

AMERICAN EXPRESS CO  
Form 10-Q  
October 24, 2017  
UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Quarterly Period Ended September 30, 2017

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 1-7657

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

New York 13-4922250  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

200 Vesey Street, New York, New York 10285  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code \_\_\_\_\_ (212) 640-2000

None

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 website, 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, smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth 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
	Emerging growth company

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN EXPRESS CO - Form 10-Q

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

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	Outstanding at October 18, 2017
Common Shares (par value \$0.20 per share)	867,996,250 Shares

Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
FORM 10-Q  
INDEX

Part I. <u>Financial Information</u>	Page No.
Item 1. <u>Financial Statements</u>	
<u>Consolidated Statements of Income – Three Months Ended September 30, 2017 and 2016</u>	1
<u>Consolidated Statements of Income – Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017 and 2016</u>	2
<u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income – Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017 and 2016</u>	3
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets – September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016</u>	4
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows – Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017 and 2016</u>	5
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	6
Item 2. <u>Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and</u>	30

	<u>Results of Operations Quantitative and Qualitative</u>	
Item 3.	<u>Disclosures about Market Risk</u>	61
Item 4.	<u>Controls and Procedures</u>	61
Part II. <u>Other Information</u>		
Item 1.	<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	64
Item 1A.	<u>Risk Factors</u>	65
	<u>Unregistered</u>	
Item 2.	<u>Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u>	66
	<u>Other</u>	
Item 5.	<u>Information</u>	67
Item 6.	<u>Exhibits</u>	67
	<u>Signatures</u>	68
	<u>Exhibit Index</u>	E-1

---

Table of Contents

## PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME  
(Unaudited)

Three Months Ended September 30 (Millions, except per share amounts)	2017	2016
Revenues		
Non-interest revenues		
Discount revenue	\$4,772	\$4,516
Net card fees	786	747
Other fees and commissions	767	694
Other	436	483
Total non-interest revenues	6,761	6,440
Interest income		
Interest on loans	2,129	1,690
Interest and dividends on investment securities	22	34
Deposits with banks and other	91	40
Total interest income	2,242	1,764
Interest expense		
Deposits	213	150
Long-term debt and other	354	280
Total interest expense	567	430
Net interest income	1,675	1,334
Total revenues net of interest expense	8,436	7,774
Provisions for losses		
Charge card	214	174
Card Member loans	531	319
Other	24	11
Total provisions for losses	769	504
Total revenues net of interest expense after provisions for losses	7,667	7,270
Expenses		
Marketing and promotion	814	930
Card Member rewards	1,900	1,566
Card Member services and other	363	278
Salaries and employee benefits	1,265	1,263
Other, net	1,498	1,498
Total expenses	5,840	5,535
Pretax income	1,827	1,735
Income tax provision	471	593
Net income	\$1,356	\$1,142
Earnings per Common Share (Note 15): <sup>(a)</sup>		
Basic	\$1.51	\$1.21
Diluted	\$1.50	\$1.20
Average common shares outstanding for earnings per common share:		
Basic	878	920
Diluted	881	923

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN EXPRESS CO - Form 10-Q

Cash dividends declared per common share \$0.35 \$0.32

Represents net income less (i) earnings allocated to participating share awards of \$11 million and \$9 million for the (a) three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively, and (ii) dividends on preferred shares of \$21 million for both the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016.

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

1

---

Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

(Unaudited)

Nine Months Ended September 30 (Millions, except per share amounts)	2017	2016
Revenues		
Non-interest revenues		
Discount revenue	\$ 14,106	\$ 13,983
Net card fees	2,305	2,161
Other fees and commissions	2,232	2,076
Other	1,284	1,514
Total non-interest revenues	19,927	19,734
Interest income		
Interest on loans	5,936	5,446
Interest and dividends on investment securities	68	104
Deposits with banks and other	233	104
Total interest income	6,237	5,654
Interest expense		
Deposits	538	450
Long-term debt and other	994	841
Total interest expense	1,532	1,291
Net interest income	4,705	4,363
Total revenues net of interest expense	24,632	24,097
Provisions for losses		
Charge card	590	496
Card Member loans	1,272	831
Other	64	74
Total provisions for losses	1,926	1,401
Total revenues net of interest expense after provisions for losses	22,706	22,696
Expenses		
Marketing and promotion	2,344	2,445
Card Member rewards	5,633	5,035
Card Member services and other	1,033	841
Salaries and employee benefits	3,822	4,052
Other, net	4,281	3,388
Total expenses	17,113	15,761
Pretax income	5,593	6,935
Income tax provision	1,660	2,352
Net income	\$ 3,933	\$ 4,583
Earnings per Common Share (Note 15): <sup>(a)</sup>		
Basic	\$ 4.32	\$ 4.77
Diluted	\$ 4.30	\$ 4.76
Average common shares outstanding for earnings per common share:		
Basic	889	940
Diluted	892	943
Cash dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.99	\$ 0.90

Represents net income less (i) earnings allocated to participating share awards of \$32 million and \$37 million for (a) the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively, and (ii) dividends on preferred shares of \$61 million for both the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016.

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.





Table of Contents

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
 (Unaudited)

(Millions)	Three Months		Nine Months	
	Ended		Ended	
	September 30,	September 30,	September 30,	September 30,
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Net income	\$1,356	\$1,142	\$3,933	\$4,583
Other comprehensive income (loss):				
Net unrealized securities (losses) gains, net of tax	(2 )	(15 )	4	(8 )
Foreign currency translation adjustments, net of tax	107	11	456	(115 )
Net unrealized pension and other postretirement benefits, net of tax	7	7	8	39
Other comprehensive income (loss)	112	3	468	(84 )
Comprehensive income	\$1,468	\$1,145	\$4,401	\$4,499

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

3

---

Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
(Unaudited)

	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
(Millions, except share data)		
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash and due from banks	\$ 2,820	\$ 3,278
Interest-bearing deposits in other banks (includes securities purchased under resale agreements: 2017, \$86; 2016, \$115)	22,059	20,779
Short-term investment securities	1,289	1,151
Total cash and cash equivalents	26,168	25,208
Accounts receivable		
Card Member receivables (includes gross receivables available to settle obligations of a consolidated variable interest entity: 2017, \$7,825; 2016, \$8,874), less reserves: 2017, \$512; 2016, \$467	51,002	46,841
Other receivables, less reserves: 2017, \$32; 2016, \$45	2,701	3,232
Loans		
Card Member loans (includes gross loans available to settle obligations of a consolidated variable interest entity: 2017, \$24,249; 2016, \$26,129), less reserves: 2017, \$1,502; 2016, \$1,223	66,376	64,042
Other loans, less reserves: 2017, \$64; 2016, \$42	2,268	1,419
Investment securities	3,250	3,157
Premises and equipment, less accumulated depreciation and amortization: 2017, \$5,797; 2016, \$5,145	4,367	4,433
Other assets (includes restricted cash of consolidated variable interest entities: 2017, \$1,816; 2016, \$38)	12,445	10,561
Total assets	\$ 168,577	\$ 158,893
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity		
Liabilities		
Customer deposits	\$ 61,290	\$ 53,042
Travelers Cheques and other prepaid products	2,366	2,812
Accounts payable	12,240	11,190
Short-term borrowings	2,352	5,581
Long-term debt (includes debt issued by consolidated variable interest entities: 2017, \$15,026; 2016, \$15,113)	48,762	46,990
Other liabilities	20,482	18,777
Total liabilities	147,492	138,392
Contingencies (Note 8)		
Shareholders' Equity		
Preferred shares, \$1.66 <sup>2/3</sup> par value, authorized 20 million shares; issued and outstanding 1,600 shares as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016		
Common shares, \$0.20 par value, authorized 3.6 billion shares; issued and outstanding 871 million shares as of September 30, 2017 and 904 million shares as of December 31, 2016	175	181
Additional paid-in capital	12,318	12,733
Retained earnings	10,908	10,371
Accumulated other comprehensive loss		
Net unrealized securities gains, net of tax of: 2017, \$7; 2016, \$5	11	7
Foreign currency translation adjustments, net of tax of: 2017, \$(486); 2016, \$24	(1,806 )	(2,262 )

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN EXPRESS CO - Form 10-Q

Net unrealized pension and other postretirement benefits, net of tax of: 2017, \$(196); 2016, \$(186)	(521 )	(529 )
Total accumulated other comprehensive loss	(2,316 )	(2,784 )
Total shareholders' equity	21,085	20,501
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 168,577	\$ 158,893

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

4

---

Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(Unaudited)

Nine Months Ended September 30 (Millions)	2017	2016
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Net income	\$3,933	\$4,583
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Provisions for losses	1,926	1,401
Depreciation and amortization	953	810
Deferred taxes and other	(61 )	(1,076 )
Stock-based compensation	212	190
Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of effects of acquisitions and dispositions:		
Other receivables	1,043	485
Other assets	(137 )	115
Accounts payable and other liabilities	1,197	(963 )
Travelers Cheques and other prepaid products	(485 )	(594 )
Net cash provided by operating activities	8,581	4,951
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Sales of available-for-sale investment securities	1	51
Maturities and redemptions of available-for-sale investment securities	2,198	1,209
Purchases of investments	(2,339 )	(1,355 )
Net (increase) decrease in Card Member receivables and loans, including held for sale <sup>(a)</sup>	(7,535 )	11,818
Purchase of premises and equipment, net of sales: 2017, \$1; 2016, \$2	(812 )	(975 )
Acquisitions/dispositions, net of cash acquired	(210 )	(191 )
Net increase in restricted cash	(1,773 )	(427 )
Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities	(10,470)	10,130
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Net increase (decrease) in customer deposits	8,219	(1,499 )
Net decrease in short-term borrowings	(3,232 )	(2,040 )
Issuance of long-term debt	19,875	5,926
Principal payments on long-term debt	(18,349)	(9,349 )
Issuance of American Express common shares	82	78
Repurchase of American Express common shares	(3,087 )	(3,542 )
Dividends paid	(925 )	(892 )
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	2,583	(11,318)
Effect of foreign currency exchange rates on cash and cash equivalents	266	(5 )
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	960	3,758
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	25,208	22,762
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$26,168	\$26,520

(a) Refer to Note 2 for additional information.

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

1. Basis of Presentation

The Company

American Express Company (the Company) is a global services company that provides customers with access to products, insights and experiences that enrich lives and build business success. The Company's principal products and services are charge and credit payment card products and travel-related services offered to consumers and businesses around the world. Business travel-related services are offered through the non-consolidated joint venture, American Express Global Business Travel (the GBT JV). The Company's various products and services are sold globally to diverse customer groups, including consumers, small businesses, mid-sized companies and large corporations. These products and services are sold through various channels, including direct mail, online applications, in-house and third-party sales forces and direct response advertising.

The accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 (the Annual Report). If not materially different, certain footnote disclosures included therein have been omitted from this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

The interim consolidated financial information in this report has not been audited. In the opinion of management, all adjustments, which consist of normal recurring adjustments necessary for a fair statement of the interim period consolidated financial information, have been made. Results of operations reported for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results for the entire year.

The preparation of Consolidated Financial Statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and the disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities. These accounting estimates reflect the best judgment of management, but actual results could differ. Certain reclassifications of prior period amounts have been made to conform to the current period presentation.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued new accounting guidance on revenue recognition. The accounting standard establishes the principles to apply to determine the amount and timing of revenue recognition, specifying the accounting for certain costs related to revenue, and requiring additional disclosures about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenues and related cash flows. The guidance, as amended, supersedes most of the current revenue recognition requirements, and is effective January 1, 2018. Upon adoption of the new revenue recognition guidance, the Company will use the full retrospective method, which applies the new standard to each prior reporting period presented. The Company has made significant progress in determining the impact on its Consolidated Financial Statements and underlying operational processes. The most significant changes will be reclassifications from discount revenue to expenses related to Card Member cash-back reward costs and statement credits, as well as corporate incentive payments and net payments to third-party card issuing partners. These reclassifications will have a significant impact on the affected line items of the Consolidated Statements of Income, but will have no impact to net income. There will also be changes to the recognition timing of certain revenues; however, the impact of these changes to net income upon adoption will not be material. Similarly, upon adoption of the new standard, the impact on the Consolidated Balance Sheets and Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows will not be material. The Company is in the process of implementing changes to its accounting policies,

business processes, systems and internal controls to support the recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements under the new standard.

