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

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)
[X] QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2015

or

[ ] TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the transition period from ___________ to ___________

Commission File Number: 001-07434

Aflac Incorporated

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Georgia	**58-1167100**
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
1932 Wynnton Road, Columbus, Georgia	**31999**
(Address of principal executive offices)	(ZIP Code)

706.323.3431

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). ☑ Yes ☐ No

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

Large accelerated filer ☑	Accelerated filer ☐
Non-accelerated filer ☐ (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

☐ Yes ☑ No

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

Class	October 26, 2015
Common Stock, $.10 Par Value	426,738,679

Aflac Incorporated and Subsidiaries
Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q
For the Quarter Ended September 30, 2015

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Items other than those listed above are omitted because they are not required or are not applicable.

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements.

Review by Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The September 30, 2015, and 2014, consolidated financial statements included in this filing have been reviewed by KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, in accordance with established professional standards and procedures for such a review.

The report of KPMG LLP commenting upon its review is included on the following page.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Shareholders
Aflac Incorporated:

We have reviewed the accompanying consolidated balance sheet of Aflac Incorporated and subsidiaries (the Company) as of September 30, 2015, and the related consolidated statements of earnings and comprehensive income (loss) for the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, and 2014, and the related consolidated statements of shareholders' equity and cash flows for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management.

We conducted our review in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). A review of interim financial information consists principally of applying analytical procedures and making inquiries of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters. It is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the consolidated financial statements referred to above for them to be in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We have previously audited, in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheet of Aflac Incorporated and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2014, and the related consolidated statements of earnings, comprehensive income (loss), shareholders' equity and cash flows for the year then ended (not presented herein); and in our report dated February 26, 2015, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements. In our opinion, the information set forth in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2014, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the consolidated balance sheet from which it has been derived.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Atlanta, Georgia
November 3, 2015

Aflac Incorporated and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Earnings

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
(In millions, except for share and per-share amounts - Unaudited)	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
Revenues:				
Net premiums, principally supplemental health insurance	**$ 4,380**	$ 4,841	**$ 13,176**	$ 14,583
Net investment income	**784**	841	**2,343**	2,511
Realized investment gains (losses):				
Other-than-temporary impairment losses realized	**(137)**	0	**(143)**	(31)
Sales and redemptions	**26**	33	**186**	171
Derivative and other gains (losses)	**(3)**	(17)	**(17)**	(68)
Total realized investment gains (losses)	**(114)**	16	**26**	72
Other income (loss)	**(10)**	38	**8**	48
Total revenues	**5,040**	5,736	**15,553**	17,214
Benefits and expenses:				
Benefits and claims, net	**2,927**	3,355	**8,816**	9,868
Acquisition and operating expenses:				
Amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs	**258**	271	**790**	841
Insurance commissions	**326**	361	**981**	1,096
Insurance expenses	**554**	566	**1,634**	1,637
Interest expense	**67**	77	**224**	238
Other expenses	**44**	32	**356** *(1)*	118
Total acquisition and operating expenses	**1,249**	1,307	**3,985**	3,930
Total benefits and expenses	**4,176**	4,662	**12,801**	13,798
Earnings before income taxes	**864**	1,074	**2,752**	3,416
Income taxes	**297**	368	**949**	1,168
Net earnings	**$ 567**	$ 706	**$ 1,803**	$ 2,248
Net earnings per share:				
Basic	**$ 1.32**	$ 1.56	**$ 4.17**	$ 4.96
Diluted	**1.32**	1.56	**4.14**	4.93
Weighted-average outstanding common shares used in computing earnings per share (In thousands):				
Basic	**428,735**	451,246	**432,540**	452,833
Diluted	**431,102**	453,981	**435,064**	455,674
Cash dividends per share	**$ .39**	$ .37	**$ 1.17**	$ 1.11

(1) Includes expense of $230 for the make-whole payment associated with the early extinguishment of debt
See the accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Aflac Incorporated and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
(In millions - Unaudited)	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
Net earnings	**$ 567**	$ 706	**$ 1,803**	$ 2,248
Other comprehensive income (loss) before income taxes:				
Unrealized foreign currency translation gains (losses) during period	**186**	(904)	**25**	(459)
Unrealized gains (losses) on investment securities:				
Unrealized holding gains (losses) on investment securities during period	**(401)**	774	**(2,266)**	3,656
Reclassification adjustment for realized (gains) losses on investment securities included in net earnings	**138**	(27)	**20**	(18)
Unrealized gains (losses) on derivatives during period	**(1)**	(9)	**(3)**	(8)
Pension liability adjustment during period	**0**	3	**1**	2
Total other comprehensive income (loss) before income taxes	**(78)**	(163)	**(2,223)**	3,173
Income tax expense (benefit) related to items of other comprehensive income (loss)	**(99)**	(57)	**(772)**	1,110
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of income taxes	**21**	(106)	**(1,451)**	2,063
Total comprehensive income (loss)	**$ 588**	$ 600	**$ 352**	$ 4,311

See the accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Aflac Incorporated and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Balance Sheets

(In millions)	**September 30, 2015 (Unaudited)**	December 31, 2014
Assets:		
Investments and cash:		
Securities available for sale, at fair value:		
Fixed maturities (amortized cost $56,363 in 2015 and $55,365 in 2014)	**$ 60,565**	$ 61,407
Fixed maturities - consolidated variable interest entities (amortized cost $3,651 in 2015 and $3,020 in 2014)	**4,541**	4,166
Perpetual securities (amortized cost $1,802 in 2015 and $2,035 in 2014)	**1,897**	2,240
Perpetual securities - consolidated variable interest entities (amortized cost $287 in 2015 and $405 in 2014)	**269**	429
Equity securities (cost $119 in 2015 and $19 in 2014)	**131**	28
Securities held to maturity, at amortized cost:		
Fixed maturities (fair value $36,868 in 2015 and $38,413 in 2014)	**33,646**	34,159
Fixed maturities - consolidated variable interest entities (fair value $80 in 2015 and $84 in 2014)	**83**	83
Other investments	**248**	171
Cash and cash equivalents	**3,520**	4,658
Total investments and cash	**104,900**	107,341
Receivables	**762**	842
Accrued investment income	**733**	762
Deferred policy acquisition costs	**8,451**	8,273
Property and equipment, at cost less accumulated depreciation	**430**	429
Other [(1)]	**2,179**	2,120
Total assets	**$ 117,455**	$ 119,767

[(1)] *Includes $106 in 2015 and 2014 of derivatives from consolidated variable interest entities*
See the accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

(continued)

Aflac Incorporated and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Balance Sheets (continued)

(In millions, except for share and per-share amounts)	September 30, 2015 (Unaudited)	December 31, 2014
Liabilities and shareholders' equity:		
Liabilities:		
Policy liabilities:		
Future policy benefits	**$ 68,971**	$ 65,646
Unpaid policy claims	**3,809**	3,630
Unearned premiums	**8,121**	8,626
Other policyholders' funds	**6,284**	6,031
Total policy liabilities	**87,185**	83,933
Income taxes	**4,474**	5,293
Payables for return of cash collateral on loaned securities	**907**	2,193
Notes payable	**5,009**	5,282
Other [(2)]	**2,625**	4,719
Total liabilities	**100,200**	101,420
Commitments and contingent liabilities (Note 11)		
Shareholders' equity:		
Common stock of $.10 par value. In thousands: authorized 1,900,000 shares in 2015 and 2014; issued 669,509 shares in 2015 and 668,132 shares in 2014	**67**	67
Additional paid-in capital	**1,807**	1,711
Retained earnings	**23,451**	22,156
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss):		
Unrealized foreign currency translation gains (losses)	**(2,533)**	(2,541)
Unrealized gains (losses) on investment securities	**3,214**	4,672
Unrealized gains (losses) on derivatives	**(28)**	(26)
Pension liability adjustment	**(125)**	(126)
Treasury stock, at average cost	**(8,598)**	(7,566)
Total shareholders' equity	**17,255**	18,347
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	**$ 117,455**	$ 119,767

[(2)] Includes $343 in 2015 and $318 in 2014 of derivatives from consolidated variable interest entities
See the accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Aflac Incorporated and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity

(In millions - Unaudited)	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015	2014
Common stock:		
Balance, beginning of period	**$ 67**	$ 67
Balance, end of period	**67**	67
Additional paid-in capital:		
Balance, beginning of period	**1,711**	1,644
Exercise of stock options	**41**	24
Share-based compensation	**27**	27
Gain (loss) on treasury stock reissued	**28**	31
Balance, end of period	**1,807**	1,726
Retained earnings:		
Balance, beginning of period	**22,156**	19,885
Net earnings	**1,803**	2,248
Dividends to shareholders	**(508)**	(505)
Balance, end of period	**23,451**	21,628
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss):		
Balance, beginning of period	**1,979**	(563)
Unrealized foreign currency translation gains (losses) during period, net of income taxes	**8**	(300)
Unrealized gains (losses) on investment securities during period, net of income taxes and reclassification adjustments	**(1,458)**	2,367
Unrealized gains (losses) on derivatives during period, net of income taxes	**(2)**	(5)
Pension liability adjustment during period, net of income taxes	**1**	1
Balance, end of period	**528**	1,500
Treasury stock:		
Balance, beginning of period	**(7,566)**	(6,413)
Purchases of treasury stock	**(1,081)**	(698)
Cost of shares issued	**49**	43
Balance, end of period	**(8,598)**	(7,068)
Total shareholders' equity	**$ 17,255**	$ 17,853

See the accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Aflac Incorporated and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
(In millions - Unaudited)	**2015**	2014
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net earnings	**$ 1,803**	$ 2,248
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Change in receivables and advance premiums	**98**	(2)
Increase in deferred policy acquisition costs	**(152)**	(135)
Increase in policy liabilities	**2,696**	2,674
Change in income tax liabilities	**(43)**	(270)
Realized investment (gains) losses	**(26)**	(72)
Other, net	**394** [(1)]	134
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	**4,770**	4,577
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Proceeds from investments sold or matured:		
Securities available for sale:		
Fixed maturities sold	**1,829**	1,773
Fixed maturities matured or called	**705**	723
Perpetual securities sold	**0**	60
Perpetual securities matured or called	**394**	0
Equity securities sold	**1**	0
Securities held to maturity:		
Fixed maturities matured or called	**678**	8,456
Costs of investments acquired:		
Available-for-sale fixed maturities acquired	**(3,919)**	(8,959)
Available-for-sale equity securities acquired	**(67)**	0
Held-to-maturity fixed maturities acquired	**0**	(3,564)
Other investments, net	**(27)**	(3,690)
Settlement of derivatives, net	**(2,242)**	(367)
Cash received (pledged or returned) as collateral, net	**(1,404)**	1,414
Other, net	**(31)**	10
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities	**(4,083)**	(4,144)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Purchases of treasury stock	**(1,081)**	(698)
Proceeds from borrowings	**998**	0
Principal payments under debt obligations	**(1,272)**	(335)
Dividends paid to shareholders	**(489)**	(486)
Change in investment-type contracts, net	**213**	1,166
Treasury stock reissued	**28**	25
Other, net	**(223)** [(1)]	6
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	**(1,826)**	(322)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	**1**	12
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	**(1,138)**	123
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	**4,658**	2,543
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	**$ 3,520**	$ 2,666
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:		
Income taxes paid	**$ 996**	$ 1,412
Interest paid	**188**	171
Noncash interest	**36**	66
Impairment losses included in realized investment losses	**143**	31
Noncash financing activities:		
Capital lease obligations	**2**	0
Treasury stock issued for:		
Associate stock bonus	**26**	26
Shareholder dividend reinvestment	**19**	19
Share-based compensation grants	**4**	4

[(1)] *Operating activities excludes and financing activities includes a cash outflow of $230 for the make-whole payment associated with the early extinguishment of debt*
See the accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Aflac Incorporated and Subsidiaries
Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements
(Interim period data – Unaudited)

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Description of Business

Aflac Incorporated (the Parent Company) and its subsidiaries (collectively, the Company) primarily sell supplemental health and life insurance in the United States and Japan. The Company's insurance business is marketed and administered through American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus (Aflac), which operates in the United States (Aflac U.S.) and as a branch in Japan (Aflac Japan). American Family Life Assurance Company of New York (Aflac New York) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Aflac. Most of Aflac's policies are individually underwritten and marketed through independent agents. Additionally, Aflac U.S. markets and administers group products through Continental American Insurance Company (CAIC), branded as Aflac Group Insurance. Our insurance operations in the United States and our branch in Japan service the two markets for our insurance business. Aflac Japan's revenues, including realized gains and losses on its investment portfolio, accounted for 70% and 74% of the Company's total revenues in the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, and 2014, respectively. The percentage of the Company's total assets attributable to Aflac Japan was 83% at September 30, 2015, compared with 82% at December 31, 2014.

Basis of Presentation

We prepare our financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). These principles are established primarily by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). In these Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements, references to U.S. GAAP issued by the FASB are derived from the FASB Accounting Standards Codification™ (ASC). The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires us to make estimates when recording transactions resulting from business operations based on currently available information. The most significant items on our balance sheet that involve a greater degree of accounting estimates and actuarial determinations subject to changes in the future are the valuation of investments, deferred policy acquisition costs, liabilities for future policy benefits and unpaid policy claims, and income taxes. These accounting estimates and actuarial determinations are sensitive to market conditions, investment yields, mortality, morbidity, commission and other acquisition expenses, and terminations by policyholders. As additional information becomes available, or actual amounts are determinable, the recorded estimates will be revised and reflected in operating results. Although some variability is inherent in these estimates, we believe the amounts provided are adequate.

The unaudited consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Parent Company, its subsidiaries and those entities required to be consolidated under applicable accounting standards. All material intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

In the opinion of management, the accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements of the Company contain all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring accruals, which are necessary to fairly present the consolidated balance sheets as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, the consolidated statements of earnings and comprehensive income (loss) for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, and 2014, and the consolidated statements of shareholders' equity and cash flows for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014. Results of operations for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results for the entire year. As a result, these financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes thereto included in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014.

New Accounting Pronouncements

Recently Adopted Accounting Pronouncements

Income Statement - Extraordinary and Unusual Items - Simplifying income statement presentation by eliminating the concept of extraordinary items: In January 2015, the FASB issued updated guidance that eliminates from U.S. GAAP the concept of extraordinary items. Although the amendments will eliminate the requirements for reporting entities to consider whether an underlying event or transaction is extraordinary, the presentation and disclosure guidance for items that are unusual in nature or occur infrequently will be retained and will be expanded to include items that are both unusual in nature and infrequently occurring. The amendments in this updated guidance are effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2015. Early adoption is permitted provided that the guidance is applied from the beginning of the fiscal year of adoption. We adopted this guidance as of

January 1, 2015. The adoption of this guidance did not have a significant impact on our financial position or results of operations.

Transfers and Servicing, Repurchase-to-Maturity Transactions, Repurchase Financings, and Disclosures: In June 2014, the FASB issued updated guidance for repurchase agreement and security lending transactions to change the accounting for repurchase-to-maturity transactions and linked repurchase financings to be accounted for as secured borrowings, consistent with the accounting for other repurchase agreements. The amendments also require new disclosures to increase transparency about the types of collateral pledged in repurchase agreements and similar transactions accounted for as secured borrowings. We adopted accounting changes for the new guidance as of January 1, 2015, and adopted the required disclosures as of April 1, 2015. The adoption of this guidance did not have a significant impact on our financial position or results of operations.

Accounting Pronouncements Pending Adoption

Financial Services - Insurance - Disclosures about Short-Duration Contracts: In May 2015, the FASB issued updated guidance requiring enhanced disclosures by all insurance entities that issue short-duration contracts. The amendments require insurance entities to disclose for annual reporting periods information about the liability for unpaid claims and claim adjustment expenses. The amendments also require insurance entities to disclose information about significant changes in methodologies and assumptions used to calculate the liability for unpaid claims and claim adjustment expenses, including reasons for the change and the effects on the financial statements. In addition, the amendments require insurance entities to disclose for annual and interim reporting periods a roll-forward of the liability for unpaid claims and claim adjustment expenses. For health insurance claims, the amendments require the disclosure of the total of incurred-but-not-reported liabilities and expected development on reported claims included in the liability for unpaid claims and claim adjustment expenses. The amendments are effective for public business entities for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2015, and interim periods within annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016. Early application of the amendments is permitted. The adoption of this guidance will not have a significant impact on our financial position or results of operations; however, we are evaluating whether the adoption of this guidance will have an impact on our disclosures.

Fair Value Measurement - Disclosures for investments in certain entities that calculate net asset value per share (or its equivalent): In May 2015, the FASB issued updated guidance that removes the requirement to categorize within the fair value hierarchy all investments for which fair value is measured using the net asset value per share practical expedient. The amendments also remove the requirement to make certain disclosures for all investments that are eligible to be measured at fair value using the net asset value per share practical expedient. Rather, those disclosures are limited to investments for which the entity has elected to measure the fair value using that practical expedient. The amendments are effective for public business entities for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015, and interim periods within those fiscal years. The amendments should be applied retrospectively to all periods presented whereby an investment for which fair value is measured using the net asset value per share practical expedient be removed from the fair value hierarchy in all periods presented in an entity's financial statements. Earlier application is permitted. The adoption of this guidance will not have a significant impact on our financial position or results of operations.

Interest - Imputation of Interest - Simplifying the presentation of debt issuance costs: In April 2015, the FASB issued updated guidance to simplify presentation of debt issuance costs. The updated guidance requires that debt issuance costs related to a recognized debt liability be presented in the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the carrying amount of that debt liability, consistent with debt discounts. The recognition and measurement guidance for debt issuance costs are not affected by this amendment. In August 2015, the FASB issued updated SEC Staff guidance pertaining to the presentation of debt issuance costs related to line-of-credit arrangements. The guidance states that an entity may defer and present debt issuance costs as an asset, subsequently amortizing the deferred debt issuance costs ratably over the term of the line-of-credit arrangement, regardless of whether there are any outstanding borrowings on the line-of-credit arrangement. The amendment is effective for annual periods and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2015. Early adoption is permitted. The adoption of this guidance will not have a significant impact on our financial position or results of operations.

Consolidation - Amendments to the consolidation analysis: In February 2015, the FASB issued updated guidance that affects evaluation of whether limited partnerships and similar legal entities (limited liability corporations and securitization structures, etc.) are variable interest entities (VIEs), evaluation of whether fees paid to a decision maker or a service provider are a variable interest, and evaluation of the effect of fee arrangements and the effect of related parties on the determination of the primary beneficiary under the VIE model for consolidation. The updated guidance eliminates the presumption that a general partner should consolidate a limited partnership. Limited partnership and similar legal entities that provide partners with either substantive kick-out rights or substantive participating rights (representing the partners' controlling financial interest in the entity) over the general partner will now be evaluated under the voting interest model rather than the VIE model for consolidation. In regard to the fees paid to a decision maker or a service provider, the updated guidance eliminates three of the six criteria that an entity's decision makers or service providers must meet for them to conclude that the fees do not represent a variable interest in that entity and, thus, should be excluded from the assessment for determining the primary beneficiary. Finally, in situations where no single party has a controlling financial interest in a VIE, the related party relationships under common control should be considered in their entirety in determining whether that common control group has a controlling financial interest in the VIE. However, if substantially all of the activities of the VIE are conducted on behalf of a single variable interest holder (excluding the decision maker) in a related party group that has the characteristics of a primary beneficiary, that single variable interest holder must consolidate the VIE as the primary beneficiary. The amendments in the updated guidance are effective for fiscal years, and for interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2015. Early application is permitted, including adoption in an interim period. We are evaluating whether the adoption of this guidance will have an impact on our financial position, results of operations or disclosures.

Derivatives and Hedging - Determining whether the host contract in a hybrid financial instrument issued in the form of a share is more akin to debt or equity: In November 2014, the FASB issued guidance to clarify how to evaluate the economic characteristics and risks of a host contract in a hybrid financial instrument that is issued in the form of a share. The guidance also clarifies that an entity should assess the substance of the relevant terms and features when considering how to weight those terms and features. The guidance is effective for annual periods and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2015. The adoption of this guidance will not have a significant impact on our financial position or results of operations.

Presentation of Financial Statements - Going Concern - Disclosure of uncertainties about an entity's ability to continue as a going concern: In August 2014, the FASB issued this amendment that provides U.S. GAAP guidance on management's responsibility in evaluating whether there is substantial doubt about a company's ability to continue as a going concern and about related footnote disclosures. For each reporting period, management will be required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events that raise substantial doubt about a company's ability to continue as a going concern within one year from the date the financial statements are issued. The amendment is effective for annual periods ending after December 15, 2016, and interim periods within annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016. Early application is permitted for annual or interim reporting periods for which the financial statements have not previously been issued. The adoption of this guidance will not have a significant impact on our financial position or results of operations.

Compensation - Stock Compensation - Accounting for share-based payments when the terms of an award provide that a performance target could be achieved after the requisite service period: In June 2014, the FASB issued this amendment that provides guidance on certain share-based payment awards that require a specific performance target that affects vesting and that could be achieved after the requisite service period be treated as a performance condition. A reporting entity should apply existing guidance to awards with performance conditions that affect vesting to account for such awards. The performance target should not be reflected in estimating the grant-date fair value of the award. Compensation cost should be recognized in the period in which it becomes probable that the performance target will be achieved and should represent the compensation cost attributable to the period(s) for which the requisite service has already been rendered. If the performance target becomes probable of being achieved before the end of the requisite service period, the remaining unrecognized compensation cost should be recognized prospectively over the remaining requisite service period. The total amount of compensation cost recognized during and after the requisite service period should reflect the number of awards that are expected to vest and should be adjusted to reflect those awards that ultimately vest. The requisite service period ends when the employee can cease rendering service and still be eligible to vest in the award if the performance target is achieved. The guidance is effective for annual periods and interim periods within those annual periods beginning after December 15, 2015. Early adoption is permitted. The adoption of this guidance will not have a significant impact on our financial position or results of operations.

Revenue from contracts with customers: In May 2014, the FASB issued updated guidance that affects any entity that either enters into contracts with customers to transfer goods or services or enters into contracts for the transfer of nonfinancial assets unless those contracts are within the scope of other standards (e.g., insurance contracts or lease contracts). The core principle of the guidance is that an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. In August 2015, the FASB deferred the effective date for this standard to annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, including interim periods within that reporting period. Early application is not permitted. The adoption of this guidance will not have a significant impact on our financial position or results of operations.

Recent accounting guidance not discussed above is not applicable, did not have, or is not expected to have a material impact to our business.

For additional information on new accounting pronouncements and recent accounting guidance and their impact, if any, on our financial position or results of operations, see Note 1 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014.

2. BUSINESS SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Company consists of two reportable insurance business segments: Aflac Japan and Aflac U.S., both of which sell supplemental health and life insurance. Operating business segments that are not individually reportable and business activities not included in Aflac Japan or Aflac U.S. are included in the "Other business segments" category.

We do not allocate corporate overhead expenses to business segments. We evaluate and manage our business segments using a financial performance measure called pretax operating earnings. Our definition of operating earnings includes interest cash flows associated with notes payable and excludes the following items from net earnings on an after-tax basis: realized investment gains/losses (securities transactions, impairments, and the impact of derivative and hedging activities), nonrecurring items and other non-operating income (loss). We then exclude income taxes related to operations to arrive at pretax operating earnings. Information regarding operations by segment follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
(In millions)	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
Revenues:				
Aflac Japan:				
Net earned premiums	**$ 2,980**	$ 3,534	**$ 9,036**	$ 10,672
Net investment income	**606**	676	**1,824**	2,019
Other income	**8**	9	**23**	25
Total Aflac Japan	**3,594**	4,219	**10,883**	12,716
Aflac U.S.:				
Net earned premiums	**1,345**	1,306	**4,016**	3,910
Net investment income	**173**	162	**507**	484
Other income	**2**	0	**6**	2
Total Aflac U.S.	**1,520**	1,468	**4,529**	4,396
Other business segments	**67**	11	**159**	29
Total business segment revenues	**5,181**	5,698	**15,571**	17,141
Realized investment gains (losses) [(1)]	**(136)**	6	**(36)**	42
Corporate	**73**	43	**242**	194
Intercompany eliminations	**(51)**	(38)	**(185)**	(170)
Other non-operating income (loss)	**(27)** [(2)]	27	**(39)** [(2)]	7
Total revenues	**$ 5,040**	$ 5,736	**$ 15,553**	$ 17,214

(1) Excluding a gain of $22 and $10 for the three-month periods and $62 and $30 for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, and 2014, respectively, related to the interest rate component of the change in fair value of foreign currency swaps on notes payable which is classified as an operating gain when analyzing segment operations

(2) Includes a loss of $14 for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, related to the change in value of yen repatriation received in advance of settlement of certain foreign currency derivatives. This loss was offset by derivative gains included in realized investment gains (losses).

(In millions)	Three Months Ended September 30, 2015	2014	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015	2014
Pretax earnings:				
Aflac Japan	**$ 789**	$ 828	**$ 2,365**	$ 2,688
Aflac U.S.	**286**	269	**864**	872
Other business segments	**5**	0	**10**	0
Total business segment pretax operating earnings	**1,080**	1,097	**3,239**	3,560
Interest expense, noninsurance operations	**(30)**	(49)	**(117)**	(150)
Corporate and eliminations	**(23)**	(7)	**(64)**	(43)
Pretax operating earnings	**1,027**	1,041	**3,058**	3,367
Realized investment gains (losses) [1]	**(136)**	6	**(36)**	42
Other non-operating income (loss)	**(27)** [2]	27	**(270)** [2],[3]	7
Total earnings before income taxes	**$ 864**	$ 1,074	**$ 2,752**	$ 3,416
Income taxes applicable to pretax operating earnings	**$ 355**	$ 356	**$ 1,057**	$ 1,151
Effect of foreign currency translation on operating earnings	**(58)**	(19)	**(175)**	(80)

[1] *Excluding a gain of $22 and $10 for the three-month periods and $62 and $30 for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, and 2014, respectively, related to the interest rate component of the change in fair value of foreign currency swaps on notes payable which is classified as an operating gain when analyzing segment operations*

[2] *Includes a loss of $14 for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, related to the change in value of yen repatriation received in advance of settlement of certain foreign currency derivatives. This loss was offset by derivative gains included in realized investment gains (losses).*

[3] *Includes a cash outflow of $230 for the make-whole payment associated with the early extinguishment of debt*

Assets were as follows:

(In millions)	September 30, 2015	December 31, 2014
Assets:		
Aflac Japan	**$ 97,158**	$ 98,525
Aflac U.S.	**18,687**	18,383
Other business segments	**176**	128
Total business segment assets	**116,021**	117,036
Corporate	**22,676**	24,636
Intercompany eliminations	**(21,242)**	(21,905)
Total assets	**$ 117,455**	$ 119,767

3. INVESTMENTS

Investment Holdings

The amortized cost for our investments in debt and perpetual securities, the cost for equity securities and the fair values of these investments are shown in the following tables.

(In millions)	September 30, 2015 Cost or Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
Securities available for sale, carried at fair value:				
Fixed maturities:				
Yen-denominated:				
Japan government and agencies	$ 16,799	$ 1,544	$ 1	$ 18,342
Municipalities	88	6	0	94
Mortgage- and asset-backed securities	330	31	0	361
Public utilities	1,613	202	17	1,798
Sovereign and supranational	795	185	0	980
Banks/financial institutions	2,463	271	118	2,616
Other corporate	3,354	399	32	3,721
Total yen-denominated	25,442	2,638	168	27,912
Dollar-denominated:				
U.S. government and agencies	111	12	0	123
Municipalities	927	154	9	1,072
Mortgage- and asset-backed securities	201	29	0	230
Public utilities	5,437	742	129	6,050
Sovereign and supranational	332	109	0	441
Banks/financial institutions	2,952	707	14	3,645
Other corporate	24,612	2,016	995	25,633
Total dollar-denominated	34,572	3,769	1,147	37,194
Total fixed maturities	60,014	6,407	1,315	65,106
Perpetual securities:				
Yen-denominated:				
Banks/financial institutions	1,798	149	140	1,807
Other corporate	184	18	0	202
Dollar-denominated:				
Banks/financial institutions	107	51	1	157
Total perpetual securities	2,089	218	141	2,166
Equity securities	119	12	0	131
Total securities available for sale	$ 62,222	$ 6,637	$ 1,456	$ 67,403

	September 30, 2015			
(In millions)	Cost or Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
Securities held to maturity, carried at amortized cost:				
Fixed maturities:				
Yen-denominated:				
Japan government and agencies	**$ 20,115**	**$ 2,876**	**$ 0**	**$ 22,991**
Municipalities	**345**	**64**	**0**	**409**
Mortgage- and asset-backed securities	**38**	**2**	**0**	**40**
Public utilities	**3,108**	**151**	**131**	**3,128**
Sovereign and supranational	**2,569**	**164**	**47**	**2,686**
Banks/financial institutions	**4,539**	**141**	**136**	**4,544**
Other corporate	**3,015**	**191**	**56**	**3,150**
Total yen-denominated	**33,729**	**3,589**	**370**	**36,948**
Total securities held to maturity	**$ 33,729**	**$ 3,589**	**$ 370**	**$ 36,948**

	December 31, 2014			
(In millions)	Cost or Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
Securities available for sale, carried at fair value:				
Fixed maturities:				
Yen-denominated:				
Japan government and agencies	$ 17,341	$ 1,740	$ 0	$ 19,081
Municipalities	88	9	0	97
Mortgage- and asset-backed securities	351	35	0	386
Public utilities	1,691	226	5	1,912
Sovereign and supranational	799	163	0	962
Banks/financial institutions	2,752	325	189	2,888
Other corporate	3,479	531	48	3,962
Total yen-denominated	26,501	3,029	242	29,288
Dollar-denominated:				
U.S. government and agencies	100	17	0	117
Municipalities	961	201	2	1,160
Mortgage- and asset-backed securities	185	31	0	216
Public utilities	5,061	960	36	5,985
Sovereign and supranational	343	111	0	454
Banks/financial institutions	2,943	775	8	3,710
Other corporate	22,291	2,682	330	24,643
Total dollar-denominated	31,884	4,777	376	36,285
Total fixed maturities	58,385	7,806	618	65,573
Perpetual securities:				
Yen-denominated:				
Banks/financial institutions	2,132	223	92	2,263
Other corporate	183	48	0	231
Dollar-denominated:				
Banks/financial institutions	125	50	0	175
Total perpetual securities	2,440	321	92	2,669
Equity securities	19	9	0	28
Total securities available for sale	$ 60,844	$ 8,136	$ 710	$ 68,270

	December 31, 2014			
(In millions)	Cost or Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
Securities held to maturity, carried at amortized cost:				
Fixed maturities:				
Yen-denominated:				
Japan government and agencies	$ 20,023	$ 3,195	$ 0	$ 23,218
Municipalities	346	71	0	417
Mortgage- and asset-backed securities	43	3	0	46
Public utilities	3,342	281	20	3,603
Sovereign and supranational	2,556	272	14	2,814
Banks/financial institutions	4,932	231	78	5,085
Other corporate	3,000	326	12	3,314
Total yen-denominated	34,242	4,379	124	38,497
Total securities held to maturity	$ 34,242	$ 4,379	$ 124	$ 38,497

The methods of determining the fair values of our investments in fixed-maturity securities, perpetual securities and equity securities are described in Note 5.

During the third quarter of 2015, we began investing in yen-denominated exchange traded funds (ETFs) holding Japan real estate investment trusts. These ETFs are publicly traded on a national stock exchange and are reported as equity securities on our consolidated balance sheets. These ETFs are classified as available for sale and carried on our balance sheet at fair value. As of September 30, 2015, our investment in these ETFs was $103 million at fair value.

During the first nine months of 2015, we did not reclassify any investments from the held-to-maturity category to the available-for-sale category.

During the third quarter of 2014, we reclassified one investment from the held-to-maturity category to the available-for-sale category as a result of the issuer being downgraded to below investment grade. At the time of transfer, the security had an amortized cost of $233 million and an unrealized loss of $18 million. During the second quarter of 2014, we reclassified one investment from the held-to-maturity category to the available-for-sale category as a result of the issuer being downgraded to below investment grade. At the time of transfer, the security had an amortized cost of $128 million and an unrealized loss of $28 million. During the first quarter of 2014, we reclassified one investment from the held-to-maturity category to the available-for-sale category as a result of the issuer being downgraded to below investment grade. At the time of transfer, the security had an amortized cost of $63 million and an unrealized loss of $8 million.

Contractual and Economic Maturities

The contractual maturities of our investments in fixed maturities at September 30, 2015, were as follows:

	Aflac Japan		Aflac U.S.	
(In millions)	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Available for sale:				
Due in one year or less	$ 246	$ 262	$ 85	$ 86
Due after one year through five years	2,340	2,722	641	717
Due after five years through 10 years	11,299	11,576	2,033	2,140
Due after 10 years	33,384	36,760	9,069	9,851
Mortgage- and asset-backed securities	381	432	36	45
Total fixed maturities available for sale	$ 47,650	$ 51,752	$ 11,864	$ 12,839
Held to maturity:				
Due in one year or less	$ 318	$ 324	$ 0	$ 0
Due after one year through five years	1,593	1,675	0	0
Due after five years through 10 years	1,730	1,825	0	0
Due after 10 years	30,050	33,084	0	0
Mortgage- and asset-backed securities	38	40	0	0
Total fixed maturities held to maturity	$ 33,729	$ 36,948	$ 0	$ 0

At September 30, 2015, the Parent Company and other business segments had portfolios of available-for-sale fixed-maturity securities totaling $500 million at amortized cost and $515 million at fair value, which are not included in the table above.

