Depósito Interbancário*, or “CDI”), an interbank certificate of deposit rate that applies to our foreign currency swaps and some of our other real-denominated indebtedness, or (2) U.S. dollar-denominated and bears floating interest based on the London Interbank Offered Rate (“LIBOR”). Any increase in the CDI, TJLP or LIBOR rates may have an adverse impact on our financial expenses and our results of operations.

Exchange rate movements may adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

From time to time, there have been significant fluctuations in the exchange rate between the Brazilian currency and the U.S. dollar and other currencies. In 2013, 2014 and 2015, the real depreciated 14.6%, 13.4% and 47.0%, respectively, against the U.S. dollar, while, in 2016, the real appreciated 16.5% and depreciated 1.5% in 2017.

Appreciation of the Brazilian real against the U.S. dollar may lead to a dampening of export-driven growth. Our production costs are denominated in *reais*, but our international sales are mostly denominated in U.S. dollars. Revenues generated by exports are reduced when translated to *reais* in the periods in which the real appreciates in relation to the U.S. dollar. Any appreciation could reduce the competitiveness of our exports and adversely affect our net sales and our cash flows from exports. On the other hand, a depreciation of Brazilian real against the U.S. dollar may lead to higher exports and revenues, but costs may be higher.

Costs are also directly impacted by the exchange rate. Any depreciation of the real against the U.S. dollar could create additional inflationary pressures in Brazil by increasing the price of imported products and requiring deflationary government policies. In addition, the prices of soy meal and soybeans, important ingredients of our animal feedstock, are closely linked to the U.S. dollar, and many of the mineral nutrients added to our feedstock must be purchased in U.S. dollars. The price of corn, another important ingredient of our feedstock, is also linked to the U.S. dollar to a lesser degree. In addition to feedstock ingredients, we purchase sausage casings, breeder eggs, packaging and other raw materials, as well as equipment for use in our production facilities, from suppliers located outside Brazil whom we must pay in U.S. dollars or other foreign currencies. When the real depreciates against the U.S. dollar, the cost in *reais* of our U.S. dollar-linked raw materials and equipment increases, and these increases could materially adversely affect our results of operations.

We have established policies and procedures to manage our sensitivity to such risks, such as the Financial Risk Management Policy. This policy, however, may not cover 100% of our revenue and cost exposure to exchange rates.

We had total foreign currency-denominated debt obligations in an aggregate amount of R\$11,101.3 million at December 31, 2017, representing 54.3% of our total consolidated indebtedness at that date. Although we manage a portion of our exchange rate risk through foreign currency derivative instruments and future cash flows from exports in U.S. dollars and other foreign currencies, our foreign currency debt obligations are not completely hedged. A significant devaluation of the real in relation to the U.S. dollar or other currencies would increase the amount of reais that we would need in order to meet debt service requirements of our foreign currency-denominated obligations.

Changes in tax laws or changes in their interpretation may increase our tax burden and, as a result, negatively affect our profitability.

The Brazilian government regularly implements changes to tax regimes that may increase our and our customers' tax burdens, which may increase the prices we charge for the products we sell, restrict our ability to do business in our existing markets and, therefore, materially adversely affect our profitability. There can be no assurance that we will be able to maintain our projected cash flow and profitability following any increases in Brazilian taxes that apply to us and our operations.

These changes include modifications in the tax rates and, on occasion, enactment of temporary taxes, the proceeds of which are earmarked for designated governmental purposes. In the past, the Brazilian government has presented certain tax reform proposals, which have been mainly designed to simplify the Brazilian tax system, to avoid internal disputes within and between the Brazilian states and municipalities, and to redistribute tax revenues. The tax reform proposals provide for changes in the rules governing the federal Social Integration Program (*Programa de Integração Social*, or "PIS") and Contribution for Social Security Funding (*Contribuição para o Financiamento da Seguridade Social*, or "COFINS") taxes, the ICMS and some other taxes, such as increases in payroll taxes. These proposals may not be approved and passed into law. Others, such as the *Lei do Bem* incentive program and the deduction of interest on shareholders' equity, may be revoked. The effects of these proposed tax reform measures and any other changes that result from enactment of additional tax reforms have not been, and cannot be, quantified. However, some of these measures, if enacted, may result in increases in our overall tax burden, which could negatively affect our overall financial performance. Moreover, bill-of-law 8456/2017 is the latest attempt of the government to increase the social contributions on payroll and if it is passed into law, our overall tax burden will be increased, which could negatively affect our overall financial performance. For more information, see "Item 8. Financial Information– B. Significant Changes– Social Contributions."