In January 2016, the FASB issued new accounting guidance on the recognition and measurement of financial assets and financial liabilities. The guidance, which is effective January 1, 2018, makes targeted changes to current GAAP, specifically to the classification and measurement of equity securities, and to certain disclosure requirements associated with the fair value of financial instruments. In the ordinary course of business, the Company makes investments in non-public companies currently recognized under the cost method of accounting. Under the new guidance, these investments will be prospectively adjusted for observable price changes upon the identification of identical or similar transactions of the same issuer. The Company expects that adopting this guidance will have an immaterial impact on its financial position, results of operations and cash flows, as well as on its accounting policies, business processes, systems and internal controls.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

In February 2016, the FASB issued new accounting guidance on leases. The guidance, which is effective January 1, 2019, with early adoption permitted, requires virtually all leases to be recognized on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. The Company will adopt the standard effective January 1, 2019, using the modified retrospective approach, which requires recording existing operating leases on the Consolidated Balance Sheets upon adoption and in the comparative period. The Company is in the process of upgrading its existing lease administration software for new lease accounting functionality, business processes and internal controls in preparation for the adoption. Specifically, the Company is currently reviewing its lease portfolio and is evaluating and interpreting the requirements under the guidance, including the available accounting policy elections, in order to determine the impacts to the Company's financial position, results of operations and cash flows upon adoption.

In June 2016, the FASB issued new accounting guidance for recognition of credit losses on financial instruments, which is effective January 1, 2020, with early adoption permitted on January 1, 2019. The guidance introduces a new credit reserving model known as the Current Expected Credit Loss (CECL) model, which is based on expected losses, and differs significantly from the incurred loss approach used today. The CECL model requires measurement of expected credit losses not only based on historical experience and current conditions, but also by including reasonable and supportable forecasts incorporating forward-looking information. The guidance requires a cumulative-effect adjustment to retained earnings as of the beginning of the reporting period of adoption. The Company does not intend to adopt the new standard early and is currently evaluating the impact the new guidance will have on its financial position, results of operations and cash flows; however, it is expected that the CECL model will alter the assumptions used in estimating credit losses on Card Member loans and receivables, among other financial instruments (e.g., investments in available-for-sale debt securities), and may result in material increases to the Company's credit reserves as the new guidance involves earlier recognition of expected losses for the life of the assets. The Company has established an enterprise-wide, cross-discipline governance structure to implement the new standard. The Company is currently identifying key interpretive issues, and is evaluating existing credit loss forecasting models and processes in relation to the new guidance to determine what modifications may be required.

In August 2017, the FASB issued new accounting guidance providing targeted improvements to the accounting for hedging activities, which is effective January 1, 2019, with early adoption permitted in any interim period or fiscal year before the effective date. The guidance introduces a number of amendments, several of which are optional, that are designed to simplify the application of hedge accounting, improve financial statement transparency and more closely align hedge accounting with an entity's risk management strategies. The Company is evaluating the impact this guidance will have on its financial position, results of operations and cash flows, as well as the impact the standard will have on its accounting policies, business processes, systems and internal controls.

## 2. Business Events

During the fourth quarter of 2015, it was determined the Company would sell the Card Member loans and receivables related to its cobrand partnerships with JetBlue Airways Corporation (JetBlue) and Costco Wholesale Corporation (Costco) in the United States (the HFS portfolios). As a result, the HFS portfolios were presented as held for sale (HFS) on the Consolidated Balance Sheets within Card Member loans and receivables HFS as of December 31, 2015.

During the first half of 2016, the Company completed the sales of substantially all of its outstanding Card Member loans and receivables HFS and recognized gains, as an expense reduction, in Other expenses, of \$127 million and \$1.1 billion during the three months ended March 31, 2016 and June 30, 2016, respectively. The impact of the sales, including the recognition of the proceeds received and the reclassification of the retained Card Member loans and

receivables, is reported within the investing section of the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows as a net decrease in Card Member receivables and loans, including HFS.

From the point of classification as HFS through the sale completion dates, the Company continued to recognize discount revenue, interest income, other revenues and expenses related to the HFS portfolios in the respective line items on the Consolidated Statements of Income, with changes in the valuation of the HFS portfolios recognized in Other expenses.



Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

## 3. Loans and Accounts Receivable

The Company's lending and charge payment card products result in the generation of Card Member loans and Card Member receivables, respectively.

Card Member loans by segment and Other loans as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016 consisted of:

(Millions)	2017	2016
U.S. Consumer Services <sup>(a)</sup>	\$49,326	\$48,758
International Consumer and Network Services	7,823	6,971
Global Commercial Services	10,729	9,536
Card Member loans	67,878	65,265
Less: Reserve for losses	1,502	1,223
Card Member loans, net	\$66,376	\$64,042
Other loans, net <sup>(b)</sup>	\$2,268	\$1,419

(a) Includes approximately \$24.2 billion and \$26.1 billion of gross Card Member loans available to settle obligations of a consolidated variable interest entity (VIE) as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively.

(b) Other loans primarily represent personal and commercial financing products. Other loans are presented net of reserves for losses of \$64 million and \$42 million as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively.

Card Member accounts receivable by segment and Other receivables as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016 consisted of:

(Millions)	2017	2016
U.S. Consumer Services <sup>(a)</sup>	\$11,192	\$12,302
International Consumer and Network Services	6,512	5,966
Global Commercial Services	33,810	29,040
Card Member receivables	51,514	47,308
Less: Reserve for losses	512	467
Card Member receivables, net	\$51,002	\$46,841
Other receivables, net <sup>(b)</sup>	\$2,701	\$3,232

(a) Includes \$7.8 billion and \$8.9 billion of gross Card Member receivables available to settle obligations of a consolidated VIE as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively.

Other receivables primarily represent amounts related to (i) Global Network Services partner banks for items such as royalty and franchise fees, (ii) tax-related receivables, (iii) certain merchants for billed discount revenue, and (b)(iv) loyalty coalition partners for points issued, as well as program participation and servicing fees. Other receivables are presented net of reserves for losses of \$32 million and \$45 million as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively.

Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

Card Member Loans and Card Member Receivables Aging

Generally, a Card Member account is considered past due if payment is not received within 30 days after the billing statement date. The following table presents the aging of Card Member loans and receivables as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016:

2017 (Millions)	Current	30-59	60-89	90+	Total
		Days Past Due	Days Past Due	Days Past Due	
Card Member Loans:					
U.S. Consumer Services	\$48,707	\$ 183	\$ 128	\$ 308	\$49,326
International Consumer and Network Services	7,698	39	27	59	7,823
Global Commercial Services					
Global Small Business Services	10,556	36	24	59	10,675
Global Corporate Payments <sup>(a)</sup>	(b)	(b)	(b)		54
Card Member Receivables:					
U.S. Consumer Services	11,055	51	26	60	11,192
International Consumer and Network Services	6,424	28	18	42	6,512
Global Commercial Services					
Global Small Business Services	\$15,651	\$ 75	\$ 50	\$ 102	\$15,878
Global Corporate Payments <sup>(a)</sup>	(b)	(b)	(b)	\$ 153	\$17,932
2016 (Millions)					
2016 (Millions)	Current	30-59	60-89	90+	Total
		Days Past Due	Days Past Due	Days Past Due	
Card Member Loans:					
U.S. Consumer Services	\$48,216	\$ 156	\$ 119	\$ 267	\$48,758
International Consumer and Network Services	6,863	32	24	52	6,971
Global Commercial Services					
Global Small Business Services	9,378	34	23	49	9,484
Global Corporate Payments <sup>(a)</sup>	(b)	(b)	(b)		52
Card Member Receivables:					
U.S. Consumer Services	12,158	45	30	69	12,302
International Consumer and Network Services	5,888	22	15	41	5,966
Global Commercial Services					
Global Small Business Services	\$14,047	\$ 77	\$ 47	\$ 102	\$14,273
Global Corporate Payments <sup>(a)</sup>	(b)	(b)	(b)	\$ 135	\$14,767

For Global Corporate Payments (GCP) Card Member loans and receivables in Global Commercial Services (GCS), delinquency data is tracked based on days past billing status rather than days past due. A Card Member account is considered 90 days past billing if payment has not been received within 90 days of the Card Member's billing statement date. In addition, if the Company initiates collection procedures on an account prior to the account becoming 90 days past billing, the associated Card Member loan and receivable balance is classified as 90 days past billing. These amounts are shown above as 90+ Days Past Due for presentation purposes. See also (b).

Delinquency data for periods other than 90 days past billing is not available due to system constraints. Therefore, (b) such data has not been utilized for risk management purposes. The balances that are current to 89 days past due can be derived as the difference between the Total and the 90+ Days Past Due balances.



Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

Credit Quality Indicators for Card Member Loans and Receivables

The following tables present the key credit quality indicators as of or for the nine months ended September 30:

	2017			2016			
	Net Write-Off Rate			Net Write-Off Rate			
	Principal Only <sup>(a)</sup>	Principal, Interest & Fees <sup>(a)</sup>	30+ Days Past Due as a % of Total	Principal Only <sup>(a)</sup>	Principal, Interest & Fees <sup>(a)</sup>	30+ Days Past Due as a % of Total	
<b>Card Member Loans:</b>							
U.S. Consumer Services	1.7	% 2.0	% 1.3	% 1.5	% 1.8	% 1.1	%
International Consumer and Network Services	2.1	% 2.6	% 1.6	% 2.0	% 2.5	% 1.7	%
Global Small Business Services	1.6	% 1.9	% 1.1	% 1.4	% 1.7	% 1.1	%
<b>Card Member Receivables:</b>							
U.S. Consumer Services	1.3	% 1.5	% 1.2	% 1.4	% 1.6	% 1.4	%
International Consumer and Network Services	2.1	% 2.2	% 1.4	% 2.1	% 2.3	% 1.5	%
Global Small Business Services	1.6	% 1.8	% 1.4	% 1.6	% 1.8	% 1.5	%

	2017 Net Loss Ratio as a % of Charge Volume	90+ Days Past Billing as a % of Receivables	2016 Net Loss Ratio as a % of Charge Volume	90+ Days Past Billing as a % of Receivables
<b>Card Member Receivables:</b>				
Global Corporate Payments	0.10	% 0.9	% 0.09	% 0.8

(a) The Company presents a net write-off rate based on principal losses only (i.e., excluding interest and/or fees) to be consistent with industry convention. In addition, because the Company considers uncollectible interest and/or fees in estimating its reserves for credit losses, a net write-off rate including principal, interest and/or fees is also presented.

Impaired Card Member Loans and Receivables

Impaired Card Member loans and receivables are individual larger balance or homogeneous pools of smaller balance loans and receivables for which it is probable that the Company will be unable to collect all amounts due according to the original contractual terms of the Card Member agreement. In certain cases, these Card Member loans and receivables are included in one of the Company's various Troubled Debt Restructuring (TDR) modification programs.



Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

The following tables provide additional information with respect to the Company's impaired Card Member loans and receivables. Impaired Card Member receivables are not significant for International Consumer and Network Services (ICNS) as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016; therefore, this segment's receivables are not included in the following tables.