Expected maturities may differ from contractual maturities because some issuers have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call premiums or prepayment penalties.

The majority of our perpetual securities are subordinated to other debt obligations of the issuer, but rank higher than the issuer's equity securities. Perpetual securities have characteristics of both debt and equity investments, along with unique features that create economic maturity dates for the securities. Although perpetual securities have no contractual maturity date, they have stated interest coupons that were fixed at their issuance and subsequently change to a floating short-term interest rate after some period of time. The instruments are generally callable by the issuer at the time of changing from a fixed coupon rate to a new variable rate of interest, which is determined by the combination of some market index plus a fixed amount of basis points. The net effect is to create an expected maturity date for the instrument. The economic maturities of our investments in perpetual securities, which were all reported as available for sale at September 30, 2015, were as follows:

	Aflac Japan		Aflac U.S.	
(In millions)	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Due in one year or less	$ 261	$ 254	$ 0	$ 0
Due after one year through five years	449	453	0	0
Due after 10 years	1,340	1,401	39	58
Total perpetual securities available for sale	$ 2,050	$ 2,108	$ 39	$ 58

Investment Concentrations

Our process for credit-related investments begins with an independent approach to underwriting each issuer's fundamental credit quality. We evaluate independently those factors which we believe could influence an issuer's ability to make payments under the contractual terms of our instruments. This includes a thorough analysis of a variety of items including the issuer's country of domicile (including political, legal, and financial considerations); the industry in which the issuer competes (with an analysis of industry structure, end-market dynamics, and regulation); company specific issues (such as management, assets, earnings, cash generation, and capital needs); and contractual provisions of the instrument (such as financial covenants and position in the capital structure). We further evaluate the investment considering broad business and portfolio management objectives, including asset/liability needs, portfolio diversification, and expected income.

Banks and Financial Institutions

One of our largest investment sector concentrations as of September 30, 2015, was banks and financial institutions. Within the countries we approve for investment opportunities, we primarily invest in financial institutions that are strategically crucial to each approved country's economy. The bank and financial institution sector is a highly regulated industry and plays a strategic role in the global economy.

Our total investments in the bank and financial institution sector, including those classified as perpetual securities, were as follows:

	September 30, 2015		December 31, 2014	
	Total Investments in Banks and Financial Institutions Sector (in millions)	**Percentage of Total Investment Portfolio**	Total Investments in Banks and Financial Institutions Sector (in millions)	Percentage of Total Investment Portfolio
Fixed maturities:				
Amortized cost	**$ 9,954**	**10%**	$ 10,627	11%
Fair value	**10,805**	**10**	11,683	11
Perpetual securities:				
Upper Tier II:				
Amortized cost	**$ 1,337**	**1%**	$ 1,554	2%
Fair value	**1,369**	**1**	1,645	1
Tier I:				
Amortized cost	**568**	**1**	703	1
Fair value	**595**	**1**	793	1
Total:				
Amortized cost	**$ 11,859**	**12%**	$ 12,884	14%
Fair value	**12,769**	**12**	14,121	13

Realized Investment Gains and Losses

Information regarding pretax realized gains and losses from investments is as follows:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
(In millions)	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
Realized investment gains (losses) on securities:				
Fixed maturities:				
Available for sale:				
Gross gains from sales	**$ 20**	$ 17	**$ 124**	$ 144
Gross losses from sales	**(6)**	0	**(6)**	(1)
Net gains (losses) from redemptions	**12**	16	**38**	27
Other-than-temporary impairment losses	**(136)**	0	**(142)**	(31)
Held to maturity:				
Net gains (losses) from redemptions	**0**	0	**0**	1
Total fixed maturities	**(110)**	33	**14**	140
Perpetual securities:				
Available for sale:				
Net gains (losses) from redemptions	**0**	0	**30**	0
Total perpetual securities	**0**	0	**30**	0
Equity securities:				
Other-than-temporary impairment losses	**(1)**	0	**(1)**	0
Total equity securities	**(1)**	0	**(1)**	0
Derivatives and other:				
Derivative gains (losses)	**(3)**	(17)	**(17)**	(67)
Other	**0**	0	**0**	(1)
Total derivatives and other	**(3)**	(17)	**(17)**	(68)
Total realized investment gains (losses)	**$ (114)**	$ 16	**$ 26**	$ 72

Other-than-temporary Impairment

The fair values of our debt and perpetual security investments fluctuate based on changes in interest rates, foreign exchange, and credit spreads in the global financial markets. Fair values can also be heavily influenced by the values of the assets of the issuer and expected ultimate recovery values upon default, bankruptcy or other financial restructuring. Credit spreads are most impacted by the general credit environment and global market liquidity. Interest rates are driven by numerous factors including, but not limited to, supply and demand, governmental monetary actions, expectations of inflation and economic growth. We believe that fluctuations in the fair values of our investment securities related to general changes in the level of credit spreads or interest rates have little bearing on underlying credit quality of the issuer, and whether our investment is ultimately recoverable. Generally, we consider such declines in fair values to be temporary even in situations where an investment remains in an unrealized loss position for an extended period of time.

However, in the course of our review process, we may determine that it is unlikely that our investment will recover in value within an acceptable time frame. Factors which may influence this determination include the severity of the price decline, the length of time the price has been impaired, if the price decline was driven by issuer credit deterioration, and our view of the likelihood of the security defaulting or otherwise being subject to an unfavorable restructuring. In those cases where we believe the security will not recover in price within an acceptable period of time, we consider such a decline in the investment's fair value, to the extent it is below the investment's cost or amortized cost, to be an other-than-temporary impairment of the investment and reduce the book value of the investment to its fair value.

The perpetual securities we hold were largely issued by banks that are integral to the financial markets of the sovereign country of the issuer. As a result of the issuer's position within the economy of the sovereign country, our perpetual securities may be subject to a higher risk of nationalization of their issuers in connection with capital injections from an issuer's sovereign government. We cannot be assured that such capital support will extend to all levels of an issuer's capital structure. In addition, certain governments or regulators may consider imposing interest and principal payment restrictions on issuers of hybrid securities to preserve cash and preserve the issuer's capital. Beyond the cash flow impact that additional deferrals would have on our portfolio, such deferrals could result in ratings downgrades of the affected securities, which in turn could result in a reduction of fair value of the securities and increase our regulatory capital requirements. We consider these factors in our credit review process.

When determining our intention to sell a security prior to recovery of its fair value to amortized cost, we evaluate facts and circumstances such as, but not limited to, future cash flow needs, decisions to reposition our security portfolio, and risk profile of individual investment holdings. We perform ongoing analyses of our liquidity needs, which includes cash flow testing of our policy liabilities, debt maturities, projected dividend payments and other cash flow and liquidity needs. Our cash flow testing includes extensive duration analysis of our investment portfolio and policy liabilities. Based on our analyses, we have concluded that we have sufficient excess cash flows to meet our liquidity needs without selling any of our investments prior to their maturity.

The following table details our pretax other-than-temporary impairment losses by investment category that resulted from our impairment evaluation process.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
(In millions)	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
Corporate bonds	**$ 5**	$ 0	**$ 7**	$ 31
Bank/financial institution bonds	**131**	0	**135**	0
Equity securities	**1**	0	**1**	0
Total other-than-temporary impairment losses realized [(1)]	**$ 137**	$ 0	**$ 143**	$ 31

[(1)] Includes $6 and $0 for the three-month periods and $12 and $31 for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, from change in intent to sell securities; and $131 for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, for credit-related impairments

Unrealized Investment Gains and Losses

Effect on Shareholders' Equity

The net effect on shareholders' equity of unrealized gains and losses from investment securities was as follows:

(In millions)	**September 30, 2015**	December 31, 2014
Unrealized gains (losses) on securities available for sale	**$ 5,181**	$ 7,426
Deferred income taxes	**(1,967)**	(2,754)
Shareholders' equity, unrealized gains (losses) on investment securities	**$ 3,214**	$ 4,672

Gross Unrealized Loss Aging

The following tables show the fair values and gross unrealized losses of our available-for-sale and held-to-maturity investments that were in an unrealized loss position, aggregated by investment category and length of time that individual securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position.

	September 30, 2015					
	Total		Less than 12 months		12 months or longer	
(In millions)	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
Fixed Maturities:						
Japan government and agencies:						
Yen-denominated	$ 92	$ 1	$ 92	$ 1	$ 0	$ 0
Municipalities:						
Dollar-denominated	44	9	44	9	0	0
Public utilities:						
Dollar-denominated	1,955	129	1,499	79	456	50
Yen-denominated	1,451	148	1,039	102	412	46
Sovereign and supranational:						
Yen-denominated	728	47	535	32	193	15
Banks/financial institutions:						
Dollar-denominated	307	14	304	14	3	0
Yen-denominated	2,809	254	1,762	72	1,047	182
Other corporate:						
Dollar-denominated	12,285	995	9,940	597	2,345	398
Yen-denominated	1,237	88	437	5	800	83
Total fixed maturities	20,908	1,685	15,652	911	5,256	774
Perpetual securities:						
Dollar-denominated	6	1	0	0	6	1
Yen-denominated	739	140	215	27	524	113
Total perpetual securities	745	141	215	27	530	114
Total	$ 21,653	$ 1,826	$ 15,867	$ 938	$ 5,786	$ 888

	December 31, 2014					
	Total		Less than 12 months		12 months or longer	
(In millions)	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
Fixed Maturities:						
Municipalities:						
Dollar-denominated	$ 75	$ 2	$ 53	$ 1	$ 22	$ 1
Public utilities:						
Dollar-denominated	1,001	36	164	7	837	29
Yen-denominated	805	25	98	1	707	24
Sovereign and supranational:						
Yen-denominated	359	14	0	0	359	14
Banks/financial institutions:						
Dollar-denominated	205	8	53	5	152	3
Yen-denominated	1,828	267	166	0	1,662	267
Other corporate:						
Dollar-denominated	8,072	330	1,901	62	6,171	268
Yen-denominated	1,151	60	122	2	1,029	58
Total fixed maturities	13,496	742	2,557	78	10,939	664
Perpetual securities:						
Yen-denominated	783	92	194	5	589	87
Total perpetual securities	783	92	194	5	589	87
Total	$ 14,279	$ 834	$ 2,751	$ 83	$ 11,528	$ 751

Analysis of Securities in Unrealized Loss Positions

The unrealized losses on our investments have been primarily related to general market changes in interest rates, foreign exchange rates, and/or the levels of credit spreads rather than specific concerns with the issuer's ability to pay interest and repay principal.

For any significant decline in fair value, we perform a more focused review of the related issuer's credit profile. For corporate issuers, we evaluate their assets, business profile including industry dynamics and competitive positioning, financial statements and other available financial data. For non-corporate issuers, we analyze all sources of credit support, including issuer-specific factors. We utilize information available in the public domain and, for certain private placement issuers, from consultations with the issuers directly. We also consider ratings from the Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations (NRSROs), as well as the specific characteristics of the security we own including seniority in the issuer's capital structure, covenant protections, or other relevant features. From these reviews, we evaluate the issuers' continued ability to service our investment through payment of interest and principal.

The following table provides more information on our unrealized loss positions.

(In millions)	**September 30, 2015** Investments in an Unrealized Loss Position	Gross Unrealized Losses	Gross Unrealized Losses that are Investment Grade	December 31, 2014 Investments in an Unrealized Loss Position	Gross Unrealized Losses	Gross Unrealized Losses that are Investment Grade
Fixed Maturities:						
Public utilities	**16%**	**15%**	**95%**	13%	7%	100%
Sovereign and supranational	**3**	**3**	**100**	3	2	100
Banks/financial institutions	**14**	**15**	**60**	14	33	31
Other corporate	**63**	**59**	**86**	65	47	88
Total fixed maturities	**96%**	**92%**		95%	89%	
Perpetual securities	**4**	**8**	**100**	5	11	100
Total	**100%**	**100%**		100%	100%	

Assuming no credit-related factors develop, unrealized gains and losses are expected to diminish as investments near maturity. Based on our credit analysis, we believe that the issuers of our investments in the sectors shown in the table above have the ability to service their obligations to us.

Perpetual Securities

The majority of our investments in Upper Tier II and Tier I perpetual securities were in highly-rated global financial institutions. Upper Tier II securities have more debt-like characteristics than Tier I securities and are senior to Tier I securities, preferred stock, and common equity of the issuer. Conversely, Tier I securities have more equity-like characteristics, but are senior to the common equity of the issuer. They may also be senior to certain preferred shares, depending on the individual security, the issuer's capital structure and the regulatory jurisdiction of the issuer.

Details of our holdings of perpetual securities were as follows:

Perpetual Securities

(In millions)	Credit Rating	**September 30, 2015** Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	December 31, 2014 Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Gain (Loss)
Upper Tier II:							
	A	**$ 61**	**$ 87**	**$ 26**	$ 61	$ 87	$ 26
	BBB	**1,112**	**1,056**	**(56)**	1,330	1,333	3
	BB or lower	**164**	**226**	**62**	163	225	62
Total Upper Tier II		**1,337**	**1,369**	**32**	1,554	1,645	91
Tier I:							
	BBB	**522**	**524**	**2**	519	556	37
	BB or lower	**46**	**71**	**25**	184	237	53
Total Tier I		**568**	**595**	**27**	703	793	90
Other subordinated - non-banks:							
	BB or lower	**184**	**202**	**18**	183	231	48
Total		**$ 2,089**	**$ 2,166**	**$ 77**	$ 2,440	$ 2,669	$ 229

Assuming no credit-related factors develop, as investments near maturity, the unrealized gains or losses are expected to diminish. Based on our credit analysis, we believe that the issuers of our investments in these sectors have the ability to service their obligations to us. Perpetual securities that had an amortized cost of $361 million and fair value of $387 million at December 31, 2014 matured or were called during the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015.

Variable Interest Entities (VIEs)

As a condition of our involvement or investment in a VIE, we enter into certain protective rights and covenants that preclude changes in the structure of the VIE that would alter the creditworthiness of our investment or our beneficial interest in the VIE.

Our involvement with all of the VIEs in which we have an interest is passive in nature, and we are not the arranger of these entities. We have not been involved in establishing these entities, except as it relates to our review and evaluation of the structure of these VIEs in the normal course of our investment decision-making process. Further, we are not, nor have we been, required to purchase any securities issued in the future by these VIEs.

Our ownership interest in the VIEs is limited to holding the obligations issued by them. All of the VIEs in which we invest are static with respect to funding and have no ongoing forms of funding after the initial funding date. We have no direct or contingent obligations to fund the limited activities of these VIEs, nor do we have any direct or indirect financial guarantees related to the limited activities of these VIEs. We have not provided any assistance or any other type of financing support to any of the VIEs we invest in, nor do we have any intention to do so in the future. The weighted-average lives of our notes are very similar to the underlying collateral held by these VIEs where applicable.

Our risk of loss related to our interests in any of our VIEs is limited to our investment in the debt securities issued by them.

VIEs - Consolidated

The following table presents the amortized cost, fair value and balance sheet caption in which the assets and liabilities of consolidated VIEs are reported.

Investments in Consolidated Variable Interest Entities

	September 30, 2015		December 31, 2014	
(In millions)	**Amortized Cost**	**Fair Value**	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Assets:				
Fixed maturities, available for sale	**$ 3,651**	**$ 4,541**	$ 3,020	$ 4,166
Perpetual securities, available for sale	**287**	**269**	405	429
Fixed maturities, held to maturity	**83**	**80**	83	84
Other assets	**106**	**106**	106	106
Total assets of consolidated VIEs	**$ 4,127**	**$ 4,996**	$ 3,614	$ 4,785
Liabilities:				
Other liabilities	**$ 343**	**$ 343**	$ 318	$ 318
Total liabilities of consolidated VIEs	**$ 343**	**$ 343**	$ 318	$ 318

We are substantively the only investor in the consolidated VIEs listed in the table above. As the sole investor in these VIEs, we have the power to direct the activities of a variable interest entity that most significantly impact the entity's economic performance and are therefore considered to be the primary beneficiary of the VIEs that we consolidate. We also participate in substantially all of the variability created by these VIEs. The activities of these VIEs are limited to holding debt and perpetual securities and foreign currency and/or credit default swaps (CDS), as appropriate, and utilizing the cash flows from these securities to service our investment. Neither we nor any of our creditors are able to obtain the underlying collateral of the VIEs unless there is an event of default or other specified event. For those VIEs that contain a swap, we are not a direct counterparty to the swap contracts and have no control over them. Our loss exposure to these VIEs is limited to our original investment. Our consolidated VIEs do not rely on outside or ongoing sources of funding to support their activities beyond the underlying collateral and swap contracts, if applicable. With the exception of our investment in senior secured bank loans (bank loans) through unit trust structures, the underlying collateral assets and funding of our consolidated VIEs are generally static in nature and the underlying collateral and the reference corporate entities covered by any CDS contracts were all investment grade at the time of issuance.

We invest in bank loans through unit trust structures in which we are the only investor, requiring us to consolidate these trusts. These bank loans are classified as available-for-sale fixed-maturity securities in the financial statements. As of September 30, 2015, the amortized cost and fair value of our bank loan investments was $1.3 billion. As of December 31, 2014, the amortized cost and fair value of our bank loan investments was $501 million and $579 million, respectively.

We are exposed to credit losses within our consolidated collateralized debt obligation (CDO) that could result in principal losses to our investment. However, we have mitigated the risk of credit loss through the structure of the VIE, which contractually requires the subordinated tranches within the VIE to absorb the majority of the expected losses from the underlying credit default swaps. We currently own only senior mezzanine CDO tranches. Based on our statistical analysis models and the current subordination levels in our CDO, the VIE can sustain a reasonable number of defaults in the underlying reference entities in the CDS with no loss to our investment.

VIEs-Not Consolidated

The table below reflects the amortized cost, fair value and balance sheet caption in which our investment in VIEs not consolidated are reported.

Investments in Variable Interest Entities Not Consolidated

	September 30, 2015		December 31, 2014	
(In millions)	**Amortized Cost**	**Fair Value**	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Assets:				
Fixed maturities, available for sale	**$ 5,792**	**$ 6,367**	$ 6,104	$ 6,937
Perpetual securities, available for sale	**250**	**243**	324	330
Fixed maturities, held to maturity	**2,491**	**2,578**	2,564	2,829
Total investments in VIEs not consolidated	**$ 8,533**	**$ 9,188**	$ 8,992	$ 10,096

The VIEs that we are not required to consolidate are investments that are in the form of debt obligations from the VIEs that are irrevocably and unconditionally guaranteed by their corporate parents or sponsors. These VIEs are the primary financing vehicles used by their corporate sponsors to raise financing in the capital markets. The variable interests created by these VIEs are principally or solely a result of the debt instruments issued by them. We do not have the power to direct the activities that most significantly impact the entity's economic performance, nor do we have (1) the obligation to absorb losses of the entity or (2) the right to receive benefits from the entity. As such, we are not the primary beneficiary of these VIEs and are therefore not required to consolidate them. These VIE investments comprise securities from 175 separate issuers with an average credit rating of BBB.

Loans and Loan Receivables

We invest in middle market loans through participation rights that are accounted for as loan receivables and recorded at amortized cost on the acquisition date. Since we have the intent and ability to hold these loan receivables for the foreseeable future or until they mature, they are considered held-for-investment and are carried at adjusted amortized cost in the other investments line on our consolidated balance sheets. The adjusted amortized cost of the loan receivables reflects allowances for expected incurred losses estimated based on past events and current economic conditions as of each reporting date. We also recognize a liability for all unfunded commitments associated with existing loan originations, with a corresponding recognition of an invested asset. As of September 30, 2015, our investment in these loan receivables was $66 million, of which $49 million was unfunded, while the associated allowance for expected losses was immaterial. As of September 30, 2015, we have commitments of $233 million to fund potential future loan originations related to this investment program. These commitments are contingent upon the availability of middle market loans that meet our underwriting criteria.

Securities Lending and Pledged Securities

We lend fixed-maturity securities to financial institutions in short-term security-lending transactions. These short-term security-lending arrangements increase investment income with minimal risk. Our security lending policy requires that the fair value of the securities and/or unrestricted cash received as collateral be 102% or more of the fair value of the loaned securities. These securities continue to be carried as investment assets on our balance sheet during the terms of the loans and are not reported as sales. We receive cash or other securities as collateral for such loans. For loans involving unrestricted cash or securities as collateral, the collateral is reported as an asset with a corresponding liability for the return of the collateral.

Details of our securities lending activities were as follows:

Securities Lending Transactions Accounted for as Secured Borrowings			
September 30, 2015			
Remaining Contractual Maturity of the Agreements			
(In millions)	**Overnight and Continuous[1]**	**Up to 30 days**	**Total**
Securities lending transactions:			
Japan government and agencies	**$ 145**	**$ 309**	**$ 454**
Public utilities	**119**	**0**	**119**
Sovereign and supranational	**3**	**0**	**3**
Banks/financial institutions	**13**	**0**	**13**
Other corporate	**318**	**0**	**318**
Total borrowings	**$ 598**	**$ 309**	**$ 907**
Gross amount of recognized liabilities for securities lending transactions			**$ 907**
Amounts related to agreements not included in offsetting disclosure in Note 4			**$ 0**

[1] *These securities are pledged as collateral under our U.S. securities lending program and can be called at our discretion; therefore, they are classified as Overnight and Continuous.*

Securities Lending Transactions Accounted for as Secured Borrowings			
December 31, 2014			
Remaining Contractual Maturity of the Agreements			
(In millions)	Overnight and Continuous[1]	Up to 30 days	Total
Securities lending transactions:			
Japan government and agencies	$ 0	$ 1,720	$ 1,720
Public utilities	80	0	80
Sovereign and supranational	1	0	1
Banks/financial institutions	64	0	64
Other corporate	328	0	328
Total borrowings	$ 473	$ 1,720	$ 2,193
Gross amount of recognized liabilities for securities lending transactions			$ 2,193
Amounts related to agreements not included in offsetting disclosure in Note 4			$ 0

[1] *These securities are pledged as collateral under our U.S. securities lending program and can be called at our discretion; therefore, they are classified as Overnight and Continuous.*

We did not have any repurchase agreements or repurchase-to-maturity transactions outstanding as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014.

Certain fixed-maturity securities have been pledged as collateral as part of derivative transactions. For additional information regarding pledged securities related to derivative transactions, see Note 4.

4. DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS

Our freestanding derivative financial instruments consist of: (1) foreign currency swaps and credit default swaps that are associated with investments in special-purpose entities, including VIEs where we are the primary beneficiary; (2) foreign currency forwards and options used in hedging foreign exchange risk on U.S. dollar-denominated securities in Aflac Japan's portfolio; (3) foreign currency forwards and options used to hedge foreign exchange risk from our net investment in Aflac Japan and economically hedge certain portions of forecasted cash flows denominated in yen; (4) swaps associated with our notes payable, consisting of cross-currency interest rate swaps, also referred to as foreign currency swaps, associated with certain senior notes and our subordinated debentures; and (5) options on interest rate swaps (or interest rate swaptions) and futures used to hedge interest rate risk for certain available-for-sale securities. We do not use derivative financial instruments for trading purposes, nor do we engage in leveraged derivative transactions. Some of our derivatives are designated as cash flow hedges, fair value hedges or net investment hedges; however, other derivatives do not qualify for hedge accounting or we elect not to designate them as an accounting hedge. We utilize a net investment hedge to mitigate foreign exchange exposure resulting from our net investment in Aflac Japan. In addition to designating derivatives as hedging instruments, we have designated our yen-denominated Samurai and Uridashi notes as nonderivative hedging instruments for this net investment hedge.

Derivative Types

We enter into foreign currency swaps pursuant to which we exchange an initial principal amount in one currency for an initial principal amount of another currency, with an agreement to re-exchange the currencies at a future date at an agreed upon exchange rate. There may also be periodic exchanges of payments at specified intervals based on the agreed upon rates and notional amounts. Foreign currency swaps are used primarily in the consolidated VIEs in our Aflac Japan portfolio to convert foreign-denominated cash flows to yen, the functional currency of Aflac Japan, in order to minimize cash flow fluctuations. We also use foreign currency swaps to economically convert certain of our dollar-denominated senior note and subordinated debenture principal and interest obligations into yen-denominated obligations.

Foreign currency forwards and options with short-term maturities are executed for the Aflac Japan segment in order to hedge the currency risk on the fair value of certain fixed-maturity dollar-denominated securities. In forward transactions, Aflac Japan agrees with another party to buy a fixed amount of yen and sell a corresponding amount of U.S. dollars at a specified future date. Aflac Japan also executes foreign currency option transactions in a collar strategy, where Aflac Japan agrees with another party to simultaneously purchase a fixed amount of U.S. dollar put options and sell U.S. dollar call options. The combination of these two actions results in no net premium being paid (i.e. a costless or zero-cost collar). The foreign currency forwards and options are used in fair value hedging relationships to mitigate the foreign exchange risk associated with dollar-denominated investments supporting yen-denominated liabilities.

Foreign currency forwards and options are also used to hedge the currency risk associated with the net investment in Aflac Japan. In these forward transactions, Aflac agrees with another party to buy a fixed amount of U.S. dollars and sell a corresponding amount of yen at a specified future date. In the option transactions, we use a combination of foreign
currency options to protect expected future cash flows by simultaneously purchasing yen put options (options that protect
against a weakening yen) and selling yen call options (options that limit participation in a strengthening yen). The
combination of these two actions results in no net premium being paid (i.e. a costless or zero-cost collar).

The only CDS that we currently hold relates to components of an investment in a VIE and is used to assume credit risk related to an individual security. This CDS contract entitles the consolidated VIE to receive periodic fees in exchange for an obligation to compensate the derivative counterparties should the referenced security issuer experience a credit event, as defined in the contract.

Interest rate swaps involve the periodic exchange of cash flows with other parties, at specified intervals, calculated using agreed upon rates or other financial variables and notional principal amounts. Typically, at the time a swap is entered into, the cash flow streams exchanged by the counterparties are equal in value. No cash or principal payments are exchanged at the inception of the contract. Interest rate swaps are primarily used to convert interest receipts on floating-rate fixed-maturity securities contracts to fixed rates. These derivatives are predominantly used to better match cash receipts from assets with cash disbursements required to fund liabilities.

Interest rate swaptions are options on interest rate swaps. Interest rate collars are combinations of two swaption positions and are executed in order to hedge certain dollar-denominated available-for-sale securities that are held in the Aflac Japan segment. We use collars to protect against significant changes in the fair value associated with interest rate changes of our dollar-denominated available-for-sale securities. In order to maximize the efficiency of the collars while minimizing cost, we set the strike price on each collar so that the premium paid for the ‘payer leg’ is offset by the premium received for having sold the ‘receiver leg’.

Periodically, depending on general economic conditions, we may enter into other derivative transactions.

Credit Risk Assumed through Derivatives

For the foreign currency and credit default swaps associated with our VIE investments for which we are the primary beneficiary, we bear the risk of foreign exchange loss due to counterparty default even though we are not a direct counterparty to those contracts. We are a direct counterparty to the foreign currency swaps that we have entered into in connection with certain of our senior notes, subordinated debentures, and Samurai notes; foreign currency forwards; foreign currency options; and interest rate swaptions, and therefore we are exposed to credit risk in the event of nonperformance by the counterparties in those contracts. The risk of counterparty default for our VIE swaps, foreign currency swaps, certain foreign currency forwards, foreign currency options and interest rate swaptions is mitigated by collateral posting requirements that counterparties to those transactions must meet. As of September 30, 2015, there were 17 counterparties to our derivative agreements, with four comprising 56% of the aggregate notional amount. The counterparties to these derivatives are financial institutions with the following credit ratings:

	September 30, 2015			December 31, 2014		
(In millions)	**Notional Amount of Derivatives**	**Asset Derivatives Fair Value**	**Liability Derivatives Fair Value**	Notional Amount of Derivatives	Asset Derivatives Fair Value	Liability Derivatives Fair Value
Counterparties' credit rating:						
AA	**$ 2,277**	**$ 175**	**$ (41)**	$ 1,098	$ 39	$ (36)
A	**21,079**	**702**	**(343)**	22,564	763	(2,387)
Total	**$ 23,356**	**$ 877**	**$ (384)**	$ 23,662	$ 802	$ (2,423)

We engage in derivative transactions directly with unaffiliated third parties under International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc. (ISDA) agreements and other documentation. Most of the ISDA agreements also include Credit Support Annex (CSA) provisions, which generally provide for two-way collateral postings, in certain cases at the first dollar of exposure and in other cases once various rating and exposure threshold levels are triggered. We mitigate the risk that counterparties to transactions might be unable to fulfill their contractual obligations by monitoring counterparty credit exposure and collateral value while generally requiring that collateral be posted at the outset of the transaction or that additional collateral be posted upon the occurrence of certain events or circumstances. In addition, a significant portion of the derivative transactions have provisions that require collateral to be posted upon a downgrade of our long-term debt ratings or give the counterparty the right to terminate the transaction upon a downgrade of Aflac’s financial strength rating. The actual amount of collateral required to be posted to counterparties in the event of such downgrades, or the aggregate amount of payments that we could be required to make, depends on market conditions, the fair value of outstanding affected transactions, and other factors prevailing at and after the time of the downgrade.

The fair value of collateral posted by us to third parties for derivative transactions of $7 million at September 30, 2015 consisted entirely of cash. The fair value of collateral posted by us to third parties for derivative transactions of $1.6 billion at December 31, 2014 consisted entirely of securities. This collateral can generally be repledged or resold by the counterparties. The aggregate fair value of all derivative instruments with credit-risk-related contingent features that were in a net liability position by counterparty was approximately $7 million and $2.1 billion as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively. If the credit-risk-related contingent features underlying these agreements had been triggered on September 30, 2015, the amount of collateral we would be required to post to these derivative counterparties would be immaterial. Collateral obtained by us from third parties for derivative transactions was $622 million and $619 million at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively. We are generally allowed to sell or repledge collateral obtained from our derivative counterparties, although we do not typically exercise such rights.

Accounting for Derivative Financial Instruments

Freestanding derivatives are carried at estimated fair value in our consolidated balance sheets either as other assets or as other liabilities. See Note 5 for a discussion on how we determine the fair value of our derivatives. Accruals on derivatives are recorded in accrued investment income or within other liabilities in the consolidated balance sheets.

If a derivative is not designated as an accounting hedge or its use in managing risk does not qualify for hedge accounting, changes in the estimated fair value of the derivative are generally reported within derivative and other gains (losses), which is a component of realized investment gains (losses). The fluctuations in estimated fair value of derivatives that have not been designated for hedge accounting can result in volatility in net earnings.

Hedge Documentation and Effectiveness Testing

To qualify for hedge accounting treatment, a derivative must be highly effective in mitigating the designated risk of the hedged item. At the inception of the hedging relationship for hedges we elect to designate for hedge accounting treatment, we formally document all relationships between hedging instruments and hedged items, as well as our risk-management objective and strategy for undertaking each hedge transaction. We document the designation of each hedge as either (i) a hedge of the variability of cash flows to be received or paid related to a recognized asset or liability or the hedge of a forecasted transaction ("cash flow hedge"); (ii) a hedge of the estimated fair value of a recognized asset or liability ("fair value hedge"); or (iii) a hedge of a net investment in a foreign operation. The documentation process includes linking derivatives and nonderivatives that are designated as hedges to specific assets or groups of assets or liabilities on the statement of financial position or to specific forecasted transactions and defining the effectiveness and ineffectiveness testing methods to be used. At the hedge's inception and on an ongoing quarterly basis, we also formally assess whether the derivatives that are used in hedging transactions have been, and are expected to continue to be, highly effective in offsetting their designated risk. Hedge effectiveness is assessed using qualitative and quantitative methods.

For assessing hedge effectiveness of cash flow hedges, qualitative methods may include the comparison of critical terms of the derivative to the hedged item, and quantitative methods may include regression or other statistical analysis of changes in cash flows associated with the hedge relationship. Hedge ineffectiveness of the hedge relationships on our VIE cash flow hedges is measured each reporting period using the “Hypothetical Derivative Method.” For derivative instruments that are designated and qualify as cash flow hedges, the effective portion of the gain or loss on the derivative is reported as a component of other comprehensive income (loss) and reclassified into earnings in the same period or periods during which the hedged transaction affects earnings. Gains and losses on the derivative representing hedge ineffectiveness are recognized in current earnings within derivative and other gains (losses). All components of each derivative's gain or loss are included in the assessment of hedge effectiveness.

For assessing hedge effectiveness of fair value hedges, qualitative methods may include the comparison of critical terms of the derivative to the hedged item, and quantitative methods may include regression or other statistical analysis of changes in fair value associated with the hedge relationship. Hedge ineffectiveness of the hedge relationships is measured each reporting period using the dollar offset method. For derivative instruments that are designated and qualify as fair value hedges, changes in the estimated fair value of the derivative, including amounts measured as ineffectiveness, and changes in the estimated fair value of the hedged item related to the designated risk being hedged, are reported in current earnings within derivative and other gains (losses).