Moreover, certain tax laws may be subject to controversial interpretation by tax authorities. In the event that tax authorities interpret tax laws in a manner that is inconsistent with our interpretations, we may be adversely affected.

Risks Relating to Our Common Shares and ADRs

Holders of ADRs may find it difficult to exercise voting rights at our shareholders' meetings.

Holders of ADRs may exercise voting rights with respect to our common shares represented by ADSs and evidenced by ADRs only in accordance with the deposit agreement governing the ADRs. Holders of ADRs face practical limitations in exercising their voting rights because of the additional steps involved in our communications with ADRs holders. For example, we are required to publish a notice of our shareholders' meetings in specified newspapers in Brazil. Holders of our common shares are able to exercise their voting rights by attending a shareholders' meeting in person or voting by proxy. By contrast, holders of ADRs will receive notice of a shareholders' meeting by mail from the ADR depository if we give notice to the depository requesting the depository to do so. To exercise their voting rights, holders of ADRs must instruct the ADR depository on a timely basis. This voting process necessarily takes longer for holders of ADRs than for holders of our common shares. If the ADR depository fails to receive timely voting instructions for all or part of the ADRs, the depository will assume that the holders of those ADRs are instructing it to give a discretionary proxy to a person designated by us to vote their ADRs, to the extent permitted by the New York Stock Exchange rules.

Holders of ADRs also may not receive the voting materials in time to instruct the depositary to vote our common shares underlying the ADSs that are evidenced by their ADRs. In addition, the depositary and its agents are not responsible for failing to carry out voting instructions of the holders of ADRs or for the manner of carrying out those voting instructions. Accordingly, holders of ADRs may not be able to exercise voting rights, and they have little, if any, recourse if the common shares underlying the ADSs that are evidenced by their ADRs are not voted as requested.

Non-Brazilian holders of ADRs and common shares may face difficulties in protecting their interests because we are subject to different corporate rules and regulations as a Brazilian company, and our shareholders may have less extensive rights.

Holders of ADRs are not direct shareholders of our company and are unable to enforce the rights of shareholders under our bylaws and the Brazilian Corporation Law.

Our corporate affairs are governed by our bylaws and the Brazilian Corporation Law, which differ from the legal principles that would apply if we were incorporated in a jurisdiction in the United States, such as the State of Delaware or New York, or elsewhere outside Brazil. Even if a holder of ADRs surrenders its ADRs and becomes a direct shareholder, its rights as a holder of our common shares under the Brazilian Corporation Law to protect its interests relative to actions by our board of directors or executive officers may be fewer and less well-defined than under the laws of those other jurisdictions.

Although insider trading and price manipulation are crimes under Brazilian law, the Brazilian securities markets are subject to different levels of regulations and supervision than the U.S. securities markets or the markets in some other jurisdictions. In addition, rules and policies against self-dealing or for preserving shareholder interests may be less well defined and enforced in Brazil than in the United States and certain other countries, which may put holders of our common shares and ADRs at a potential disadvantage. Corporate disclosures also may be less complete or informative than for a public company in the United States or in certain other countries.

Non-Brazilian holders of ADRs and common shares may face difficulties in serving process on or enforcing judgments against us and other persons.