As of September 30, 2017

2017 (Millions)	Over 90 days Past Due & Accruing Interest	Non-Accruals <sup>(b)</sup>	Accounts Classified as a TDR <sup>(c)</sup>		Total Impaired Balance	Unpaid Principal Balance	Allowance for TDRs
			In Program <sup>(d)</sup>	Out of Program <sup>(e)</sup>			
Card Member Loans:							
U.S. Consumer Services	\$206	\$ 158	\$162	\$ 131	\$ 657	\$ 593	\$ 48
International Consumer and Network Services	59				59	58	
Global Commercial Services	37	32	28	26	123	113	9
Card Member Receivables:							
U.S. Consumer Services			12	9	21	21	4
Global Commercial Services			31	16	47	47	8
Total	\$302	\$ 190	\$233	\$ 182	\$ 907	\$ 832	\$ 69

As of December 31, 2016

2016 (Millions)	Over 90 days Past Due & Accruing Interest	Non-Accruals <sup>(b)</sup>	Accounts Classified as a TDR <sup>(c)</sup>		Total Impaired Balance	Unpaid Principal Balance	Allowance for TDRs
			In Program <sup>(d)</sup>	Out of Program <sup>(e)</sup>			
Card Member Loans:							
U.S. Consumer Services	\$178	\$ 139	\$165	\$ 129	\$ 611	\$ 558	\$ 51
International Consumer and Network Services	52				52	51	
Global Commercial Services	30	30	26	26	112	103	9
Card Member Receivables:							

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN EXPRESS CO - Form 10-Q

U.S. Consumer Services			11	6	17	17	7
Global Commercial Services			28	10	38	38	21
Total	\$260	\$ 169	\$230	\$ 171	\$ 830	\$ 767	\$ 88

The Company's policy is generally to accrue interest through the date of write-off (typically 180 days past due). The Company establishes reserves for interest that it believes will not be collected. Amounts presented exclude Card Member loans classified as a TDR.

Non-accrual loans not in modification programs primarily include certain Card Member loans placed with outside collection agencies for which the Company has ceased accruing interest. Amounts presented exclude Card Member loans classified as a TDR.

Accounts classified as a TDR include \$15 million and \$20 million that are over 90 days past due and accruing interest and \$6 million and \$11 million that are non-accruals as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively.

In Program TDRs include Card Member accounts that are currently enrolled in a modification program.

Out of Program TDRs include \$139 million and \$132 million of Card Member accounts that have successfully completed a modification program and \$43 million and \$39 million of Card Member accounts that were not in compliance with the terms of the modification programs as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively.

Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

The following table provides information with respect to the Company's average balances of, and interest income recognized from, impaired Card Member loans and the average balances of impaired Card Member receivables for the three and nine months ended September 30:

(Millions)	Three Months Ended September 30, 2017		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017	
	Average Balance	Interest Income Recognized	Average Balance	Interest Income Recognized
Card Member Loans:				
U.S. Consumer Services	\$ 636	\$ 17	\$ 626	\$ 49
International Consumer and Network Services	59	4	56	12
Global Commercial Services	122	5	119	13
Card Member Receivables:				
U.S. Consumer Services	20		19	
Global Commercial Services	44		42	
Total	\$ 881	\$ 26	\$ 862	\$ 74

(Millions)	Three Months Ended September 30, 2016		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2016	
	Average Balance	Interest Income Recognized	Average Balance	Interest Income Recognized
Card Member Loans:				
U.S. Consumer Services	\$ 587	\$ 14	\$ 555	\$ 38
International Consumer and Network Services	53	4	52	12
Global Commercial Services	111	4	102	10
Card Member Receivables:				
U.S. Consumer Services	13		13	
Global Commercial Services	29		24	
Total	\$ 793	\$ 22	\$ 746	\$ 60



Table of Contents

## AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

Card Member Loans and Receivables Modified as TDRs

The following table provides additional information with respect to the U.S. Consumer Services (USCS) and GCS Card Member loans and receivables modified as TDRs for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016. The ICNS Card Member loans and receivables modifications were not significant; therefore, this segment is not included in the following TDR disclosures.

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2017				Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017			
	Number of Outstanding Accounts (in \$ in thousands) <sup>(a)</sup>	Average Interest Rate Reduction (% Points)	Average Payment Term Extension (# of Months)		Number of Outstanding Accounts (in \$ in thousands) <sup>(a)</sup>	Average Interest Rate Reduction (% Points)	Average Payment Term Extension (# of Months)	
Card Member Loans	8	\$ 57	9	(b)	23	\$ 160	10	(b)
Card Member Receivables	1	18	(c)	31	4	64	(c)	27
Total	9	\$ 75			27	\$ 224		
Troubled Debt Restructurings:								
Card Member Loans	8	\$ 56	9	(b)	23	\$ 163	10	(b)
Card Member Receivables	2	29	(c)	19	7	94	(c)	17
Total	10	\$ 85			30	\$ 257		

(a) Represents the outstanding balance immediately prior to modification. The outstanding balance includes principal, fees and accrued interest on Card Member loans and principal and fees on Card Member receivables.

(b) For Card Member loans, there have been no payment term extensions.

(c) The Company does not offer interest rate reduction programs for Card Member receivables as the receivables are non-interest bearing.

Table of Contents

## AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

The following table provides information with respect to the USCS and GCS Card Member loans and receivables modified as TDRs that subsequently defaulted within 12 months of modification, for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016. A Card Member is considered in default of a modification program after one and up to two missed payments, depending on the terms of the modification program. For all Card Members that defaulted from a modification program, the probability of default is factored into the reserves for Card Member loans and receivables.

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2017		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017	
	Number of Accounts (in thousands)	Upon Default (\$ in millions) <sup>(a)</sup>	Number of Accounts (in thousands)	Upon Default (\$ in millions) <sup>(a)</sup>
Aggregated Outstanding Balances			Aggregated Outstanding Balances	
Troubled Debt Restructurings That Subsequently Defaulted:				
Card Member Loans	2	\$ 9	5	\$ 30
Card Member Receivables	1	2	3	4
Total	3	\$ 11	8	\$ 34

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2016		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2016	
	Number of Accounts (in thousands)	Upon Default (\$ in millions) <sup>(a)</sup>	Number of Accounts (in thousands)	Upon Default (\$ in millions) <sup>(a)</sup>
Aggregated Outstanding Balances			Aggregated Outstanding Balances	
Troubled Debt Restructurings That Subsequently Defaulted:				
Card Member Loans	3	\$ 12	5	\$ 30
Card Member Receivables	1	1	3	3
Total	4	\$ 13	8	\$ 33

<sup>(a)</sup> The outstanding balances upon default include principal, fees and accrued interest on Card Member loans, and principal and fees on Card Member receivables.

Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

## 4. Reserves for Losses

Reserves for losses relating to Card Member loans and receivables represent management's best estimate of the probable inherent losses in the Company's outstanding portfolio of loans and receivables as of the balance sheet date. Management's evaluation process requires certain estimates and judgments.

Changes in Card Member Loans Reserve for Losses

The following table presents changes in the Card Member loans reserve for losses for the nine months ended September 30:

(Millions)	2017	2016
Balance, January 1	\$1,223	\$1,028
Provisions <sup>(a)</sup>	1,272	831
Net write-offs <sup>(b)</sup>		
Principal	(856 )	(687 )
Interest and fees	(163 )	(128 )
Other <sup>(c)</sup>	26	70
Balance, September 30	\$1,502	\$1,114

(a) Provisions for principal, interest and fee reserve components.

Principal write-offs are presented less recoveries of \$307 million and \$280 million, and include net write-offs from

(b) TDRs of \$25 million and \$24 million, for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

Recoveries of interest and fees were de minimis.

Includes foreign currency translation adjustments of \$14 million and \$(3) million and other adjustments of \$12 million and \$6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively. The nine months

(c) ended September 30, 2016 also includes reserves of \$67 million associated with \$265 million of retained Card Member loans reclassified from HFS to held for investment as a result of retaining certain loans in connection with the respective sales of JetBlue and Costco cobrand card portfolios.

Card Member Loans Evaluated Individually and Collectively for Impairment

The following table presents Card Member loans evaluated individually and collectively for impairment and related reserves as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016:

(Millions)	2017	2016
Card Member loans evaluated individually for impairment <sup>(a)</sup>	\$347	\$346
Related reserves <sup>(a)</sup>	\$57	\$60
Card Member loans evaluated collectively for impairment <sup>(b)</sup>	\$67,531	\$64,919
Related reserves <sup>(b)</sup>	\$1,445	\$1,163

(a) Represents loans modified as a TDR and related reserves.

Represents current loans and loans less than 90 days past due, loans over 90 days past due and accruing interest, and non-accrual loans. The reserves include the quantitative results of analytical models that are specific to

(b) individual pools of loans, and reserves for internal and external qualitative risk factors that apply to loans that are collectively evaluated for impairment.

Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)Changes in Card Member Receivables Reserve for Losses

The following table presents changes in the Card Member receivables reserve for losses for the nine months ended September 30:

(Millions)	2017	2016
Balance, January 1	\$467	\$462
Provisions <sup>(a)</sup>	590	496
Net write-offs <sup>(b)</sup>	(548)	(518)
Other <sup>(c)</sup>	3	(3)
Balance, September 30	\$512	\$437

(a) Provisions for principal and fee reserve components.

(b) Principal and fee write-offs are presented less recoveries of \$271 million and \$301 million, including net write-offs from TDRs of \$2 million and \$16 million, for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

(c) Includes foreign currency translation adjustments of \$18 million and nil and other adjustments of \$(15) million and \$(3) million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

Card Member Receivables Evaluated Individually and Collectively for Impairment

The following table presents Card Member receivables evaluated individually and collectively for impairment, and related reserves, as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016:

(Millions)	2017	2016
Card Member receivables evaluated individually for impairment <sup>(a)</sup>	\$68	\$55
Related reserves <sup>(a)</sup>	\$12	\$28
Card Member receivables evaluated collectively for impairment	\$51,446	\$47,253
Related reserves <sup>(b)</sup>	\$500	\$439

(a) Represents receivables modified as a TDR and related reserves.

(b) The reserves include the quantitative results of analytical models that are specific to individual pools of receivables, and reserves for internal and external qualitative risk factors that apply to receivables that are collectively evaluated for impairment.

## 5. Investment Securities

Investment securities principally include debt securities the Company classifies as available-for-sale and carries at fair value on the Consolidated Balance Sheets, with unrealized gains and losses recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) (AOCI), net of income taxes. Realized gains and losses are recognized upon disposition of the securities using the specific identification method.

The following is a summary of investment securities as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016:

Description of Securities (Millions)	2017				2016			
	Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value	Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value
State and municipal obligations	\$1,412	\$ 17	\$ (2 )	\$ 1,427	\$2,019	\$ 28	\$ (11 )	\$ 2,036
	12			12	12			12

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN EXPRESS CO - Form 10-Q

U.S. Government agency obligations								
U.S. Government treasury obligations	1,115	8	(5 )	1,118	465	3	(8 )	460
Corporate debt securities	28			28	19			19
Mortgage-backed securities <sup>(a)</sup>	74	2		76	92	3		95
Equity securities	1			1	1			1
Foreign government bonds and obligations	539	1		540	486	1	(1 )	486
Other <sup>(b)</sup>	50		(2 )	48	50		(2 )	48
Total	\$3,231	\$ 28	\$ (9 )	\$ 3,250	\$3,144	\$ 35	\$ (22 )	\$ 3,157

(a) Represents mortgage-backed securities guaranteed by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or Ginnie Mae.

(b) Other comprises investments in various mutual funds.

Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

The following table provides information about the Company's investment securities with gross unrealized losses and the length of time that individual securities have been in a continuous unrealized loss position as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016:

Description of Securities (Millions)	2017				2016			
	Less than 12 months		12 months or more		Less than 12 months		12 months or more	
	Gross		Gross		Gross		Gross	
	Estimated Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Estimated Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
State and municipal obligations	\$ 101	\$ (2 )	\$	\$	\$ 153	\$ (11 )	\$	\$
U.S. Government treasury obligations	366	(5 )			298	(8 )		
Other			32	(2 )			32	(2 )
Total	\$ 467	\$ (7 )	\$ 32	\$ (2 )	\$ 451	\$ (19 )	\$ 32	\$ (2 )

The following table summarizes the gross unrealized losses due to temporary impairments by ratio of fair value to amortized cost as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016:

Ratio of Fair Value to Amortized Cost (Dollars in millions)	Less than 12 months			12 months or more			Total		
	Gross			Gross			Gross		
	Number of Securities	Estimated Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Number of Securities	Estimated Fair Value	Unrealized Losses	Number of Securities	Estimated Fair Value	Unrealized Losses
		Value	Losses		Value	Losses		Value	Losses
2017:									
90%–100%	22	\$ 467	\$ (7 )	6	\$ 32	\$ (2 )	28	\$ 499	\$ (9 )
Total as of September 30, 2017	22	\$ 467	\$ (7 )	6	\$ 32	\$ (2 )	28	\$ 499	\$ (9 )
2016:									
90%–100%	33	\$ 411	\$ (13 )	6	\$ 32	\$ (2 )	39	\$ 443	\$ (15 )
Less than 90%	4	40	(6 )				4	40	(6 )
Total as of December 31, 2016	37	\$ 451	\$ (19 )	6	\$ 32	\$ (2 )	43	\$ 483	\$ (21 )

The gross unrealized losses are attributed to overall wider credit spreads for specific issuers, adverse changes in market benchmark interest rates, or a combination thereof, all compared to those prevailing when the investment securities were acquired.

Overall, for the investment securities in gross unrealized loss positions, (i) the Company does not intend to sell the investment securities, (ii) it is more likely than not that the Company will not be required to sell the investment securities before recovery of the unrealized losses, and (iii) the Company expects that the contractual principal and interest will be received on the investment securities. As a result, the Company recognized no other-than-temporary impairment during the periods presented.

Contractual maturities for investment securities with stated maturities as of September 30, 2017 were as follows:

Estimated

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN EXPRESS CO - Form 10-Q

(Millions)	Cost	Fair Value
Due within 1 year	\$648	\$ 648
Due after 1 year but within 5 years	998	1,000
Due after 5 years but within 10 years	268	272
Due after 10 years	1,267	1,282
Total	\$3,181	\$ 3,202

The expected payments on state and municipal obligations and mortgage-backed securities may not coincide with their contractual maturities because the issuers have the right to call or prepay certain obligations.

Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unaudited)

## 6. Asset Securitizations

The Company periodically securitizes Card Member loans and receivables arising from its card businesses through the transfer of those assets to securitization trusts. The trusts then issue debt securities collateralized by the transferred assets to third-party investors.

The following table provides information on the restricted cash held by the American Express Credit Account Master Trust (the Lending Trust) and the American Express Issuance Trust II (the Charge Trust, collectively the Trusts) as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, included in Other assets on the Consolidated Balance Sheets:

(Millions)	2017	2016
Lending Trust	\$1,814	\$ 35
Charge Trust	2	3
Total	\$1,816	\$ 38

These amounts relate to collections of Card Member loans and receivables to be used by the Trusts to fund future expenses and obligations, including interest on debt securities, credit losses and upcoming debt maturities.

The Company performs the servicing and key decision making for the Trusts, and therefore has the power to direct the activities that most significantly impact the Trusts' economic performance, which are the collection of the underlying Card Member loans and receivables. In addition, the Company holds all of the variable interests in both Trusts, with the exception of the debt securities issued to third-party investors. As of September 30, 2017, the Company's ownership of variable interests was \$10.7 billion for the Lending Trust and \$6.5 billion for the Charge Trust. These variable interests held by the Company provide it with the right to receive benefits and the obligation to absorb losses, which could be significant to both the Lending Trust and the Charge Trust. Based on these considerations, the Company is the primary beneficiary of both Trusts and therefore consolidates both Trusts.

Under the respective terms of the Lending Trust and the Charge Trust agreements, the occurrence of certain triggering events associated with the performance of the assets of each Trust could result in payment of trust expenses, establishment of reserve funds, or, in a worst-case scenario, early amortization of debt securities. During the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and the year ended December 31, 2016, no such triggering events occurred.



Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

## 7. Customer Deposits

As of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, customer deposits were categorized as interest bearing or non-interest bearing as follows:

(Millions)	2017	2016
U.S.:		
Interest bearing	\$60,573	\$52,316
Non-interest bearing (includes Card Member credit balances of: 2017, \$300 million; 2016, \$331 million)	337	367
Non-U.S.:		
Interest bearing	32	58
Non-interest bearing (includes Card Member credit balances of: 2017, \$334 million; 2016, \$285 million)	348	301
Total customer deposits	\$61,290	\$53,042

Customer deposits by deposit type as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016 were as follows:

(Millions)	2017	2016
U.S. retail deposits:		
Savings accounts – Direct	\$30,780	\$30,980
Certificates of deposit: <sup>(a)</sup>		
Direct	290	291
Third-party (brokered)	17,229	11,925
Sweep accounts – Third-party (brokered)	12,274	9,120
Other deposits:		
U.S. non-interest bearing deposits	37	36
Non-U.S. deposits	46	74
Card Member credit balances U.S. and non-U.S.	634	616
Total customer deposits	\$61,290	\$53,042

The weighted average remaining maturity and weighted average interest rate at issuance on the total portfolio of (a) U.S. retail certificates of deposit issued through direct and third-party programs were 44 months and 2.10 percent, respectively, as of September 30, 2017.

The scheduled maturities of certificates of deposit as of September 30, 2017 were as follows:

(Millions)	U.S.	Non-U.S.	Total
2017	\$1,450	\$ 3	\$1,453
2018	5,160	16	5,176
2019	4,252		4,252
2020	3,511		3,511
2021	1,234		1,234
After 5 years	1,912		1,912
Total	\$17,519	\$ 19	\$17,538

As of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, certificates of deposit in denominations of \$250,000 or more, in the aggregate, were as follows:

(Millions)	2017	2016
U.S.	\$113	\$117
Non-U.S.	8	7
Total	\$121	\$124

Table of Contents

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

8. Contingencies

In the ordinary course of business, the Company and its subsidiaries are subject to various pending and potential legal actions, arbitration proceedings, claims, investigations, examinations, information gathering requests, subpoenas, inquiries and matters relating to compliance with laws and regulations (collectively, legal proceedings). The Company discloses its material legal proceedings under Part II, Item 1. "Legal Proceedings" in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and Part I, Item 3. "Legal Proceedings" in the Annual Report.

In addition to the matters disclosed under "Legal Proceedings," the Company is being challenged in a number of countries regarding its application of value-added taxes (VAT) to certain of its international transactions, which are in various stages of audit, or are being contested in legal actions (collectively, VAT matters). While the Company believes it has complied with all applicable tax laws, rules and regulations in the relevant jurisdictions, the tax authorities may determine that the Company owes additional VAT. In certain jurisdictions where the Company is contesting the assessments, it was required to pay the VAT assessments prior to contesting.

The Company's legal proceedings range from cases brought by a single plaintiff to class actions with millions of putative class members. These legal proceedings involve various lines of business of the Company and a variety of claims (including, but not limited to, common law tort, contract, application of tax laws, antitrust and consumer protection claims), some of which present novel factual allegations and/or unique legal theories. While some matters pending against the Company specify the damages claimed by the plaintiff or class, many seek an unspecified amount of damages or are at very early stages of the legal process. Even when the amount of damages claimed against the Company are stated, the claimed amount may be exaggerated and/or unsupported. As a result, some matters have not yet progressed sufficiently through discovery and/or development of important factual information and legal issues to enable the Company to estimate an amount of loss or a range of possible loss, while other matters have progressed sufficiently such that the Company is able to estimate an amount of loss or a range of possible loss.

The Company has recorded reserves for certain of its outstanding legal proceedings. A reserve is recorded when it is both (a) probable that a loss has occurred and (b) the amount of loss can be reasonably estimated. There may be instances in which an exposure to loss exceeds the recorded reserve. The Company evaluates, on a quarterly basis, developments in legal proceedings that could cause an increase or decrease in the amount of the reserve that has been previously recorded, or a revision to the disclosed estimated range of possible losses, as applicable.

For those disclosed material legal proceedings and VAT matters where a loss is reasonably possible in future periods, whether in excess of a related reserve for legal or tax contingencies or where there is no such reserve, and for which the Company is able to estimate a range of possible loss, the current estimated range is zero to \$500 million in excess of any reserves related to those matters. This range represents management's estimate based on currently available information and does not represent the Company's maximum loss exposure; actual results may vary significantly. As such legal proceedings evolve, the Company may need to increase its range of possible loss or reserves.

Based on its current knowledge, and taking into consideration its litigation-related liabilities, the Company believes it is not a party to, nor are any of its properties the subject of, any legal proceeding that would have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial condition or liquidity. However, in light of the uncertainties involved in such matters, it is possible that the outcome of legal proceedings, including the possible resolution of merchant claims, could have a material impact on the Company's results of operations.



Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

## 9. Derivatives and Hedging Activities

The Company uses derivative financial instruments (derivatives) to manage exposures to various market risks. These instruments derive their value from an underlying variable or multiple variables, including interest rates, foreign exchange rates, and equity index or price, and are carried at fair value on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. These instruments enable end users to increase, reduce or alter exposure to various market risks and, for that reason, are an integral component of the Company's market risk management. The Company does not transact in derivatives for trading purposes.

In relation to the Company's credit risk, under the terms of the derivative agreements it has with its various counterparties, the Company is not required to either immediately settle any outstanding liability balances or post collateral upon the occurrence of a specified credit risk-related event. Based on its assessment of the credit risk of the Company's derivative counterparties as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, no credit risk adjustment to the derivative portfolio was required.

The following table summarizes the total fair value, excluding interest accruals, of derivative assets and liabilities as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016:

(Millions)	Other Assets		Other Liabilities	
	Fair Value	Fair Value	Fair Value	Fair Value
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Derivatives designated as hedging instruments:				
Fair value hedges - Interest rate contracts <sup>(a)</sup>	\$26	\$111	\$15	\$69
Net investment hedges - Foreign exchange contracts	41	347	210	35
Total derivatives designated as hedging instruments	67	458	225	104
Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments:				
Foreign exchange contracts, including certain embedded derivatives <sup>(b)</sup>	168	308	102	176
Total derivatives, gross	235	766	327	280
Less: Cash collateral netting <sup>(c)(d)</sup>	(17)	(54)	(8)	(68)
Derivative asset and derivative liability netting <sup>(e)</sup>	(92)	(157)	(92)	(157)
Total derivatives, net <sup>(f)</sup>	\$126	\$555	\$227	\$55

Effective January 2017, the Central Clearing Party (CCP) changed the legal characterization of variation margin payments for centrally cleared derivatives to be settlement payments, as opposed to collateral. Accordingly, the amounts disclosed for 2017 related to centrally cleared derivatives are based on gross assets of \$11 million and liabilities of \$87 million net of variation margin of \$11 million and \$79 million, respectively. The Company also maintained several bilateral interest rate contracts that are not subject to the CCP's rule change and amounts related to such contracts are shown gross of any collateral exchanged.

(b) Includes foreign currency derivatives embedded in certain operating agreements.

(c) Represents the offsetting of the fair value of bilateral interest rate contracts and certain foreign exchange contracts with the right to reclaim cash collateral or the obligation to return cash collateral.

(d) The Company held no non-cash collateral as of September 30, 2017. As of December 31, 2016, the Company received non-cash collateral from a counterparty in the form of security interests in U.S. Treasury securities, with a fair value of \$18 million, none of which was sold or repledged. Such non-cash collateral economically reduced the Company's risk exposure to \$537 million as of December 31, 2016, but did not reduce the net exposure on the Company's Consolidated Balance Sheets. Additionally, the Company posted \$152 million and \$169 million as of

September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively, as initial margin on its centrally cleared interest rate swaps; such amounts are recorded within Other receivables on the Consolidated Balance Sheets and are not netted against the derivative balances.

(e) Represents the amount of netting of derivative assets and derivative liabilities executed with the same counterparty under an enforceable master netting arrangement.

