

MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO INC  
Form 11-K  
June 26, 2015

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 11-K

(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014

OR

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

For transition period from to

Commission File No.: 1-14130

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

MSC Industrial Direct 401(k) Plan

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc.

75 Maxess Road, Melville, New York 11747

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MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT 401(K) PLAN

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Plan Administrator of the

MSC Industrial Direct 401(k) Plan

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of MSC Industrial Direct 401(k) Plan as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2014. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of MSC Industrial Direct 401(k) Plan at December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2014, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

The accompanying supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2014, has been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of MSC Industrial Direct 401(k) Plan's financial statements. The information in the supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the information reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental schedule. In forming our opinion on the information, we evaluated whether such information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Jericho, New York  
June 26, 2015

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## STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

	December 31, 2014	2013
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,898	\$ 813
Investments, at fair value		
Mutual funds	222,981,807	212,141,486
Common and collective trusts	45,002,572	29,434,506
MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. Common Stock	10,200,646	8,821,567
Self-directed brokerage	1,505,797	1,329,896
Total investments, at fair value	279,690,822	251,727,455
Receivables:		
Employer contributions	50	-
Participant contributions	100	-
Notes receivable from participants	10,135,478	8,757,032
Total receivables	10,135,628	8,757,032
Net assets available for benefits, reflecting investments at fair value	289,829,348	260,485,300
Adjustment from fair value to contract value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts	(449,224)	(411,345)
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 289,380,124	\$ 260,073,955
See accompanying notes to the financial statements.		





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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

	Year Ended December 31, 2014
Net investment income:	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 1,057,104
Dividend income	16,496,018
Net investment income	17,553,122
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	398,574
Contributions:	
Participants	18,930,497
Employer, net of forfeitures	6,313,459
Rollovers	3,687,315
Total contributions	28,931,271
Deductions from net assets attributed to:	
Benefits paid to participants	17,535,492
Administration fees and other	41,306
Total deductions	17,576,798
Net increase in net assets	29,306,169
Net assets available for benefits:	
Beginning of year	260,073,955

End of year \$ 289,380,124  
See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

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MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT 401(K) PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013

## 1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of the MSC Industrial Direct 401(k) Plan, as amended (the “Plan”), provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan’s provisions.

### General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan, sponsored by MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. (the “Company”), covering all Employees (as defined in the Plan), including Employees of participating subsidiaries, who meet certain age and service requirements of the Plan. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”). The MSC Industrial Direct 401(k) Administrative Committee is responsible for the administration of the Plan. T. Rowe Price Trust Company is the Plan Trustee and T. Rowe Price Retirement Plan Services, Inc. is the recordkeeper for the Plan.

### Eligibility

An Employee is eligible for participation in the Plan on the first day of the month following one full calendar month of service, or anytime thereafter, and must be at least eighteen years of age. Both full-time and part-time employees are eligible to join the Plan.

## Contributions and Vesting

The Plan is funded by employee and employer contributions. Participants may elect to contribute between 1% and 40% of their annual compensation, as defined in the Plan. The maximum annual contribution a participant could make into the Plan, as established by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), was \$17,500 during 2014.

In addition, the Plan permits catch-up contributions of \$5,500 by participants who have attained age 50 by December 31 of each year. Participants may also roll over amounts representing distributions from other qualifying plans. Participants are immediately vested in their pre-tax and rollover contributions.

Participants direct the investment of their contributions, employer discretionary matching contributions and employer discretionary profit sharing contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. Participants may currently direct contributions into 17 mutual funds, 2 common collective trusts, and a self-directed brokerage account.

Additionally, participants may direct contributions into the purchase of the Company's Class A Common Stock. Amounts contributed to the Plan after October 1, 2012 with respect to which a participant has not directed the investment are invested in a "qualified default investment alternative" which is the T. Rowe Price Balanced Fund, as permitted under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, as amended.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013 (continued)

The Employer (as defined in the Plan) may make a discretionary matching contribution to eligible participants. The Employer made, for 2014, a discretionary matching contribution of 50% of the first 6% of a participant's pre-tax contribution. The Employer may also make a discretionary profit sharing contribution to eligible participants to be allocated in the same ratio as each eligible participant's compensation bears to the total of such compensation of all eligible participants. No discretionary profit sharing contributions were made in 2014. In general, participants must have completed 1,000 hours of service during a calendar year and be employed on the last day of the Plan year to be eligible to share in the allocation of any profit sharing employer contributions. Upon termination of the Plan, 100% vesting occurs.

Participants vest in Employer contributions as follows:

Completed Years of Service	Vested Percentage
Less than 2	0 %
2 but less than 3	20 %
3 but less than 4	40 %
4 but less than 5	60 %
5 but less than 6	80 %
6 or more	100 %

Participant Accounts

Individual accounts are maintained for each participant in the Plan. Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions and allocations of (a) the Company's contributions, if any, and (b) earnings and losses from applicable investment performance, and, if not paid by the Employer, administrative expenses.