For the hedge of our net investment in Aflac Japan, we have designated Parent Company yen-denominated liabilities as non-derivative hedging instruments and have designated certain foreign currency forwards and options as derivative hedging instruments. We make our net investment hedge designation at the beginning of each quarter. For assessing hedge effectiveness of net investment hedges, if the total of the designated Parent Company non-derivative and derivatives notional is equal to or less than our net investment in Aflac Japan, the hedge is deemed to be effective. If the hedge is effective, the related exchange effect on the yen-denominated liabilities is reported in the unrealized foreign currency component of other comprehensive income. For derivatives designated as net investment hedges, Aflac follows the forward-rate method. According to that method, all changes in fair value, including changes related to the forward-rate component of foreign currency forward contracts and the time value of foreign currency options, are reported in the unrealized foreign currency component of other comprehensive income. Should these designated net investment hedge positions exceed our net investment in Aflac Japan, the foreign exchange effect on the portion that exceeds our investment in Aflac Japan would be recognized in current earnings within derivative and other gains (losses).

Discontinuance of Hedge Accounting

We discontinue hedge accounting prospectively when (1) it is determined that the derivative is no longer highly effective in offsetting changes in the estimated cash flows or fair value of a hedged item; (2) the derivative is de-designated as a hedging instrument; or (3) the derivative expires or is sold, terminated or exercised.

When hedge accounting is discontinued on a cash flow hedge or fair value hedge, the derivative is carried in the consolidated balance sheets at its estimated fair value, with changes in estimated fair value recognized in current period earnings. For discontinued cash flow hedges, including those where the derivative is sold, terminated or exercised, amounts previously deferred in other comprehensive income (loss) are reclassified into earnings when earnings are impacted by the cash flow of the hedged item.

Derivative Balance Sheet Classification

The tables below summarize the balance sheet classification of our derivative fair value amounts, as well as the gross asset and liability fair value amounts. The fair value amounts presented do not include income accruals. The notional amount of derivative contracts represents the basis upon which pay or receive amounts are calculated. Notional amounts are not reflective of credit risk.

	September 30, 2015			
(In millions)	Net Derivatives		Asset Derivatives	Liability Derivatives
Hedge Designation/ Derivative Type	**Notional Amount**	**Fair Value**	**Fair Value**	**Fair Value**
Cash flow hedges:				
Foreign currency swaps	$ 75	$ (18)	$ 0	$ (18)
Total cash flow hedges	75	(18)	0	(18)
Fair value hedges:				
Foreign currency forwards	12,714	239	248	(9)
Foreign currency options	1,250	0	1	(1)
Total fair value hedges	13,964	239	249	(10)
Net investment hedge:				
Foreign currency forwards	1,455	5	19	(14)
Foreign currency options	168	(3)	4	(7)
Total net investment hedge	1,623	2	23	(21)
Non-qualifying strategies:				
Foreign currency swaps	6,604	270	604	(334)
Foreign currency forwards	1,007	0	1	(1)
Credit default swaps	83	0	0	0
Total non-qualifying strategies	7,694	270	605	(335)
Total derivatives	$ 23,356	$ 493	$ 877	$ (384)
Balance Sheet Location				
Other assets	$ 16,776	$ 877	$ 877	$ 0
Other liabilities	6,580	(384)	0	(384)
Total derivatives	$ 23,356	$ 493	$ 877	$ (384)

	December 31, 2014			
(In millions)	Net Derivatives		Asset Derivatives	Liability Derivatives
Hedge Designation/ Derivative Type	Notional Amount	Fair Value	Fair Value	Fair Value
Cash flow hedges:				
Foreign currency swaps	$ 75	$ (15)	$ 0	$ (15)
Total cash flow hedges	75	(15)	0	(15)
Fair value hedges:				
Foreign currency forwards	12,388	(1,791)	0	(1,791)
Foreign currency options	697	(32)	0	(32)
Interest rate swaptions	2,502	(159)	0	(159)
Total fair value hedges	15,587	(1,982)	0	(1,982)
Net investment hedge:				
Foreign currency forwards	1,307	54	56	(2)
Total net investment hedge	1,307	54	56	(2)
Non-qualifying strategies:				
Foreign currency swaps	5,765	443	746	(303)
Foreign currency forwards	784	(119)	0	(119)
Foreign currency options	53	(1)	0	(1)
Credit default swaps	83	0	0	0
Interest rate swaptions	8	(1)	0	(1)
Total non-qualifying strategies	6,693	322	746	(424)
Total derivatives	$ 23,662	$ (1,621)	$ 802	$ (2,423)
Balance Sheet Location				
Other assets	$ 6,531	$ 802	$ 802	$ 0
Other liabilities	17,131	(2,423)	0	(2,423)
Total derivatives	$ 23,662	$ (1,621)	$ 802	$ (2,423)

Cash Flow Hedges

Certain of our consolidated VIEs have foreign currency swaps that qualify for hedge accounting treatment. For those that have qualified, we have designated the derivative as a hedge of the variability in cash flows of a forecasted transaction or of amounts to be received or paid related to a recognized asset ("cash flow" hedge). We expect to continue this hedging activity for a weighted-average period of approximately 10 years. The remaining derivatives in our consolidated VIEs that have not qualified for hedge accounting have been designated as held for other investment purposes ("non-qualifying strategies").

Fair Value Hedges

We designate and account for certain foreign currency forwards and options as fair value hedges when they meet the requirements for hedge accounting. These foreign currency forwards and options hedge the foreign currency exposure of certain dollar-denominated fixed maturity securities within the investment portfolio of our Aflac Japan segment. We recognize gains and losses on these derivatives and the related hedged items in current earnings within derivative and other gains (losses). The change in the fair value of the foreign currency forwards related to the changes in the difference between the spot rate and the forward price is excluded from the assessment of hedge effectiveness. The change in fair value of the foreign currency option related to the time value of the option is excluded from the assessment of hedge effectiveness.

We designate and account for interest rate swaptions as fair value hedges when they meet the requirements for hedge accounting. These interest rate swaptions hedge the interest rate exposure of certain dollar-denominated fixed maturity securities within the investment portfolio of our Aflac Japan segment. We recognize gains and losses on these derivatives and the related hedged items in current earnings within derivative and other gains (losses). The change in the fair value of the interest rate swaptions related to the time value of the option is excluded from the assessment of hedge effectiveness.

The following table presents the gains and losses on derivatives and the related hedged items in fair value hedges.

Fair Value Hedging Relationships

(In millions)		Hedging Derivatives			Hedged Items	
Hedging Derivatives	**Hedged Items**	**Total Gains (Losses)**	**Gains (Losses) Excluded from Effectiveness Testing**	**Gains (Losses) Included in Effectiveness Testing**	**Gains (Losses)**	**Ineffectiveness Recognized for Fair Value Hedge**
Three Months Ended September 30, 2015:						
Foreign currency forwards	Fixed-maturity securities	**$ 247**	**$ (28)**	**$ 275**	**$ (267)**	**$ 8**
Foreign currency options	Fixed-maturity securities	**(1)**	**(1)**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015:						
Foreign currency forwards	Fixed-maturity securities	**$ 17**	**$ (60)**	**$ 77**	**$ (62)**	**$ 15**
Foreign currency options	Fixed-maturity securities	**(4)**	**3**	**(7)**	**7**	**0**
Interest rate swaptions	Fixed-maturity securities	**(95)**	**19**	**(114)**	**99**	**(15)**
Three Months Ended September 30, 2014:						
Foreign currency forwards	Fixed-maturity securities	$ (1,094)	$ (1)	$ (1,093)	$ 1,097	$ 4
Foreign currency options	Fixed-maturity securities	(9)	(9)	0	0	0
Interest rate swaptions	Fixed-maturity securities	(34)	2	(36)	37	1
Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014:						
Foreign currency forwards	Fixed-maturity securities	$ (631)	$ (36)	$ (595)	$ 624	$ 29
Foreign currency options	Fixed-maturity securities	(8)	(8)	0	0	0
Interest rate swaptions	Fixed-maturity securities	(160)	(20)	(140)	150	10

Net Investment Hedge

Our primary exposure to be hedged is our net investment in Aflac Japan, which is affected by changes in the yen/dollar exchange rate. To mitigate this exposure, we have designated the Parent Company's yen-denominated liabilities (Samurai and Uridashi notes - see Note 7) as nonderivative hedges and designated foreign currency forwards and options as derivative hedges of the foreign currency exposure of our net investment in Aflac Japan.

We used foreign exchange forwards to hedge foreign exchange risk on 30.0 billion yen, 102.5 billion yen and 25.0 billion yen of profit repatriation received from Aflac Japan in February 2015, July 2015 and September 2015, respectively. As of September 30, 2015, we had entered into foreign exchange forwards and options as part of a hedge on 194.6 billion yen of future profit repatriation.

Our net investment hedge was effective during the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Non-qualifying Strategies

For our derivative instruments in consolidated VIEs that do not qualify for hedge accounting treatment, all changes in their fair value are reported in current period earnings within derivative and other gains (losses). The amount of gain or loss recognized in earnings for our VIEs is attributable to the derivatives in those investment structures. While the change in value of the swaps is recorded through current period earnings, the change in value of the available-for-sale fixed-maturity or perpetual securities associated with these swaps is recorded through other comprehensive income.

We have cross-currency interest rate swap agreements related to our $400 million senior notes due February 2017, $550 million senior notes due March 2020, $350 million senior notes due February 2022, $700 million senior notes due June 2023, $750 million senior notes due November 2024, $450 million senior notes due March 2025, and $500 million subordinated debentures due September 2052. Changes in the values of these swaps are recorded through current period earnings.

For additional information regarding these swaps, see Note 7 in this report and Note 9 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Impact of Derivatives and Hedging Instruments

The following table summarizes the impact to realized investment gains (losses) and other comprehensive income (loss) from all derivatives and hedging instruments.

	Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2015		2014		**2015**		2014	
(In millions)	**Realized Investment Gains (Losses)**	**Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)[(1)]**	Realized Investment Gains (Losses)	Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)[(1)]	**Realized Investment Gains (Losses)**	**Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)[(1)]**	Realized Investment Gains (Losses)	Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)[(1)]
Qualifying hedges:								
Cash flow hedges:								
Foreign currency swaps	**$ 0**	**$ (1)**	$ (1)	$ (9)	**$ 0**	**$ (3)**	$ (2)	$ (8)
Total cash flow hedges	**0**	**(1)**	(1)	(9)	**0**	**(3)**	(2)	(8)
Fair value hedges:								
Foreign currency forwards[(2)]	**(20)**	**0**	3	0	**(45)**	**0**	(7)	0
Foreign currency options [(2)]	**(1)**	**0**	(9)	0	**3**	**0**	(8)	0
Interest rate swaptions[(2)]	**0**	**0**	3	0	**4**	**0**	(10)	0
Total fair value hedges	**(21)**	**0**	(3)	0	**(38)**	**0**	(25)	0
Net investment hedge:								
Non-derivative hedging instruments	**0**	**(4)**	0	32	**0**	**1**	0	4
Foreign currency forwards	**0**	**(35)**	0	11	**0**	**(1)**	0	(2)
Foreign currency options	**0**	**(3)**	0	0	**0**	**(3)**	0	(3)
Total net investment hedge	**0**	**(42)**	0	43	**0**	**(3)**	0	(1)
Non-qualifying strategies:								
Foreign currency swaps	**2**	**0**	44	0	**0**	**0**	48	0
Foreign currency forwards	**17**	**0**	0	0	**16**	**0**	0	0
Credit default swaps	**(1)**	**0**	(1)	0	**0**	**0**	2	0
Interest rate swaps	**0**	**0**	(2)	0	**5**	**0**	(1)	0
Futures	**0**	**0**	(54)	0	**0**	**0**	(89)	0
Total non-qualifying strategies	**18**	**0**	(13)	0	**21**	**0**	(40)	0
Total	**$ (3)**	**$ (43)**	$ (17)	$ 34	**$ (17)**	**$ (6)**	$ (67)	$ (9)

(1) Cash flow hedge items are recorded as unrealized gains (losses) on derivatives and net investment hedge items are recorded in the unrealized foreign currency translation gains (losses) line in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income (loss).
(2) Impact shown net of effect of hedged items (see Fair Value Hedges section of this Note 4 for further detail)

There was no gain or loss reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) into earnings related to our designated cash flow hedges and net investment hedge for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. As of September 30, 2015, deferred gains and losses on derivative instruments recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income that are expected to be reclassified to earnings during the next twelve months were immaterial.

Offsetting of Financial Instruments and Derivatives

Some of the Company's derivative instruments are subject to enforceable master netting arrangements that provide for the net settlement of all derivative contracts between the Parent Company or Aflac and its respective counterparty in the event of default or upon the occurrence of certain termination events. Collateral support agreements with certain of the master netting arrangements provide that the Company will receive or pledge financial collateral in the event either minimum thresholds, or in certain cases ratings levels, have been reached.

We have securities lending agreements with unaffiliated financial institutions that post collateral to us in return for the use of our fixed maturity securities (see Note 3). When we have entered into securities lending agreements with the same counterparty, the agreements generally provide for net settlement in the event of default by the counterparty. This right of set-off allows us to keep and apply collateral received if the counterparty failed to return the securities borrowed from us as contractually agreed.

The tables below summarize our derivatives and securities lending transactions, and as reflected in the tables, in accordance with U.S. GAAP, our policy is to not offset these financial instruments in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Offsetting of Financial Assets and Derivative Assets

September 30, 2015						
				Gross Amounts Not Offset in Balance Sheet		
(In millions)	Gross Amount of Recognized Assets	Gross Amount Offset in Balance Sheet	Net Amount of Assets Presented in Balance Sheet	Carrying Value of Financial Instruments	Collateral Received	Net Amount
Derivative assets:						
Foreign currency swaps	**$ 604**	**$ 0**	**$ 604**	**$ 0**	**$ (331)**	**$ 273**
Foreign currency forwards	**268**	**0**	**268**	**0**	**(290)**	**(22)**
Foreign currency options	**5**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**(1)**	**4**
Total derivative assets, subject to a master netting arrangement or offsetting arrangement	**877**	**0**	**877**	**0**	**(622)** [(1)]	**255**
Securities lending and similar arrangements	**885**	**0**	**885**	**0**	**(885)**	**0**
Total	**$ 1,762**	**$ 0**	**$ 1,762**	**$ 0**	**$ (1,507)**	**$ 255**

[(1)] *Consists of $272 of pledged securities and $350 of cash.*

December 31, 2014						
				Gross Amounts Not Offset in Balance Sheet		
(In millions)	Gross Amount of Recognized Assets	Gross Amount Offset in Balance Sheet	Net Amount of Assets Presented in Balance Sheet	Carrying Value of Financial Instruments	Collateral Received	Net Amount
Derivative assets:						
Foreign currency swaps	$ 746	$ 0	$ 746	$ 0	$ (568)	$ 178
Foreign currency forwards	56	0	56	0	(51)	5
Total derivative assets, subject to a master netting arrangement or offsetting arrangement	802	0	802	0	(619) [(1)]	183
Securities lending and similar arrangements	2,149	0	2,149	0	(2,149)	0
Total	$ 2,951	$ 0	$ 2,951	$ 0	$ (2,768)	$ 183

[(1)] *Consists of $153 of pledged securities and $466 of cash.*

Offsetting of Financial Liabilities and Derivative Liabilities

	September 30, 2015					
				Gross Amounts Not Offset in Balance Sheet		
(In millions)	Gross Amount of Recognized Liabilities	Gross Amount Offset in Balance Sheet	Net Amount of Liabilities Presented in Balance Sheet	Carrying Value of Financial Instruments	Collateral Pledged	Net Amount
Derivative liabilities:						
Foreign currency swaps	**$ (352)**	**$ 0**	**$ (352)**	**$ 0**	**$ 0**	**$ (352)**
Foreign currency forwards	**(24)**	**0**	**(24)**	**0**	**5**	**(19)**
Foreign currency options	**(8)**	**0**	**(8)**	**0**	**2**	**(6)**
Total derivative liabilities, subject to a master netting arrangement or offsetting arrangement	**(384)**	**0**	**(384)**	**0**	**7** (1)	**(377)**
Securities lending and similar arrangements	**(907)**	**0**	**(907)**	**885**	**0**	**(22)**
Total	**$ (1,291)**	**$ 0**	**$ (1,291)**	**$ 885**	**$ 7**	**$ (399)**

(1) *Consists entirely of cash.*

	December 31, 2014					
				Gross Amounts Not Offset in Balance Sheet		
(In millions)	Gross Amount of Recognized Liabilities	Gross Amount Offset in Balance Sheet	Net Amount of Liabilities Presented in Balance Sheet	Carrying Value of Financial Instruments	Collateral Pledged	Net Amount
Derivative liabilities:						
Foreign currency swaps	$ (318)	$ 0	$ (318)	$ 0	$ 0	$ (318)
Foreign currency forwards	(1,912)	0	(1,912)	0	1,439	(473)
Foreign currency options	(33)	0	(33)	0	24	(9)
Interest rate swaptions	(160)	0	(160)	0	158	(2)
Total derivative liabilities, subject to a master netting arrangement or offsetting arrangement	(2,423)	0	(2,423)	0	1,621 (1)	(802)
Securities lending and similar arrangements	(2,193)	0	(2,193)	2,149	0	(44)
Total	$ (4,616)	$ 0	$ (4,616)	$ 2,149	$ 1,621	$ (846)

(1) *Consists entirely of pledged securities.*

For additional information on our financial instruments, see the accompanying Notes 1, 3 and 5 and Notes 1, 3 and 5 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014.

5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Fair Value Hierarchy

U.S. GAAP specifies a hierarchy of valuation techniques based on whether the inputs to those valuation techniques are observable or unobservable. These two types of inputs create three valuation hierarchy levels. Level 1 valuations reflect quoted market prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets. Level 2 valuations reflect quoted market prices for similar assets or liabilities in an active market, quoted market prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in non-active markets or model-derived valuations in which all significant valuation inputs are observable in active markets. Level 3 valuations reflect valuations in which one or more of the significant inputs are not observable in an active market.

The following tables present the fair value hierarchy levels of the Company's assets and liabilities that are measured and carried at fair value on a recurring basis.

	September 30, 2015			
(In millions)	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Fair Value
Assets:				
Securities available for sale, carried at fair value:				
Fixed maturities:				
Government and agencies	$ 17,920	$ 545	$ 0	$ 18,465
Municipalities	0	1,166	0	1,166
Mortgage- and asset-backed securities	0	371	220	591
Public utilities	0	7,848	0	7,848
Sovereign and supranational	0	1,421	0	1,421
Banks/financial institutions	0	6,235	26	6,261
Other corporate	0	29,354	0	29,354
Total fixed maturities	17,920	46,940	246	65,106
Perpetual securities:				
Banks/financial institutions	0	1,964	0	1,964
Other corporate	0	202	0	202
Total perpetual securities	0	2,166	0	2,166
Equity securities	122	6	3	131
Other assets:				
Foreign currency swaps	0	498	106	604
Foreign currency forwards	0	268	0	268
Foreign currency options	0	5	0	5
Total other assets	0	771	106	877
Other investments	182	0	0	182
Cash and cash equivalents	3,520	0	0	3,520
Total assets	$ 21,744	$ 49,883	$ 355	$ 71,982
Liabilities:				
Foreign currency swaps	$ 0	$ 9	$ 343	$ 352
Foreign currency forwards	0	24	0	24
Foreign currency options	0	8	0	8
Total liabilities	$ 0	$ 41	$ 343	$ 384

(In millions)	December 31, 2014 Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Fair Value
Assets:				
Securities available for sale, carried at fair value:				
Fixed maturities:				
Government and agencies	$ 18,683	$ 515	$ 0	$ 19,198
Municipalities	0	1,257	0	1,257
Mortgage- and asset-backed securities	0	379	223	602
Public utilities	0	7,897	0	7,897
Sovereign and supranational	0	1,416	0	1,416
Banks/financial institutions	0	6,572	26	6,598
Other corporate	0	28,605	0	28,605
Total fixed maturities	18,683	46,641	249	65,573
Perpetual securities:				
Banks/financial institutions	0	2,289	149	2,438
Other corporate	0	231	0	231
Total perpetual securities	0	2,520	149	2,669
Equity securities	19	6	3	28
Other assets:				
Foreign currency swaps	0	640	106	746
Foreign currency forwards	0	56	0	56
Total other assets	0	696	106	802
Other investments	171	0	0	171
Cash and cash equivalents	4,658	0	0	4,658
Total assets	$ 23,531	$ 49,863	$ 507	$ 73,901
Liabilities:				
Foreign currency swaps	$ 0	$ 0	$ 318	$ 318
Foreign currency forwards	0	1,912	0	1,912
Foreign currency options	0	33	0	33
Interest rate swaptions	0	160	0	160
Total liabilities	$ 0	$ 2,105	$ 318	$ 2,423

The following tables present the carrying amount and fair value categorized by fair value hierarchy level for the Company's financial instruments that are not carried at fair value.

	September 30, 2015				
(In millions)	Carrying Value	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Fair Value
Assets:					
Securities held to maturity, carried at amortized cost:					
Fixed maturities:					
Government and agencies	$ 20,115	$ 22,991	$ 0	$ 0	$ 22,991
Municipalities	345	0	409	0	409
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	38	0	13	27	40
Public utilities	3,108	0	3,128	0	3,128
Sovereign and supranational	2,569	0	2,686	0	2,686
Banks/financial institutions	4,539	0	4,544	0	4,544
Other corporate	3,015	0	3,150	0	3,150
Other investments	66	0	0	66	66
Total assets	$ 33,795	$ 22,991	$ 13,930	$ 93	$ 37,014
Liabilities:					
Other policyholders' funds	$ 6,284	$ 0	$ 0	$ 6,156	$ 6,156
Notes payable (excluding capital leases)	4,993	0	0	5,277	5,277
Total liabilities	$ 11,277	$ 0	$ 0	$ 11,433	$ 11,433

(In millions)	Carrying Value	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Fair Value
	December 31, 2014				
Assets:					
Securities held to maturity, carried at amortized cost:					
Fixed maturities:					
Government and agencies	$ 20,023	$ 23,218	$ 0	$ 0	$ 23,218
Municipalities	346	0	417	0	417
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	43	0	15	31	46
Public utilities	3,342	0	3,603	0	3,603
Sovereign and supranational	2,556	0	2,814	0	2,814
Banks/financial institutions	4,932	0	5,085	0	5,085
Other corporate	3,000	0	3,314	0	3,314
Total assets	$ 34,242	$ 23,218	$ 15,248	$ 31	$ 38,497
Liabilities:					
Other policyholders' funds	$ 6,031	$ 0	$ 0	$ 5,905	$ 5,905
Notes payable (excluding capital leases)	5,268	0	0	5,835	5,835
Total liabilities	$ 11,299	$ 0	$ 0	$ 11,740	$ 11,740

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

U.S. GAAP requires disclosure of the fair value of certain financial instruments including those that are not carried at fair value. The carrying amounts for cash and cash equivalents, other investments, receivables, accrued investment income, accounts payable, cash collateral and payables for security transactions approximated their fair values due to the nature of these instruments. Liabilities for future policy benefits and unpaid policy claims are not financial instruments as defined by U.S. GAAP.

Fixed maturities, perpetual securities, and equity securities

We determine the fair values of our fixed maturity securities, perpetual securities, and public and privately issued equity securities using the following approaches or techniques: price quotes and valuations from third party pricing vendors (including quoted market prices readily available from public exchange markets) and non-binding price quotes we obtain from outside brokers.

A third party pricing vendor has developed valuation models to determine fair values of privately issued securities to reflect the impact of the persistent economic environment and the changing regulatory framework. These models are discounted cash flow (DCF) valuation models, but also use information from related markets, specifically the CDS market to estimate expected cash flows. These models take into consideration any unique characteristics of the securities and make various adjustments to arrive at an appropriate issuer-specific loss adjusted credit curve. This credit curve is then used with the relevant recovery rates to estimate expected cash flows and modeling of additional features, including illiquidity adjustments, if necessary, to price the security by discounting those loss adjusted cash flows. In cases where a credit curve cannot be developed from the specific security features, the valuation methodology takes into consideration other market observable inputs, including: 1) the most appropriate comparable security(ies) of the issuer; 2) issuer-specific CDS spreads; 3) bonds or CDS spreads of comparable issuers with similar characteristics such as rating, geography, or sector; or 4) bond indices that are comparative in rating, industry, maturity and region.

The pricing data and market quotes we obtain from outside sources, including third party pricing services, are reviewed internally for reasonableness. If a fair value appears unreasonable, we will re-examine the inputs and assess the reasonableness of the pricing data with the vendor. Additionally, we may compare the inputs to relevant market indices and other performance measurements. The output of this analysis is presented to the Company's Valuation and Classifications Subcommittee (VCS). Based on the analysis provided to the VCS, the valuation is confirmed or may be revised if there is evidence of a more appropriate estimate of fair value based on available market data. We have performed verification of the inputs and calculations in any valuation models to confirm that the valuations represent reasonable estimates of fair value.

The fixed maturities classified as Level 3 consist of securities for which there are limited or no observable valuation inputs. For Level 3 securities that are investment grade, we estimate the fair value of these securities by obtaining non-binding broker quotes from a limited number of brokers. These brokers base their quotes on a combination of their knowledge of the current pricing environment and market conditions. We consider these inputs to be unobservable. For Level 3 investments that are below-investment-grade securities, we consider a variety of significant valuation inputs in the valuation process, including forward exchange rates, yen swap rates, dollar swap rates, interest rate volatilities, credit spread data on specific issuers, assumed default and default recovery rates, and certain probability assumptions. In obtaining these valuation inputs, we have determined that certain pricing assumptions and data used by our pricing sources are difficult to validate or corroborate by the market and/or appear to be internally developed rather than observed in or corroborated by the market. The use of these unobservable valuation inputs causes more subjectivity in the valuation process for these securities.

For the periods presented, we have not adjusted the quotes or prices we obtain from the pricing services and brokers we use.

The following tables present the pricing sources for the fair values of our fixed maturities, perpetual securities, and equity securities.

(In millions)	September 30, 2015 Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Fair Value
Securities available for sale, carried at fair value:				
Fixed maturities:				
Government and agencies:				
Third party pricing vendor	$ 17,920	$ 545	$ 0	$ 18,465
Total government and agencies	17,920	545	0	18,465
Municipalities:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	1,166	0	1,166
Total municipalities	0	1,166	0	1,166
Mortgage- and asset-backed securities:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	371	0	371
Broker/other	0	0	220	220
Total mortgage- and asset-backed securities	0	371	220	591
Public utilities:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	7,848	0	7,848
Total public utilities	0	7,848	0	7,848
Sovereign and supranational:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	1,421	0	1,421
Total sovereign and supranational	0	1,421	0	1,421
Banks/financial institutions:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	6,235	0	6,235
Broker/other	0	0	26	26
Total banks/financial institutions	0	6,235	26	6,261
Other corporate:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	29,304	0	29,304
Broker/other	0	50	0	50
Total other corporate	0	29,354	0	29,354
Total fixed maturities	17,920	46,940	246	65,106
Perpetual securities:				
Banks/financial institutions:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	1,964	0	1,964
Total banks/financial institutions	0	1,964	0	1,964
Other corporate:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	202	0	202
Total other corporate	0	202	0	202
Total perpetual securities	0	2,166	0	2,166
Equity securities:				
Third party pricing vendor	122	6	0	128
Broker/other	0	0	3	3
Total equity securities	122	6	3	131
Total securities available for sale	$ 18,042	$ 49,112	$ 249	$ 67,403

(In millions)	September 30, 2015 Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Fair Value
Securities held to maturity, carried at amortized cost:				
Fixed maturities:				
Government and agencies:				
Third party pricing vendor	$ 22,991	$ 0	$ 0	$ 22,991
Total government and agencies	22,991	0	0	22,991
Municipalities:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	409	0	409
Total municipalities	0	409	0	409
Mortgage- and asset-backed securities:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	13	0	13
Broker/other	0	0	27	27
Total mortgage- and asset-backed securities	0	13	27	40
Public utilities:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	3,128	0	3,128
Total public utilities	0	3,128	0	3,128
Sovereign and supranational:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	2,686	0	2,686
Total sovereign and supranational	0	2,686	0	2,686
Banks/financial institutions:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	4,544	0	4,544
Total banks/financial institutions	0	4,544	0	4,544
Other corporate:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	3,123	0	3,123
Broker/other	0	27	0	27
Total other corporate	0	3,150	0	3,150
Total securities held to maturity	$ 22,991	$ 13,930	$ 27	$ 36,948

(In millions)	December 31, 2014 Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Fair Value
Securities available for sale, carried at fair value:				
Fixed maturities:				
Government and agencies:				
Third party pricing vendor	$ 18,683	$ 515	$ 0	$ 19,198
Total government and agencies	18,683	515	0	19,198
Municipalities:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	1,257	0	1,257
Total municipalities	0	1,257	0	1,257
Mortgage- and asset-backed securities:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	379	0	379
Broker/other	0	0	223	223
Total mortgage- and asset-backed securities	0	379	223	602
Public utilities:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	7,897	0	7,897
Total public utilities	0	7,897	0	7,897
Sovereign and supranational:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	1,416	0	1,416
Total sovereign and supranational	0	1,416	0	1,416
Banks/financial institutions:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	6,514	0	6,514
Broker/other	0	58	26	84
Total banks/financial institutions	0	6,572	26	6,598
Other corporate:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	28,605	0	28,605
Total other corporate	0	28,605	0	28,605
Total fixed maturities	18,683	46,641	249	65,573
Perpetual securities:				
Banks/financial institutions:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	2,289	0	2,289
Broker/other	0	0	149	149
Total banks/financial institutions	0	2,289	149	2,438
Other corporate:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	231	0	231
Total other corporate	0	231	0	231
Total perpetual securities	0	2,520	149	2,669
Equity securities:				
Third party pricing vendor	19	6	0	25
Broker/other	0	0	3	3
Total equity securities	19	6	3	28
Total securities available for sale	$ 18,702	$ 49,167	$ 401	$ 68,270

(In millions)	December 31, 2014 Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total Fair Value
Securities held to maturity, carried at amortized cost:				
Fixed maturities:				
Government and agencies:				
Third party pricing vendor	$ 23,218	$ 0	$ 0	$ 23,218
Total government and agencies	23,218	0	0	23,218
Municipalities:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	417	0	417
Total municipalities	0	417	0	417
Mortgage- and asset-backed securities:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	15	0	15
Broker/other	0	0	31	31
Total mortgage- and asset-backed securities	0	15	31	46
Public utilities:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	3,603	0	3,603
Total public utilities	0	3,603	0	3,603
Sovereign and supranational:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	2,814	0	2,814
Total sovereign and supranational	0	2,814	0	2,814
Banks/financial institutions:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	5,085	0	5,085
Total banks/financial institutions	0	5,085	0	5,085
Other corporate:				
Third party pricing vendor	0	3,287	0	3,287
Broker/other	0	27	0	27
Total other corporate	0	3,314	0	3,314
Total securities held to maturity	$ 23,218	$ 15,248	$ 31	$ 38,497

The following is a discussion of the determination of fair value of our remaining financial instruments.

Derivatives

We use derivative instruments to manage the risk associated with certain assets. However, the derivative instrument may not be classified in the same fair value hierarchy level as the associated asset. Inputs used to value derivatives include, but are not limited to, interest rates, credit spreads, foreign currency forward and spot rates, and interest volatility.

The fair values of the foreign currency forwards, options, and interest rate swaptions associated with certain fixed-maturity securities; the foreign currency forwards and options used to hedge foreign exchange risk from our net investment in Aflac Japan and economically hedge certain portions of forecasted cash flows denominated in yen; and the foreign currency swaps associated with certain senior notes and our subordinated debentures are based on the amounts we would expect to receive or pay. The determination of the fair value of these derivatives is based on observable market inputs, therefore they are classified as Level 2.

For derivatives associated with VIEs where we are the primary beneficiary, we are not the direct counterparty to the swap contracts. As a result, the fair value measurements incorporate the credit risk of the collateral associated with the VIE. We receive valuations from a third party pricing vendor for these derivatives. Based on an analysis of these derivatives and a review of the methodology employed by the pricing vendor, we determined that due to the long duration of these swaps and the need to extrapolate from short-term observable data to derive and measure long-term inputs, certain inputs, assumptions and judgments are required to value future cash flows that cannot be corroborated by current inputs or current observable market data. As a result, the derivatives associated with our consolidated VIEs are classified as Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy.

Other policyholders' funds

The largest component of the other policyholders' funds liability is our annuity line of business in Aflac Japan. Our annuities have fixed benefits and premiums. For this product, we estimated the fair value to be equal to the cash surrender value. This is analogous to the value paid to policyholders on the valuation date if they were to surrender their policy. We periodically check the cash value against discounted cash flow projections for reasonableness. We consider our inputs for this valuation to be unobservable and have accordingly classified this valuation as Level 3.

Notes payable

The fair values of our publicly issued notes payable classified as Level 3 were obtained from a limited number of independent brokers. These brokers base their quotes on a combination of their knowledge of the current pricing environment and market conditions. We consider these inputs to be unobservable. The fair values of our yen-denominated loans approximate their carrying values.