The Company has no individually significant derivative counterparties and therefore, no significant risk exposure to (f) any single derivative counterparty. The total net derivative assets and net derivative liabilities are presented within Other assets and Other liabilities, respectively, on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

A majority of the Company's derivative assets and liabilities as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016 are subject to master netting agreements with its derivative counterparties. The Company has no derivative amounts subject to enforceable master netting arrangements that are not offset on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

#### Fair Value Hedges

The Company is exposed to interest rate risk associated with its fixed-rate long-term debt obligations. At the time of issuance, certain fixed-rate debt obligations are designated in fair value hedging relationships, using interest rate swaps, to economically convert the fixed interest rate to a floating interest rate. The Company has \$20.7 billion and \$17.7 billion of fixed-rate debt obligations designated in fair value hedging relationships as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively.

Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

The following table summarizes the gains (losses) recognized in Other expenses associated with the Company's fair value hedges for the three and nine months ended September 30:

	Three		Nine Months	
	Months		Months	
	Ended		Ended	
	September		September	
	30,		30,	
(Millions)	2017	2016	2017	2016
Interest rate derivative contracts	\$(31)	\$(123)	\$(100)	\$103
Hedged items	39	134	64	(90)
Net hedge ineffectiveness	\$8	\$11	\$(36)	\$13

The Company also recognized a net reduction in interest expense on long-term debt of \$24 million and \$55 million for the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively, and \$105 million and \$173 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively, primarily related to the net settlements (interest accruals) on the Company's interest rate derivatives designated as fair value hedges.

Net Investment Hedges

The effective portion of the gain or loss on net investment hedges, net of taxes, recorded in AOCI as part of the cumulative translation adjustment, were losses of \$184 million and \$18 million for the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively, and a loss of \$515 million and a gain of \$25 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively, with any ineffective portion recognized in Other expenses during the period. The net hedge ineffectiveness recognized was nil for both the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016. Other amounts related to foreign exchange contracts reclassified from AOCI into Other expenses included a loss of \$18 million and nil for the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively, and a loss of \$18 million and a gain of \$5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

Derivatives Not Designated as Hedges

The changes in the fair value of derivatives that are not designated as hedges are intended to offset the related foreign exchange gains or losses of the underlying foreign currency exposures. The changes in the fair value of the derivatives and the related underlying foreign currency exposures resulted in net losses of \$15 million and \$4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively, and net losses of \$36 million and \$12 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively, and are recognized in Other expenses.

The changes in the fair value of an embedded derivative resulted in gains of \$1 million for both the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, and a loss of \$1 million and a gain of \$7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively, which are recognized in Card Member services and other expense.

## 10. Fair Values

Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities Carried at Fair Value

The following table summarizes the Company's financial assets and financial liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis, categorized by GAAP's fair value hierarchy, as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016:

(Millions)	2017			2016				
	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Assets:								
Investment securities: <sup>(a)</sup>								
Equity securities and other	\$49	\$1	\$48	\$	\$49	\$1	\$48	\$
Debt securities	3,201	1,118	2,083		3,108	460	2,648	
Derivatives <sup>(a)</sup>	235		235		765		765	
Total Assets	3,485	1,119	2,366		3,922	461	3,461	
Liabilities:								
Derivatives <sup>(a)</sup>	327		327		280		280	
Total Liabilities	\$327	\$	\$327	\$	\$280	\$	\$280	\$

<sup>(a)</sup> Refer to Note 5 for the fair values of investment securities and to Note 9 for the fair values of derivative assets and liabilities, on a further disaggregated basis.



Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities Carried at Other Than Fair Value

The following table summarizes the estimated fair values of the Company's financial assets and financial liabilities that are not required to be carried at fair value on a recurring basis, as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016. The fair values of these financial instruments are estimates based upon the market conditions and perceived risks as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, and require management's judgment. These figures may not be indicative of future fair values, nor can the fair value of the Company be estimated by aggregating the amounts presented.

2017 (Billions)	Carrying Value	Corresponding Fair Value Amount			
		Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>Financial Assets:</b>					
Financial assets for which carrying values equal or approximate fair value					
Cash and cash equivalents <sup>(a)</sup>	\$ 26	\$26	\$ 24	\$ 2	\$
Other financial assets <sup>(b)</sup>	56	56		56	
Financial assets carried at other than fair value					
Loans, net <sup>(c)</sup>	69	69			69
<b>Financial Liabilities:</b>					
Financial liabilities for which carrying values equal or approximate fair value	69	69		69	
Financial liabilities carried at other than fair value					
Certificates of deposit <sup>(d)</sup>	18	18		18	
Long-term debt <sup>(c)</sup>	\$ 49	\$50	\$	\$ 50	\$
<b>2016 (Billions)</b>					
<b>Financial Assets:</b>					
Financial assets for which carrying values equal or approximate fair value					
Cash and cash equivalents <sup>(a)</sup>	\$ 25	\$25	\$ 22	\$ 3	\$
Other financial assets <sup>(b)</sup>	51	51		51	
Financial assets carried at other than fair value					
Loans, net <sup>(c)</sup>	65	66			66
<b>Financial Liabilities:</b>					
Financial liabilities for which carrying values equal or approximate fair value	67	67		67	
Financial liabilities carried at other than fair value					
Certificates of deposit <sup>(d)</sup>	12	12		12	
Long-term debt <sup>(c)</sup>	\$ 47	\$48	\$	\$ 48	\$

(a) Level 2 amounts reflect time deposits and short-term investments.

Includes Card Member receivables (including fair values of Card Member receivables of \$7.8 billion and \$8.8 billion held by a consolidated VIE as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively), Other receivables, restricted cash and other miscellaneous assets.

(c) Balances include amounts held by a consolidated VIE for which the fair values of Card Member loans were \$24.1 billion and \$26.0 billion as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively, and the fair values of long-term debt were \$15.1 billion and \$15.2 billion as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016,

respectively.

(d) Presented as a component of customer deposits on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

Nonrecurring Fair Value Measurements

The Company has certain assets that are subject to measurement at fair value on a nonrecurring basis. For these assets, measurement at fair value in periods subsequent to their initial recognition is applicable if determined to be impaired. During the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and during the year ended December 31, 2016, the Company did not have any material assets that were measured at fair value due to impairment.

Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

## 11. Guarantees

The Company provides Card Member protection plans that cover losses associated with purchased products, as well as certain guarantees and indemnifications in the ordinary course of business.

As of September 30, 2017, the maximum potential undiscounted future payments and related liability resulting from these arrangements were \$1 billion and \$54 million, respectively, and related primarily to the Company's real estate and business dispositions. As of December 31, 2016, the maximum potential undiscounted future payments and related liability were \$48 billion and \$86 million, respectively. Amounts related to the Company's Card Member protection plans were included as of December 31, 2016, in addition to its real estate and business dispositions.

To date the Company has not experienced any significant losses related to guarantees or indemnifications. The Company's recognition of these instruments is at fair value. In addition, the Company establishes reserves when a loss is probable and the amount can be reasonably estimated.

## 12. Changes In Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income

AOCI is comprised of items that have not been recognized in earnings but may be recognized in earnings in the future when certain events occur. Changes in each component for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 were as follows:

	Net Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investment Securities	Foreign Currency Translation Adjustments	Net Unrealized Pension and Other Postretirement Benefit (Losses) Gains	Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss) Income
Three Months Ended September 30, 2017 (Millions), net of tax				
Balances as of June 30, 2017	\$ 13	\$ (1,913 )	\$ (528 )	\$ (2,428 )
Net unrealized losses	(2 )			(2 )
Decrease due to amounts reclassified into earnings		(1 )		(1 )
Net translation gain of investments in foreign operations		292		292
Net losses related to hedges of investments in foreign operations		(184 )		(184 )
Pension and other postretirement benefit			7	7
Net change in accumulated other comprehensive loss	(2 )	107	7	112
Balances as of September 30, 2017	\$ 11	\$ (1,806 )	\$ (521 )	\$ (2,316 )
Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017 (Millions), net of tax	Net Unrealized Gains (Losses)	Foreign Currency Translation Adjustments	Net Unrealized Pension and Other	Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss) Income

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN EXPRESS CO - Form 10-Q

	on Investment Securities		Postretirement Benefit (Losses) Gains	
Balances as of December 31, 2016	\$ 7	\$ (2,262 )	\$ (529 )	\$ (2,784 )
Net unrealized gains	4			4
Decrease due to amounts reclassified into earnings		(1 )		(1 )
Net translation gain of investments in foreign operations <sup>(a)</sup>		972		972
Net losses related to hedges of investments in foreign operations		(515 )		(515 )
Pension and other postretirement benefit			8	8
Net change in accumulated other comprehensive loss	4	456	8	468
Balances as of September 30, 2017	\$ 11	\$ (1,806 )	\$ (521 )	\$ (2,316 )

(a) Includes \$289 million of recognized tax benefits (Refer to Note 14).

Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

	Net Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investment Securities	Foreign Currency Translation Adjustments	Net Unrealized Pension and Other Postretirement Benefit (Losses) Gains	Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss) Income
Three Months Ended September 30, 2016 (Millions), net of tax				
Balances as of June 30, 2016	\$ 65	\$ (2,170 )	\$ (516 )	\$ (2,621 )
Net unrealized losses	(14 )			(14 )
Decrease due to amounts reclassified into earnings	(1 )			(1 )
Net translation gain of investments in foreign operations		29		29
Net losses related to hedges of investments in foreign operations		(18 )		(18 )
Pension and other postretirement benefit			7	7
Net change in accumulated other comprehensive loss	(15 )	11	7	3
Balances as of September 30, 2016	\$ 50	\$ (2,159 )	\$ (509 )	\$ (2,618 )

	Net Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investment Securities	Foreign Currency Translation Adjustments	Net Unrealized Pension and Other Postretirement Benefit (Losses) Gains	Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss) Income
Nine Months Ended September 30, 2016 (Millions), net of tax				
Balances as of December 31, 2015	\$ 58	\$ (2,044 )	\$ (548 )	\$ (2,534 )
Net unrealized losses	(5 )			(5 )
Decrease due to amounts reclassified into earnings	(3 )			(3 )
Net translation loss of investments in foreign operations		(140 )		(140 )
Net gains related to hedges of investments in foreign operations		25		25
Pension and other postretirement benefit			39	39
Net change in accumulated other comprehensive loss	(8 )	(115 )	39	(84 )
Balances as of September 30, 2016	\$ 50	\$ (2,159 )	\$ (509 )	\$ (2,618 )

The following table shows the tax impact for the three and nine months ended September 30 for the changes in each component of AOCI presented above:

(Millions)	Tax (benefit) expense			
	Three Months Ended September 30, 2017		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2016	
	2017	2016	2017	2016

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN EXPRESS CO - Form 10-Q

Investment securities	\$ (1 )	\$ (9 )	\$ 2	\$ (7 )
Foreign currency translation adjustments <sup>(a)</sup>	(25 )	(6 )	(204)	30
Net investment hedges	(99 )	(18)	(306)	7
Pension and other postretirement benefits	(2 )	7	(10 )	36
Total tax impact	\$(127)	\$(26)	\$(518)	\$66

(a) Includes \$289 million of tax benefits recognized in the nine months ended September 30, 2017 (Refer to Note 14).

Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

The following table presents the effects of reclassifications out of AOCI and into the Consolidated Statements of Income:

Description (Millions)	Income Statement Line Item	Gains (losses) recognized in earnings			
		Three Months Ended September 30, 2017		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2016	
		2017	2016	2017	2016
Available-for-sale securities					
Reclassifications for previously unrealized net gains on investment securities	Other non-interest revenues	\$	\$ 1	\$	\$ 5
Related income tax expense	Income tax provision				(2)
Reclassification to net income related to available-for-sale securities			1		3
Foreign currency translation adjustments					
Reclassification of realized losses on translation adjustments and related net investments hedges	Other expenses	(6)		(6)	
Related income tax benefit	Income tax provision	7		7	
Reclassification to net income related to foreign currency translation adjustments		1		1	
Total		\$1	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 3

## 13. Non-Interest Revenue and Expense Detail

The following is a detail of Other fees and commissions:

(Millions)	Three Months Ended September 30, 2017		Nine Months Ended September 30, 2016	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Delinquency fees	\$221	\$183	\$653	\$575
Foreign currency conversion fee revenue	219	207	630	610
Loyalty coalition-related fees	116	106	332	304
Travel commissions and fees	93	89	267	256
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	118	109	350	331
Total Other fees and commissions	\$767	\$694	\$2,232	\$2,076

(a) Other primarily includes service fees and fees related to Membership Rewards programs.

The following is a detail of Other revenues:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
(Millions)	2017	2016	2017	2016
Global Network Services partner revenues	\$ 150	\$ 156	\$ 456	\$ 498
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	286	327	828	1,016
Total Other revenues	\$ 436	\$ 483	\$ 1,284	\$ 1,514

Other includes revenues arising from net revenue earned on cross-border Card Member spending, insurance premiums earned from Card Member travel and other insurance programs, merchant-related fees, revenues related to the GBT JV transition services agreement, Prepaid card and Travelers Cheque-related revenues, earnings from equity method investments (including the GBT JV) and other miscellaneous revenue and fees.



Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

The following is a detail of Other expenses:

(Millions)	Three Months		Nine Months	
	Ended September 30, 2017	2016	Ended September 30, 2017	2016
Occupancy and equipment	\$568	\$429	\$1,527	\$1,332
Professional services	501	630	1,534	1,862
Gain on sale of HFS portfolios <sup>(a)</sup>				(1,218)
Other <sup>(b)</sup>	429	439	1,220	1,412
Total Other expenses	\$1,498	\$1,498	\$4,281	\$3,388

(a) Refer to Note 2 for additional information.

Other expense primarily includes general operating expenses, Card and merchant-related fraud losses, communication expenses, certain loyalty coalition-related expenses, foreign currency-related gains and losses and insurance costs. In addition, for the nine months ended September 30, 2016, Other expenses includes the valuation allowance adjustment associated with loans and receivables HFS.

#### 14. Income Taxes

The effective tax rate was 25.8 percent and 34.2 percent for the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively, and 29.7 percent and 33.9 percent for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively. The changes in tax rates in both periods primarily reflected the realization of certain foreign tax credits and the geographic mix of business, and additionally in the nine month period, the resolution of certain prior years' tax items.

The Company is under continuous examination by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and tax authorities in other countries and states in which the Company has significant business operations. The tax years under examination and open for examination vary by jurisdiction. In February 2017, the Company received notification that all matters outstanding with the IRS for tax years 1997-2007 were resolved. The resolution of such matters did not have a material impact on the Company's effective tax rate. The Company is currently under examination with the IRS for tax years 2008 through 2014.

The Company believes it is reasonably possible that its unrecognized tax benefits could decrease within the next 12 months by as much as \$307 million, principally as a result of potential resolutions of prior years' tax items with various taxing authorities. The prior years' tax items include unrecognized tax benefits relating to the deductibility of certain expenses or losses and the attribution of taxable income to a particular jurisdiction or jurisdictions. Of the \$307 million of unrecognized tax benefits, approximately \$257 million relates to amounts that, if recognized, would impact the effective tax rate in a future period. During the nine months ended September 30, 2017, the Company's unrecognized tax benefits decreased by \$253 million. The decrease was primarily due to the resolution with the IRS of an uncertain tax position in January 2017, which resulted in the recognition of \$289 million in shareholders' equity, specifically within AOCI.

Table of Contents

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
 NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 (Unaudited)

## 15. Earnings Per Common Share (EPS)

The computations of basic and diluted EPS were as follows:

(Millions, except per share amounts)	Three Months		Nine Months	
	Ended September 30, 2017	2016	Ended September 30, 2017	2016
Numerator:				
Basic and diluted:				
Net income	\$1,356	\$1,142	\$3,933	\$4,583
Preferred dividends	(21 )	(21 )	(61 )	(61 )
Net income available to common shareholders	1,335	1,121	3,872	4,522
Earnings allocated to participating share awards <sup>(a)</sup>	(11 )	(9 )	(32 )	(37 )
Net income attributable to common shareholders	\$1,324	\$1,112	\$3,840	\$4,485
Denominator: <sup>(a)</sup>				
Basic: Weighted-average common stock	878	920	889	940
Add: Weighted-average stock options <sup>(b)</sup>	3	3	3	3
Diluted	881	923	892	943
Basic EPS	\$1.51	\$1.21	\$4.32	\$4.77
Diluted EPS	\$1.50	\$1.20	\$4.30	\$4.76

The Company's unvested restricted stock awards, which include the right to receive non-forfeitable dividends or dividend equivalents, are considered participating securities. Calculations of EPS under the two-class method (a) exclude from the numerator any dividends paid or owed on participating securities and any undistributed earnings considered to be attributable to participating securities. The related participating securities are similarly excluded from the denominator.

The dilutive effect of unexercised stock options excludes from the computation of EPS 0.5 million and 3.2 million (b) of options for the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively, and 0.8 million and 2.2 million of options for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively, because inclusion of the options would have been anti-dilutive.

Table of ContentsAMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Unaudited)

## 16. Reportable Operating Segments

The Company is a global services company that is principally engaged in businesses comprising four reportable operating segments: USCS, ICNS, GCS and Global Merchant Services (GMS). Corporate functions and certain other businesses and operations are included in Corporate & Other.

The following table presents certain selected financial information for the Company's reportable operating segments and Corporate & Other:

Three Months Ended September 30, 2017 (Millions, except where indicated)	USCS	ICNS	GCS	GMS	Corporate & Other <sup>(a)</sup>	Consolidated
Non-interest revenues	\$1,976	\$1,277	\$2,360	\$1,088	\$ 60	\$ 6,761
Interest income	1,509	271	351		111	2,242
Interest expense	202	65	144	(65 )	221	567
Total revenues net of interest expense	3,283	1,483	2,567	1,153	(50 )	8,436
Net income (loss)	\$475	\$286	\$529	\$368	\$ (302 )	\$ 1,356
Total assets (billions)	\$88	\$39	\$53	\$27	\$ (38 )	\$ 169
Total equity (billions)	\$7	\$3	\$7	\$3	\$ 1	\$ 21

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017 (Millions, except where indicated)	USCS	ICNS	GCS	GMS	Corporate & Other <sup>(a)</sup>	Consolidated
Non-interest revenues	\$5,832	\$3,719	\$6,999	\$3,191	\$ 186	\$ 19,927
Interest income	4,186	752	1,004	1	294	6,237
Interest expense	519	178	382	(188 )	641	1,532
Total revenues net of interest expense	9,499	4,293	7,621	3,380	(161 )	24,632
Net income (loss)	\$1,384	\$713	\$1,447	\$1,161	\$ (772 )	\$ 3,933
Total assets (billions)	\$88	\$39	\$53	\$27	\$ (38 )	\$ 169
Total equity (billions)	\$7	\$3	\$7	\$3	\$ 1	\$ 21

Three Months Ended September 30, 2016 (Millions, except where indicated)	USCS	ICNS	GCS	GMS	Corporate & Other <sup>(a)</sup>	Consolidated
Non-interest revenues	\$1,849	\$1,205	\$2,240	\$1,044	\$ 102	\$ 6,440
Interest income	1,178	231	282		73	1,764
Interest expense	125	55	98	(60 )	212	430
Total revenues net of interest expense	2,902	1,381	2,424	1,104	(37 )	7,774
Net income (loss)	\$401	\$155	\$466	\$359	\$ (239 )	\$ 1,142
Total assets (billions)	\$79	\$34	\$47	\$23	\$ (30 )	\$ 153
Total equity (billions)	\$8	\$3	\$7	\$2	\$ 1	\$ 21

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN EXPRESS CO - Form 10-Q

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2016 (Millions, except where indicated)	USCS	ICNS	GCS	GMS	Corporate & Other <sup>(a)</sup>	Consolidated
Non-interest revenues	\$5,947	\$3,587	\$6,710	\$3,172	\$ 318	\$ 19,734
Interest income	3,847	692	913	1	201	5,654
Interest expense	404	167	297	(180 )	603	1,291
Total revenues net of interest expense	9,390	4,112	7,326	3,353	(84 )	24,097
Net income (loss)	\$2,162	\$571	\$1,527	\$1,089	\$ (766 )	\$ 4,583
Total assets (billions)	\$79	\$34	\$47	\$23	\$ (30 )	\$ 153
Total equity (billions)	\$8	\$3	\$7	\$2	\$ 1	\$ 21

(a) Corporate & Other includes adjustments and eliminations for intersegment activity.

Table of Contents

ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Business Introduction

When we use the terms "American Express," "the Company," "we," "our" or "us," we mean American Express Company and subsidiaries on a consolidated basis, unless we state or the context implies otherwise.

We are a global services company with four reportable operating segments: U.S. Consumer Services (USCS), International Consumer and Network Services (ICNS), Global Commercial Services (GCS) and Global Merchant Services (GMS). Corporate functions and certain other businesses and operations are included in Corporate & Other. We provide our customers with access to products, insights and experiences that enrich lives and build business success. Our principal products and services are charge and credit payment card products and travel-related services offered to consumers and businesses around the world. Our range of products and services includes:

- Charge card, credit card and other payment and financing products
- Network services
- Merchant acquisition and processing, servicing and settlement, marketing and point-of-sale marketing and information products and services for merchants
- Other fee services, including fraud prevention services and the design and operation of customer loyalty programs
- Expense management products and services
- Travel-related services
- Stored-value/prepaid products

Our various products and services are sold globally to diverse customer groups, including consumers, small businesses, mid-sized companies and large corporations. These products and services are sold through various channels, including online applications, direct mail, in-house teams, third-party vendors and direct response advertising. Business travel-related services are offered through our non-consolidated joint venture, American Express Global Business Travel (the GBT JV).

We compete in the global payments industry with charge, credit and debit card networks, issuers and acquirers, paper-based transactions (e.g., cash and checks), bank transfer models (e.g., wire transfers and ACH), as well as evolving and growing alternative payment and financing providers. As the payments industry continues to evolve, we face increasing competition from non-traditional players that leverage new technologies and customer relationships to create payment or financing solutions.

The following types of revenue are generated from our various products and services:

• Discount revenue, our largest revenue source, represents fees generally charged to merchants for accepting our cards as payment for goods or services sold;

• Interest on loans, principally represents interest income earned on outstanding balances;

• Net card fees, represent revenue earned from annual card membership fees, which varies based on the type of card and the number of cards for each account;

• Other fees and commissions, represent foreign currency conversion fees charged to Card Members, Card Member delinquency fees, loyalty coalition-related fees, travel commissions and fees, service fees and fees related to our Membership Rewards program; and

• Other revenue, primarily represents revenues arising from contracts with partners of our Global Network Services (GNS) business (including commissions and signing fees), cross-border Card Member spending, insurance premiums

earned from Card Members, ancillary merchant-related fees, revenues related to the GBT JV transition services agreement, prepaid card and Travelers Cheque-related revenue and earnings from equity method investments (including the GBT JV).

## Table of Contents

### Forward-Looking Statements and Non-GAAP Measures

Certain of the statements in this Form 10-Q are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Refer to the “Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements” section. We prepare our Consolidated Financial Statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). However, certain information included within this Form 10-Q constitutes non-GAAP financial measures. Our calculations of non-GAAP financial measures may differ from the calculations of similarly titled measures by other companies.

### Bank Holding Company

American Express Company is a bank holding company under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 and The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the Federal Reserve) is our primary federal regulator. As such, we are subject to the Federal Reserve’s regulations, policies and minimum capital standards.