#### Forfeited Accounts

Forfeited balances of terminated participants' non-vested employer contributions are used to pay administrative expenses of the Plan or to reduce future employer discretionary matching contributions and future employer discretionary profit sharing contributions. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, the amounts of unallocated forfeitures were \$27,694 and \$13,274, respectively. During the year ended December 31, 2014, forfeited non-vested accounts of \$160,623 were used to reduce employer discretionary matching contribution obligations.

#### Notes Receivable from Participants

The Plan has a loan provision which allows participants to borrow from the Plan. The minimum loan is \$1,000, and the maximum loan is generally 50% of a participant's total vested account balance, not to exceed \$50,000. The interest rate is established by the prime rate plus one percent. Interest rates on outstanding loans as of each of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 ranged from 3.25% to 10.50%, respectively. Interest paid by a participant on an outstanding loan is paid directly into the participant's account. Principal and interest is paid ratably through payroll deductions. The repayment period cannot exceed five years unless the loan is used to acquire a participant's principal residence, in which case the repayment period cannot exceed ten years (except for certain of such loans that were rolled over into the Plan from another tax-qualified plan). A participant can have a maximum of two loans outstanding from the Plan at any given time.

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013 (continued)

#### In-Service Withdrawals

The Plan permits a participant to withdraw participant pre-tax, vested discretionary matching and vested discretionary profit sharing contributions to the extent necessary to satisfy the participant's hardship (as defined in the Plan). In addition, the Plan permits participants who have attained age 59-1/2 to make in-service withdrawals from the Plan.

#### Payment of Benefits

On termination of service due to death, disability, retirement or for any other reason, if the participant's vested balance exceeds \$5,000, a participant or, upon death, a participant's beneficiary may elect to receive a lump-sum distribution equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account or installments over a fixed period, a direct rollover into an Individual Retirement Account ("IRA") or another "eligible retirement plan" (as defined in the Plan), or may elect to defer distribution. If a participant's vested account balance is less than or equal to \$5,000, then the participant's vested account balance will be paid in a lump-sum distribution. If the amount of such mandatory distribution is more than \$1,000 and the participant does not elect to have such distribution directly rolled over into an IRA or other eligible retirement plan or paid directly to him or her, such amount will be directly rolled over into an IRA established by the Plan administrator in the participant's name.

#### Plan Expenses

Expenses for recordkeeping, investment and other costs are generally paid by the Plan. Fees for accountants, counsel, and other specialists are generally paid by the Company. Certain administrative functions are performed by officers or employees of the Company. No such officer or employee receives compensation from the Plan.

Amendment

In connection with the acquisition of Class C Solutions Group (formerly Barnes Distribution North America) on April 22, 2013, the Plan was amended effective as of such date to provide certain former employees of Class C Solutions Group who were hired by the Company in connection with the acquisition with eligibility and vesting service credit for prior service with Class C Solutions Group and its affiliates and predecessors.

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MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT 401(K) PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013 (continued)

## 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### Basis of Accounting

The accounting records and financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

### Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements and accompanying notes and supplemental schedule. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

### Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan investment options include various investment securities. Market values of investments may decline for a number of reasons, including changes in prevailing market conditions and interest rates, increases in defaults, and credit rating downgrades. Due to the level of risk associated with investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment balances will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

The Plan's exposure to a concentration of credit risk is limited by the diversification of investments across the participant-directed fund elections. Additionally, the investments with each participant-directed fund election are further diversified into varied financial instruments, with the exception of investments in the Company's Class A Common Stock and potentially the individual investments in the self-directed brokerage accounts under the Plan. Investment decisions are made, and the resulting risks are borne, exclusively by the Plan participant who directs such decisions.

As of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, approximately 4% and 3%, respectively, of the Plan's net assets available for benefits were invested in the Class A Common Stock of MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. (quoted market prices of \$81.25 and \$80.87 per share, respectively). As of June 19, 2015, the market price of the MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. Class A Common Stock was \$69.93 per share.

#### Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

The Plan's investments are stated at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received in an asset sale or would be paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. All of the Plan's investments other than the T. Rowe Price Stable Value Common Trust Fund (the "Stable Value Fund") and the T. Rowe Price Equity Income Trust (the "Equity Income Trust") are valued at quoted market prices, which represent the net asset value of shares held by the Plan at year end.

Investment contracts held by a defined-contribution plan or by a fund within a defined-contribution plan are required to be reported at fair value. However, contract value, which is equal to contributions plus earnings less withdrawals and expenses, is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets available for benefits of a defined-contribution plan attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because contract value is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan.

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## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013 (continued)

The Plan invests in investment contracts through its participation in the Stable Value Fund, a common collective trust. The Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits present the fair value of the investment in the Stable Value Fund, as well as the adjustment of the investment in the Stable Value Fund from fair value to contract value. The fair value of the Plan's interest in the Stable Value Fund is based on information reported by the issuer of the common collective trust at year end. The fair value of the Plan's interest in the Equity Income Trust is based on the net asset value per fund share, derived from the quoted prices in active markets of the underlying securities. The Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits is prepared on a contract value basis.

Purchases and sales of investments are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on an accrual basis. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date.

### Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Delinquent participant loans are recorded as distributions based on the terms of the Plan document.

### Benefit Payments

Benefits are recorded upon distribution. As of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, there was approximately \$180,309 and \$0, respectively, allocated to accounts of participants who have elected to withdraw from the Plan but have not yet been paid at each of these dates.

New Accounting Pronouncement

In May 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) 2015-07, Disclosures for Investments in Certain Entities that Calculate Net Asset Value Per Share (or its Equivalent) (ASU 2015-07). ASU 2015-07 removes the requirement to categorize within the fair value hierarchy investments for which fair values are estimated using the net asset value practical expedient provided by Accounting Standards Codification 820, Fair Value Measurement. Disclosures about investments in certain entities that calculate net asset value per share are limited under ASU 2015-07 to those investments for which the entity has elected to estimate the fair value using the net asset value practical expedient. ASU 2015-07 is effective for entities (other than public business entities) for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016, with retrospective application to all periods presented. Early application is permitted. Management is evaluating the impact of adopting ASU 2015-07 to the plan and does not expect the impact to be material.

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MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT 401(K) PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013 (continued)

### 3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

In accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, each of the Plan's fair value measurements is categorized into one of the following three levels based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. The three levels are defined as follows:

Level 1 – Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2 – Inputs to the valuation methodology include:

- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability; and
- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 – Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

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

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013 (continued)

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for each major class of assets measured at fair value.

**Mutual Funds:** Valued at the closing price reported on active markets as derived from the net asset value (“NAV”) of shares held by the Plan at year end and are classified as Level 1 investments. There are no restrictions as to the redemption of these investments nor does the Plan have any contractual obligations to further invest in any of the individual mutual funds.

**Common Collective Trusts:** The Stable Value Fund is composed of fully benefit-responsive investment contracts and is classified as a Level 2 investment. These investment contracts are valued at fair value with an adjustment to contract value. The Stable Value Fund is valued at net asset value and generally not available in an exchange and active market and generally must be held to maturity. The Equity Income Trust is composed primarily of investments in common stock of established companies with an above-average dividend yield and is classified as a Level 2 investment. The Equity Income Trust is valued at NAV and is not available in an exchange and active market.

There are no imposed redemption restrictions nor does the Plan have any contractual obligations to further invest in any of the individual trusts.

**MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. Class A Common Stock:** Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded and are classified as a Level 1 investment.

**Self-directed Brokerage:** Valued based on the fair market value of the underlying stocks and mutual funds, which are as of the closing price reported on the active markets on which the stocks are traded and the NAV of shares held by the Plan at year end, respectively, and is classified as a Level 1 investment.





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## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013 (continued)

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2014 and 2013:

## Investments at Fair Value as of December 31, 2014

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual Funds:				
Equities	\$ 144,047,791	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 144,047,791
Balanced	35,329,724	-	-	35,329,724
International equities	19,481,723	-	-	19,481,723
Fixed income	24,122,569	-	-	24,122,569
Total Mutual Funds	222,981,807	-	-	222,981,807
Common/Collective Trusts	-	45,002,572	-	45,002,572
MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc.				
Class A Common Stock	10,200,646	-	-	10,200,646
Self-directed Brokerage	1,505,797	-	-	1,505,797
Investments at fair value	\$ 234,688,250	\$ 45,002,572	\$ -	\$ 279,690,822

## Investments at Fair Value as of December 31, 2013

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual Funds:				
Equities	\$ 141,175,678	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 141,175,678
Balanced	29,810,986	-	-	29,810,986
International equities	18,103,433	-	-	18,103,433
Fixed income	23,051,389	-	-	23,051,389
Total Mutual Funds	212,141,486	-	-	212,141,486
Common/Collective Trusts	-	29,434,506	-	29,434,506
MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc.				
Class A Common Stock	8,821,567	-	-	8,821,567
Self-directed Brokerage	1,329,896	-	-	1,329,896
Investments at fair value	\$ 222,292,949	\$ 29,434,506	\$ -	\$ 251,727,455

There were no transfers in or out of Level 3 investments for the years ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013.

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MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT 401(K) PLAN

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013 (continued)

## 4. INVESTMENTS

The fair value of individual investments that represent 5% or more of the Plan's net assets at December 31, 2014 and 2013 are as follows:

	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
Mutual Funds:		
T. Rowe Price Growth Stock Fund	\$ 31,825,947	\$ 29,470,268
T. Rowe Price Personal Strategy Growth Fund	29,850,684	26,994,192
T. Rowe Price Personal Strategy Balanced Fund	21,073,967	17,652,966
Vanguard Instl Index Fund	17,793,944	*
T. Rowe Price Media and Telecommunications Fund	15,576,084	14,769,996
T. Rowe Price Mid Cap Growth Fund	15,146,642	*
Vanguard 500 Index Signal Fund	*	14,608,980
PIMCO Total Return Fund	*	13,669,513
T. Rowe Price Equity Income Fund	*	13,429,370
Common/Collective Trusts:		
T. Rowe Price Stable Value Common Trust Fund	30,988,966	29,434,506