Transfers between Hierarchy Levels and Level 3 Rollforward

There were no transfers between Level 1 and 2 for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

The following tables present the changes in fair value of our available-for-sale investments and derivatives classified as Level 3.

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2015										
	Fixed Maturities					Perpetual Securities	Equity Securities	Derivatives [1]			
(In millions)	Mortgage- and Asset-Backed Securities	Public Utilities	Sovereign and Supranational	Banks/ Financial Institutions	Other Corporate	Banks/ Financial Institutions		Interest Rate Swaps	Foreign Currency Swaps	Credit Default Swaps	Total
Balance, beginning of period	$ 214	$ 0	$ 0	$ 25	$ 0	$ 0	$ 3	$ 0	$ (223)	$ 1	$ 20
Realized investment gains (losses) included in earnings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(13)	(1)	(14)
Unrealized gains (losses) included in other comprehensive income (loss)	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	(1)	0	6
Purchases, issuances, sales and settlements:											
Purchases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Issuances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sales	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Settlements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers into Level 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers out of Level 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance, end of period	$ 220	$ 0	$ 0	$ 26	$ 0	$ 0	$ 3	$ 0	$ (237)	$ 0	$ 12
Changes in unrealized gains (losses) relating to Level 3 assets and liabilities still held at the end of the period included in realized investment gains (losses)	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ (14)	$ (1)	$ (15)

[1] *Derivative assets and liabilities are presented net*

Three Months Ended September 30, 2014											
	Fixed Maturities					**Perpetual Securities**	**Equity Securities**	**Derivatives [1]**			
(In millions)	Mortgage- and Asset-Backed Securities	Public Utilities	Sovereign and Supranational	Banks/ Financial Institutions	Other Corporate	Banks/ Financial Institutions		Interest Rate Swaps	Foreign Currency Swaps	Credit Default Swaps	**Total**
Balance, beginning of period	$ 266	$ 0	$ 0	$ 25	$ 0	$ 0	$ 3	$ (1)	$ 11	$ 0	$ 304
Realized investment gains (losses) included in earnings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	(93)	(1)	(93)
Unrealized gains (losses) included in other comprehensive income (loss)	(18)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(9)	0	(27)
Purchases, issuances, sales and settlements:											
Purchases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Issuances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sales	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Settlements	(3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(3)
Transfers into Level 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers out of Level 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance, end of period	$ 245	$ 0	$ 0	$ 25	$ 0	$ 0	$ 3	$ 0	$ (91)	$ (1)	$ 181
Changes in unrealized gains (losses) relating to Level 3 assets and liabilities still held at the end of the period included in realized investment gains (losses)	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 1	$ (93)	$ (1)	$ (93)

[1] *Derivative assets and liabilities are presented net*

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015

	Fixed Maturities					Perpetual Securities	Equity Securities	Derivatives [1]			
(In millions)	Mortgage- and Asset-Backed Securities	Public Utilities	Sovereign and Supranational	Banks/ Financial Institutions	Other Corporate	Banks/ Financial Institutions		Interest Rate Swaps	Foreign Currency Swaps	Credit Default Swaps	**Total**
Balance, beginning of period	$ 223	$ 0	$ 0	$ 26	$ 0	$ 149	$ 3	$ 0	$ (212)	$ 0	$ 189
Realized investment gains (losses) included in earnings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(38)	0	(38)
Unrealized gains (losses) included in other comprehensive income (loss)	(1)	0	0	0	0	(2)	0	0	(3)	0	(6)
Purchases, issuances, sales and settlements:											
Purchases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Issuances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sales	0	0	0	0	0	(147)	0	0	0	0	(147)
Settlements	(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	14
Transfers into Level 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers out of Level 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance, end of period	$ 220	$ 0	$ 0	$ 26	$ 0	$ 0	$ 3	$ 0	$ (237)	$ 0	$ 12
Changes in unrealized gains (losses) relating to Level 3 assets and liabilities still held at the end of the period included in realized investment gains (losses)	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ (39)	$ 0	$ (39)

[1] *Derivative assets and liabilities are presented net*

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014	Fixed Maturities					Perpetual Securities	Equity Securities	Derivatives [1]			
(In millions)	Mortgage- and Asset-Backed Securities	Public Utilities	Sovereign and Supranational	Banks/ Financial Institutions	Other Corporate	Banks/ Financial Institutions		Interest Rate Swaps	Foreign Currency Swaps	Credit Default Swaps	**Total**
Balance, beginning of period	$ 369	$ 0	$ 0	$ 23	$ 0	$ 52	$ 3	$ 1	$ (99)	$ (3)	$ 346
Realized investment gains (losses) included in earnings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1)	(79)	2	(78)
Unrealized gains (losses) included in other comprehensive income (loss)	(115)	0	0	2	0	8	0	0	(8)	0	(113)
Purchases, issuances, sales and settlements:											
Purchases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Issuances	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sales	0	0	0	0	0	(60)	0	0	0	0	(60)
Settlements	(9)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	95	0	86
Transfers into Level 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers out of Level 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance, end of period	$ 245	$ 0	$ 0	$ 25	$ 0	$ 0	$ 3	$ 0	$ (91)	$ (1)	$ 181
Changes in unrealized gains (losses) relating to Level 3 assets and liabilities still held at the end of the period included in realized investment gains (losses)	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ (1)	$ (79)	$ 2	$ (78)

[1] *Derivative assets and liabilities are presented net*

Fair Value Sensitivity

Level 3 Significant Unobservable Input Sensitivity

The following tables summarize the significant unobservable inputs used in the valuation of our Level 3 available-for-sale investments and derivatives. Included in the tables are the inputs or range of possible inputs that have an effect on the overall valuation of the financial instruments.

September 30, 2015					
(In millions)	**Fair Value**	**Valuation Technique(s)**	**Unobservable Input**	**Range (Weighted Average)**	
Assets:					
Securities available for sale, carried at fair value:					
Fixed maturities:					
Mortgage- and asset-backed securities	**$ 220**	Consensus pricing	Offered quotes	N/A	(d)
Banks/financial institutions	**26**	Consensus pricing	Offered quotes	N/A	(d)
Equity securities	**3**	Net asset value	Offered quotes	$1 - $680 ($7)	
Other assets:					
Foreign currency swaps	**4**	Discounted cash flow	Interest rates (USD)	2.00% - 2.52%	(a)
			Interest rates (JPY)	.51% - 1.36%	(b)
			CDS spreads	15 - 103 bps	
			Foreign exchange rates	20.16%	(c)
	102	Discounted cash flow	Interest rates (USD)	2.00% - 2.52%	(a)
			Interest rates (JPY)	.51% - 1.36%	(b)
			Foreign exchange rates	20.16%	(c)
Total assets	**$ 355**				

(a) Inputs derived from U.S. long-term rates to accommodate long maturity nature of our swaps
(b) Inputs derived from Japan long-term rates to accommodate long maturity nature of our swaps
(c) Based on 10 year volatility of JPY/USD exchange rate
(d) N/A represents securities where we receive unadjusted broker quotes and for which there is no transparency into the providers' valuation techniques or unobservable inputs.

September 30, 2015					
(In millions)	**Fair Value**	**Valuation Technique(s)**	**Unobservable Input**	**Range (Weighted Average)**	
Liabilities:					
Foreign currency swaps	**$ 183**	Discounted cash flow	Interest rates (USD)	2.00% - 2.52%	(a)
			Interest rates (JPY)	.51% - 1.36%	(b)
			CDS spreads	15 - 103 bps	
			Foreign exchange rates	20.16%	(c)
	142	Discounted cash flow	Interest rates (USD)	2.00% - 2.52%	(a)
			Interest rates (JPY)	.51% - 1.36%	(b)
			CDS spreads	67 - 251 bps	
	18	Discounted cash flow	Interest rates (USD)	2.00% - 2.52%	(a)
			Interest rates (JPY)	.51% - 1.36%	(b)
			Foreign exchange rates	20.16%	(c)
Total liabilities	**$ 343**				

(a) Inputs derived from U.S. long-term rates to accommodate long maturity nature of our swaps
(b) Inputs derived from Japan long-term rates to accommodate long maturity nature of our swaps
(c) Based on 10 year volatility of JPY/USD exchange rate

December 31, 2014					
(In millions)	**Fair Value**	**Valuation Technique(s)**	**Unobservable Input**	**Range (Weighted Average)**	
Assets:					
Securities available for sale, carried at fair value:					
Fixed maturities:					
Mortgage- and asset-backed securities	$ 223	Consensus pricing	Offered quotes	N/A	(d)
Banks/financial institutions	26	Consensus pricing	Offered quotes	N/A	(d)
Perpetual securities:					
Banks/financial institutions	149	Consensus pricing	Offered quotes	N/A	(d)
Equity securities	3	Net asset value	Offered quotes	$1-$677 ($6)	
Other assets:					
Foreign currency swaps	8	Discounted cash flow	Interest rates (USD)	2.28% - 2.70%	(a)
			Interest rates (JPY)	.53% - 1.34%	(b)
			CDS spreads	16 - 105 bps	
			Foreign exchange rates	20.50%	(c)
	98	Discounted cash flow	Interest rates (USD)	2.28% - 2.70%	(a)
			Interest rates (JPY)	.53% - 1.34%	(b)
			Foreign exchange rates	20.50%	(c)
Total assets	$ 507				

(a) Inputs derived from U.S. long-term rates to accommodate long maturity nature of our swaps
(b) Inputs derived from Japan long-term rates to accommodate long maturity nature of our swaps
(c) Based on 10 year volatility of JPY/USD exchange rate
(d) N/A represents securities where we receive unadjusted broker quotes and for which there is no transparency into the providers' valuation techniques or unobservable inputs.

December 31, 2014					
(In millions)	**Fair Value**	**Valuation Technique(s)**	**Unobservable Input**	**Range (Weighted Average)**	
Liabilities:					
Foreign currency swaps	$ 176	Discounted cash flow	Interest rates (USD)	2.28% - 2.70%	(a)
			Interest rates (JPY)	.53% - 1.34%	(b)
			CDS spreads	16 - 105 bps	
			Foreign exchange rates	20.50%	(c)
	111	Discounted cash flow	Interest rates (USD)	2.28% - 2.70%	(a)
			Interest rates (JPY)	.53% - 1.34%	(b)
			CDS spreads	13 - 145 bps	
	31	Discounted cash flow	Interest rates (USD)	2.28% - 2.70%	(a)
			Interest rates (JPY)	.53% - 1.34%	(b)
			Foreign exchange rates	20.50%	(c)
Total liabilities	$ 318				

(a) Inputs derived from U.S. long-term rates to accommodate long maturity nature of our swaps
(b) Inputs derived from Japan long-term rates to accommodate long maturity nature of our swaps
(c) Based on 10 year volatility of JPY/USD exchange rate

The following is a discussion of the significant unobservable inputs or valuation techniques used in determining the fair value of securities and derivatives classified as Level 3.

Net Asset Value

We hold certain unlisted equity securities whose fair value is derived based on the financial statements published by the investee. These securities do not trade on an active market and the valuations derived are dependent on the availability of timely financial reporting of the investee. Net asset value is an unobservable input in the determination of fair value of equity securities.

Offered Quotes

In circumstances where our valuation model price is overridden because it implies a value that is not consistent with current market conditions, we will solicit bids from a limited number of brokers. We also receive unadjusted prices from brokers for our mortgage and asset-backed securities. These quotes are non-binding but are reflective of valuation best estimates at that particular point in time. Offered quotes are an unobservable input in the determination of fair value of mortgage- and asset-backed securities, certain banks/financial institutions, certain other corporate, and equity securities investments.

Interest Rates, CDS Spreads, Foreign Exchange Rates

The significant drivers of the valuation of the interest and foreign exchange swaps are interest rates, foreign exchange rates and CDS spreads. Our swaps have long maturities that increase the sensitivity of the swaps to interest rate fluctuations. Since most of our yen-denominated cross currency swaps are in a net liability position, an increase in interest rates will decrease the liabilities and increase the value of the swap.

Foreign exchange swaps also have a lump-sum final settlement of foreign exchange principal receivables at the termination of the swap. An increase in yen interest rates will decrease the value of the final settlement foreign exchange receivables and decrease the value of the swap, and an increase in USD interest rates will increase the swap value.

A similar sensitivity pattern is observed for the foreign exchange rates. When the spot U.S. dollar/Japanese yen (USD/JPY) foreign exchange rate decreases and the swap is receiving a final exchange payment in JPY, the swap value will increase due to the appreciation of the JPY. Most of our swaps are designed to receive payments in JPY at the termination and will thus be impacted by the USD/JPY foreign exchange rate in this way. In cases where there is no final foreign exchange receivable in JPY and we are paying JPY as interest payments and receiving USD, a decrease in the foreign exchange rate will lead to a decrease in the swap value.

The extinguisher feature in most of our swaps results in a cessation of cash flows and no further payments between the parties to the swap in the event of a default on the referenced or underlying collateral. To price this feature, we apply the survival probability of the referenced entity to the projected cash flows. The survival probability uses the CDS spreads and recovery rates to adjust the present value of the cash flows. For extinguisher swaps with positive values, an increase in CDS spreads decreases the likelihood of receiving the final exchange payments and reduces the value of the swap.

Due to the long duration of these swaps and the need to extrapolate from short-term observable data to derive and measure long-term inputs, certain inputs, assumptions and judgments are required to value future cash flows that cannot be corroborated by current inputs or current observable market data.

Interest rates, CDS spreads, and foreign exchange rates are unobservable inputs in the determination of fair value of foreign currency swaps.

Base Correlations, CDS Spreads, Recovery Rates

Our remaining CDO is a tranche on a basket of single-name credit default swaps. The risk in this synthetic CDO comes from the single-name CDS risk and the correlations between the single names. The valuation of synthetic CDOs is dependent on the calibration of market prices for interest rates, single name CDS default probabilities and base correlation using financial modeling tools. Since there is limited or no observable data available for this tranche, the base correlations must be obtained from commonly traded market tranches such as the CDX and iTraxx indices. From the historical prices of these indices, base correlations can be obtained to develop a pricing curve of CDOs with different seniorities. Since the reference entities of the market indices do not match those in the portfolio underlying the synthetic

CDO to be valued, several processing steps are taken to map the CDO in our portfolio to the indices. With the base correlation determined and the appropriate spreads selected, a valuation is calculated. An increase in the CDS spreads in the underlying portfolio leads to a decrease in the value due to higher probability of defaults and losses. The impact on the valuation due to base correlation depends on a number of factors, including the riskiness between market tranches and the modeled tranche based on our portfolio and the equivalence between detachment points in these tranches. Generally speaking, an increase in base correlation will decrease the value of the senior tranches while increasing the value of junior tranches. This may result in a positive or negative value change.

The CDO tranche in our portfolio is a senior mezzanine tranche and, due to the low level of credit support for this type of tranche, exhibits equity-like behavior. As a result, an increase in recovery rates tends to cause its value to decrease.

Base correlations, CDS spreads, and recovery rates are unobservable inputs in the determination of fair value of credit default swaps.

For additional information on our investments and financial instruments, see the accompanying Notes 1, 3 and 4 and Notes 1, 3 and 4 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014.

6. REINSURANCE

We enter into fixed quota-share coinsurance agreements with other companies in the normal course of business. For each of our reinsurance agreements, we determine whether the agreement provides indemnification against loss or liability relating to insurance risk in accordance with applicable accounting standards. Reinsurance premiums and benefits paid or provided are accounted for on bases consistent with those used in accounting for the original policies issued and the terms of the reinsurance contracts. Premiums and benefits are reported net of insurance ceded.

Effective March 31, 2015, we entered into a coinsurance transaction whereby we ceded 30.0% of the sickness hospital benefit of one of Aflac Japan’s closed in-force blocks of business. Effective April 1, 2015, we entered into a retrocession coinsurance transaction whereby we assumed 27.0% of the sickness hospital benefit of one of Aflac Japan’s closed in-force blocks of business through our subsidiary CAIC.

For our reinsurance transactions to date, we have recorded a deferred profit liability related to the reinsurance transactions. The remaining deferred profit liability of $776 million, as of September 30, 2015, included in future policy benefits in the consolidated balance sheet, is being amortized into income over the expected lives of the policies. We also have recorded a reinsurance recoverable for reinsurance transactions, which is included in other assets in the consolidated balance sheet and had a remaining balance of $803 million as of September 30, 2015.

The following table reconciles direct premium income and direct benefits and claims to net amounts after the effect of reinsurance.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
(In millions)	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
Direct premium income	**$ 4,464**	$ 4,918	**$ 13,426**	$ 14,820
Ceded to other companies:				
Ceded Aflac Japan closed blocks	**(130)**	(70)	**(352)**	(215)
Other	**(10)**	(10)	**(28)**	(30)
Assumed from other companies:				
Retrocession activities	**54**	0	**124**	0
Other	**2**	3	**6**	8
Net premium income	**$ 4,380**	$ 4,841	**$ 13,176**	$ 14,583
Direct benefits and claims	**$ 3,000**	$ 3,425	**$ 9,037**	$ 10,075
Ceded benefits and change in reserves for future benefits:				
Ceded Aflac Japan closed blocks	**(119)**	(63)	**(320)**	(192)
Other	**8**	(9)	**12**	(22)
Assumed from other companies:				
Retrocession activities	**50**	0	**116**	0
Other	**(12)**	2	**(29)**	7
Benefits and claims, net	**$ 2,927**	$ 3,355	**$ 8,816**	$ 9,868

These reinsurance transactions are considered indemnity reinsurance that do not relieve us from our obligations to policyholders. In the event that the reinsurer is unable to meet their obligations, we remain liable for the reinsured claims.

7. NOTES PAYABLE

A summary of notes payable follows:

(In millions)	September 30, 2015	December 31, 2014
3.45% senior notes paid August 2015	$ 0	$ 300
2.65% senior notes due February 2017	**652** (1)	653 (1)
8.50% senior notes due May 2019	**0** (2)	850
2.40% senior notes due March 2020	**550**	0
4.00% senior notes due February 2022	**350** (3)	350 (3)
3.625% senior notes due June 2023	**700**	700
3.625% senior notes due November 2024	**749** (3)	749 (3)
3.25% senior notes due March 2025	**448** (3)	0
6.90% senior notes due December 2039	**397** (3)	397 (3)
6.45% senior notes due August 2040	**448** (3)	448 (3)
5.50% subordinated debentures due September 2052	**500**	500
Yen-denominated Uridashi notes:		
2.26% notes due September 2016 (principal amount 8 billion yen)	**67**	66
Yen-denominated Samurai notes:		
1.84% notes due July 2016 (principal amount 15.8 billion yen)	**132**	131
Yen-denominated loans:		
3.60% loan paid July 2015 (principal amount 10 billion yen)	**0**	83
3.00% loan paid August 2015 (principal amount 5 billion yen)	**0**	41
Capitalized lease obligations payable through 2022	**16**	14
Total notes payable	**$ 5,009**	$ 5,282

(1) *Principal amount plus an issuance premium that is being amortized over the life of the notes*
(2) *Redeemed in April 2015*
(3) *Principal amount net of an issuance discount that is being amortized over the life of the notes*

In August 2015, we paid off $300 million of 3.45% fixed-rate senior notes upon their maturity. In August 2015, we paid off a 5.0 billion yen loan at its maturity date (a total of approximately $41 million using the exchange rate at the maturity date). In July 2015, we paid off a 10.0 billion yen loan at its maturity date (a total of approximately $81 million using the exchange rate at the maturity date).

In March 2015, the Parent Company issued two series of senior notes totaling $1.0 billion through a U.S. public debt offering. The first series, which totaled $550 million, bears interest at a fixed rate of 2.40% per annum, payable semi-annually, and has a five-year maturity. The second series, which totaled $450 million, bears interest at a fixed rate of 3.25% per annum, payable semi-annually, and has a ten-year maturity. We have entered into cross-currency swaps that convert the dollar-denominated principal and interest on the senior notes into yen-denominated obligations which results in lower nominal net interest rates on the debt. By entering into these cross-currency swaps, we economically converted our $550 million liability into a 67.0 billion yen liability and reduced the interest rate on this debt from 2.40% in dollars to .24% in yen, and we economically converted our $450 million liability into a 55.0 billion yen liability and reduced the interest rate on this debt from 3.25% in dollars to .82% in yen. In April 2015, the Parent Company used the proceeds from the March 2015 issuance of its fixed-rate senior notes to redeem $850 million of our 8.50% fixed-rate senior notes due May 2019 and to pay a portion of the corresponding $230 million make-whole premium due to the investors of these notes.

In September 2015, we amended and restated our 50.0 billion yen senior unsecured revolving credit facility agreement, due to expire in March 2018, pursuant to which the Parent Company and Aflac jointly entered into a new five-year senior unsecured revolving credit facility agreement with a syndicate of financial institutions that provides for borrowings of up to 55.0 billion yen or the equivalent of yen in U.S. dollars on a revolving basis. This credit agreement provides for borrowings in Japanese yen or the equivalent of Japanese yen in U.S. dollars on a revolving basis. Borrowings bear interest at a rate per annum equal to, at our option, either (a) a eurocurrency rate determined by reference to the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) for the interest period relevant to such borrowing adjusted for certain additional costs or (b) a base rate determined by reference to the highest of (1) the federal funds effective rate plus ½ of 1%, (2) the rate of interest for such day announced by Mizuho Bank, Ltd. as its prime rate and (3) the eurocurrency rate for an interest period of one month plus 1.00%, in each case plus an applicable margin. The applicable margin ranges between .79% and 1.275% for eurocurrency rate borrowings and 0.0% and .275% for base rate borrowings, depending on the Parent Company’s debt ratings as of the date of determination. In addition, the Parent Company and Aflac are required to pay a facility fee on the commitments ranging between .085% and .225%, also based on the Parent Company’s debt ratings as of the date of determination. Borrowings under the amended and restated credit facility may be used for general corporate purposes, including a capital contingency plan for the operations of the Parent Company and Aflac. The amended and restated credit facility requires compliance with certain financial covenants on a quarterly basis and will expire on the earlier of (a) September 18, 2020, or (b) the date the commitments are terminated pursuant to an event of default, as such term is defined in the credit agreement. As of September 30, 2015, we did not have any borrowings outstanding under our 55.0 billion yen revolving credit agreement.

In February 2015, the Parent Company and Aflac jointly entered into an uncommitted bilateral line of credit with a third party that provides for borrowings in the amount of $50 million. Borrowings will bear interest at the rate quoted by the bank and agreed upon at the time of making such loan and will have a three-month maturity period. There are no related facility fees, upfront expenses or financial covenant requirements. Borrowings under this credit agreement may be used for general corporate purposes. As of September 30, 2015, we did not have any borrowings outstanding under our $50 million credit agreement.

The Parent Company and Aflac have an uncommitted bilateral line of credit that provides for borrowings in the amount of $100 million. Borrowings will bear interest at the rate quoted by the bank and agreed upon at the time of making such loan and will have a three-month maturity period. There are no related facility fees, upfront expense or financial covenant requirements. Borrowings under this credit agreement may be used for general corporate purposes. Borrowings under the financing agreement will mature no later than three months after the last drawdown date of October 15, 2015. As of September 30, 2015, we did not have any borrowings outstanding under our $100 million credit agreement.

We were in compliance with all of the covenants of our notes payable and lines of credit at September 30, 2015. No events of default or defaults occurred during the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015.

For additional information, see Notes 4 and 9 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014.

8. SHAREHOLDERS’ EQUITY

The following table is a reconciliation of the number of shares of the Company's common stock for the nine-month periods ended September 30.

(In thousands of shares)	**2015**	2014
Common stock - issued:		
Balance, beginning of period	**668,132**	667,046
Exercise of stock options and issuance of restricted shares	**1,377**	921
Balance, end of period	**669,509**	667,967
Treasury stock:		
Balance, beginning of period	**225,687**	207,633
Purchases of treasury stock:		
Open market	**17,421**	11,070
Other	**241**	132
Dispositions of treasury stock:		
Shares issued to AFL Stock Plan	**(919)**	(930)
Exercise of stock options	**(375)**	(316)
Other	**(113)**	(121)
Balance, end of period	**241,942**	217,468
Shares outstanding, end of period	**427,567**	450,499

Outstanding share-based awards are excluded from the calculation of weighted-average shares used in the computation of basic earnings per share (EPS). The following table presents the approximate number of share-based awards to purchase shares, on a weighted-average basis, that were considered to be anti-dilutive and were excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share for the following periods.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
(In thousands)	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
Anti-dilutive share-based awards	**2,126**	1,486	**1,798**	903

Share Repurchase Program

During the first nine months of 2015, we repurchased 17.4 million shares of our common stock in the open market for $1.1 billion as part of our share repurchase program. During the first nine months of 2014, we repurchased 11.1 million shares of our common stock in the open market for $690 million as part of our share repurchase program. In August 2015, our board of directors authorized the purchase of an additional 40 million shares of our common stock. As of September 30, 2015, a remaining balance of 52.1 million shares of our common stock was available for purchase under share repurchase authorizations by our board of directors.

Reclassifications from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income

The tables below are reconciliations of accumulated other comprehensive income by component for the following periods.

Changes in Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2015				
(In millions)	**Unrealized Foreign Currency Translation Gains (Losses)**	**Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investment Securities**	**Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Derivatives**	**Pension Liability Adjustment**	**Total**
Balance, beginning of period	**$ (2,725)**	**$ 3,384**	**$ (27)**	**$ (125)**	**$ 507**
Other comprehensive income before reclassification	**192**	**(260)**	**(1)**	**0**	**(69)**
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income	**0**	**90**	**0**	**0**	**90**
Net current-period other comprehensive income	**192**	**(170)**	**(1)**	**0**	**21**
Balance, end of period	**$ (2,533)**	**$ 3,214**	**$ (28)**	**$ (125)**	**$ 528**

All amounts in the table above are net of tax.

(In millions)	Three Months Ended September 30, 2014 Unrealized Foreign Currency Translation Gains (Losses)	Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investment Securities	Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Derivatives	Pension Liability Adjustment	Total
Balance, beginning of period	$ (1,216)	$ 2,915	$ (11)	$ (82)	$ 1,606
Other comprehensive income before reclassification	(589)	505	(6)	1	(89)
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income	0	(18)	0	1	(17)
Net current-period other comprehensive income	(589)	487	(6)	2	(106)
Balance, end of period	$ (1,805)	$ 3,402	$ (17)	$ (80)	$ 1,500

All amounts in the table above are net of tax.

(In millions)	**Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015** Unrealized Foreign Currency Translation Gains (Losses)	Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investment Securities	Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Derivatives	Pension Liability Adjustment	Total
Balance, beginning of period	**$ (2,541)**	**$ 4,672**	**$ (26)**	**$ (126)**	**$ 1,979**
Other comprehensive income before reclassification	**8**	**(1,471)**	**(2)**	**0**	**(1,465)**
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income	**0**	**13**	**0**	**1**	**14**
Net current-period other comprehensive income	**8**	**(1,458)**	**(2)**	**1**	**(1,451)**
Balance, end of period	**$ (2,533)**	**$ 3,214**	**$ (28)**	**$ (125)**	**$ 528**

All amounts in the table above are net of tax.

(In millions)	Unrealized Foreign Currency Translation Gains (Losses)	Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investment Securities	Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Derivatives	Pension Liability Adjustment	Total
	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014				
Balance, beginning of period	$ (1,505)	$ 1,035	$ (12)	$ (81)	$ (563)
Other comprehensive income before reclassification	(300)	2,379	(5)	2	2,076
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income	0	(12)	0	(1)	(13)
Net current-period other comprehensive income	(300)	2,367	(5)	1	2,063
Balance, end of period	$ (1,805)	$ 3,402	$ (17)	$ (80)	$ 1,500

All amounts in the table above are net of tax.

The tables below summarize the amounts reclassified from each component of accumulated other comprehensive income based on source for the following periods.

Reclassifications Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income

(In millions)	**Three Months Ended September 30, 2015**	
Details about Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income Components	**Amount Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income**	**Affected Line Item in the Statements of Earnings**
Unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities	**$ (1)**	Sales and redemptions
	(137)	Other-than-temporary impairment losses realized
	(138)	Total before tax
	48	Tax (expense) or benefit[1]
	$ (90)	Net of tax
Amortization of defined benefit pension items:		
Actuarial gains (losses)	**$ (4)**	Acquisition and operating expenses[2]
Prior service (cost) credit	**4**	Acquisition and operating expenses[2]
	0	Tax (expense) or benefit[1]
	$ 0	Net of tax
Total reclassifications for the period	**$ (90)**	Net of tax

[1] *Based on 35% tax rate*
[2] *These accumulated other comprehensive income components are included in the computation of net periodic pension cost (see Note 10 for additional details).*

(In millions)	Three Months Ended September 30, 2014	
Details about Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income Components	**Amount Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income**	**Affected Line Item in the Statements of Earnings**
Unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities	$ 27	Sales and redemptions
	0	Other-than-temporary impairment losses realized
	27	Total before tax
	(9)	Tax (expense) or benefit[1]
	$ 18	Net of tax
Amortization of defined benefit pension items:		
Actuarial gains (losses)	$ (5)	Acquisition and operating expenses[2]
Prior service (cost) credit	4	Acquisition and operating expenses[2]
	0	Tax (expense) or benefit[1]
	$ (1)	Net of tax
Total reclassifications for the period	$ 17	Net of tax

[1] *Based on 35% tax rate*
[2] *These accumulated other comprehensive income components are included in the computation of net periodic pension cost (see Note 10 for additional details).*

(In millions)	**Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015**	
Details about Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income Components	**Amount Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income**	**Affected Line Item in the Statements of Earnings**
Unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities	**$ 123**	Sales and redemptions
	(143)	Other-than-temporary impairment losses realized
	(20)	Total before tax
	7	Tax (expense) or benefit[1]
	$ (13)	Net of tax
Amortization of defined benefit pension items:		
Actuarial gains (losses)	**$ (13)**	Acquisition and operating expenses[2]
Prior service (cost) credit	**12**	Acquisition and operating expenses[2]
	0	Tax (expense) or benefit[1]
	$ (1)	Net of tax
Total reclassifications for the period	**$ (14)**	Net of tax

[1] *Based on 35% tax rate*
[2] *These accumulated other comprehensive income components are included in the computation of net periodic pension cost (see Note 10 for additional details).*

(In millions)	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014	
Details about Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income Components	**Amount Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income**	**Affected Line Item in the Statements of Earnings**
Unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities	$ 21	Sales and redemptions
	(3)	Other-than-temporary impairment losses realized
	18	Total before tax
	(6)	Tax (expense) or benefit[(1)]
	$ 12	Net of tax
Amortization of defined benefit pension items:		
Actuarial gains (losses)	$ (11)	Acquisition and operating expenses[(2)]
Prior service (cost) credit	13	Acquisition and operating expenses[(2)]
	(1)	Tax (expense) or benefit[(1)]
	$ 1	Net of tax
Total reclassifications for the period	$ 13	Net of tax

(1) Based on 35% tax rate
(2) These accumulated other comprehensive income components are included in the computation of net periodic pension cost (see Note 10 for additional details).

9. SHARE-BASED COMPENSATION

As of September 30, 2015, the Company had outstanding share-based awards under two long-term incentive compensation plans.

The first plan, which expired in February 2007, is a stock option plan which allowed grants for incentive stock options (ISOs) to employees and non-qualifying stock options (NQSOs) to employees and non-employee directors. The options have a term of 10 years. The exercise price of options granted under this plan is equal to the fair market value of a share of the Company's common stock at the date of grant. Options granted before the plan's expiration date remain outstanding in accordance with their terms.

The second long-term incentive compensation plan allows awards to Company employees for ISOs, NQSOs, restricted stock, restricted stock units, and stock appreciation rights. Non-employee directors are eligible for grants of NQSOs, restricted stock, and stock appreciation rights. The ISOs and NQSOs have a term of 10 years, and the share-based awards generally vest based upon time-based conditions or time- and performance-based conditions. Time-based vesting generally occurs after three years. Performance-based vesting conditions generally include the attainment of goals related to Company financial performance. As of September 30, 2015, approximately 10.0 million shares were available for future grants under this plan, and the only performance-based awards issued and outstanding were restricted stock awards.

Share-based awards granted to U.S.-based grantees are settled with authorized but unissued Company stock, while those issued to Japan-based grantees are settled with treasury shares.

The following table provides information on stock options outstanding and exercisable at September 30, 2015.

	Stock Option Shares (in thousands)	Weighted-Average Remaining Term (in years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (in millions)	Weighted-Average Exercise Price Per Share
Outstanding	8,303	4.6	$ 71	$ 50.82
Exercisable	6,374	3.5	67	48.35

We received cash from the exercise of stock options in the amount of $53 million during the first nine months of 2015, compared with $30 million in the first nine months of 2014. The tax benefit realized as a result of stock option exercises and restricted stock releases was $24 million in the first nine months of 2015, compared with $14 million in the first nine months of 2014.

As of September 30, 2015, total compensation cost not yet recognized in our financial statements related to restricted stock awards was $50 million, of which $20 million (831 thousand shares) was related to restricted stock awards with a performance-based vesting condition. We expect to recognize these amounts over a weighted-average period of approximately 1.3 years. There are no other contractual terms covering restricted stock awards once vested.