### Business Environment

Our results for the third quarter reflect significant progress against our current priorities of accelerating revenue growth, optimizing investments and resetting the cost base. During the quarter, revenue and earnings performance was strong across our business segments and we continued to invest in new products and benefits, maintaining high levels of new card acquisitions and expanding our merchant network. In addition, our strong balance sheet position allowed us to continue to return a significant amount of capital to shareholders through share repurchases and dividends.

Our worldwide billed business increased 8 percent over the prior year, reflecting growth across our diverse customer segments and geographies. Our U.S. and international proprietary card issuing businesses saw a modest acceleration in billings growth in the current quarter. We also continued to see strong performance from middle market and small business customers, while large and global commercial customers continued to grow at a more modest pace. Billed business growth for Global Network Services slowed slightly from last quarter as a result of the impact of the evolving regulatory environment in Europe and Australia.

Revenues net of interest expense grew year-over-year primarily due to strong growth in billed business and an increase in net interest income. Our net interest yield increased year-over-year primarily related to a shift in mix towards non-cobrand lending products that generally attract more revolving loan balances, a lower percentage of total loans at introductory interest rates, specific pricing actions and a benefit from increases in benchmark interest rates. We expect the net interest yield to stabilize over time and, as a result, we expect the growth in net interest income to moderate.

Card Member loan and receivables growth was strong year-over-year, as we continue to expand our relationships with existing customers and acquire new Card Members. Provisions for losses increased as a result of higher Card Member loans and receivables, expected increases in delinquencies and net write-off rates, and a small reserve build related to recent hurricanes. The increases in the delinquency and net write-off rates were primarily due to the seasoning of recent loan vintages and a shift in mix towards non-cobrand lending products, which have higher write-off rates. We expect, as a result of these trends, provisions for losses will continue to grow faster than loans.

Spending on Card Member engagement (the aggregate of rewards, Card Member services and marketing and promotion expenses) increased year-over-year and primarily reflected the recent enhancements to rewards on our U.S. Platinum products, continued strong growth in our Delta cobrand portfolio and higher levels of engagement in many of our premium services. Marketing and promotion expenses decreased, as we realized efficiencies in our marketing spend. Year-over-year operating expenses were flat. In the third quarter of 2017, we incurred impairment and other charges related to our US loyalty coalition and US prepaid businesses. Excluding these charges and a restructuring charge in the prior year, adjusted operating expenses decreased year-over-year, reflecting progress against our cost reduction initiatives.

Our effective tax rate for the quarter was 26 percent, down from 34 percent a year ago, primarily due to the realization of certain foreign tax credits in the current year and a continuing shift in the geographic mix of earnings. Going forward, we estimate our ongoing tax rate will be approximately 32%, although the effective tax rate in any given period can be further impacted by discrete tax items as we saw in the current quarter.



Table of Contents

Our third quarter results continue to reflect the diverse sources of growth across our business segments and geographies. The momentum seen in our results throughout 2017 reflects the investments we have made in a variety of growth opportunities over the last several years. Although we have some headwinds from regulation in markets around the world and intense competition, we remain focused on delivering differentiated value to our merchants, customers and business partners, while delivering appropriate returns to our shareholders.

On October 18, 2017, we announced that the Board of Directors appointed Stephen J. Squeri Chief Executive Officer of American Express Company and elected him Chairman of the Board, each effective February 1, 2018. Mr. Squeri succeeds Kenneth I. Chenault, who will retire as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer on that date. Mr. Squeri joined American Express in 1985 and in his current role serves as Vice Chairman. See Part II, Item 5. “Other Information” for further detail.

See “Certain legislative, regulatory and other developments” in “Other Matters” for information on legislative and regulatory changes that could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Table of ContentsAmerican Express Company  
Consolidated Results of Operations

Refer to the “Glossary of Selected Terminology” for the definitions of certain key terms and related information appearing within this section.

Effective December 1, 2015, we transferred the Card Member loans and receivables related to our cobrand partnerships with Costco Wholesale Corporation (Costco) and JetBlue Airways Corporation (JetBlue) (collectively, the HFS portfolios) to Card Member loans and receivables held for sale (HFS) on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. On March 18, 2016 and June 17, 2016, we completed the sales of the JetBlue and Costco cobrand card portfolios, respectively. For the periods from December 1, 2015, through the sale completion dates, the primary impacts beyond the HFS classification on the Consolidated Balance Sheets were to provisions for losses and credit metrics, which do not reflect amounts related to these HFS loans and receivables, as credit costs were reported in Other expenses through a valuation allowance adjustment. Other, non-credit related metrics (i.e., billed business, cards-in-force, net interest yield) reflect amounts related to the HFS portfolios through the sale completion dates. Additionally, for periods after the sale completion dates, activities associated with these cobrand partnerships and the HFS portfolios are no longer included in our Consolidated Results of Operations. Specifically, these impacts include: Discount revenue from Costco in the United States for spend on all American Express cards and from other merchants for spend on the Costco cobrand card; Other fees and commissions and Interest income from Costco cobrand Card Members; and Card Member rewards expense related to the Costco cobrand card, resulting in a lack of comparability between 2017 and 2016 in the first half of the year.

The discussions in both the Consolidated Results of Operations and Business Segment Results provide commentary on the variances for the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2017 compared to same periods in the prior year, as presented in the accompanying tables.

Table 1: Summary of Financial Performance

(Millions, except percentages and per share amounts)	Three Months Ended		Change 2017 vs. 2016		Nine Months Ended		Change 2017 vs. 2016		
	September 30, 2017	September 30, 2016			September 30, 2017	September 30, 2016			
Total revenues net of interest expense	\$8,436	\$7,774	\$662	9 %	\$24,632	\$24,097	\$535	2 %	
Provisions for losses	769	504	265	53	1,926	1,401	525	37	
Expenses	5,840	5,535	305	6	17,113	15,761	1,352	9	
Net income	1,356	1,142	214	19	3,933	4,583	(650)	(14)	
Earnings per common share - diluted <sup>(a)</sup>	\$1.50	\$1.20	\$0.30	25%	\$4.30	\$4.76	\$(0.46)	(10)%	
Return on average equity <sup>(b)</sup>	22.7 %	26.1 %			22.7 %	26.1 %			

Earnings per common share — diluted was reduced by the impact of (i) earnings allocated to participating share awards and other items of \$11 million and \$9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, (a) respectively, and \$32 million and \$37 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively, and (ii) dividends on preferred shares of \$21 million for both the three months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, and \$61 million for both the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016.

Return on average equity (ROE) is computed by dividing (i) one-year period net income (\$4.8 billion and \$5.5 billion for September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively) by (ii) one-year average total shareholders' equity (\$21.0 billion for both September 30, 2017 and 2016).

Table 2: Total Revenue Net of Interest Expense Summary

Edgar Filing: AMERICAN EXPRESS CO - Form 10-Q

	Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2017	2016	Change 2017 vs. 2016		2017	2016	Change 2017 vs. 2016	
(Millions, except percentages)								
Discount revenue	\$4,772	\$4,516	\$256	6 %	\$14,106	\$13,983	\$123	1 %
Net card fees	786	747	39	5	2,305	2,161	144	7
Other fees and commissions	767	694	73	11	2,232	2,076	156	8
Other	436	483	(47)	(10)	1,284	1,514	(230)	(15)
Total non-interest revenues	6,761	6,440	321	5	19,927	19,734	193	1
Total interest income	2,242	1,764	478	27	6,237	5,654	583	10
Total interest expense	567	430	137	32	1,532	1,291	241	19
Net interest income	1,675	1,334	341	26	4,705	4,363	342	8
Total revenues net of interest expense	\$8,436	\$7,774	\$662	9 %	\$24,632	\$24,097	\$535	2 %

Table of Contents

## Total Revenues Net of Interest Expense

Discount revenue increased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily due to growth in billed business of 8 percent and 3 percent for the three and nine month periods, respectively, partially offset by a decrease in the average discount rate and increases in contra-discount revenues. The increase in contra-discount revenue was primarily due to higher corporate client incentives and cobrand partner payments, both driven by higher volumes. U.S. billed business increased 7 percent and decreased 1 percent for the three and nine month periods respectively. Non-U.S. billed business increased 10 percent and 11 percent for the three and nine month periods, respectively. See Tables 5, 6 and 7 for more details on billed business performance.

The decreases in the average discount rate for both the three and nine month periods primarily reflected changes in industry and geographic mix, rate pressure from merchant negotiations, including those resulting from the recent regulatory changes affecting competitor pricing in certain international markets, and the continued growth of the OptBlue program. We expect the average discount rate will likely continue to decline over time due to a greater shift of existing merchants into OptBlue, merchant negotiations and competition, volume related pricing discounts, certain pricing initiatives mainly driven by pricing regulation (including regulation of competitors' interchange rates) and other factors.

Net card fees increased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by growth in the Platinum and Delta portfolios as well as growth in certain key international markets.

Other fees and commissions increased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by an increase in delinquency fees due to a change in certain U.S. charge card portfolios' late fee assessment date.

Other revenues decreased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by revenues related to our Loyalty Edge business in the prior year, and additionally in the nine month period, a contractual payment from a GNS partner in the prior year.

Interest income increased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by growth in average Card Member loans and higher yields in the current year. The increase in yields was primarily driven by a mix shift towards non-cobrand lending products, where Card Members tend to revolve more of their loan balances, as well as a lower percentage of loans at introductory rates, specific pricing actions, and a benefit from increases in benchmark interest rates.

Interest expense increased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by marginally higher interest rates and higher average long-term debt.

Table 3: Provisions for Losses Summary

	Three Months Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2017	2016	Change 2017 vs. 2016		2017	2016	Change 2017 vs. 2016	
(Millions, except percentages)								
Charge card	\$214	\$174	\$40	23%	\$590	\$496	\$94	19%
Card Member loans	531	319	212	66	1,272	831	441	53
Other	24	11	13	#	64	74	(10)	(14)
Total provisions for losses <sup>(a)</sup>	\$769	\$504	\$265	53%	\$1,926	\$1,401	\$525	37%

# Denotes a variance greater than 100 percent.

(a) Beginning December 1, 2015 through to the sale completion dates, does not reflect the HFS portfolios.

## Provisions for Losses

Charge card provision for losses increased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by growth in receivables due to charge volume and higher net write-offs.

Card Member loans provision for losses increased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by strong loan growth, as well as increases in delinquencies and net write-off rates, primarily due to the seasoning of recent loan vintages and a shift in mix towards non-cobrand lending products, which have higher write-off rates.

Other provision for losses increased for the three month period and decreased for the nine month period. The increase in the three month period was primarily due to growth in the non-card lending portfolio, which was more than offset in the nine month period by improving credit performance in the commercial financing portfolio.

Table of Contents

Table 4: Expenses Summary

	Three Months Ended				Nine Months Ended			
	September 30,		Change 2017 vs. 2016		September 30,		Change 2017 vs. 2016	
(Millions, except percentages)	2017	2016	2016		2017	2016	2016	
Marketing and promotion	\$814	\$930	\$(116)	(12)%	\$2,344	\$2,445	\$(101)	(4)%
Card Member rewards	1,900	1,566	334	21	5,633	5,035	598	12
Card Member services and other	363	278	85	31	1,033	841	192	23
Total marketing, promotion, rewards, Card Member services and other	3,077	2,774	303	11	9,010	8,321	689	8
Salaries and employee benefits	1,265	1,263	2		3,822	4,052	(230)	(6)
Other, net <sup>(a)</sup>	1,498	1,498			4,281	3,388	893	26
Total expenses	\$5,840	\$5,535	\$305	6 %	\$17,113	\$15,761	\$1,352	9 %

(a) Beginning December 1, 2015 through to the portfolio sale completion dates, includes the valuation allowance adjustment associated with the HFS portfolios.

**Expenses**

Marketing and promotion expenses decreased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily due to lower spending on growth initiatives.