We are a corporation (*sociedade anônima*) organized under the laws of Brazil, and all of our directors and executive officers and our independent public accountants reside or are based in Brazil. Most of the assets of our company and of these other persons are located in Brazil. As a result, it may not be possible for non-Brazilian holders of ADRs and common shares to effect service of process upon us or these other persons within the United States or other jurisdictions outside Brazil or to enforce against us or these other persons judgments obtained in the United States or other jurisdictions outside Brazil. Because judgments of U.S. courts for civil liabilities based upon the U.S. federal securities laws may only be enforced in Brazil if certain conditions are met, holders may face greater difficulties in protecting their interests in the case of actions by us or our directors or executive officers than would shareholders of a U.S. corporation.

Judgments of Brazilian courts with respect to our common shares may be payable only in reais.

If proceedings are brought in the courts of Brazil seeking to enforce our obligations in respect of the common shares, we may not be required to discharge our obligations in a currency other than *reais*. Under Brazilian exchange control limitations, an obligation in Brazil to pay amounts denominated in a currency other than *reais* may only be satisfied in Brazilian currency at the exchange rate, as determined by the Central Bank, in effect on the date the judgment is obtained, and such amounts are then adjusted to reflect exchange rate variations through the effective payment date. The then prevailing exchange may not afford non-Brazilian investors with full compensation for any claim arising out of or related to our obligations under the common shares or the ADRs.

Holders of ADRs and non-Brazilian holders of our common shares may be unable to exercise preemptive rights and tag-along rights with respect to our common shares underlying the ADSs evidenced by their ADRs.

Holders of ADRs and non-Brazilian holders of our common shares may be unable to exercise the preemptive rights and tag-along rights relating to our common shares (including common shares underlying the ADSs evidenced by their ADRs) unless a registration statement under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the “Securities Act,” is effective with respect to those rights or an exemption from the registration requirements of the Securities Act is available. We are not obligated to file a registration statement with respect to the shares relating to these preemptive rights, and we cannot assure you that we will file any such registration statement. Unless we file a registration statement or an exemption from registration is available, a holder may receive only the net proceeds from the sale of his or her preemptive rights or tag-along rights, or if these rights cannot be sold, they will lapse and the holder will receive no value from them.

Provisions in our bylaws may prevent efforts by our shareholders to change our control or management.

Our bylaws contain provisions that may discourage, delay or make more difficult a change in control of our company or removal of our directors. Subject to limited exceptions, these provisions require any shareholder that acquires shares representing 33.3% or more of our share capital to disclose such information immediately through a filing with the CVM and, within 30 days from the date of such acquisition or event, commence a public tender offer with respect to all of our shares for a price per share that may not be less than the greater of: (i) 140% of the average trading price on the stock exchange trading the greatest volume of shares of the capital stock of the Company during the last 120 trading sessions prior to the date on which the public offer became obligatory; and (ii) 140% of the average trading price on the stock exchange trading the greatest volume of shares of the capital stock of the Company during the last 30 trading days prior to the date on which the public offer became obligatory.

These provisions of our bylaws may delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control that might otherwise be in the best interests of our shareholders.

Holders of ADRs could be subject to Brazilian income tax on capital gains from sales of ADRs.

Historically, any capital gain realized on a sale or other disposition of ADRs between non-Brazilian holders outside Brazil was not subject to Brazilian income tax. However, a December 2003 Brazilian law (Law No. 10,833, of December 29, 2003) provides that “the acquirer, individual or legal entity resident or domiciled in Brazil, or the acquirer’s attorney-in-fact, when such acquirer is resident or domiciled abroad, shall be responsible for the retention and payment of the income tax applicable to capital gains earned by the individual or legal entity resident or domiciled abroad who disposes of property located in Brazil.” The Brazilian tax authorities have issued a normative instruction confirming that they intend to assess income tax on capital gains earned by non-Brazilian residents whose assets are located in Brazil. It is unclear whether ADSs representing our common shares and evidenced by ADRs, which are issued by the ADR depositary outside Brazil, will be deemed to be “property located in Brazil” for purposes of this law. Accordingly, we cannot determine whether Brazilian tax authorities will attempt to tax any capital gains arising from the sale or other disposition of the ADRs, even when the transaction is consummated outside Brazil between non-Brazilian residents.

Brazilian taxes may apply to a gain realized by a non-Brazilian holder on the disposition of common shares to another non-Brazilian holder.