For additional information on our long-term share-based compensation plans and the types of share-based awards, see Note 12 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014.

10. BENEFIT PLANS

We have funded defined benefit plans in Japan and the United States, which cover substantially all of our full-time employees. Additionally, we maintain non-qualified, unfunded supplemental retirement plans that provide defined pension benefits in excess of limits imposed by federal tax law for certain Japanese, U.S. and former employees. Effective October 1, 2013, the U.S. tax-qualified defined benefit plan was frozen to new employees hired on or after October 1, 2013 and to employees rehired on or after October 1, 2013. U.S. employees who are not participants in the defined benefit plan receive a nonelective 401(k) employer contribution. Additionally, effective January 1, 2015, the U.S. non-qualified supplemental retirement plan was frozen to new participants.

We provide certain health care benefits for eligible U.S. retired employees, their beneficiaries and covered dependents ("other postretirement benefits"). The health care plan is contributory and unfunded. On October 1, 2013, a change was made to postretirement medical benefits to limit the eligibility for the benefits beginning January 1, 2014 to include the following: (1) active employees whose age plus service, in years, equals or exceeds 80 (rule of 80); (2) active employees who are age 55 or older and have met the 15 years of service requirement; (3) active employees who will meet the rule of 80 in the next five years; (4) active employees who are age 55 or older and who will meet the 15 years of service requirement within the next five years; and (5) current retirees. Effective October 1, 2013, this change was accounted for as a negative plan amendment and resulted in a reduction to the postretirement benefit obligation of approximately $51 million, with an offset to accumulated other comprehensive income (AOCI). Starting in the fourth quarter of 2013, this reduction is being amortized as a reduction to net periodic benefit cost over three years. The postretirement plan obligation was remeasured using a discount rate of 4.75% as of October 1, 2013. For certain employees and former employees, additional coverage is provided for all medical expenses for life.

Pension and other postretirement benefit expenses, included in acquisition and operating expenses in the consolidated statement of earnings, included the following components:

	Three Months Ended September 30,					
	Pension Benefits				Other Postretirement Benefits	
	Japan		U.S.			
(In millions)	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
Components of net periodic benefit cost:						
Service cost	**$ 4**	$ 3	**$ 5**	$ 5	**$ 1**	$ 0
Interest cost	**1**	1	**7**	(4)	**0**	0
Expected return on plan assets	**(1)**	(1)	**(5)**	(5)	**0**	0
Amortization of net actuarial loss	**0**	1	**4**	3	**0**	1
Amortization of prior service cost (credit)	**0**	0	**0**	0	**(4)**	(4)
Net periodic (benefit) cost	**$ 4**	$ 4	**$ 11**	$ (1)	**$ (3)**	$ (3)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,					
	Pension Benefits				Other Postretirement Benefits	
	Japan		U.S.			
(In millions)	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
Components of net periodic benefit cost:						
Service cost	**$ 11**	$ 11	**$ 17**	$ 15	**$ 1**	$ 1
Interest cost	**4**	5	**23**	11	**1**	1
Expected return on plan assets	**(3)**	(3)	**(16)**	(15)	**0**	0
Amortization of net actuarial loss	**1**	1	**11**	8	**1**	2
Amortization of prior service cost (credit)	**0**	0	**0**	0	**(12)**	(13)
Net periodic (benefit) cost	**$ 13**	$ 14	**$ 35**	$ 19	**$ (9)**	$ (9)

During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, Aflac Japan contributed approximately $15 million (using the weighted-average yen/dollar exchange rate for the nine-month period ending September 30, 2015) to the Japanese funded defined benefit plan, and Aflac U.S. contributed $10 million to the U.S. funded defined benefit plan.

For additional information regarding our Japanese and U.S. benefit plans, see Note 14 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014.

11. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Effective for 2015, we entered into an outsourcing agreement with a technology and consulting corporation to provide mainframe computer operations, distributed mid-range server computer operations, and related support for Aflac Japan. As of September 30, 2015, the agreement has a remaining term of 5.3 years and an aggregate remaining cost of 37.9 billion yen ($316 million using the September 30, 2015, exchange rate).

We are a defendant in various lawsuits considered to be in the normal course of business. Members of our senior legal and financial management teams review litigation on a quarterly and annual basis. The final results of any litigation cannot be predicted with certainty. Although some of this litigation is pending in states where large punitive damages, bearing little relation to the actual damages sustained by plaintiffs, have been awarded in recent years, we believe the outcome of pending litigation will not have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides a "safe harbor" to encourage companies to provide prospective information, so long as those informational statements are identified as forward-looking and are accompanied by meaningful cautionary statements identifying important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those included in the forward-looking statements. We desire to take advantage of these provisions. This report contains cautionary statements identifying important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected herein, and in any other statements made by Company officials in communications with the financial community and contained in documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Forward-looking statements are not based on historical information and relate to future operations, strategies, financial results or other developments. Furthermore, forward-looking information is subject to numerous assumptions, risks and uncertainties. In particular, statements containing words such as "expect," "anticipate," "believe," "goal," "objective," "may," "should," "estimate," "intends," "projects," "will," "assumes," "potential," "target" or similar words as well as specific projections of future results, generally qualify as forward-looking. Aflac undertakes no obligation to update such forward-looking statements.

We caution readers that the following factors, in addition to other factors mentioned from time to time, could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements:

- difficult conditions in global capital markets and the economy
- governmental actions for the purpose of stabilizing the financial markets
- defaults and credit downgrades of securities in our investment portfolio
- exposure to significant financial and capital markets risk
- fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates
- significant changes in investment yield rates
- credit and other risks associated with Aflac's investment in perpetual securities
- differing judgments applied to investment valuations
- significant valuation judgments in determination of amount of impairments taken on our investments
- limited availability of acceptable yen-denominated investments
- concentration of our investments in any particular single-issuer or sector
- concentration of business in Japan
- decline in creditworthiness of other financial institutions
- deviations in actual experience from pricing and reserving assumptions
- subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends to Aflac Incorporated
- ineffective risk management policies and procedures
- changes in law or regulation by governmental authorities
- ability to attract and retain qualified sales associates and employees
- decreases in our financial strength or debt ratings
- ability to continue to develop and implement improvements in information technology systems
- interruption in telecommunication, information technology and other operational systems, or a failure to maintain the security, confidentiality or privacy of sensitive data residing on such systems
- changes in U.S. and/or Japanese accounting standards
- failure to comply with restrictions on patient privacy and information security
- level and outcome of litigation
- ability to effectively manage key executive succession
- catastrophic events including, but not necessarily limited to, epidemics, pandemics, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, acts of terrorism and damage incidental to such events
- ongoing changes in our industry
- events that damage our reputation
- increased expenses for pension and other postretirement plans
- failure of internal controls or corporate governance policies and procedures

MD&A OVERVIEW

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (MD&A) is intended to inform the reader about matters affecting the financial condition and results of operations of Aflac Incorporated and its subsidiaries for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Results of operations for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results for the entire year. As a result, the following discussion should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes that are included in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014. This MD&A is divided into the following sections:

- Our Business
- Performance Highlights
- Critical Accounting Estimates
- Results of Operations, consolidated and by segment
- Analysis of Financial Condition, including discussion of market risks of financial instruments
- Capital Resources and Liquidity, including discussion of availability of capital and the sources and uses of cash

OUR BUSINESS

Aflac Incorporated (the Parent Company) and its subsidiaries (collectively, the Company) primarily sell supplemental health and life insurance in the United States and Japan. The Company's insurance business is marketed and administered through American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus (Aflac), which operates in the United States (Aflac U.S.) and as a branch in Japan (Aflac Japan). Most of Aflac's policies are individually underwritten and marketed through independent agents. Aflac U.S. markets and administers group products through Continental American Insurance Company (CAIC), branded as Aflac Group Insurance. Our insurance operations in the United States and our branch in Japan service the two markets for our insurance business.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Yen-denominated income statement accounts are translated to U.S. dollars using a weighted-average Japanese yen/U.S. dollar foreign exchange rate, while yen-denominated balance sheet accounts are translated to U.S. dollars using a spot Japanese yen/U.S. dollar foreign exchange rate. The spot yen/dollar exchange rate at September 30, 2015 was 119.96, or .5% stronger than the December 31, 2014 spot yen/dollar exchange rate of 120.55. The weighted-average yen/dollar exchange rate for the three-month period ended September 30, 2015 was 122.15, or 14.9% weaker than the weighted-average yen/dollar exchange rate of 103.92 for the same period in 2014. The weighted-average yen/dollar exchange rate for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015 was 120.81, or 14.8% weaker than the weighted-average yen/dollar exchange rate of 102.89 for the same period in 2014.

Reflecting the weaker yen/dollar exchange rate, revenues were $5.0 billion in the third quarter of 2015, compared with $5.7 billion in the third quarter of 2014. Net earnings were $567 million, or $1.32 per diluted share, compared with $706 million, or $1.56 per diluted share, in the third quarter of 2014.

Also reflecting the weaker yen/dollar exchange rate, revenues were $15.6 billion in the first nine months of 2015, compared with $17.2 billion in the first nine months of 2014. Net earnings were $1.8 billion, or $4.14 per diluted share, compared with $2.2 billion, or $4.93 per diluted share, for the first nine months of 2014.

Results in the third quarter of 2015 included pretax net realized investment losses of $114 million ($74 million after-tax), compared with net realized investment gains of $16 million ($10 million after-tax) in the third quarter of 2014. Net investment losses in the third quarter of 2015 included $137 million ($89 million after-tax) of other-than-temporary impairment losses; $26 million of net gains ($17 million after-tax) from the sale or redemption of securities and $3 million of net losses ($2 million after-tax) from valuing derivatives.

Results in the first nine months of 2015 included pretax net realized investment gains of $26 million ($17 million after-tax), compared with net realized investment gains of $72 million ($47 million after-tax) in the first nine months of 2014. Net investment gains in the first nine months of 2015 included $143 million ($93 million after-tax) of other-than-temporary impairment losses; $186 million of net gains ($121 million after-tax) from the sale or redemption of securities; and $17 million of net losses ($11 million after-tax) from valuing derivatives.

Shareholders' equity included a net unrealized gain on investment securities and derivatives of $3.2 billion at September 30, 2015, compared with a net unrealized gain of $4.7 billion at December 31, 2014.

In August 2015, we paid off $300 million of 3.45% fixed-rate senior notes upon their maturity. In August 2015, we paid off a 5.0 billion yen loan at its maturity date (a total of approximately $41 million using the exchange rate at the maturity date). In July 2015, we paid off a 10.0 billion yen loan at its maturity date (a total of approximately $81 million using the exchange rate at the maturity date). In March 2015, the Parent Company issued $1.0 billion of senior notes through a U.S. public debt offering. We entered into cross-currency interest rate swaps to economically convert the dollar-denominated principal and interest on the senior notes we issued into yen-denominated obligations. In April 2015, the Parent Company used the proceeds from the March 2015 issuance of its fixed-rate senior notes to redeem all of our $850 million 8.50% fixed-rate senior notes due May 2019 and to pay a portion of the corresponding $230 million make-whole premium due to the investors of these notes.

In September 2015, the Parent Company and Aflac amended a 50 billion yen revolving credit facility, resulting in jointly entering into an unsecured revolving credit facility agreement with a syndicate of financial institutions that provides for borrowings in the amount of 55 billion yen. In February 2015, the Parent Company and Aflac jointly entered into an uncommitted bilateral line of credit with a third party that provides for borrowings in the amount of $50 million. For further information regarding these transactions, see Note 7 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements and the Capital Resources and Liquidity section of this MD&A.

In the first nine months of 2015, we repurchased 17.4 million shares of our common stock in the open market for $1.1 billion under our share repurchase program.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

We prepare our financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). These principles are established primarily by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). In this MD&A, references to U.S. GAAP issued by the FASB are derived from the FASB Accounting Standards Codification™ (ASC). The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires us to make estimates based on currently available information when recording transactions resulting from business operations. The estimates that we deem to be most critical to an understanding of Aflac’s results of operations and financial condition are those related to the valuation of investments and derivatives, deferred policy acquisition costs (DAC), liabilities for future policy benefits and unpaid policy claims, and income taxes. The preparation and evaluation of these critical accounting estimates involve the use of various assumptions developed from management’s analyses and judgments. The application of these critical accounting estimates determines the values for which 94% of our assets and 77% of our liabilities are reported as of September 30, 2015, and thus has a direct effect on net earnings and shareholders’ equity. Subsequent experience or use of other assumptions could produce significantly different results.

There have been no changes in the items that we have identified as critical accounting estimates during the nine months ended September 30, 2015. For additional information, see the Critical Accounting Estimates section of MD&A included in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014.

New Accounting Pronouncements

For information on new accounting pronouncements and the impact, if any, on our financial position or results of operations, see Note 1 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion includes references to our performance measures, operating earnings and operating earnings per diluted share, that are not based on U.S. GAAP. Operating earnings is the measure of segment profit or loss we use to evaluate segment performance and allocate resources. Consistent with U.S. GAAP accounting guidance for segment reporting, operating earnings is our measure of segment performance. Aflac believes that an analysis of operating earnings is vitally important to an understanding of our underlying profitability drivers and trends of our insurance business. Furthermore, because a significant portion of our business is conducted in Japan, we believe it is equally important to understand the impact of translating Japanese yen into U.S. dollars.

Aflac defines operating earnings (a non-GAAP financial measure) as the profits derived from operations. Operating earnings includes interest cash flows associated with notes payable but excludes items that cannot be predicted or that are outside of management's control, such as realized investment gains and losses from securities transactions, impairments, and derivative and hedging activities; nonrecurring items; and other non-operating income (loss) from net earnings. Aflac's derivative activities are primarily used to hedge foreign exchange and interest rate risk in our investment portfolio as well as manage foreign exchange risk for certain notes payable and forecasted cash flows denominated in yen. Our management uses operating earnings to evaluate the financial performance of Aflac's insurance operations because realized gains and losses from securities transactions, impairments, and derivative and hedging activities, as well as other and nonrecurring items, tend to be driven by general economic conditions and events or related to infrequent activities not directly associated with the Company's insurance operations, and therefore may obscure the underlying fundamentals and trends in Aflac's insurance operations.

The following table is a reconciliation of items impacting operating and net earnings and operating and net earnings per diluted share.

Reconciliation of Operating Earnings to Net Earnings

	In Millions		**Per Diluted Share**		**In Millions**		**Per Diluted Share**	
	Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2015	2014	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
Operating earnings	**$ 672**	$ 685	**$ 1.56**	$ 1.51	**$ 2,001**	$ 2,216	**$ 4.60**	$ 4.86
Items impacting net earnings, net of tax:								
Realized investment gains (losses):								
Securities transactions and impairments	**(72)**	21	**(.16)**	.05	**28**	91	**.06**	.20
Impact of derivative and hedging activities:								
Hedge costs related to foreign currency investments	**(18)**	(1)	**(.04)**	.00	**(39)**	(23)	**(.09)**	(.05)
Other derivative and hedging activities	**2** [1]	(16) [1]	**.00**	(.04)	**(12)** [1]	(40) [1]	**(.03)**	(.09)
Other and non-recurring income (loss)	**(17)** [2]	17	**(.04)**	.04	**(175)** [2]	4	**(.40)**	.01
Net earnings	**$ 567**	$ 706	**$ 1.32**	$ 1.56	**$ 1,803**	$ 2,248	**$ 4.14**	$ 4.93

[1] *Excludes a gain of $14 and $6, after tax, for the three-month periods and $40 and $19, after tax, for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, related to the interest rate component of the change in fair value of foreign currency swaps on notes payable which is classified as an operating gain when analyzing segment operations*

[2] *Includes a loss of $9, after tax, for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, related to the change in value of yen repatriation received in advance of settlement of certain foreign currency derivatives. This loss was offset by derivative gains included in other derivative and hedging activities.*

Realized Investment Gains and Losses

Our investment strategy is to invest in fixed-maturity securities to provide a reliable stream of investment income, which is one of the drivers of the Company's growth and profitability. This investment strategy incorporates asset-liability matching (ALM) to align the expected cash flows of the portfolio to the needs of the Company's liability structure. We do not purchase securities with the intent of generating capital gains or losses. However, investment gains and losses may be realized as a result of changes in the financial markets and the creditworthiness of specific issuers, tax planning strategies, and/or general portfolio management and rebalancing. The realization of investment gains and losses is independent of the underwriting and administration of our insurance products, which are the principal drivers of our profitability.

Securities Transactions and Impairments

During the three-month period ended September 30, 2015, we realized pretax investment gains, net of losses, of $26 million ($17 million after-tax) from sales and redemptions of securities. We realized pretax investment losses of $137 million ($89 million after-tax) as a result of the recognition of other-than-temporary impairment losses on certain securities. Investment losses for the quarter were primarily related to the impairment of a single holding.

During the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015, we realized pretax investment gains, net of losses, of $186 million ($121 million after-tax) from sales and redemptions of securities. We realized pretax investment losses of $143 million ($93 million after-tax) as a result of the recognition of other-than-temporary impairment losses on certain securities. Investment losses were primarily related to the impairment of a single holding.

During the three-month period ended September 30, 2014, we realized pretax investment gains, net of losses, of $33 million ($21 million after-tax) from sales and redemptions of securities.

During the nine-month period ended September 30, 2014, we realized pretax investment gains, net of losses, of $171 million ($111 million after-tax) from sales and redemptions of securities. We realized pretax investment losses of $31 million ($20 million after-tax) as a result of the recognition of other-than-temporary impairment losses on certain securities.

See Note 3 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for a more detailed discussion of these investment activities.

The following table details our pretax impairment losses by investment category.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
(In millions)	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
Corporate bonds	**$ 5**	$ 0	**$ 7**	$ 31
Bank/financial institution bonds	**131**	0	**135**	0
Equity securities	**1**	0	**1**	0
Total other-than-temporary impairment losses realized [1]	**$ 137**	$ 0	**$ 143**	$ 31

[1] *Includes $6 and $0 for the three-month periods and $12 and $31 for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, from change in intent to sell securities; and $131 for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, for credit-related impairments*

Impact of Derivative and Hedging Activities

Our derivative activities include foreign currency swaps and credit default swaps held in consolidated variable interest entities (VIEs); foreign currency forwards and options, interest rate swaptions and futures on certain fixed-maturity securities; foreign currency forwards and options that hedge certain portions of forecasted cash flows denominated in yen; and foreign currency swaps associated with certain senior notes and our subordinated debentures. During the three-month period ended September 30, 2015, we realized pretax investment losses, net of gains, of $3 million ($2 million after-tax), compared with pretax investment losses, net of gains, of $17 million ($11 million after-tax) for the same period in 2014, as a result of valuing these derivatives, net of the effects of hedge accounting. During the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015, we realized pretax investment losses, net of gains, of $17 million ($11 million after-tax), compared with pretax investment losses, net of gains, of $68 million ($44 million after-tax) for the same period in 2014, as a result of valuing these derivatives, net of the effects of hedge accounting. For a description of other items that could be included in the Impact of Derivative and Hedging Activities, see the Hedging Activities subsection of MD&A and Note 4 of the accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

For additional information regarding realized investment gains and losses, see Notes 3 and 4 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Non-recurring Items

During the second quarter of 2015, the make-whole premium paid to the investors of our 8.50% fixed-rate senior notes for the early redemption of those notes was recorded as a $230 million pretax non-operating loss ($150 million after-tax, or $.35 per diluted share) and is reflected in our financials in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015.

Foreign Currency Translation

Aflac Japan's premiums and most of its investment income are received in yen. Claims and expenses are paid in yen, and we have yen-denominated assets that support yen-denominated policy liabilities. These and other yen-denominated financial statement items are translated into dollars for financial reporting purposes. We translate Aflac Japan's yen-denominated income statement into dollars using an average exchange rate for the reporting period, and we translate its yen-denominated balance sheet using the exchange rate at the end of the period.

Due to the size of Aflac Japan, where our functional currency is the Japanese yen, fluctuations in the yen/dollar exchange rate can have a significant effect on our reported results. In periods when the yen weakens, translating yen into dollars results in fewer dollars being reported. When the yen strengthens, translating yen into dollars results in more dollars being reported. Consequently, yen weakening has the effect of suppressing current period results in relation to the comparable prior period, while yen strengthening has the effect of magnifying current period results in relation to the comparable prior period. As a result, we view foreign currency translation as a financial reporting issue for Aflac rather than an economic event to our Company or shareholders. Because changes in exchange rates distort the growth rates of our operations, management evaluates Aflac's financial performance excluding the impact of foreign currency translation.

Income Taxes

Our combined U.S. and Japanese effective income tax rate on pretax earnings was 34.5% for the three-month period ended September 30, 2015, compared with 34.3% for the same period in 2014. Our combined U.S. and Japanese effective income tax rate on pretax earnings was 34.5% for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015, compared with 34.2% for the same period in 2014.

Earnings Guidance

Our revised objective for 2015, as previously disclosed, is to increase operating earnings per diluted share by 4% to 7% compared with 2014, excluding the effect of foreign currency translation. In April 2015, we executed a make-whole transaction to enhance our consolidated capital position (see the Capital Resources and Liquidity section of this MD&A for further discussion). As a result of this transaction, we incurred a non-operating charge of $.35 to operating earnings per diluted share in the second quarter of 2015. However, operating earnings per diluted share will benefit by approximately $.07 for the full year 2015 due to a net reduction in interest expense. If we achieve our objective for 2015, the following table shows the likely results for operating earnings per diluted share, including the impact of foreign currency translation using various yen/dollar exchange rate scenarios.

2015 Operating Earnings Per Diluted Share Scenarios[1]

Weighted-Average Yen/Dollar Exchange Rate	Operating Earnings Per Diluted Share	% Growth Over 2014	Yen Impact
100	$ 6.47 - 6.77	5.0 - 9.9 %	$ .18
105.46[2]	6.29 - 6.59	2.1 - 7.0	.00
115	6.01 - 6.31	(2.4) - 2.4	(.28)
125	5.77 - 6.07	(6.3) - (1.5)	(.52)
135	5.56 - 5.86	(9.7) - (4.9)	(.73)

[1]*Excludes realized investment gains/losses (securities transactions, impairments, and the impact of derivative and hedging activities), nonrecurring items, and other non-operating income (loss) in 2015 and 2014*

[2]*Actual 2014 weighted-average exchange rate*

Assuming we achieve our revised earnings objective and the yen/dollar exchange rate averages 120 to 125 for the fourth quarter of the year, we would expect to report operating earnings for the fourth quarter of 2015 to be in the range of $1.36 to $1.56 per diluted share. Under the same scenario, we would expect full year of 2015 operating earnings of $5.96 to $6.16 per diluted share.

INSURANCE OPERATIONS

Aflac's insurance business consists of two segments: Aflac Japan and Aflac U.S. Aflac Japan, which operates as a branch of Aflac, is the principal contributor to consolidated earnings. U.S. GAAP financial reporting requires that a company report financial and descriptive information about operating segments in its annual and interim period financial statements. Furthermore, we are required to report a measure of segment profit or loss, certain revenue and expense items, and segment assets.

We evaluate our sales efforts using new annualized premium sales, an industry operating measure. New annualized premium sales, which include both new sales and the incremental increase in premiums due to conversions, represent the premiums that we would collect over a 12-month period, assuming the policies remain in force. For Aflac Japan, new annualized premium sales are determined by applications submitted during the reporting period. For Aflac U.S., new annualized premium sales are determined by applications that are issued during the reporting period. Premium income, or earned premiums, is a financial performance measure that reflects collected or due premiums that have been earned ratably on policies in force during the reporting period.

AFLAC JAPAN SEGMENT

Aflac Japan Pretax Operating Earnings

Changes in Aflac Japan's pretax operating earnings and profit margins are primarily affected by morbidity, mortality, expenses, persistency and investment yields. The following table presents a summary of operating results for Aflac Japan.

Aflac Japan Summary of Operating Results

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
(In millions)	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
Net premium income	**$ 2,981**	$ 3,534	**$ 9,037**	$ 10,672
Net investment income:				
Yen-denominated investment income	**299**	367	**924**	1,096
Dollar-denominated investment income	**307**	309	**900**	923
Net investment income	**606**	676	**1,824**	2,019
Other income (loss)	**7**	9	**22**	25
Total operating revenues	**3,594**	4,219	**10,883**	12,716
Benefits and claims, net	**2,139**	2,633	**6,538**	7,752
Operating expenses:				
Amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs	**144**	159	**434**	491
Insurance commissions	**178**	212	**540**	654
Insurance and other expenses	**344**	387	**1,006**	1,131
Total operating expenses	**666**	758	**1,980**	2,276
Total benefits and expenses	**2,805**	3,391	**8,518**	10,028
Pretax operating earnings[(1)]	**$ 789**	$ 828	**$ 2,365**	$ 2,688
Weighted-average yen/dollar exchange rate	**122.15**	103.92	**120.81**	102.89

	In Dollars				In Yen			
	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,		Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
Percentage change over previous period:	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
Net premium income	**(15.7)%**	(5.4)%	**(15.3)%**	(6.0)%	**(.8)%**	(.7)%	**(.6)%**	.1%
Net investment income	**(10.4)**	2.7	**(9.7)**	1.6	**5.4**	7.8	**6.1**	8.2
Total operating revenues	**(14.8)**	(4.2)	**(14.4)**	(5.0)	**.3**	.6	**.5**	1.2
Pretax operating earnings[(1)]	**(4.7)**	(2.1)	**(12.0)**	(3.1)	**12.1**	2.8	**3.3**	3.1

[(1)] *See the Insurance Operations section of this MD&A for our definition of segment operating expenses.*

Annualized premiums in force increased 1.5% to 1.61 trillion yen as of September 30, 2015, compared with 1.59 trillion yen as of September 30, 2014. The increase in annualized premiums in force in yen reflects the sales of new policies combined with the high persistency of Aflac Japan's business. Annualized premiums in force, translated into dollars at respective period-end exchange rates, were $13.4 billion at September 30, 2015, compared with $14.5 billion a year ago.

Aflac Japan's investment portfolios include dollar-denominated securities and reverse-dual currency securities (yen-denominated debt securities with dollar coupon payments). Dollar-denominated investment income from these assets accounted for approximately 51% of Aflac Japan's investment income in the first nine months of 2015, compared with 46% a year ago. In years when the yen strengthens in relation to the dollar, translating Aflac Japan's dollar-denominated investment income into yen lowers growth rates for net investment income, total operating revenues, and pretax operating earnings in yen terms. In years when the yen weakens, translating dollar-denominated investment income into yen magnifies growth rates for net investment income, total operating revenues, and pretax operating earnings in yen terms. Excluding foreign currency changes from the prior period, dollar-denominated investment income accounted for approximately 45% of Aflac Japan's investment income during the first nine months of 2015, compared with 44% a year ago.

The following table illustrates the effect of translating Aflac Japan's dollar-denominated investment income and related items into yen by comparing certain segment results with those that would have been reported had yen/dollar exchange rates remained unchanged from the comparable period in the prior year.

Aflac Japan Percentage Changes Over Previous Period
(Yen Operating Results)
For the Periods Ended September 30,

	Including Foreign Currency Changes				Excluding Foreign Currency Changes(2)			
	Three Months		Nine Months		Three Months		Nine Months	
	2015	2014	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
Net investment income	**5.4 %**	7.8 %	**6.1 %**	8.2 %	**(2.6) %**	5.3 %	**(1.7) %**	5.2 %
Total operating revenues	**.3**	.6	**.5**	1.2	**(1.0)**	.2	**(.7)**	.7
Pretax operating earnings(1)	**12.1**	2.8	**3.3**	3.1	**5.8**	.9	**(2.3)**	1.1

(1) *See the Insurance Operations section of this MD&A for our definition of segment operating earnings.*
(2) *Amounts excluding foreign currency changes on dollar-denominated items were determined using the same yen/dollar exchange rate for the current period as the comparable period in the prior year.*

The following table presents a summary of operating ratios in yen terms for Aflac Japan.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
Ratios to total revenues:	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
Benefits and claims, net	**59.5 %**	62.4 %	**60.1 %**	61.0 %
Operating expenses:				
Amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs	**4.0**	3.8	**4.0**	3.9
Insurance commissions	**5.0**	5.0	**5.0**	5.1
Insurance and other expenses	**9.6**	9.2	**9.2**	8.9
Total operating expenses	**18.6**	18.0	**18.2**	17.9
Pretax operating earnings(1)	**21.9**	19.6	**21.7**	21.1

(1) *See the Insurance Operations section of this MD&A for our definition of segment operating earnings.*

In the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, the benefit ratio decreased compared to the same respective period in the prior year, resulting from the impact of reinsurance; changes in foreign currency; and favorable claims experience and an associated reserve adjustment. The three reinsurance agreements that we entered into since the end of the third quarter of 2013 reduced the benefit ratio by approximately 112 basis points for the three-month period and by 96 basis points for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015. In the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, the operating expense ratio increased primarily due to higher sales promotion and sales incentive expenses, expenses related to system upgrades, and software development costs. In total, the pretax operating profit margin improved in the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, compared with the same periods in 2014. For the full year of 2015, we anticipate the pretax operating expense ratio to be similar to 2014. Likewise, for the full year of 2015, we anticipate the pretax operating profit margin to be approximately the same as 2014.

Aflac Japan Sales

The following table presents Aflac Japan's new annualized premium sales for the periods ended September 30.

	In Dollars				In Yen			
	Three Months		Nine Months		Three Months		Nine Months	
(In millions of dollars and billions of yen)	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
New annualized premium sales	**$ 259**	$ 247	**$ 737**	$ 789	**31.6**	25.6	**89.2**	81.2
Increase (decrease) over prior period	**5.0%**	(24.6)%	**(6.6)%**	(34.9)%	**23.4%**	(20.8)%	**9.9%**	(30.3)%

The following table details the contributions to new annualized premium sales by major insurance product for the periods ended September 30.

	Three Months		Nine Months	
	2015	2014	**2015**	2014
Medical	**28.9%**	33.6%	**26.4%**	34.7%
Cancer	**37.9**	27.7	**40.1**	22.8
Ordinary life:				
Child endowment	**7.7**	11.6	**8.5**	11.0
WAYS	**18.1**	15.0	**16.2**	15.9
Other ordinary life	**5.9**	8.6	**6.4**	9.0
Other	**1.5**	3.5	**2.4**	6.6
Total	**100.0%**	100.0%	**100.0%**	100.0%

The foundation of Aflac Japan's product portfolio has been, and continues to be, our third sector cancer and medical products. Sales of third sector products increased 34.5% during the third quarter of 2015 and increased 27.1% in the first nine months of 2015, compared with the same periods in 2014. We have been focusing more on promotion of our cancer and medical products in this low-interest-rate environment. These products are less interest-rate sensitive and more profitable compared to first sector products.

Sales of cancer insurance continued to be strong following the introduction at the end of the third quarter of 2014 of New Cancer DAYS, which includes an exclusive policy sold through Japan Post. Cancer insurance sales were up 68.9% during the third quarter of 2015, compared with the same period in 2014. Aflac Japan enhanced its medical product with new riders in June 2015. This revision provides better protection against critical diseases such as cancer, heart attack and stroke. With continued cost pressure on Japan's health care system, we expect the need for third sector products will continue to rise in the future, and we remain convinced that the medical and cancer products Aflac Japan provides will continue to be an important part of our product portfolio.

Aflac Japan's first sector product sales, which include WAYS and child endowment, were up 5.9% in the third quarter of 2015, compared to the same period in the prior year.

We remain committed to selling through our traditional channels. These channels, consisting of affiliated corporate agencies, independent corporate agencies and individual agencies, accounted for 84.7% of total new annualized premium sales for Aflac Japan in the third quarter of 2015. During the three-month period ended September 30, 2015, we recruited 90 new sales agencies. At September 30, 2015, Aflac Japan was represented by approximately 13,500 sales agencies and more than 114,300 licensed sales associates employed by those agencies.

At September 30, 2015, we had agreements to sell our products at 373 banks, or more than 90% of the total number of banks in Japan. Bank channel sales accounted for 15.3% of new annualized premium sales in the third quarter of 2015 for Aflac Japan, compared with 21.1% during the third quarter of 2014.

Aflac Japan and Japan Post Holdings entered into a new agreement in July 2013, further expanding a partnership that was established in 2008 (see Japanese Regulatory Environment). At the end of June 2014, Japan Post Insurance (Kampo) received Financial Services Agency (FSA) regulatory approval to enter into an agency contract with Aflac Japan to begin distributing Aflac Japan's cancer insurance products at all of Kampo's 79 directly managed sales offices. Aflac Japan has developed a unique Aflac-branded cancer product for Japan Post and Kampo that was introduced on October 1, 2014. In the fourth quarter of 2014, the number of postal outlets selling our cancer products expanded to approximately 10,000, and starting July 1, 2015, Japan Post expanded the number of post offices that offer Aflac's cancer products to 20,000 postal outlets. We believe this alliance with Japan Post will further benefit our cancer insurance sales.