The gain realized by a non-Brazilian holder on the disposition of common shares to another non-Brazilian holder (other than a disposition of shares held pursuant to Resolution No. 4,373, as amended by the Brazilian National Monetary Council (*Conselho Monetário Nacional*, or “CMN”)) is generally viewed as being subject to taxation in Brazil. Pursuant to Article 26 of Law No. 10,833/03, Brazilian tax authorities may assess income tax on capital gains earned by non-Brazilian residents in transactions involving assets that are located in Brazil. In case of a non-Brazilian holder selling common shares on the Brazilian stock exchange, the withholding tax rate would be 0% (in the case of a non-Brazilian holder registered as such before the Central Bank under the rules of the Brazilian Monetary Counsel (“Registered Holder”) and not a resident of a tax haven (“Tax Haven Resident”)), 15% (in the case of a non-Brazilian holder that is not a Registered Holder and not a Tax Haven Resident) or 15% (in the case of a non-Brazilian holder that is a Tax Haven Resident).

Any other gains realized on the disposition of common shares that are not carried out on the Brazilian stock exchange:

· are subject to income tax at the following progressive rate when realized by any non-Brazilian holder that is not a Tax Haven Resident, whether or not such holder is a Registered Holder:

- | | |
|------|--|
| i. | 15% upon the portion of capital gains that is lower than R\$5,000,000.00; |
| ii. | 17.5% upon the portion of capital gains that exceed R\$5,000,000.00 and is lower than R\$10,000,000.00; |
| iii. | 20% upon the portion of capital gains that exceed R\$10,000,000.00 and is lower than R\$30,000,000.00; and |
| iv. | 22.5% upon the portion of capital gains that exceed R\$30,000,000.00. |

· are subject to income tax at a rate of 25% when realized by a natural or legal person that is a Tax Haven Resident, whether or not such holder is a Registered Holder.

The relative volatility and limited liquidity of the Brazilian securities markets may negatively affect the liquidity and market price of our common shares and ADRs.

The Brazilian securities markets are substantially smaller, less liquid and more volatile than major securities markets in the United States. The B3 S.A. – Brasil, Bolsa, Balcão (the “B3” or the “São Paulo Stock Exchange”) had a total traded volume of R\$2.1 trillion, or U.S.\$672.3 billion, and an average daily trading volume of R\$8.7 billion, or U.S.\$2.7 billion for the year in 2017. The New York Stock Exchange had a market traded volume of U.S.\$15.7 trillion (U.S. domestic listed companies) and an average daily trading volume of U.S.\$62.6 billion for the year in 2017. The Brazilian securities markets are also characterized by considerable share concentration.

The ten largest companies in terms of market capitalization represented approximately 52.5% of the aggregate market capitalization of the São Paulo Stock Exchange as of December 31, 2017. In addition, the ten most widely traded stocks in terms of trading volume accounted for approximately 39% of all shares traded on the São Paulo Stock Exchange in 2017. These market characteristics may substantially limit the ability of holders of the ADRs to sell common shares underlying ADSs evidenced by ADRs at a price and at a time when they wish to do so and, as a result, could negatively impact the market prices of these securities

Developments and the perception of risks in other countries, especially emerging market countries, may adversely affect the market price of our common shares and ADRs.

The market for securities issued by Brazilian companies is influenced, to varying degrees, by economic and market conditions in other emerging markets. Although economic conditions are different in each country, the reaction of investors to developments in one country may cause the capital markets in other countries to fluctuate. Developments or adverse economic conditions in other emerging markets have at times resulted in significant outflows of funds from, and declines in, the amount of foreign currency invested in Brazil. In addition, economic and political crises in Latin America or other emerging markets may significantly affect perceptions of the risk inherent in investing in the region, including Brazil.

The Brazilian economy, as well as the market for securities issued by Brazilian companies, is also affected, to a varying degree, by international economic and market conditions generally, especially economic and market conditions in the United States. Share prices on the São Paulo Stock Exchange, for example, have historically been sensitive to fluctuations in U.S. interest rates as well as movements of the major U.S. stock indexes.