We believe that there is still a continued need for our products in Japan. Our sales target and focus in 2015 will continue to be centered around the sale of Aflac Japan's third sector products, including cancer and medical. Although our traditional channels remain key to our success, we have developed partnerships with new channels to help increase our overall sales growth. These channels include Japan Post, and we are making steady progress with our sales through postal outlets. Given the sales growth in the first nine months and our expectation for production for the remainder of the year, we are upwardly revising our sales growth target for third sector products from a range of 7% to 10% to a range of 10% to 13% for the full year of 2015.

Japanese Economy

The Bank of Japan's October 2015 Monthly Report of Recent Economic and Financial Developments indicated the following about the Japanese economy. Japan's economy continues to recover moderately, although exports and production have been effected by the deceleration in emerging economies. Public investment has declined moderately, although it remains at a high level, while housing investment has been increasing. Private consumption has remained resilient due to steady improvement in employment and income. The report projected that Japan's economy is expected to recover moderately, while exports are expected to remain relatively flat. For additional information, see the Japanese Economy subsection of MD&A in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Japanese Regulatory Environment

In 2005, legislation aimed at privatizing Japan's postal system (Japan Post) was enacted into law. The privatization laws split Japan Post into four operating entities that began operations in October 2007. In 2007, one of these entities selected Aflac Japan as its provider of cancer insurance to be sold through its post offices, and, in 2008, we began selling cancer insurance through these post offices. Japan Post has historically been a popular place for consumers to purchase insurance products. Legislation to reform the postal system passed the Diet in April 2012 and resulted in the merger of two of the postal operating entities (the one that delivers the mail and the one that runs the post offices) on October 1, 2012. In July 2013, Aflac Japan entered into a new agreement with Japan Post Holdings to further expand a partnership that was established in 2008 (see Aflac Japan Sales).

On January 16, 2014, Japan's FSA issued a reporting order pursuant to the Insurance Business Law to all insurance companies, including Aflac Japan, entitled "Regarding the Rectification, etc. of Insurance Agency Employees." Companies were ordered to ascertain conditions on the ground regarding sales agents, facilitate the discontinuation of the practice of subcontracting (i.e., the use of non-employee contractors to sell insurance on behalf of insurance agencies), and report to the FSA. Pursuant to the reporting order, Aflac submitted its final report to the FSA on April 30, 2015. In light of the Company's current mix of distribution channels, the use of non-employee contractors is not a major channel for the Company in Japan.

In June 2013, a revision to the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act established a post-funded Orderly Resolution Regime for financial institutions to prevent a financial crisis in the event of a financial institution's failure. This regime came into effect in March 2014, but is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's operations in Japan.

Aflac Japan Investments

The level of investment income in yen is affected by available cash flow from operations, the timing of investing the cash flow, yields on new investments, the effect of yen/dollar exchange rates on dollar-denominated investment income, and other factors.

In order to address our challenge of investing in Japan's low-interest-rate environment, Aflac Japan has invested in higher-yielding U.S. dollar-denominated publicly-traded investment grade corporate fixed-maturity securities, and has entered into foreign currency forwards and options to hedge the currency risk on the fair value of the U.S. dollar securities. We started this program as part of our strategic review of portfolio allocation, maintain it as part of our on-going portfolio allocation, and will allocate new money into the program based on multiple factors including market conditions, overall portfolio make-up, investment alternatives, needs of the business, and other factors.

In the first nine months of 2015, as part of our normal portfolio management and asset allocation process, Aflac Japan increased the allocation of investments to a senior secured bank loan program by approximately $850 million and to a high yield corporate bond program by approximately $650 million, all of which had been funded as of September 30, 2015. During the third quarter of 2015, we began investing in yen-denominated exchange traded funds (ETFs) holding

Japan real estate investment trusts. These ETFs are publicly traded on a national stock exchange and are reported as equity securities on our consolidated balance sheets. The ETFs are classified as available for sale and carried on our balance sheet at fair value. As of September 30, 2015, our investment in these ETFs was $103 million. See the Analysis of Financial Condition section of this MD&A for further discussion of these investment programs.

The following table presents the results of Aflac Japan's investment yields for the periods ended September 30.

	Three Months		Nine Months	
	2015 [1]	2014 [1]	**2015** [1]	2014 [1]
New money yield	**2.76 %**	1.91 %	**3.23 %**	2.13 %
Return on average invested assets, net of investment expenses	**2.92**	2.76	**2.89**	2.79
Portfolio book yield, including dollar-denominated investments, end of period	**2.82 %**	2.83 %	**2.82 %**	2.83 %

[1] *Yields are reported before the cost of foreign currency forwards that hedge foreign exchange risk of U.S. dollar-denominated publicly traded corporate bonds.*

The new money yield in the table above excludes the reinvestment of sales proceeds that were used to fund the purchase of the senior secured bank loans and high yield corporate bonds. The increase in the Aflac Japan new money yield in the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 was primarily due to a large allocation of 2015 new money being allocated to dollar-denominated investments rather than relatively low-yielding Japanese government bonds (JGBs).

See Notes 3, 4 and 5 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements and the Analysis of Financial Condition section of this MD&A for additional information on our investments and hedging strategies.

AFLAC U.S. SEGMENT

Aflac U.S. Pretax Operating Earnings

Changes in Aflac U.S. pretax operating earnings and profit margins are primarily affected by morbidity, mortality, expenses, persistency and investment yields. The following table presents a summary of operating results for Aflac U.S.

Aflac U.S. Summary of Operating Results

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
(In millions)	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
Net premium income	**$ 1,346**	$ 1,306	**$ 4,016**	$ 3,910
Net investment income	**173**	162	**507**	484
Other income	**1**	0	**6**	2
Total operating revenues	**1,520**	1,468	**4,529**	4,396
Benefits and claims	**735**	722	**2,161**	2,116
Operating expenses:				
Amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs	**114**	112	**355**	350
Insurance commissions	**148**	149	**441**	443
Insurance and other expenses	**237**	216	**708**	615
Total operating expenses	**499**	477	**1,504**	1,408
Total benefits and expenses	**1,234**	1,199	**3,665**	3,524
Pretax operating earnings[1]	**$ 286**	$ 269	**$ 864**	$ 872
Percentage change over previous period:				
Net premium income	**3.0 %**	1.1 %	**2.7 %**	1.1 %
Net investment income	**7.2**	1.6	**4.8**	2.2
Total operating revenues	**3.6**	1.0	**3.0**	1.2
Pretax operating earnings[1]	**6.2**	.3	**(.9)**	4.7

[1] *See the Insurance Operations section of this MD&A for our definition of segment operating earnings.*

Annualized premiums in force increased 1.9% to $5.6 billion at September 30, 2015, compared with $5.5 billion at September 30, 2014.

The following table presents a summary of operating ratios for Aflac U.S.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
Ratios to total revenues:	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
Benefits and claims	**48.4 %**	49.2 %	**47.7 %**	48.1 %
Operating expenses:				
Amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs	**7.5**	7.7	**7.8**	8.0
Insurance commissions	**9.7**	10.2	**9.7**	10.1
Insurance and other expenses	**15.6**	14.5	**15.7**	14.0
Total operating expenses	**32.8**	32.4	**33.2**	32.1
Pretax operating earnings[1]	**18.8**	18.4	**19.1**	19.8

[1] *See the Insurance Operations section of this MD&A for our definition of segment operating earnings.*

The benefit ratio in the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, decreased compared with the same periods in 2014 due to mix of business changes; general improvements in claims trends; and increased revenue from improved business practices associated with premium payments that benefited the third quarter. The expense ratio increased during these periods primarily due to increased spending associated with changes in the Aflac U.S. sales structure. In total, the pretax operating profit margin improved in the three-month period but declined in the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015, compared with the same relative periods in 2014. We expect the benefit ratio to be relatively stable and the expense ratio to be lower in the fourth quarter of 2015, compared with 2014.

Aflac U.S. Sales

The following table presents Aflac's U.S. new annualized premium sales for the periods ended September 30.

	Three Months		Nine Months	
(In millions)	**2015**	2014	**2015**	2014
New annualized premium sales	**$ 330**	$ 328	**$ 990**	$ 979
Increase (decrease) over prior period	**.4 %**	(.6) %	**1.1 %**	(4.5) %

The following table details the contributions to new annualized premium sales by major insurance product category for the periods ended September 30.

	Three Months		Nine Months	
	2015	2014	**2015**	2014
Income-loss protection:				
Short-term disability	**24.4 %**	23.1 %	**24.1 %**	22.4 %
Life	**5.5**	6.0	**5.7**	6.2
Asset-loss protection:				
Accident	**30.4**	29.1	**29.7**	28.2
Critical care[1]	**20.4**	20.1	**20.8**	20.5
Supplemental medical:				
Hospital indemnity	**13.6**	15.3	**14.0**	16.2
Dental/vision	**5.7**	6.4	**5.7**	6.5
Total	**100.0 %**	100.0 %	**100.0 %**	100.0 %

[1] *Includes cancer, critical illness, and hospital intensive care products*

New annualized premium sales for accident insurance, our leading product category, increased 5.1%, short-term disability sales increased 6.2%, critical care insurance sales (including cancer insurance) increased 2.2%, and hospital indemnity insurance sales decreased 11.2% in the third quarter of 2015, compared with the same period in 2014.

In the third quarter of 2015, our traditional U.S. sales forces included more than 8,900 U.S. associates who were actively producing business on a weekly basis. We believe that the average weekly producing sales associates metric allows our sales management to actively monitor progress and needs on a real-time basis. Beyond expanding the size and capabilities of our traditional sales force, we remain encouraged about establishing and developing relationships with insurance brokers that typically handle the larger-case market.

The addition of group products has expanded our reach and enabled us to generate more sales opportunities with larger employers, brokers, and our traditional sales agents. We anticipate that the appeal of our group products will continue to enhance our opportunities to connect with larger businesses and their employees. Our portfolio of group and individual products offers businesses the opportunity to give their employees a more valuable and comprehensive selection of benefit options.

Beginning in the third quarter and continuing into the fourth quarter of 2014, Aflac U.S. implemented tactical initiatives centered around providing competitive compensation to our sales hierarchy and positioning us to more effectively and consistently execute on the U.S. sales strategy across all states. These measures are designed to more effectively link sales management's success to Aflac's success. For example, we enhanced compensation through an incentive bonus for the first level of our sales management, district sales coordinators, who are primarily responsible for selling Aflac products and training new sales associates. Additionally, we eliminated the commission-based position of state sales coordinator. To better manage our state operations, we introduced the new position of market director, effective October 1, 2014. Market directors are salaried with the opportunity to earn sales-related bonuses. We believe these changes have enhanced and will continue to enhance performance management and better align compensation with new business results.

One Day Pay^{SM} is a claims initiative that we have focused on at Aflac U.S. to process, approve and pay eligible claims in just one day. We believe that along with our brand and relevant products, this claims practice will help Aflac stand out from competitors.

With the evolving business market and the coverage standardization that will result from health care reform in the United States, we believe Aflac's voluntary products will become more relevant than ever. Our products provide cash benefits that can be used to help with increasing out-of-pocket medical expenses, help cover household costs, or protect against income and asset loss. Our group products and relationships with insurance brokers that handle the larger-case market are helping us as we expand our reach selling to larger businesses. We are regularly evaluating the marketplace to identify opportunities to bring the most relevant, cost-effective products to our customers. We believe the need for our products remains very strong, and we continue to work on enhancing our distribution capabilities to access employers of all sizes, including initiatives that benefit our field force and the broker community. At the same time, we are seeking opportunities to leverage our brand strength and attractive product portfolio in the evolving health care environment. For 2015, our objective is for Aflac U.S. new annualized premium sales to increase at the lower end of a 3% to 7% range for the year.

U.S. Regulatory Environment

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is intended to give Americans of all ages and income levels access to comprehensive major medical health insurance. The major elements of the bill became effective on January 1, 2014. The primary subject of the legislation is major medical insurance; as enacted, the ACA does not materially affect the design of our insurance products. However, indirect consequences of the legislation and regulations, including uncertainty related to implementation, could present challenges and/or opportunities that could potentially have an impact on our sales model, financial condition and results of operations. Our experience with Japan's national health care environment leads us to believe that the need for supplemental insurance will only increase over the coming years.

The Dodd-Frank Act created, among other things, a Financial Stability Oversight Council (the Council). In April 2012, the Council released a final rule describing the general process it will follow in determining whether to designate a nonbank financial company for supervision by the Board of Governors of the U.S. Federal Reserve System (the Board). The Council may designate by a two-thirds vote whether certain nonbank financial companies, including certain insurance companies and insurance holding companies, could pose a threat to the financial stability of the United States, in which case such nonbank financial companies would become subject to prudential regulation by the Board. On April 3, 2013, the Board published a final rule that establishes the requirements for determining when a nonbank financial company is "predominantly engaged in financial activities" - a prerequisite for designation by the Council. Prudential regulation by the Board includes supervision of capital requirements, leverage limits, liquidity requirements and examinations. The Board may limit such company's ability to enter into mergers, acquisitions and other business combination transactions, restrict its ability to offer financial products, require it to terminate one or more activities, or impose conditions on the manner in which it conducts activities. The Council designated two insurers in 2013 and an additional insurer in 2014 as a Systemically Important Financial Institution (SIFI). On December 18, 2014, President Obama signed the Insurance Capital Standards Clarification Act into law. This legislation will clarify the Board's authority to apply insurance-based capital standards for insurance companies subject to federal supervision. Although Aflac is a nonbank financial company predominantly engaged in financial activities as defined in the Dodd-Frank Act, we do not believe Aflac will be considered a company that poses a threat to the financial stability of the United States.

Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act and regulations issued thereunder may have an impact on Aflac's derivative activity, including activity on behalf of Aflac Japan, in particular rules and rule proposals to require central clearing and collateral for certain types of derivatives. In 2014, the five U.S. banking regulators and the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) re-proposed for comment their rules regarding collateral for uncleared swaps, and on October 22, 2015, final rules were issued by the five U.S. banking regulators. Such rules may result in increased collateral requirements for Aflac.

The Dodd-Frank Act also established a Federal Insurance Office (FIO) under the U.S. Treasury Department to monitor all aspects of the insurance industry and of lines of business other than certain health insurance, certain long-term care insurance and crop insurance. Traditionally, U.S. insurance companies have been regulated primarily by state insurance departments. In December 2013, the FIO released a report entitled "How To Modernize And Improve The System Of Insurance Regulation In The United States." The report was required by the Dodd-Frank Act, and included 18 recommended areas of near-term reform for the states, including addressing capital adequacy and safety/soundness issues, reform of insurer resolution practices, and reform of marketplace regulation. The report also listed nine recommended areas for direct federal involvement in insurance regulation. Some of the recommendations outlined in the FIO report released in December 2013 have been implemented. Of the nine recommended areas for direct federal involvement in insurance regulation that are applicable to Aflac, President Obama signed the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act into law in January 2015, which simplifies the agent and broker licensing process across state lines. The FIO has also engaged with the supervisory colleges to monitor financial stability and identify regulatory gaps for large national and internationally active insurers.

On December 10, 2013, five U.S. financial regulators adopted a final rule implementing the "Volcker Rule," which was created by Section 619 of the Dodd-Frank Act. The Volcker Rule generally prohibits "banking entities" from engaging in "proprietary trading" and making investments and conducting certain other activities with "private equity funds and hedge funds." The final rule became effective April 1, 2014; however, at the time the agencies released the final Volcker Rule, the Federal Reserve announced an extension of the conformance period for all banking entities until July 21, 2015. In response to industry questions regarding the final Volcker Rule, the five U.S. financial regulators, which included the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC); the Federal Reserve; the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC); the SEC and the U.S. CFTC, issued a clarifying interim final rule on January 14, 2014 that permits banking entities to retain interests in certain collateralized debt obligations (CDOs) backed by trust preferred securities if the CDO meets certain requirements.

On December 18, 2014, the Federal Reserve announced a second extension to the Volcker Rule conformance period, to give banking entities until July 21, 2016, to conform investments in and relationships with covered funds and foreign funds that were in place prior to December 31, 2013 (legacy covered funds). The Federal Reserve also announced its intention to act in the future to grant banking entities an additional one-year extension of the conformance period until July 21, 2017, to conform ownership interests in and relationships with these legacy covered funds. The Federal Reserve did not act to extend the conformance period for proprietary trading activities.

Nonbank financial companies such as Aflac that are not affiliated with an insured depository institution or otherwise brought within the definition of "banking entity" generally will not be subject to the Volcker Rule's prohibitions. However, the prohibitions of the Volcker Rule could impact financial markets generally, for example, through reduced liquidity in certain markets or the exiting of positions by banking entities as the end of the conformance period approaches.

The process of implementing the Dodd-Frank Act is ongoing and continues to involve additional rulemaking from time to time. At the current time, it is not possible to predict with any degree of certainty what impact, if any, the Dodd-Frank Act will have on our U.S. business, financial condition, or results of operations.

Under state insurance guaranty association laws and similar laws in international jurisdictions, we are subject to assessments, based on the share of business we write in the relevant jurisdiction, for certain obligations of insolvent insurance companies to policyholders and claimants. In the United States, some states permit member insurers to recover assessments paid through full or partial premium tax offsets. The Company's policy is to accrue assessments when the entity for which the insolvency relates has met its state of domicile's statutory definition of insolvency, the amount of the loss is reasonably estimable and the related premium upon which the assessment is based is written. In most states, the definition is met with a declaration of financial insolvency by a court of competent jurisdiction. In certain states there must also be a final order of liquidation.

Penn Treaty Network Company and its subsidiary American Network Insurance Company (collectively referred to as Penn Treaty) were placed in rehabilitation on January 6, 2009, and remain in rehabilitation as of September 30, 2015. As of September 30, 2015, we are currently unable to estimate when or to what extent Penn Treaty will ultimately be declared insolvent, or the amount of the insolvency. As such, we have not established any accruals for guaranty fund assessments associated with Penn Treaty as of September 30, 2015.

Aflac U.S. Investments

The level of investment income is affected by available cash flow from operations, the timing of investing the cash flow, yields on new investments, and other factors. Aflac U.S. has invested primarily in investment grade corporate bonds.

The following table presents the results of Aflac's U.S. investment yields for the periods ended September 30.

	Three Months		Nine Months	
	2015	2014	**2015**	2014
New money yield	**4.65 %**	4.36 %	**4.38 %**	4.34 %
Return on average invested assets, net of investment expenses	**5.26**	5.49	**5.25**	5.53
Portfolio book yield, end of period	**5.79 %**	5.92 %	**5.79 %**	5.92 %

The increase in the Aflac U.S. new money yield for the three-month period ended September 30, 2015 was primarily due to wider credit spreads achieved in portfolio investing activities. See Notes 3 and 5 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements and the Analysis of Financial Condition section of this MD&A for additional information on our investments.

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

Our financial condition has remained strong in the functional currencies of our operations. The yen/dollar exchange rate at the end of each period is used to translate yen-denominated balance sheet items to U.S. dollars for reporting purposes.

The following table demonstrates the effect of the change in the yen/dollar exchange rate by comparing select balance sheet items as reported at September 30, 2015, with the amounts that would have been reported had the exchange rate remained unchanged from December 31, 2014.

Impact of Foreign Exchange on Balance Sheet Items

(In millions)	As Reported	Exchange Effect	Net of Exchange Effect
Yen/dollar exchange rate[1]	119.96		120.55
Investments and cash	$ 104,900	$ 314	$ 104,586
Deferred policy acquisition costs	8,451	26	8,425
Total assets	117,455	353	117,102
Policy liabilities	87,185	379	86,806
Total liabilities	100,200	404	99,796

[1] *The exchange rate at September 30, 2015, was 119.96 yen to one dollar, or .5% stronger than the December 31, 2014, exchange rate of 120.55.*

Market Risks of Financial Instruments

Our investment philosophy is to fulfill our fiduciary responsibility to invest assets in a prudent manner to meet the present and future needs of our policyholders' contractual obligations while maximizing the long-term financial return on assets consistent with the company goal of maximizing long-term shareholder value within defined risk appetites, limits, and maintaining adequate liquidity.

The following table details investment securities by segment.

Investment Securities by Segment

(In millions)	Aflac Japan		Aflac U.S.	
	September 30, 2015	December 31, 2014	**September 30, 2015**	December 31, 2014
Securities available for sale, at fair value:				
Fixed maturities	**$ 51,752**	$ 52,196	**$ 12,839** (1)	$ 12,940 (1)
Perpetual securities	**2,108**	2,609	**58**	60
Equity securities	**126**	23	**5**	5
Total available for sale	**53,986**	54,828	**12,902**	13,005
Securities held to maturity, at amortized cost:				
Fixed maturities	**33,729**	34,242	**0**	0
Total held to maturity	**33,729**	34,242	**0**	0
Total investment securities	**$ 87,715**	$ 89,070	**$ 12,902**	$ 13,005

(1) *Excludes available-for-sale fixed-maturity securities held by the Parent Company and other business segments of $515 in 2015 and $437 in 2014.*

Because we invest in fixed-maturity securities, our financial instruments are exposed primarily to three types of market risks: currency risk, interest rate risk, and credit risk.

Currency Risk

The functional currency of Aflac Japan's insurance operations is the Japanese yen. All of Aflac Japan's premiums, claims and commissions are received or paid in yen, as are most of its other expenses. Most of Aflac Japan's cash and liabilities are yen-denominated. Aflac Japan's investments consisted primarily of yen-denominated securities of $61.3 billion, at amortized cost, at September 30, 2015. However, Aflac Japan also owns dollar-denominated securities of $14.5 billion, at amortized cost, whose fair value is hedged against currency risk as well as $7.8 billion of securities, at amortized cost, that are not hedged as of September 30, 2015. Due to this investment allocation, yen-denominated investment income accounted for 49% of Aflac Japan's investment income during the three-month period and 51% during the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015, with the remainder denominated in U.S. dollars. In addition, Aflac Incorporated has yen-denominated debt obligations.

We are exposed to currency risk as an economic event only when yen funds are actually converted into dollars. This occurs when we repatriate yen-denominated funds from Aflac Japan to Aflac U.S. The exchange rates prevailing at the time of repatriation will differ from the exchange rates prevailing at the time the yen profits were earned. A portion of the yen repatriation may be used to service Aflac Incorporated's yen-denominated notes payable with the remainder converted into dollars. In order to hedge foreign exchange risk for a portion of the profit repatriation received in yen from Aflac Japan, we had foreign exchange forwards as part of a hedging strategy on 30.0 billion yen, 102.5 billion yen and 25.0 billion yen received in February 2015, July 2015 and September 2015, respectively. As of September 30, 2015, we had foreign exchange forwards and options to economically hedge foreign exchange risk on 194.6 billion yen of future profit repatriation from Aflac Japan.

In addition to profit repatriation, certain investment activities for Aflac Japan expose us to economic currency risk when yen are converted into dollars. As noted above, we invest a portion of our yen cash flows in dollar-denominated assets. This requires that we convert the yen cash flows to U.S. dollars before investing. As previously discussed, for certain of our U.S. dollar-denominated securities, we enter into foreign currency forward and option contracts to hedge the currency risk on the fair value of the securities. The dollar coupon payments received on these investments are not hedged and are subject to foreign exchange fluctuations, which are realized in earnings. Also, Aflac Japan has invested in reverse-dual currency securities (RDCs, or yen-denominated debt securities with dollar coupon payments), which exposes Aflac to changes in foreign exchange rates. The foreign currency effect on the yen-denominated securities is accounted for as a component of unrealized gains or losses on available-for-sale securities in accumulated other comprehensive income, while the foreign currency effect on the dollar coupons is realized in earnings. The RDCs provided a higher yield at the time of purchase than those available on Japanese government or other public corporate bonds, while still adhering to our investment standards at the time of the transaction. The yen/dollar exchange rate would have to strengthen to approximately 29 before the yield on these instruments would equal that of a comparable JGB instrument.

Aside from the activities discussed above, we generally do not convert yen into dollars; however, we do translate financial statement amounts from yen into dollars for financial reporting purposes. Therefore, reported amounts are affected by foreign currency fluctuations. We report unrealized foreign currency translation gains and losses in accumulated other comprehensive income. In periods when the yen weakens against the dollar, translating yen into dollars causes fewer dollars to be reported. When the yen strengthens, translating yen into dollars causes more dollars to be reported. The weakening of the yen relative to the dollar will generally adversely affect the value of our yen-denominated investments in dollar terms. We attempt to minimize the exposure of shareholders' equity to foreign currency. We accomplish this by investing a portion of Aflac Japan's investment portfolio in dollar-denominated securities and by the Parent Company's issuance of yen-denominated debt (for additional information, see the discussion under the Hedging Activities subsection of MD&A). As a result, the effect of currency fluctuations on our net assets is reduced.

The following table demonstrates the effect of foreign currency fluctuations by presenting the dollar values of our yen-denominated assets and liabilities, and our consolidated yen-denominated net asset exposure at selected exchange rates.

Dollar Value of Yen-Denominated Assets and Liabilities at Selected Exchange Rates

(In millions)	**September 30, 2015**			December 31, 2014		
Yen/dollar exchange rates	**104.96**	**119.96**[1]	**134.96**	105.55	120.55[1]	135.55
Yen-denominated financial instruments:						
Assets:						
Securities available for sale:						
Fixed maturities[2]	**$ 30,897**	**$ 27,033**	**$ 24,029**	$ 32,178	$ 28,174	$ 25,056
Fixed maturities - consolidated variable interest entities[3]	**1,005**	**879**	**781**	1,273	1,114	992
Perpetual securities	**2,086**	**1,827**	**1,623**	2,458	2,153	1,914
Perpetual securities - consolidated variable interest entities[3]	**208**	**182**	**162**	390	341	304
Equity securities	**137**	**120**	**107**	19	17	15
Securities held to maturity:						
Fixed maturities	**38,454**	**33,646**	**29,906**	39,013	34,159	30,379
Fixed maturities - consolidated variable interest entities[3]	**95**	**83**	**74**	95	83	74
Cash and cash equivalents	**255**	**223**	**198**	370	324	288
Derivatives	**2,658**	**877**	**1,141**	596	802	1,266
Other financial instruments	**175**	**153**	**136**	159	139	124
Subtotal	**75,970**	**65,023**	**58,157**	76,551	67,306	60,412
Liabilities:						
Notes payable	**236**	**207**	**183**	372	325	290
Derivatives	**735**	**384**	**1,802**	992	2,423	3,881
Subtotal	**971**	**591**	**1,985**	1,364	2,748	4,171
Net yen-denominated financial instruments	**74,999**	**64,432**	**56,172**	75,187	64,558	56,241
Other yen-denominated assets	**8,160**	**7,139**	**6,346**	8,212	7,190	6,394
Other yen-denominated liabilities	**94,051**	**82,291**	**73,145**	92,902	81,342	72,341
Consolidated yen-denominated net assets (liabilities) subject to foreign currency fluctuation[2]	**$ (10,892)**	**$ (10,720)**	**$ (10,627)**	$ (9,503)	$ (9,594)	$ (9,706)

(1) *Actual period-end exchange rate*
(2) *Does not include the U.S. dollar-denominated corporate bonds for which we have entered into foreign currency forwards as discussed in the Aflac Japan Investment subsection of MD&A*
(3) *Does not include U.S. dollar-denominated bonds that have corresponding cross-currency swaps in consolidated VIEs*

We are required to consolidate certain VIEs. Some of the consolidated VIEs in Aflac Japan's portfolio use foreign currency swaps to convert foreign denominated cash flows to yen, the functional currency of Aflac Japan, in order to minimize cash flow fluctuations. Foreign currency swaps exchange an initial principal amount in two currencies, agreeing to re-exchange the currencies at a future date, at an agreed upon exchange rate. There may also be periodic exchanges of payments at specified intervals based on the agreed upon rates and notional amounts. Prior to consolidation, our beneficial interest in these VIEs was a yen-denominated available-for-sale fixed maturity security. Upon consolidation, the original yen-denominated investment was derecognized and the underlying fixed-maturity or perpetual securities and cross-currency swaps were recognized. The combination of a U.S. dollar-denominated investment and cross-currency swap economically creates a yen-denominated investment and has no impact on our net investment hedge position.

Similarly, the combination of the U.S. corporate bonds and the foreign currency forwards and options that we have entered into, as discussed in the Aflac Japan Investment subsection of MD&A, economically creates a yen-denominated investment that qualifies for inclusion as a component of our investment in Aflac Japan for net investment hedge purposes.

For additional information regarding our Aflac Japan net investment hedge, see the Hedging Activities subsection of MD&A.

Interest Rate Risk

Our primary interest rate exposure is to the impact of changes in interest rates on the fair value of our investments in debt and perpetual securities. We estimate that the reduction in the fair value of debt and perpetual securities we own resulting from a 100 basis point increase in market interest rates, based on our portfolios at September 30, 2015, and December 31, 2014, would be as follows:

(In millions)	**September 30, 2015**	December 31, 2014
Effect on yen-denominated debt and perpetual securities	**$ (8,781)**	$ (9,379)
Effect on dollar-denominated debt and perpetual securities	**(3,207)**	(3,427)
Effect on total debt and perpetual securities	**$ (11,988)**	$ (12,806)

There are various factors that affect the fair value of our investment in debt and perpetual securities. Included in those factors are changes in the prevailing interest rate environment, which directly affect the balance of unrealized gains or losses for a given period in relation to a prior period. Decreases in market yields generally improve the fair value of debt and perpetual securities, while increases in market yields generally have a negative impact on the fair value of our debt and perpetual securities. However, we do not expect to realize a majority of any unrealized gains or losses because we generally have the intent and ability to hold such securities until a recovery of value, which may be maturity. For additional information on unrealized losses on debt and perpetual securities, see Note 3 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

We perform extensive analysis on the duration of our assets and liabilities. Currently, when debt and perpetual securities we own mature, the proceeds may be reinvested at a yield below that of the interest required for the accretion of policy benefit liabilities on policies issued in earlier years. However, adding riders to our older policies has helped offset negative investment spreads on these policies. Overall, adequate profit margins exist in Aflac Japan’s aggregate block of business because of changes in the mix of business and favorable experience from mortality, morbidity and expenses.

Periodically, depending on general economic conditions, we may enter into other derivative transactions to hedge interest rate risk.

For further information on our interest rate derivatives, see Note 4 of the accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements and the Interest Rate Risk subsection of MD&A in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Credit Risk

A significant portion of our investment portfolio consists of debt securities or perpetual securities that expose us to the credit risk of the underlying issuer. We carefully evaluate this risk on every new investment and closely monitor the credit risk of our existing investment portfolio. We incorporate the needs of our products and liabilities, the overall requirements of the business, and other factors in addition to our underwriting of the credit risk for each investment in the portfolio.

Evaluating the underlying risks in our credit portfolio involves a multitude of factors including but not limited to our assessment of the issuers business activities, assets, products, market position, financial condition, and future prospects. We also must incorporate the assessment of the Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations (NRSROs) in assigning credit ratings to our specific portfolio holdings. We employ a team of experienced credit investment professionals to perform extensive internal assessments of the credit risks for all our portfolio holdings and potential new investments.

The ratings of our securities referenced in the two tables below are based on the ratings designations provided by major NRSROs (Moody's, S&P and Fitch) or, if not rated, are determined based on our internal analysis of such securities. For investment-grade securities where the ratings assigned by the major credit agencies are not equivalent, we use the second lowest rating that is assigned. For a description of the ratings methodology that we use when a security is split-rated, see "Market Risks of Financial Instruments - Below-Investment-Grade and Split-Rated Securities" in the Analysis of Financial Condition section of this MD&A.

The distributions by credit rating of our purchases of debt securities, based on acquisition cost, were as follows:

Composition of Purchases by Credit Rating

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015	Twelve Months Ended December 31, 2014	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2014
AAA	**2.0%**	7.6%	8.4%
AA	**2.6**	74.5	75.6
A	**17.3**	8.0	6.4
BBB	**31.7**	8.3	8.7
BB or lower	**46.4**	1.6	.9
Total	**100.0%**	100.0%	100.0%

Purchases of securities from period to period are determined based on multiple objectives including appropriate portfolio diversification, the relative value of a potential investment and availability of investment opportunities, liquidity, credit and other risk factors while adhering to our investment policy guidelines. We did not purchase any perpetual securities during the periods presented in the table above. Total purchases comprise new money investments as well as the reinvestment of proceeds from investment disposals. The relatively higher purchases of AA rated securities in 2014 were primarily due to the purchase of JGBs. The increase in purchases of A rated and BBB rated securities in the first nine months of 2015 was due primarily to the purchase of U.S. dollar-denominated corporate fixed-income publicly traded securities for the Aflac Japan portfolio. The significant increase in purchases of BB or lower rated securities in 2015 was due to increased investment in senior secured bank loans to U.S. and Canadian corporate borrowers, most of which have below-investment-grade ratings, and investment in high yield corporate bonds. The bank loan investment program is managed externally by third party firms specializing in this asset class. This mandate requires a minimum average credit quality of BB-/Ba3, prohibits loans rated below B/B2, and restricts exposure to any individual credit to less than 3% of the program’s assets. The objectives of this program include enhancing the yield on invested assets, achieving further diversification of credit risk, and mitigating the risk of rising interest rates through the acquisition of floating rate assets. The objective of the high yield corporate bond investments is to enhance yield on invested assets and further diversify our credit risk. All investments must have a minimum rating of low BB using our above described rating methodology and are managed by our internal credit portfolio management team.

The distributions of debt and perpetual securities we own, by credit rating, were as follows:

Composition of Portfolio by Credit Rating

	September 30, 2015		December 31, 2014	
	Amortized Cost	**Fair Value**	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
AAA	**1.3%**	**1.3%**	1.3%	1.3%
AA	**5.5**	**5.6**	5.7	5.8
A	**61.8**	**63.4**	64.1	65.1
BBB	**26.5**	**25.0**	25.0	23.9
BB or lower	**4.9**	**4.7**	3.9	3.9
Total	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	100.0%	100.0%

As of September 30, 2015, our direct and indirect exposure to securities in our investment portfolio that were guaranteed by third parties was immaterial both individually and in the aggregate.

Subordination Distribution

The majority of our total investments in debt and perpetual securities was senior debt at September 30, 2015, and December 31, 2014. We also maintained investments in subordinated financial instruments that primarily consisted of Lower Tier II, Upper Tier II, and Tier I securities, listed in order of seniority. The Lower Tier II securities are debt instruments with fixed maturities. Our Upper Tier II and Tier I investments consisted of debt instruments with fixed maturities and perpetual securities, which have an economic maturity as opposed to a stated maturity.

The following table shows the subordination distribution of our debt and perpetual securities.

Subordination Distribution of Debt and Perpetual Securities

	September 30, 2015		December 31, 2014	
(In millions)	**Amortized Cost**	**Percentage of Total**	Amortized Cost	Percentage of Total
Senior notes	**$ 90,519**	**94.4%**	$ 89,308	93.9%
Subordinated securities:				
Fixed maturities (stated maturity date):				
Lower Tier II	**2,682**	**2.8**	2,751	2.9
Tier I[(1)]	**105**	**.1**	131	.1
Surplus notes	**301**	**.3**	301	.3
Trust preferred - non-banks	**85**	**.1**	85	.1
Other subordinated - non-banks	**51**	**.1**	51	.1
Total fixed maturities	**3,224**	**3.4**	3,319	3.5
Perpetual securities (economic maturity date):				
Upper Tier II	**1,337**	**1.4**	1,554	1.6
Tier I	**568**	**.6**	703	.8
Other subordinated - non-banks	**184**	**.2**	183	.2
Total perpetual securities	**2,089**	**2.2**	2,440	2.6
Total debt and perpetual securities	**$ 95,832**	**100.0%**	$ 95,067	100.0%

[(1)] Includes trust preferred securities

Portfolio Composition

For information regarding the amortized cost for our investments in debt and perpetual securities, the cost for equity securities and the fair values of these investments, refer to Note 3 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Investment Concentrations

One of our largest investment concentrations as of September 30, 2015, was banks and financial institutions. Approximately 12% and 14% of our total portfolio of debt and perpetual securities, on an amortized cost basis, was in the bank and financial institution sector at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively. Within the countries we approve for investment opportunities, we primarily invest in financial institutions that are strategically crucial to each approved country's economy. The bank and financial institution sector is a highly regulated industry and plays a strategic role in the global economy. Within this sector, our credit risk by geographic region or country of issuer at September 30, 2015, based on amortized cost, was: Europe, excluding the United Kingdom (29%); United States (26%); Australia (8%); Japan (8%); United Kingdom (8%); and other (21%).

Our 15 largest global investment exposures as of September 30, 2015, were as follows:

Largest Global Investment Positions

(In millions)	Amortized Cost	% of Total	Seniority	Ratings Moody's	S&P	Fitch
Japan National Government[(1)]	**$ 36,527**	**38.12%**	Senior	A1	A+	A
Republic of South Africa	**500**	**.52**	Senior	Baa2	BBB-	BBB
Bank of America NA	**379**	**.40**				
Bank of America Corp.	208	.23	Senior	Baa1	A-	A
Bank of America Corp.	167	.17	Lower Tier II	Baa3	BBB+	A-
Bank of America NA	4	.00	Senior	A1	A	A+
Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd.	**375**	**.39**				
BTMU Curacao Holdings NV	375	.39	Lower Tier II	A2	—	A-
Investcorp SA	**358**	**.37**				
Investcorp Capital Limited	358	.37	Senior	Ba2	—	BB
JP Morgan Chase & Co.	**334**	**.35**				
JPMorgan Chase & Co. (including Bear Stearns Companies Inc.)	296	.31	Senior	A3	A	A+
JPMorgan Chase & Co. (Bank One Corp.)	17	.02	Lower Tier II	Baa1	A-	A
JPMorgan Chase & Co. (NBD Bank)	11	.01	Lower Tier II	A1	A	A
JPMorgan Chase & Co. (FNBC)	10	.01	Senior	Aa1	A+	—
Banobras	**308**	**.32**	Senior	A3	BBB+	BBB+
Sultanate of Oman	**292**	**.30**	Senior	A1	A-	—
Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex)	**292**	**.30**				
Pemex Proj FDG Master TR	251	.26	Senior	A3	BBB+	BBB+
Pemex Finance Ltd.	41	.04	Senior	A3	A	A+
Koninklijke Ahold NV	**290**	**.30**				
Koninklijke Ahold NV	275	.28	Senior	Baa2	BBB	BBB
Ahold USA Lease	15	.02	Senior	Baa2	BBB	—
Nordea Bank AB	**281**	**.29**				
Nordea Bank AB	214	.22	Tier I	Baa3	BBB	—
Nordea Bank Finland	66	.07	Upper Tier II	Baa2	—	—
Nordea Bank AB	1	.00	Senior	Aa3	AA-	AA-
German Agency Banks	**280**	**.29**				
Landwirtschaftliche Rentenbank	209	.22	Lower Tier II	Aaa	AAA	AAA
KFW	71	.07	Senior	Aaa	AAA	AAA
AXA	**276**	**.29**				
AXA-UAP	225	.24	Upper Tier II	A3	BBB	BBB
AXA	51	.05	CC FNB	A3	BBB	BBB+
Deutsche Teleom AG	**272**	**.28**				
Deutsche Telekom AG	250	.26	Senior	Baa1	BBB+	BBB+
Deutsche Telekom International Finance	22	.02	Senior	Baa1	BBB+	BBB+
CFE	**267**	**.28**	Senior	Baa1	BBB+	BBB+
Subtotal	**$ 41,031**	**42.80%**				
Total debt and perpetual securities	**$ 95,832**	**100.00%**				

[(1)] *JGBs or JGB-backed securities*

[*] *If aggregated, our total exposure under the Berkshire Hathaway family of companies would have placed it among our top 15 exposures. However, we consider Berkshire Hathaway Energy Company and Burlington Northern Santa Fe, LLC holdings distinct from those of the parent company and believe it appropriate to report them separately.*

As previously disclosed, we own long-dated debt instruments in support of our long-dated policyholder obligations. Some of our largest global investment holdings are positions that were purchased many years ago and increased in size due to merger and consolidation activity among the issuing entities. In addition, many of our largest holdings are yen-denominated, therefore strengthening of the yen can increase our position in dollars, and weakening of the yen can decrease our position in dollars. Our global investment guidelines establish concentration limits for our investment portfolios.

Geographical Exposure

The following table indicates the geographic exposure of our investment portfolio.

	September 30, 2015		December 31, 2014	
(In millions)	Amortized Cost	% of Total	Amortized Cost	% of Total
Japan	**$ 39,183**	**40.9%**	**$ 39,804**	**41.9%**
United States and Canada [(1)]	**31,212**	**32.6**	**28,884**	**30.4**
United Kingdom	**2,721**	**2.8**	**3,121**	**3.3**
Germany	**2,522**	**2.6**	**2,657**	**2.8**
France	**1,756**	**1.8**	**1,747**	**1.8**
Peripheral Eurozone	**2,773**	**2.9**	**2,925**	**3.1**
Portugal	201	.2	200	.2
Italy	1,517	1.6	1,674	1.8
Ireland	333	.3	332	.3
Spain	722	.8	719	.8
Nordic Region	**2,124**	**2.2**	**2,198**	**2.2**
Sweden	894	.9	973	1.0
Norway	515	.5	513	.5
Denmark	333	.4	332	.3
Finland	382	.4	380	.4
Other Europe	**2,642**	**2.8**	**2,711**	**2.8**
Netherlands	1,503	1.6	1,497	1.6
Switzerland	228	.2	225	.2
Czech Republic	417	.5	415	.4
Austria	116	.1	184	.2
Belgium	183	.2	224	.2
Poland	167	.2	166	.2
Luxembourg	28	.0	0	.0
Asia excluding Japan	**3,560**	**3.7**	**3,575**	**3.8**
Africa and Middle East	**2,131**	**2.2**	**2,121**	**2.2**
Latin America	**2,606**	**2.7**	**2,622**	**2.8**
Australia	**2,162**	**2.3**	**2,262**	**2.4**
All Others	**440**	**.5**	**440**	**.5**
Total debt and perpetual securities	**$ 95,832**	**100.0%**	**$ 95,067**	**100.0%**

[(1)] *Includes total exposure to Puerto Rico of $1 million of required deposits, of which 86% has insurance of principal and interest.*

European sovereign debt crisis

Since 2008, many countries in Europe, and specifically Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, and Spain (collectively the "peripheral Eurozone" countries), have experienced a debt crisis. Collective action by multiple parties including the European Central Bank (ECB), International Monetary Fund (IMF), European Council, and individual member states' governments had largely improved market perception of the situation across Europe. In exchange for this support, affected countries generally agreed to implement a series of measures to improve their fiscal situation in exchange for loans and other aid. Most countries continue to implement the prescribed austerity measures and have seen improvement in their economies, which in turn has seen their creditworthiness improve or stabilize.

The resolve to maintain the European Monetary Union (EMU) was tested earlier this year following the election of a new government in Greece, who rejected the requirements imposed in exchange for their previous support packages. After a period of tense negotiations which threatened Greece's ability to remain in the EMU, agreements were made which provided Greece additional aid in exchange for updated set of requirements. These actions have stabilized the situation currently.

Although recent economic indicators show improvement from the depths of the crisis across most of the Eurozone, overall economic activity remains subdued throughout the region. To support the return to sustainable economic growth, the ECB has launched a quantitative easing (QE) stimulus program.

Since the crisis first began, we have taken steps to improve the risk profile of our portfolio by selling certain holdings throughout Europe, including the peripheral Eurozone countries.

The primary factor considered when determining the domicile of investment exposure is the legal country risk location of the issuer. However, other factors such as the location of the parent guarantor, the location of the company's headquarters or major business operations (including location of major assets), location of primary market (including location of revenue generation) and specific country risk publicly recognized by rating agencies can influence the assignment of the country (or geographic) risk location. When the issuer is a special financing vehicle or a branch or subsidiary of a global company, then we consider any guarantees and/or legal, regulatory and corporate relationships of the issuer relative to its ultimate parent in determining the proper assignment of country risk.

Investments in Certain European Countries - monitoring and mitigating exposure

During most of 2011, we saw the European sovereign crisis persist and escalate. During the crisis in 2011 and 2012, we undertook a derisking program to reduce significant concentrations within our investment portfolio, most notably perpetual securities issued by financial institutions and instruments issued by other peripheral Eurozone issuers. We remain diligent in monitoring our portfolio and continually evaluate opportunities to manage risk within our portfolio.

Our internal team of experienced credit professionals has continued to monitor the impact of the crisis on our individual investment holdings' overall credit quality. Our analysis includes factors beyond a baseline assessment of a company's assets, operations, financial statements, and credit metrics that may provide support for the instruments we own. Specifically, for our investments in European banks and financial institutions, we monitor the importance of the issuer to its local financial system, the likelihood of government support, and our investment's position in the capital structure of the issuer. For our investments in European utilities, we monitor the role of the issuer in its local economy as a provider of necessary infrastructure, and we monitor the value of the underlying assets owned by the issuer. For our investment in European corporates, industrials, and other commercial entities, we monitor the general credit quality of the issuer, the geographical mix of the issuer's customers (i.e. domestic vs. foreign), the geographical breakdown of the issuer's assets (i.e. domestic versus foreign), the value of the underlying assets owned by the issuer, capitalization of the issuer, and overall profitability and cash generation ability of the issuer. We monitor NRSRO actions and the likely actions for our investment exposures, as well as overall market conditions. By performing these analyses, we make a determination on the probability of timely payment of principal and interest of the issuers of our investments.

Some of our peripheral Eurozone fixed-maturity investments contain covenants that we believe mitigate our risk to the issuer. These covenants could include put options that allow us to return our holdings to the issuer at a predetermined price, usually par, should the issuer be downgraded to below investment grade by a rating agency. Additionally, these covenants may include restrictions on the ability of the issuer to incur additional debt, sell assets, or provide collateral for indebtedness. As of September 30, 2015, all of the issuers of our holdings from peripheral Eurozone countries were current on their obligations to us, and we believe they have the ability to meet their obligations to us.

As of September 30, 2015, our investments in peripheral Eurozone countries totaled $2.8 billion, or 2.9% of our total debt and perpetual securities, at amortized cost. We have no direct exposure to Greece. Apart from our direct investments in peripheral Eurozone sovereign debt totaling $264 million, our other exposures as of September 30, 2015 to the European sovereign debt crisis were investments in peripheral Eurozone banks and financial institutions of $493 million, peripheral Eurozone non-banks (excluding sovereigns) of $2.0 billion, core Eurozone[1] banks and financial institutions of $1.8 billion, core Eurozone non-banks (excluding sovereigns) of $4.2 billion, core Eurozone sovereigns of $488 million, and non-Eurozone[2] holdings throughout the balance of Europe of $5.3 billion, all at amortized cost. Other investment risks stemming from the European sovereign debt crisis are not possible to measure and include the impact of slower economic activity throughout Europe and its impact on global economic growth and market disruption including illiquidity and impaired valuations due to heightened concerns and lack of investor confidence.

Although the situation had largely stabilized across Europe, the crisis in Greece that re-emerged in mid-2015 demonstrates certain risks remain as the area continues working to improve its economic footing. We continue to monitor the situation closely including the heightened interrelationship between political, monetary, fiscal, and economic forces; the pace of underlying structural reforms; the possibility of continued contagion to additional sovereigns and other entities; further stress on the banking systems throughout the region; and the impact on the underlying economic fundamentals throughout the Eurozone.

Securities by Type of Issuance

We have investments in both publicly and privately issued securities. Our ability to sell either type of security is a function of overall market liquidity which is impacted by, among other things, the amount of outstanding securities of a particular issuer or issuance, trading history of the issue or issuer, overall market conditions, and idiosyncratic events affecting the specific issue or issuer.

The following table details investment securities by type of issuance.

Investment Securities by Type of Issuance

	September 30, 2015		December 31, 2014	
(In millions)	**Amortized Cost**	**Fair Value**	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Publicly issued securities:				
Fixed maturities	**$ 67,622**	**$ 73,840**	$ 65,830	$ 74,190
Perpetual securities	**107**	**158**	107	154
Equity securities	**112**	**122**	12	19
Total publicly issued	**67,841**	**74,120**	65,949	74,363
Privately issued securities:				
Fixed maturities	**26,121**	**28,214**	26,797	29,880
Perpetual securities	**1,982**	**2,008**	2,333	2,515
Equity securities	**7**	**9**	7	9
Total privately issued	**28,110**	**30,231**	29,137	32,404
Total investment securities	**$ 95,951**	**$ 104,351**	$ 95,086	$ 106,767

[1]Core Eurozone includes Germany, France, Netherlands, Austria, Belgium, Finland and Luxembourg.
[2]Non-Eurozone Europe includes the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Czech Republic and Poland.

The following table details our privately issued investment securities.

Privately Issued Securities

(Amortized cost, in millions)	**September 30, 2015**	December 31, 2014
Privately issued securities as a percentage of total debt and perpetual securities	**29.3%**	30.6%
Privately issued securities held by Aflac Japan	**$ 25,342**	$ 26,468
Privately issued securities held by Aflac Japan as a percentage of total debt and perpetual securities	**26.4%**	27.8%

Reverse-Dual Currency Securities[1]

(Amortized cost, in millions)	**September 30, 2015**	December 31, 2014
Privately issued reverse-dual currency securities	**$ 5,987**	$ 6,196
Publicly issued collateral structured as reverse-dual currency securities	**1,310**	1,470
Total reverse-dual currency securities	**$ 7,297**	$ 7,666
Reverse-dual currency securities as a percentage of total debt and perpetual securities	**7.6%**	8.1%

[1] *Principal payments in yen and interest payments in dollars*

Aflac Japan has invested in privately issued securities to better match liability characteristics and secure higher yields than those available on Japanese government or other public corporate bonds. All of the yen-denominated privately issued securities we have purchased were rated investment grade at the time of purchase. Aflac Japan's investments in yen-denominated privately issued securities consist primarily of non-Japanese issuers and have longer maturities, thereby allowing us to improve our asset/liability matching and our overall investment returns. These securities were generally either privately negotiated arrangements or were issued under medium-term note programs and have standard documentation commensurate with credit ratings of the issuer, except when internal credit analysis indicates that additional protective and/or event-risk covenants were required. Many of these investments have protective covenants appropriate to the specific investment. These may include a prohibition of certain activities by the borrower, maintenance of certain financial measures, and specific conditions impacting the payment of our notes.

Below-Investment-Grade and Split-Rated Securities

We use specific criteria to judge the credit quality of both existing and prospective investments. The ratings referenced in the tables below are based on the ratings designations provided by the major credit rating agencies(Moody's, S&P, and Fitch) or, if not rated, are determined based on our internal credit analysis of such securities. When the ratings issued by the rating agencies differ, we utilize the second lowest rating, regardless of how many of the three rating agencies actually rated the instrument. Split-rated securities are those where the ratings are not equivalent and one or more of the ratings is investment grade and one or more is below investment grade. For these split-rated securities, if there are only two ratings assigned by the credit rating agencies, we take the lower below-investment-grade rating. If there are three ratings assigned, and two of the three are below investment grade, we consider it a below-investment grade security. If there are three ratings and two are investment grade, we consider it an investment grade security unless our evaluation and assessment shows a below-investment-grade rating is warranted despite two of the three rating agencies rating it investment grade.

Our portfolio of below-investment-grade securities includes debt securities purchased while the issuer was rated investment grade plus other loans and bonds purchased as part of an allocation to that segment of the market. The following is our below-investment-grade exposure in accordance with the above described rating methodology.

Below-Investment-Grade Securities

(In millions)	September 30, 2015 Par Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Gain (Loss)	December 31, 2014 Par Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Gain(Loss)
Investcorp Capital Limited	**$ 358**	**$ 358**	**$ 325**	**$ (33)**	$ 357	$ 357	$ 332	$ (25)
Commerzbank AG (includes Dresdner Bank)	**333**	**214**	**295**	**81**	332	213	327	114
Republic of Tunisia	**309**	**186**	**258**	**72**	307	185	219	34
Navient Corp	**280**	**149**	**149**	**0**	278	278	178	(100)
UPM-Kymmene	**258**	**258**	**253**	**(5)**	257	257	251	(6)
KLM Royal Dutch Airlines [1]	**250**	**184**	**201**	**17**	249	183	231	48
Barclays Bank PLC [1]	**231**	**149**	**223**	**74**	228	148	225	77
Deutsche Bank AG	**200**	**200**	**179**	**(21)**	378 [1]	332 [1]	354 [1]	22 [1]
DEPFA Bank PLC	**167**	**167**	**129**	**(38)**	*	*	*	*
Telecom Italia SpA	**167**	**167**	**210**	**43**	332	332	352	20
Generalitat de Catalunya	**150**	**55**	**122**	**67**	149	55	129	74
IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG	**108**	**46**	**76**	**30**	108	46	70	24
Alcoa, Inc.	**100**	**78**	**90**	**12**	76	77	102	25
Petrobras International Finance Company	**92**	**88**	**63**	**(25)**	*	*	*	*
Societe Generale [1]	**83**	**61**	**75**	**14**	83	61	67	6
Teck Resources Ltd.	**70**	**69**	**43**	**(26)**	*	*	*	*
Transocean Inc.	**68**	**71**	**44**	**(27)**	*	*	*	*
Eskom Holdings Limited	**50**	**50**	**47**	**(3)**	*	*	*	*
Kommunalkredit Austria	**25**	**16**	**20**	**4**	108	84	88	4
Bank of Ireland	*	*	*	*	166	166	125	(41)
Energias de Portugal SA (EDP)	*	*	*	*	118	116	124	8
Other Issuers (below $50 million in par value) [2]	**308**	**291**	**277**	**(14)**	361	378	394	16
Subtotal [3]	**3,607**	**2,857**	**3,079**	**222**	3,887	3,268	3,568	300
Senior secured bank loans [4]	**1,297**	**1,231**	**1,285**	**54**	504	501	579	78
High yield corporate bonds [5]	**612**	**625**	**587**	**(38)**	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	**$ 5,516**	**$ 4,713**	**$ 4,951**	**$ 238**	$ 4,391	$ 3,769	$ 4,147	$ 378

** Investment grade at respective reporting date*
[1] Includes perpetual security
[2] Includes 15 issuers in 2015 and 18 in 2014
[3] Securities initially purchased as investment grade, but have subsequently been downgraded to below investment grade
[4] Includes 185 issuers in 2015 and 196 in 2014; all issuers below $25 million in par value
[5] Includes 55 issuers in 2015; all issuers below $20 million in par value

We invest in senior secured bank loans primarily to U.S. corporate borrowers, most of which have below-investment-grade ratings. The program is managed externally by third party firms specializing in this asset class. This mandate requires a minimum average credit quality of BB-/Ba3, prohibits loans rated below B/B2, and restricts exposure to any individual credit to less than 3% of the program's assets. The objectives of this program include enhancing the yield on invested assets, achieving further diversification of credit risk, and mitigating the risk of rising interest rates through the acquisition of floating rate assets. Our investments in this program totaled $1.3 billion at September 30, 2015, compared with $501 million at December 31, 2014, on an amortized cost basis.

In the first nine months of 2015, as part of our normal portfolio management and asset allocation process, we increased our allocation to higher yielding corporate bonds by approximately $650 million within the Aflac Japan portfolio and $110 million within the Aflac U.S. portfolio. Most of these securities were rated below-investment-grade at the time of purchase, but we also purchased several that are currently rated investment grade which, because of market pricing, offer yields commensurate with below-investment-grade risk profiles. The objective of this allocation is to enhance our yield on invested assets and further diversify our credit risk. All investments must have a minimum rating of low BB using our above described rating methodology and are managed by our internal credit portfolio management team.

Excluding the senior secured bank loans and certain high yield corporate bonds discussed above that were rated below investment grade when initially purchased, below-investment-grade debt and perpetual securities represented 3.0% of total debt and perpetual securities at September 30, 2015, compared with 3.4% at December 31, 2014, on an amortized cost basis. Debt and perpetual securities classified as below investment grade at September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014 were generally reported as available for sale and carried at fair value.

The following table shows the 10 largest holdings with a split rating, and includes the determination between investment grade and below investment grade based on the above methodology as of September 30, 2015.

Split-Rated Securities

(In millions)	Amortized Cost	Investment-Grade Status
Commerzbank AG (includes Dresdner Bank)	$ 214	Below Investment Grade
Deutsche Bank AG[1]	200	Below Investment Grade
DEPFA Bank PLC	167	Below Investment Grade
Telecom Italia SpA	167	Below Investment Grade
Bank of Ireland	167	Investment Grade
Energias de Portugal SA (EDP)	117	Investment Grade
Goldman Sachs Capital I	105	Investment Grade
Barclays Bank PLC [1]	103	Below Investment Grade
Petrobras International Finance Company	88	Below Investment Grade
Redes Energeticas Nacionais (REN)	88	Investment Grade

[1] *Includes perpetual security*

Split-rated securities, excluding the senior secured bank loan investments and high yield corporate bonds discussed above, totaled $2.0 billion and represented 2.1% of total debt and perpetual securities, at amortized cost, at September 30, 2015, compared with $2.2 billion and 2.3%, respectively, at December 31, 2014.

For the foreign currency and credit default swaps associated with our VIE investments for which we are the primary beneficiary, we bear the risk of foreign exchange and/or credit loss due to counterparty default even though we are not a direct counterparty to those contracts. We are a direct counterparty to the foreign currency swaps that we have on certain of our senior notes and subordinated debentures; foreign currency forwards; foreign currency options; and interest rate swaptions, therefore we are exposed to credit risk in the event of nonperformance by the counterparties in those contracts. The risk of counterparty default for our VIE and senior note and subordinated debenture swaps, foreign currency forwards and options, and swaptions is mitigated by collateral posting requirements the counterparty must meet. If collateral posting agreements are not in place, the counterparty risk associated with foreign currency forwards and foreign currency options is the risk that at expiry of the contract, the counterparty is unable to deliver the agreed upon amount of yen at the agreed upon price or delivery date, thus exposing the company to additional unhedged exposure to U.S. dollars in the Aflac Japan investment portfolio. See Note 4 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for more information.

Other-than-temporary Impairment

See Note 3 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for a discussion of our impairment policy.

Unrealized Investment Gains and Losses

The following table provides details on amortized cost, fair value and unrealized gains and losses for our investments in debt and perpetual securities by investment-grade status as of September 30, 2015.

(In millions)	Total Amortized Cost	Total Fair Value	Percentage of Total Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses
Available-for-sale securities:					
Investment-grade securities	$ 57,557	$ 62,450	60.0%	$ 6,121	$ 1,228
Below-investment-grade securities	4,546	4,822	4.6	504	228
Held-to-maturity securities:					
Investment-grade securities	33,562	36,819	35.3	3,589	332
Below-investment-grade securities	167	129	.1	0	38
Total	$ 95,832	$ 104,220	100.0%	$ 10,214	$ 1,826

The following table presents an aging of debt and perpetual securities in an unrealized loss position as of September 30, 2015.

Aging of Unrealized Losses

(In millions)	Total Amortized Cost	Total Unrealized Loss	Less than Six Months		Six Months to Less than 12 Months		12 Months or Longer	
			Amortized Cost	Unrealized Loss	Amortized Cost	Unrealized Loss	Amortized Cost	Unrealized Loss
Available-for-sale securities:								
Investment-grade securities	$ 16,408	$ 1,228	$ 9,945	$ 441	$ 2,303	$ 239	$ 4,160	$ 548
Below-investment-grade securities	1,921	228	944	54	152	27	825	147
Held-to-maturity securities:								
Investment-grade securities	4,983	332	2,790	127	667	50	1,526	155
Below-investment-grade securities	167	38	0	0	0	0	167	38
Total	$ 23,479	$ 1,826	$ 13,679	$ 622	$ 3,122	$ 316	$ 6,678	$ 888

The following table presents a distribution of unrealized losses on debt and perpetual securities by magnitude as of September 30, 2015.

Percentage Decline From Amortized Cost

(In millions)	Total Amortized Cost	Total Unrealized Loss	Less than 20%		20% to 50%		Greater than 50%	
			Amortized Cost	Unrealized Loss	Amortized Cost	Unrealized Loss	Amortized Cost	Unrealized Loss
Available-for-sale securities:								
Investment-grade securities	$ 16,408	$ 1,228	$ 15,532	$ 991	$ 876	$ 237	$ 0	$ 0
Below-investment-grade securities	1,921	228	1,625	129	289	96	7	3
Held-to-maturity securities:								
Investment-grade securities	4,983	332	4,983	332	0	0	0	0
Below-investment-grade securities	167	38	0	0	167	38	0	0
Total	$ 23,479	$ 1,826	$ 22,140	$ 1,452	$ 1,332	$ 371	$ 7	$ 3

The following table presents the 10 largest unrealized loss positions in our portfolio as of September 30, 2015.

(In millions)	Credit Rating	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Loss
Diamond Offshore Drilling Inc.	BBB	$ 144	$ 93	$ (51)
Bank of America Corp	A	379	334	(45)
DEPFA Bank PLC	BB	167	129	(38)
Noble Holding International Ltd.	BBB	104	69	(35)
Bank of Ireland	BBB	167	133	(34)
Kommunal Lanspensjonskasse (KLP) (1)	BBB	204	170	(34)
Investcorp Capital Limited	BB	358	325	(33)
AXA (1)	BBB	276	244	(32)
CFE	BBB	267	239	(28)
Transocean Inc.	BB	71	44	(27)

(1) *Includes perpetual security*

The declines in the fair values noted above were a result of changes in interest rates, movement in the yen/dollar exchange rate, and/or changes in credit spreads driven by the issuer's underlying credit quality. As we believe these issuers have the ability to continue making timely payments of principal and interest, we view these changes in fair value to be temporary and do not believe it is necessary to impair the carrying value of these securities. See the Unrealized Investment Gains and Losses section in Note 3 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussions of unrealized losses related to financial institutions, including perpetual securities, and other corporate investments.

Investment Valuation and Cash

We estimate the fair values of our securities on a monthly basis. We monitor the estimated fair values obtained from our custodian, pricing vendors and brokers for consistency from month to month, while considering current market conditions. We also periodically discuss with our custodian and pricing brokers and vendors the pricing techniques they use to monitor the consistency of their approach and periodically assess the appropriateness of the valuation level assigned to the values obtained from them. If a fair value appears unreasonable, we will re-examine the inputs and assess the reasonableness of the pricing data with the vendor. Additionally, we may compare the inputs to relevant market indices and other performance measurements. The output of this analysis is presented to the Company's Valuations and Classifications Subcommittee, or VCS. Based on the analysis provided to the VCS, the valuation is confirmed or may be revised if there is evidence of a more appropriate estimate of fair value based on available market data. We have performed verification of the inputs and calculations in any valuation models to confirm that the valuations represent reasonable estimates of fair value.

As of September 30, 2015, we had a $66 million investment in middle market loans through participation rights that are accounted for as loan receivables, recorded at amortized cost on the acquisition date, and carried at adjusted amortized cost. The adjusted amortized cost of the loan receivables reflects allowances for expected incurred losses estimated based on past events and current economic conditions as of each reporting date. See the Loans and Loan Receivables section in Note 3 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further discussion of this investment.

Cash and cash equivalents totaled $3.5 billion, or 3.4% of total investments and cash, as of September 30, 2015, compared with $4.7 billion, or 4.3%, at December 31, 2014. For a discussion of the factors affecting our cash balance, see the Operating Activities, Investing Activities and Financing Activities subsections of this MD&A.

For additional information concerning our investments, see Notes 3, 4, and 5 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Deferred Policy Acquisition Costs

The following table presents deferred policy acquisition costs by segment.

(In millions)	**September 30, 2015**	December 31, 2014	% Change
Aflac Japan	**$ 5,340**	$ 5,211	2.5% (1)
Aflac U.S.	**3,111**	3,062	1.6
Total	**$ 8,451**	$ 8,273	2.2%

(1) Aflac Japan's deferred policy acquisition costs increased 2.0% in yen during the nine months ended September 30, 2015.

See Note 1 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014 for a discussion of changes to the accounting policy for DAC which was effective January 1, 2012.

Policy Liabilities

The following table presents policy liabilities by segment.

(In millions)	**September 30, 2015**	December 31, 2014	% Change
Aflac Japan	**$ 78,143**	$ 74,575	4.8 % (1)
Aflac U.S.	**9,699**	9,356	3.7
Other	**30**	2	100.0
Intercompany eliminations(2)	**(687)**	0	(100.0)
Total	**$ 87,185**	$ 83,933	3.9 %

(1) Aflac Japan's policy liabilities increased 4.3% in yen during the nine months ended September 30, 2015.
(2) Elimination entry necessary due to recapture of a portion of policy liabilities ceded externally, as a result of the reinsurance retrocession transaction as described in Note 6 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Notes Payable

Notes payable totaled $5.0 billion at September 30, 2015, compared with $5.3 billion at December 31, 2014.

In August 2015, we paid off $300 million of 3.45% fixed-rate senior notes upon their maturity and paid off a 5.0 billion yen loan at its maturity date (a total of approximately $41 million using the exchange rate at the specific maturity date). In July 2015, we paid off a 10.0 billion yen loan at its maturity date (a total of approximately $81 million using the exchange rate at the specific maturity date).

In March 2015, the Parent Company issued two series of senior notes totaling $1.0 billion through a U.S. public debt offering. The first series, which totaled $550 million, bears interest at a fixed rate of 2.40% per annum, payable semi-annually, and has a five-year maturity. The second series, which totaled $450 million, bears interest at a fixed rate of 3.25% per annum, payable semi-annually, and has a ten-year maturity. We have entered into cross-currency swaps that convert the dollar-denominated principal and interest on the senior notes into yen-denominated obligations which results in lower nominal net interest rates on the debt. By entering into these cross-currency swaps, we economically converted our $550 million liability into a 67.0 billion yen liability and reduced the interest rate on this debt from 2.40% in dollars to .24% in yen, and we economically converted our $450 million liability into a 55.0 billion yen liability and reduced the interest rate on this debt from 3.25% in dollars to .82% in yen. In April 2015, the Parent Company used the proceeds from the March 2015 issuance of its fixed-rate senior notes to redeem all of our $850 million 8.50% fixed-rate senior notes due May 2019 and to pay a portion of the corresponding $230 million make-whole premium due to the investors of these notes.

See Note 7 of the accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information on our notes payable.

Benefit Plans

Aflac Japan and Aflac U.S. have various benefit plans. For additional information on our Japanese and U.S. plans, see Note 10 of the accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements and Note 14 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Policyholder Protection Corporation

The Japanese insurance industry has a policyholder protection system that provides funds for the policyholders of insolvent insurers. Legislation enacted regarding the framework of the Life Insurance Policyholder Protection Corporation (LIPPC) included government fiscal measures supporting the LIPPC. On December 27, 2011, Japan's FSA announced the plans to enhance the stability of the LIPPC by extending the government's fiscal support of the LIPPC through March 2017. Accordingly, the FSA submitted legislation to the Diet on January 27, 2012 to extend the government's fiscal support framework, and the legislation was approved on March 30, 2012. Effective April 2014, the annual LIPPC contribution amount for the total life industry was lowered from 40 billion yen to 33 billion yen.

Hedging Activities

Net Investment Hedge

Our primary exposure to be hedged is our investment in Aflac Japan, which is affected by changes in the yen/dollar exchange rate. To mitigate this exposure, we have taken the following courses of action. First, Aflac Japan maintains certain unhedged dollar-denominated securities, which serve as an economic currency hedge of a portion of our investment in Aflac Japan. Second, we have designated the majority of the Parent Company's yen-denominated liabilities (Samurai and Uridashi notes) as non-derivative hedging instruments and certain foreign currency forwards and options as derivative hedges of our net investment in Aflac Japan. We make our net investment hedge designation at the beginning of each quarter. If the total of the designated Parent Company non-derivative and derivatives notional is equal to or less than our net investment in Aflac Japan, the hedge is deemed to be effective, and the exchange effect on the yen-denominated liabilities and the change in estimated fair value of the derivatives are reported in the unrealized foreign currency component of other comprehensive income. We estimate that if the designated net investment hedge positions exceeded our net investment in Aflac Japan by 10 billion yen, we would report a foreign exchange gain/loss of approximately $1 million for every 1% yen weakening/strengthening in the end-of-period yen/dollar exchange rate. Our net investment hedge was effective during the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

The yen net asset figure calculated for hedging purposes differs from the yen-denominated net asset position as discussed in the Currency Risk subsection of MD&A. As disclosed in that subsection, the consolidation of the underlying assets in certain VIEs requires that we derecognize our yen-denominated investment in the VIE and recognize the underlying fixed-maturity or perpetual securities and cross-currency swaps. While these U.S. dollar investments will create foreign currency fluctuations, the combination of the U.S. dollar-denominated investment and the cross-currency swap economically creates a yen-denominated investment that qualifies for inclusion as a component of our investment in Aflac Japan. Similarly, the combination of the U.S. corporate bonds and the foreign currency forwards and options that we have entered into, as discussed in the Aflac Japan Investment subsection of MD&A, economically creates a yen-denominated investment that qualifies for inclusion as a component of our investment in Aflac Japan.

The dollar values of our yen-denominated net assets, including economic yen-denominated investments for net investment hedging purposes as discussed above, are summarized as follows (translated at end-of-period exchange rates):

(In millions)	**September 30, 2015**	December 31, 2014
Aflac Japan net assets	**$ 13,726**	$ 14,665
Aflac Japan unhedged dollar-denominated net assets	**(8,452)**	(8,672)
Consolidated yen-denominated net assets (liabilities)	**$ 5,274**	$ 5,993

For the hedge of our net investment in Aflac Japan, we have designated certain of the Parent Company's yen-denominated liabilities, certain unhedged U.S. dollar investments and foreign currency forwards and options as a hedge of our net investment in Aflac Japan. Our consolidated yen-denominated net assets position was partially hedged at $2.0 billion as of September 30, 2015, compared with $1.6 billion as of December 31, 2014.

Cash Flow Hedges

We had freestanding derivative instruments related to our consolidated VIE investments that are reported in the consolidated balance sheet at fair value within other assets and other liabilities. As of September 30, 2015, two of the freestanding swaps that are used within VIEs to hedge the risk arising from changes in foreign currency exchange rates qualified for hedge accounting.

Fair Value Hedges

We have entered into foreign currency forwards and options to mitigate the foreign exchange risk associated with new investments in U.S. dollar-denominated fixed-maturities that support yen-denominated liabilities within our Aflac Japan segment.

We have entered into interest rate swaptions to mitigate the interest rate risk associated with our U.S. dollar-denominated fixed-maturities that support yen-denominated liabilities within our Aflac Japan segment.

See Note 4 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information on our hedging activities.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of September 30, 2015, we had no material letters of credit, standby letters of credit, guarantees or standby repurchase obligations. See Note 15 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014, for information on material unconditional purchase obligations that are not recorded on our balance sheet.

CAPITAL RESOURCES AND LIQUIDITY

Aflac provides the primary sources of liquidity to the Parent Company through dividends and management fees. The following table presents the amounts provided for the nine-month periods ending September 30.

Liquidity Provided by Aflac to Parent Company

(In millions)	**2015**	2014
Dividends declared or paid by Aflac	**$ 1,431**	$ 1,473
Management fees paid by Aflac	**224**	185

The primary uses of cash by the Parent Company are shareholder dividends, the repurchase of its common stock and interest on its outstanding indebtedness. The Parent Company's sources and uses of cash are reasonably predictable and are not expected to change materially in the future. For additional information, see the Financing Activities subsection of this MD&A.

The Parent Company also accesses debt security markets to provide additional sources of capital. We filed a shelf registration statement with the SEC in May 2015 that allows us to issue an indefinite amount of senior and subordinated debt, in one or more series, from time to time until May 2018. In March 2014, we filed a shelf registration statement with Japanese regulatory authorities that allows us to issue up to 100 billion yen of yen-denominated Samurai notes in Japan through March 2016. If issued, these yen-denominated Samurai notes would not be available to U.S. persons. We believe outside sources for additional debt and equity capital, if needed, will continue to be available. For additional information, see Note 7 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

The principal sources of cash for our insurance operations are premiums and investment income. The primary uses of cash by our insurance operations are investments, policy claims, commissions, operating expenses, income taxes and payments to the Parent Company for management fees and dividends. Both the sources and uses of cash are reasonably predictable.

When making an investment decision, our first consideration is based on product needs. Our investment objectives provide for liquidity through the purchase of investment-grade debt securities. These objectives also take into account duration matching, and because of the long-term nature of our business, we have adequate time to react to changing cash flow needs.

As a result of policyholder aging, claims payments are expected to gradually increase over the life of a policy. Therefore, future policy benefit reserves are accumulated in the early years of a policy and are designed to help fund future claims payments. We expect our future cash flows from premiums and our investment portfolio to be sufficient to meet our cash needs for benefits and expenses.

In September 2015, we amended and restated our 50.0 billion yen senior unsecured revolving credit facility agreement, due to expire in March 2018, pursuant to which the Parent Company and Aflac jointly entered into a new five-year senior unsecured revolving credit facility agreement with a syndicate of financial institutions that provides for borrowings of up to 55.0 billion yen or the equivalent of yen in U.S. dollars on a revolving basis. This credit agreement provides for borrowings in Japanese yen or the equivalent of Japanese yen in U.S. dollars on a revolving basis. Borrowings bear interest at a rate per annum equal to, at our option, either (a) a eurocurrency rate determined by reference to the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) for the interest period relevant to such borrowing adjusted for certain additional costs or (b) a base rate determined by reference to the highest of (1) the federal funds effective rate plus ½ of 1%, (2) the rate of interest for such day announced by Mizuho Bank, Ltd. as its prime rate and (3) the eurocurrency rate for an interest period of one month plus 1.00%, in each case plus an applicable margin. The applicable margin ranges between .79% and 1.275% for eurocurrency rate borrowings and 0.0% and .275% for base rate borrowings, depending on the Parent Company's debt ratings as of the date of determination. In addition, the Parent Company and Aflac are required to pay a facility fee on the commitments ranging between .085% and .225%, also based on the Parent Company's debt ratings as of the date of determination. Borrowings under the amended and restated credit facility may be used for general corporate purposes, including a capital contingency plan for the operations of the Parent Company and Aflac. The amended and restated credit facility requires compliance with certain financial covenants on a quarterly basis and will expire on the earlier of (a) September 18, 2020, or (b) the date the commitments are terminated pursuant to an event of default, as such term is defined in the credit agreement. As of September 30, 2015, we did not have any borrowings outstanding under our 55.0 billion yen revolving credit agreement.

In February 2015, the Parent Company and Aflac jointly entered into an uncommitted bilateral line of credit with a third party that provides for borrowings in the amount of $50 million. Borrowings will bear interest at the rate quoted by the bank and agreed upon at the time of making such loan and will have a three-month maturity period. There are no related facility fees, upfront expenses or financial covenant requirements. Borrowings under this credit agreement may be used for general corporate purposes. As of September 30, 2015, we did not have any borrowings outstanding under our $50 million credit agreement.

The Parent Company and Aflac have an uncommitted bilateral line of credit that provides for borrowings in the amount of $100 million. Borrowings will bear interest at the rate quoted by the bank and agreed upon at the time of making such loan and will have a three-month maturity period. There are no related facility fees, upfront expenses or financial covenant requirements. Borrowings under this credit agreement may be used for general corporate purposes. Borrowings under the financing agreement will mature no later than three months after the last drawdown date of October 15, 2015. As of September 30, 2015, we did not have any borrowings outstanding under our $100 million credit agreement.

Our financial statements convey our financing arrangements during the periods presented. We have not engaged in material intra-period short-term financings during the periods presented that are not otherwise reported in our balance sheet. We were in compliance with all of the covenants of our notes payable and lines of credit at September 30, 2015. We have not entered into transactions involving the transfer of financial assets with an obligation to repurchase financial assets that have been accounted for as a sale under applicable accounting standards, including securities lending transactions. See Notes 3 and 4 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements and Note 1 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014, for more information on our securities lending and derivatives activities. With the exception of disclosed activities in those referenced footnotes, we do not have a known trend, demand, commitment, event or uncertainty that would reasonably result in our liquidity increasing or decreasing by a material amount. Our cash and cash equivalents include unrestricted cash on hand, money market instruments, and other debt instruments with a maturity of 90 days or less when purchased, all of which has minimal market, settlement or other risk exposure.

Consolidated Cash Flows

We translate cash flows for Aflac Japan's yen-denominated items into U.S. dollars using weighted-average exchange rates. In periods when the yen weakens, translating yen into dollars causes fewer dollars to be reported. When the yen strengthens, translating yen into dollars causes more dollars to be reported.

The following table summarizes consolidated cash flows by activity for the nine-month periods ended September 30.

(In millions)	2015	2014
Operating activities	**$ 4,770**	$ 4,577
Investing activities	**(4,083)**	(4,144)
Financing activities	**(1,826)**	(322)
Exchange effect on cash and cash equivalents	**1**	12
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	**$ (1,138)**	$ 123

Operating Activities

The following table summarizes operating cash flows by source for the nine-month periods ended September 30.

(In millions)	2015	2014
Aflac Japan	**$ 3,769**	$ 4,042
Aflac U.S. and other operations	**1,001**	535
Total	**$ 4,770**	$ 4,577

Investing Activities

Operating cash flow is primarily used to purchase debt securities to meet future policy obligations. The following table summarizes investing cash flows by source for the nine-month periods ended September 30.

(In millions)	2015	2014
Aflac Japan	**$ (3,479)**	$ (4,072)
Aflac U.S. and other operations	**(604)**	(72)
Total	**$ (4,083)**	$ (4,144)

Prudent portfolio management dictates that we attempt to match the duration of our assets with the duration of our liabilities. Currently, when our fixed-maturity securities and perpetual securities mature, the proceeds may be reinvested at a yield below that required for the accretion of policy benefit liabilities on policies issued in earlier years. However, the long-term nature of our business and our strong cash flows provide us with the ability to minimize the effect of mismatched durations and/or yields identified by various asset adequacy analyses. When needed or when market opportunities arise, we dispose of selected fixed-maturity and perpetual securities that are available for sale to improve the duration matching of our assets and liabilities, improve future investment yields, and/or re-balance our portfolio. As a result, dispositions before maturity can vary significantly from year to year. Dispositions before maturity were approximately 3% of the year-to-date average investment portfolio of fixed maturities and perpetual securities available for sale during the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Financing Activities

Consolidated cash used by financing activities was $1.8 billion in the first nine months of 2015, compared with consolidated cash used by financing activities of $322 million for the same period of 2014.

In August 2015, we paid off $300 million of 3.45% fixed-rate senior notes upon their maturity. In August 2015, we paid off a 5.0 billion yen loan at its maturity date (a total of approximately $41 million using the exchange rate at the maturity date). In July 2015, we paid off a 10.0 billion yen loan at its maturity date (a total of approximately $81 million using the exchange rate at the maturity date).

In March 2015, the Parent Company issued two series of senior notes totaling $1.0 billion through a U.S. public debt offering. The first series, which totaled $550 million, bears interest at a fixed rate of 2.40% per annum, payable semi-annually, and has a five-year maturity. The second series, which totaled $450 million, bears interest at a fixed rate of 3.25% per annum, payable semi-annually, and has a ten-year maturity. We have entered into cross-currency swaps that convert the dollar-denominated principal and interest on the senior notes into yen-denominated obligations which results in lower nominal net interest rates on the debt. By entering into these cross-currency swaps, we economically converted our $550 million liability into a 67.0 billion yen liability and reduced the interest rate on this debt from 2.40% in dollars to .24% in yen, and we economically converted our $450 million liability into a 55.0 billion yen liability and reduced the interest rate on this debt from 3.25% in dollars to .82% in yen. In April 2015, the Parent Company used $1.0 billion of fixed-rate senior notes that were issued in March 2015 to redeem all of our $850 million 8.50% fixed-rate senior notes due May 2019 and to pay a portion of the corresponding $230 million make-whole premium due to the investors of these notes. We consider the make-whole payment a non-recurring transaction and therefore excluded this charge from operating earnings.

Cash returned to shareholders through dividends and treasury stock purchases was $1.6 billion during the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015, compared with $1.2 billion during the nine-month period ended September 30, 2014.

We were in compliance with all of the covenants of our notes payable and lines of credit at September 30, 2015.

The following tables present a summary of treasury stock activity during the nine-month periods ended September 30.

Treasury Stock Purchased

(In millions of dollars and thousands of shares)	**2015**	2014
Treasury stock purchases	**$ 1,081**	$ 698
Number of shares purchased:		
Open market	**17,421**	11,070
Other	**241**	132
Total shares purchased	**17,662**	11,202

Treasury Stock Issued

(In millions of dollars and thousands of shares)	**2015**	2014
Stock issued from treasury:		
Cash financing	**$ 28**	$ 25
Noncash financing	**49**	49
Total stock issued from treasury	**$ 77**	$ 74
Number of shares issued	**1,407**	1,367

During the first nine months of 2015, we repurchased 17.4 million shares of our common stock for $1.1 billion as part of our share repurchase program. In August 2015, Aflac's board of directors authorized the purchase of an additional 40 million shares of its common stock. As of September 30, 2015, a remaining balance of 52.1 million shares of our common stock was available for purchase under share repurchase authorizations by our board of directors. We currently plan to repurchase $1.3 billion of our common stock in 2015.

Cash dividends paid to shareholders were $.39 per share in the third quarter of 2015, compared with $.37 per share in the third quarter of 2014. The following table presents the dividend activity for the nine-month periods ended September 30.

(In millions)	**2015**	2014
Dividends paid in cash	**$ 489**	$ 486
Dividends through issuance of treasury shares	**19**	19
Total dividends to shareholders	**$ 508**	$ 505

In October 2015, the board of directors declared the fourth quarter cash dividend of $.41 per share, an increase of 5.1% compared with the same period in 2014. The dividend is payable on December 1, 2015, to shareholders of record at the close of business on November 18, 2015.

Regulatory Restrictions

Aflac is domiciled in Nebraska and is subject to its regulations. A life insurance company's statutory capital and surplus is determined according to rules prescribed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), as modified by the insurance department in the insurance company's state of domicile. Statutory accounting rules are different from U.S. GAAP and are intended to emphasize policyholder protection and company solvency. The continued long-term growth of our business may require increases in the statutory capital and surplus of our insurance operations. Aflac's insurance operations may secure additional statutory capital through various sources, such as internally generated statutory earnings or equity contributions by the Parent Company from funds generated through debt or equity offerings. The NAIC's risk-based capital (RBC) formula is used by insurance regulators to help identify inadequately capitalized insurance companies. The RBC formula quantifies insurance risk, business risk, asset risk and interest rate risk by weighing the types and mixtures of risks inherent in the insurer's operations. As of September 30, 2015, Aflac's RBC ratio remains high and reflects a strong capital and surplus position. The maximum amount of dividends that can be paid to the Parent Company by Aflac without prior approval of Nebraska's director of insurance is the greater of the net income from operations, which excludes net realized investment gains, for the previous year determined under statutory accounting principles, or 10% of statutory capital and surplus as of the previous year-end. Dividends declared by Aflac during 2015 in excess of $2.4 billion would require such approval.

In addition to limitations and restrictions imposed by U.S. insurance regulators, Japan's FSA may not allow profit repatriations from Aflac Japan if the transfers would cause Aflac Japan to lack sufficient financial strength for the protection of policyholders. The FSA maintains its own solvency standard which is quantified through the solvency margin ratio (SMR). Aflac Japan's SMR is sensitive to interest rate and foreign exchange rate changes, therefore we continue to evaluate alternatives for reducing this sensitivity. In the event of a rapid change in interest rates, we have a senior unsecured revolving credit facility in the amount of 55 billion yen as a capital contingency plan. We have already undertaken various measures to mitigate the sensitivity of Aflac Japan's SMR. For example, we employ policy reserve matching (PRM) investment strategies, which is a Japan-specific accounting treatment that reduces SMR interest rate sensitivity since PRM-designated investments are carried at amortized cost consistent with corresponding liabilities. For U.S. GAAP, PRM investments are categorized as available-for-sale. In the first quarter of 2015, Aflac Japan entered into an additional quota share arrangement to cede a portion of hospital benefits of one of our closed products. Under this coinsurance indemnity type of reinsurance, Aflac Japan released approximately 130 billion yen of FSA reserves. (See Notes 3 and 4 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014 for additional information on our investment strategies and hedging activities.) As of September 30, 2015, Aflac Japan's SMR remains high and reflects a strong capital position.

Payments are made from Aflac Japan to the Parent Company for management fees and to Aflac U.S. for allocated expenses and remittances of earnings. The following table details Aflac Japan remittances for the nine-month periods ended September 30.

Aflac Japan Remittances

(In millions of dollars and billions of yen)	**2015**	2014
Aflac Japan management fees paid to Parent Company	**$ 36**	$ 31
Expenses allocated to Aflac Japan (in dollars)	**78**	57
Aflac Japan profit remittances to Aflac U.S. (in dollars)	**1,436**	1,288
Aflac Japan profit remittances to Aflac U.S. (in yen)	**174.0**	131.4

We entered into foreign exchange forwards as part of an economic hedge on foreign exchange risk on 30 billion yen of profit repatriation received in February 2015, resulting in $7 million of additional funds received when the yen was exchanged into dollars. In July 2015, Aflac Japan remitted profits to Aflac U.S. of 119.0 billion yen, or $979 million. We had entered into foreign exchange forwards as part of a hedging strategy on 102.5 billion yen of the July 2015 repatriation, resulting in $60 million of additional funds received when the yen was exchanged into dollars. We entered into foreign exchange forwards as part of an economic hedge on foreign exchange risk on 25.0 billion yen of profit repatriation received in September 2015, which reduced the amount of funds received by $1 million when the yen was exchanged into dollars. In the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015, we have repatriated a total of 174 billion yen, and we believe we are positioned to meet or exceed our full year 2015 repatriation target of approximately 200 billion yen.

For additional information on regulatory restrictions on dividends, profit repatriations and other transfers, see Note 13 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements and the Regulatory Restrictions subsection of MD&A, both in our annual report to shareholders for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Other

For information regarding commitments and contingent liabilities, see Note 11 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

The information required by Item 3 is incorporated by reference from the Market Risks of Financial Instruments subsection of MD&A in Part I, Item 2 of this report.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

The Company's management, with the participation of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act")) as of the end of the period covered by this quarterly report (the "Evaluation Date"). Based on such evaluation, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that, as of the Evaluation Date, the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There have not been any changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) during the third fiscal quarter of 2015 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

During the first nine months of 2015, we repurchased shares of Aflac common stock as follows:

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
January 1 - January 31	3,326,084	$ 58.64	3,325,300	26,224,824
February 1 - February 28	2,457,596	61.41	2,301,000	23,923,824
March 1 - March 31	4,205,408	62.82	4,201,000	19,722,824
April 1 - April 30	325,000	63.74	325,000	19,397,824
May 1 - May 31	1,990,000	63.07	1,990,000	17,407,824
June 1 - June 30	1,398,960	62.44	1,391,700	16,016,124
July 1 - July 31	110,745	64.15	110,000	15,906,124
August 1 - August 31	2,368,500	61.24	2,368,500	53,537,624
September 1 - September 30	1,410,706	57.52	1,408,300	52,129,324
Total	17,592,999 [2]	$ 61.22	17,420,800	52,129,324 [1]

[1] The total remaining shares available for purchase at September 30, 2015, consisted of: (1) 12,129,324 shares related to a share repurchase authorization by the board of directors announced in 2013 and (2) 40,000,000 shares related to a share repurchase authorization by the board of directors announced in August 2015.

[2] During the first nine months of 2015, 172,199 shares were purchased in connection with income tax withholding obligations related to the vesting of restricted-share-based awards during the period.

Item 6. Exhibits

(a) EXHIBIT INDEX

3.0	-	Articles of Incorporation, as amended – incorporated by reference from Form 10-Q for June 30, 2008, Exhibit 3.0 (File No. 001-07434).
3.1	-	Bylaws of the Corporation, as amended – incorporated by reference from Form 10-K for December 31, 2014, Exhibit 3.1 (File No. 001-07434).
4.0	-	There are no instruments with respect to long-term debt not being registered in which the total amount of securities authorized exceeds 10% of the total assets of Aflac Incorporated and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis. We agree to furnish a copy of any long-term debt instrument to the Securities and Exchange Commission upon request.
4.1	-	Indenture, dated as of May 21, 2009, between Aflac Incorporated and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee – incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated May 21, 2009, Exhibit 4.1 (File No. 001-07434).
4.2	-	First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of May 21, 2009, between Aflac Incorporated and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (including the form of 8.500% Senior Note due 2019) – incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated May 21, 2009, Exhibit 4.2 (File No. 001-07434).
4.3	-	Second Supplemental Indenture, dated as of December 17, 2009, between Aflac Incorporated and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (including the form of 6.900% Senior Note due 2039) – incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated December 14, 2009, Exhibit 4.1 (File No. 001-07434).
4.4	-	Third Supplemental Indenture, dated as of August 9, 2010, between Aflac Incorporated and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (including the form of 6.45% Senior Note due 2040) - incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated August 4, 2010, Exhibit 4.1 (File No. 001-07434).
4.5	-	Fourth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of August 9, 2010, between Aflac Incorporated and The Bank of New York and Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (including the form of 3.45% Senior Note due 2015) – incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated August 4, 2010, Exhibit 4.2 (File No. 001-07434).
4.6	-	Fifth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of February 10, 2012, between Aflac Incorporated and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (including the form of 2.65% Senior Note due 2017) - incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated February 8, 2012, Exhibit 4.1 (File No. 001-07434).
4.7	-	Sixth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of February 10, 2012, between Aflac Incorporated and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (including the form of 4.00% Senior Note due 2022) - incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated February 8, 2012, Exhibit 4.2 (File No. 001-07434).
4.8	-	Seventh Supplemental Indenture, dated as of July 31, 2012, between Aflac Incorporated and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (including the form of 2.65% Senior Note due 2017) - incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated July 27, 2012, Exhibit 4.1 (File No. 001-07434).
4.9	-	Eighth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of June 10, 2013, between Aflac Incorporated and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (including the form of 3.625% Senior Note due 2023) - incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated June 10, 2013, Exhibit 4.1 (File No. 001-07434).
4.10	-	Ninth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of November 7, 2014, between Aflac Incorporated and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (including the form of 3.625% Senior Note due 2024) - incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated November 4, 2014, Exhibit 4.1 (File No. 001-07434).
4.11	-	Tenth Supplemental Indenture, dated as of March 12, 2015, between Aflac Incorporated and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (including the form of 2.40% Senior Note due 2020) - incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated March 9, 2015, Exhibit 4.1 (File No. 001-07434).
4.12	-	Eleventh Supplemental Indenture, dated as of March 12, 2015, between Aflac Incorporated and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (including the form of 3.25% Senior Note due 2025) - incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated March 9, 2015, Exhibit 4.2 (File No. 001-07434).
4.13	-	Subordinated Indenture, dated as of September 26, 2012, between Aflac Incorporated and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee - incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated September 26, 2012, Exhibit 4.1 (File No. 001-07434).

4.14	-	First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of September 26, 2012, between Aflac Incorporated and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., as trustee (including the form of 5.50% Subordinated Debenture due 2052) - incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated September 26, 2012, Exhibit 4.2 (File No. 001-07434).
10.0*	-	American Family Corporation Retirement Plan for Senior Officers, as amended and restated October 1, 1989 – incorporated by reference from 1993 Form 10-K, Exhibit 10.2 (File No. 001-07434).
10.1*	-	Amendment to American Family Corporation Retirement Plan for Senior Officers, dated December 8, 2008 – incorporated by reference from 2008 Form 10-K, Exhibit 10.1 (File No. 001-07434).
10.2*	-	Aflac Incorporated Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan, as amended and restated January 1, 2009 – incorporated by reference from 2008 Form 10-K, Exhibit 10.5 (File No. 001-07434).
10.3*	-	First Amendment to the Aflac Incorporated Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan, as amended and restated January 1, 2009 – incorporated by reference from 2012 Form 10-K, Exhibit 10.3 (File No. 001-07434).
10.4*	-	Second Amendment to the Aflac Incorporated Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan, as amended and restated January 1, 2009 - incorporated by reference from 2014 Form 10-K, Exhibit 10.4 (File No. 001-07434).
10.5*	-	Aflac Incorporated Executive Deferred Compensation Plan, as amended and restated, effective September 1, 2015.
10.6*	-	Aflac Incorporated 2013 Management Incentive Plan - incorporated by reference from the 2012 Proxy Statement, Appendix B (File No. 001-07434).
10.7*	-	1999 Aflac Associate Stock Bonus Plan, amended and restated as of January 1, 2013 - incorporated by reference from Form 10-Q for March 31, 2013, Exhibit 10.10 (File No. 001-07434).
10.8*	-	Aflac Incorporated 1997 Stock Option Plan – incorporated by reference from the 1997 Shareholders' Proxy Statement, Appendix B (File No. 001-07434).
10.9*	-	Form of Officer Stock Option Agreement (Non-Qualifying Stock Option) under the Aflac Incorporated 1997 Stock Option Plan – incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated January 28, 2005, Exhibit 10.5 (File No. 001-07434).
10.10*	-	Form of Officer Stock Option Agreement (Incentive Stock Option) under the Aflac Incorporated 1997 Stock Option Plan – incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated January 28, 2005, Exhibit 10.6 (File No. 001-07434).
10.11*	-	Notice of grant of stock options and stock option agreement to officers under the Aflac Incorporated 1997 Stock Option Plan – incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated January 28, 2005, Exhibit 10.7 (File No. 001-07434).
10.12*	-	2004 Aflac Incorporated Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated March 14, 2012 – incorporated by reference from the 2012 Proxy Statement, Appendix A (File No. 001-07434).
10.13*	-	Form of Non-Employee Director Stock Option Agreement (NQSO) under the 2004 Aflac Incorporated Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated March 14, 2012 – incorporated by reference from Form 10-Q for June 30, 2013, Exhibit 10.16 (File No. 001-07434).
10.14*	-	Notice of grant of stock options to non-employee director under the 2004 Aflac Incorporated Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated March 14, 2012 – incorporated by reference from Form 10-Q for June 30, 2013, Exhibit 10.17 (File No. 001-07434).
10.15*	-	Form of Non-Employee Director Restricted Stock Award Agreement under the 2004 Aflac Incorporated Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated March 14, 2012 – incorporated by reference from Form 10-Q for June 30, 2013, Exhibit 10.18 (File No. 001-07434).
10.16*	-	Notice of restricted stock award to non-employee director under the 2004 Aflac Incorporated Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated March 14, 2012 – incorporated by reference from Form 10-Q for June 30, 2013, Exhibit 10.19 (File No. 001-07434).
10.17*	-	U.S. Form of Officer Restricted Stock Award Agreement under the 2004 Aflac Incorporated Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated March 14, 2012 – incorporated by reference from Form 10-Q for June 30, 2013, Exhibit 10.20 (File No. 001-07434).
10.18*	-	Japan Form of Officer Restricted Stock Award Agreement under the 2004 Aflac Incorporated Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated March 14, 2012 – incorporated by reference from Form 10-Q for June 30, 2013, Exhibit 10.21 (File No. 001-07434).
10.19*	-	Notice of time based restricted stock award to officers under the 2004 Aflac Incorporated Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated March 14, 2012 – incorporated by reference from Form 10-Q for June 30, 2013, Exhibit 10.22 (File No. 001-07434).
10.20*	-	Notice of performance based restricted stock award to officers under the 2004 Aflac Incorporated Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated March 14, 2012 – incorporated by reference from Form 10-Q for June 30, 2013, Exhibit 10.23 (File No. 001-07434).

10.21*	-	U.S. Form of Officer Stock Option Agreement (Non-Qualifying Stock Option) under the 2004 Aflac Incorporated Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated March 14, 2012 – incorporated by reference from Form 10-Q for June 30, 2013, Exhibit 10.24 (File No. 001-07434).
10.22*	-	Japan Form of Officer Stock Option Agreement (Non-Qualifying Stock Option) under the 2004 Aflac Incorporated Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated March 14, 2012 – incorporated by reference from Form 10-Q for June 30, 2013, Exhibit 10.25 (File No. 001-07434).
10.23*	-	U.S. Form of Officer Stock Option Agreement (Incentive Stock Option) under the 2004 Aflac Incorporated Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated March 14, 2012 – incorporated by reference from Form 10-Q for June 30, 2013, Exhibit 10.26 (File No. 001-07434).
10.24*	-	Japan Form of Officer Stock Option Agreement (Incentive Stock Option) under the 2004 Aflac Incorporated Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated March 14, 2012 – incorporated by reference from Form 10-Q for June 30, 2013, Exhibit 10.27 (File No. 001-07434).
10.25*	-	U.S. Notice of grant of stock options to officers under the 2004 Aflac Incorporated Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated March 14, 2012 – incorporated by reference from Form 10-Q for June 30, 2013, Exhibit 10.28 (File No. 001-07434).
10.26*	-	Japan Notice of grant of stock options to officers under the 2004 Aflac Incorporated Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated March 14, 2012 – incorporated by reference from Form 10-Q for June 30, 2013, Exhibit 10.29 (File No. 001-07434).
10.27*	-	Aflac Incorporated Retirement Plan for Directors Emeritus, as amended and restated, dated February 9, 2010 – incorporated by reference from 2009 Form 10-K, Exhibit 10.26 (File No. 001-07434).
10.28*	-	Amendment to Aflac Incorporated Retirement Plan for Directors Emeritus, as amended and restated, dated August 10, 2010 – incorporated by reference from Form 10-Q for September 30, 2010, Exhibit 10.27 (File No. 001-07434).
10.29*	-	Aflac Incorporated Employment Agreement with Daniel P. Amos, as amended and restated, dated August 20, 2015.
10.30*	-	Aflac Incorporated Employment Agreement with Kriss Cloninger III, as amended and restated, dated August 20, 2015.
10.31*	-	Aflac Incorporated Employment Agreement with Paul S. Amos II, as amended and restated, dated August 19, 2015.
10.32*	-	Aflac Incorporated Employment Agreement with Eric Kirsch, as amended and restated, dated August 21, 2015.
10.33*	-	Aflac Incorporated Employment Agreement with Frederick J. Crawford, effective June 30, 2015 – incorporated by reference from Form 8-K dated June 24, 2015, Exhibit 10.1 (File No. 001-07434).
11	-	Statement regarding the computation of per-share earnings for the Registrant.
12	-	Statement regarding the computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the Registrant.
15	-	Letter from KPMG LLP regarding unaudited interim financial information.
31.1	-	Certification of CEO dated November 3, 2015, required by Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
31.2	-	Certification of CFO dated November 3, 2015, required by Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
32	-	Certification of CEO and CFO dated November 3, 2015, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101.INS	-	XBRL Instance Document.(1)
101.SCH	-	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema.
101.CAL	-	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase.
101.DEF	-	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase.
101.LAB	-	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase.
101.PRE	-	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase.

(1) Includes the following materials contained in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2015, formatted in XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Consolidated Statements of Earnings, (ii) Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss), (iii) Consolidated Balance Sheets, (iv) Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity, (v) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, (vi) Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

* *Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement required to be filed as an exhibit pursuant to Item 6 of this report*

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Aflac Incorporated

November 3, 2015	/s/ ***Frederick J. Crawford***
	(Frederick J. Crawford) Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
November 3, 2015	/s/ ***June Howard***
	(June Howard) Senior Vice President, Financial Services; Chief Accounting Officer