Card Member rewards expenses increased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by increases in Membership Rewards expense of \$202 million and cobrand rewards expense of \$132 million for the three month period and an increase in Membership Rewards expense of \$674 million partially offset by a decrease in cobrand rewards expense of \$75 million for the nine month period. The increases in Membership Rewards expense were primarily driven by enhancements to U.S. Consumer and Small Business Platinum rewards and higher spending volumes. The increase in cobrand rewards expense in the three month period reflected growth in spending volumes across cobrand card products, which was more than offset in the nine month period by the impact of Costco-related expenses in the prior year.

The Membership Rewards Ultimate Redemption Rate (URR) for current program participants was 95 percent (rounded down) at both September 30, 2017 and 2016.

Card Member services and other expenses increased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by higher usage of travel-related benefits and the enhanced Platinum card benefits.

Salaries and employee benefits expenses were flat for the three month period and decreased for the nine month period. The decrease in the nine month period reflected higher restructuring charges in the prior year and benefits from our cost reduction initiatives in the current year.

Other expenses were flat for the three month period and increased for the nine month period. The three month period results were primarily driven by lower technology-related costs in the current year and Loyalty Edge-related costs included in the prior year, offset by current-year charges related to our U.S. loyalty coalition and prepaid businesses. The increase in the nine month period was primarily driven by the prior-year gains on the sale of the HFS portfolios, partially offset by the previously mentioned lower technology-related costs in the current year and Loyalty Edge-related costs in the prior year.

**Income Taxes**

The effective tax rate decreased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily reflecting the realization of certain foreign tax credits and the geographic mix of business, and additionally in the nine month period, the resolution of certain prior years' tax items.

Table of Contents

Table 5: Selected Card-Related Statistical Information

	As of or for the Three Months Ended		Change 2017 vs. 2016	As of or for the Nine Months Ended		Change 2017 vs. 2016
	September 30, 2017	September 30, 2016		September 30, 2017	September 30, 2016	
Card billed business: (billions)						
United States	\$176.4	\$164.6	7	% \$519.4	\$526.0	(1) %
Outside the United States	95.5	86.6	10	274.4	248.3	11
Worldwide	\$271.9	\$251.2	8	\$793.8	\$774.3	3
Proprietary	\$225.3	\$206.4	9	\$658.0	\$645.2	2
Global Network Services	46.6	44.8	4	135.8	129.1	5
Worldwide	\$271.9	\$251.2	8	\$793.8	\$774.3	3
Total cards-in-force: (millions)						
United States	49.5	47.1	5	49.5	47.1	5
Outside the United States	63.4	61.7	3	63.4	61.7	3
Worldwide	112.9	108.8	4	112.9	108.8	4
Proprietary	63.9	60.7	5	63.9	60.7	5
Global Network Services	49.0	48.1	2	49.0	48.1	2
Worldwide	112.9	108.8	4	112.9	108.8	4
Basic cards-in-force: (millions)						
United States	39.0	37.0	5	39.0	37.0	5
Outside the United States	52.7	51.1	3	52.7	51.1	3
Worldwide	91.7	88.1	4	91.7	88.1	4
Average basic Card Member spending: (dollars) <sup>(a)</sup>						
United States	\$5,018	\$4,937	2	\$15,009	\$13,732	9
Outside the United States	3,598	3,264	10	10,351	9,667	7
Worldwide Average	4,596	4,433	4	13,620	12,628	8
Card Member loans: (billions)						
United States	59.9	53.9	11	59.9	53.9	11
Outside the United States	8.0	6.7	19	8.0	6.7	19
Worldwide	\$67.9	\$60.6	12	\$67.9	\$60.6	12
Average discount rate	2.42 %	2.47 %		2.44 %	2.45 %	
Average fee per card (dollars) <sup>(a)</sup>	\$49	\$49		% \$49	\$43	14 %

<sup>(a)</sup> Average basic Card Member spending and average fee per card are computed from proprietary card activities only.

<sup>(a)</sup> Average fee per card is computed based on net card fees divided by average worldwide proprietary cards-in-force.

Table of Contents

Table 6: Billed Business Growth

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2017		
	Percentage Increase (Decrease)	Percentage Increase (Decrease) Assuming No Changes in FX Rates <sup>(a)</sup>	
Worldwide <sup>(b)</sup>			
Total billed business	8	% 8	%
Proprietary billed business	9	9	
GNS billed business <sup>(c)</sup>	4	4	
Airline-related volume (8% of worldwide billed business)	5	3	
United States <sup>(b)</sup>			
Billed business	7		
Proprietary consumer card billed business <sup>(d)</sup>	7		
Proprietary small business and corporate services billed business <sup>(e)</sup>	9		
T&E-related volume (25% of U.S. billed business)	3		
Non-T&E-related volume (75% of U.S. billed business)	8		
Airline-related volume (7% of U.S. billed business)	2		
Outside the United States <sup>(b)</sup>			
Billed business	10	9	
Japan, Asia Pacific & Australia (JAPA) billed business	8	9	
Latin America & Canada (LACC) billed business	10	8	
Europe, the Middle East & Africa (EMEA) billed business	13	10	
Proprietary consumer card billed business <sup>(c)</sup>	15	13	
Proprietary small business and corporate services billed business <sup>(e)</sup>	14	% 11	%

The foreign currency adjusted information assumes a constant exchange rate between the periods being compared for purposes of currency translation into U.S. dollars (i.e., assumes the foreign exchange rates used to determine results for the current period apply to the corresponding prior year period against which such results are being compared).

(a) Captions in the table above not designated as “proprietary” or “GNS” include both proprietary and GNS data.

(b) Captions in the table above not designated as “proprietary” or “GNS” include both proprietary and GNS data.

(c) Included in the ICNS segment.

(d) Included in the USCS segment.

(e) Included in the GCS segment.



Table of Contents

Table 7: Billed Business Growth

	Nine Months Ended September 30, 2017		
	Percentage Increase (Decrease)	Percentage Increase (Decrease) Assuming No Changes in FX Rates <sup>(a)</sup>	
Worldwide <sup>(b)</sup>			
Total billed business	3	% 3	%
Proprietary billed business	2	2	
GNS billed business <sup>(c)</sup>	5	5	
Airline-related volume (8% of worldwide billed business)	2	2	
United States <sup>(b)</sup>			
Billed business	(1)		
Proprietary consumer card billed business <sup>(d)</sup>	(6)		
Proprietary small business and corporate services billed business <sup>(e)</sup>	5		
T&E-related volume (26% of U.S. billed business)	(2)		
Non-T&E-related volume (74% of U.S. billed business)	(1)		
Airline-related volume (7% of U.S. billed business)	(1)		
Outside the United States <sup>(b)</sup>			
Billed business	11	11	
Japan, Asia Pacific & Australia billed business	12	12	
Latin America & Canada billed business	10	9	
Europe, the Middle East & Africa billed business	9	11	
Proprietary consumer card billed business <sup>(c)</sup>	11	12	
Proprietary small business and corporate services billed business <sup>(e)</sup>	12	% 12	%

(a) Refer to Note (a) in Table 6.

(b) Captions in the table above not designated as “proprietary” or “GNS” include both proprietary and GNS data.

(c) Included in the ICNS segment.

(d) Included in the USCS segment.

(e) Included in the GCS segment.

Table of Contents

Table 8: Selected Credit-Related Statistical Information

(Millions, except percentages and where indicated)	As of or for the Three Months Ended September 30,		Change 2017 vs. 2016	As of or for the Nine Months Ended September 30,		Change 2017 vs. 2016
	2017	2016		2017	2016	
Worldwide Card Member loans: <sup>(a)</sup>						
Total loans (billions)	\$67.9	\$60.6	12	\$67.9	\$60.6	12
Loss reserves:						
Beginning balance	\$1,320	\$1,091	21	\$1,223	\$1,028	19
Provisions <sup>(b)</sup>	531	319	66	1,272	831	53
Net write-offs — principal only <sup>(c)</sup>	(299 )	(250 )	20	(856 )	(687 )	25
Net write-offs — interest and fees <sup>(c)</sup>	(57 )	(48 )	19	(163 )	(128 )	27
Other <sup>(d)</sup>	7	2	#	26	70	(63 )
Ending balance	\$1,502	\$1,114	35	\$1,502	\$1,114	35
Ending reserves — principal	\$1,427	\$1,050	36	\$1,427	\$1,050	36
Ending reserves — interest and fees	\$75	\$64	17	\$75	\$64	17
% of loans	2.2 %	1.8 %		2.2 %	1.8 %	
% of past due	174 %	160 %		174 %	160 %	
Average loans (billions) <sup>(a)</sup>	\$67.1	\$60.3	11	% \$65.4	\$58.9	11 %
Net write-off rate — principal only <sup>(c)</sup>	1.8 %	1.7 %		1.7 %	1.6 %	
Net write-off rate — principal, interest and fees <sup>(c)</sup>	2.1	2.0		2.1	1.8	
30+ days past due as a % of total <sup>(e)</sup>	1.3 %	1.1 %		1.3 %	1.1 %	
Worldwide Card Member receivables: <sup>(a)</sup>						
Total receivables (billions)	\$51.5	\$45.3	14	% \$51.5	\$45.3	14 %
Loss reserves:						
Beginning balance	\$475	\$423	12	\$467	\$462	1
Provisions <sup>(b)</sup>	214	174	23	590	496	19
Net write-offs <sup>(c)</sup>	(175 )	(159 )	10	(548 )	(518 )	6
Other	(2 )	(1 )	#	3	(3 )	#
Ending balance	\$512	\$437	17	\$512	\$437	17
% of receivables	1.0 %	1.0 %		1.0 %	1.0 %	
Net write-off rate — principal only <sup>(c)</sup>	1.5	1.4		1.6	1.6	
Net write-off rate — principal and fees <sup>(c)</sup>	1.7	1.6		1.8	1.8	
30+ days past due as a % of total <sup>(e)</sup>	1.3	1.4		1.3	1.4	
Net loss ratio as a % of charge volume — GCP	0.09	0.11		0.10	0.09	
90+ days past billing as a % of total — GCP	0.9 %	0.8 %		0.9 %	0.8 %	

# Denotes a variance greater than 100 percent.

(a) Beginning December 1, 2015 through to the sale completion dates, does not reflect the HFS portfolios.

(b) Reflects provisions for principal, interest and/or fees on Card Member loans and receivables. Refer to Table 3 footnote (a).

(c) Write-offs, less recoveries.

The nine months ended September 30, 2016 includes reserves associated with Card Member loans reclassified (d) from HFS to held for investment. Refer to Changes in Card Member loans reserve for losses under Note 4 to our Consolidated Financial Statements for additional information.

(e) We present a net write-off rate based on principal losses only (i.e., excluding interest and/or fees) to be consistent with industry convention. In addition, because we consider uncollectible interest and/or fees in our reserves for credit losses, a net write-off rate including principal, interest and/or fees is also presented. The net write-off rates

and 30+ days past due as a percentage of total for Card Member receivables relate to USCS, ICNS and Global Small Business Services (GSBS) Card Member receivables.

Table of Contents

Table 9: Net Interest Yield on Card Member Loans

(Millions, except percentages and where indicated)	Three Months		Nine Months	
	Ended		Ended	
	September 30,		September 30,	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Net interest income	\$1,675	\$1,334	\$4,705	\$4,363
Exclude:				
Interest expense not attributable to our Card Member loan portfolio	315	261	869	746
Interest income not attributable to our Card Member loan portfolio	(174 )	(104 )	(459 )	(309 )
Adjusted net interest income <sup>(a)</sup>	\$1,816	\$1,491	\$5,115	\$4,800
Average loans (billions) <sup>(b)</sup>	\$67.1	\$60.3	\$65.4	\$66.6
Net interest income divided by average loans	10.0 %	8.8 %	9.6 %	8.7 %
Net interest yield on Card Member loans <sup>(a)</sup>	10.7 %	9.8 %	10.5 %	9.6 %

Adjusted net interest income and net interest yield on Card Member loans are non-GAAP measures. Refer to “Glossary of Selected Terminology” for definitions of these terms. We believe adjusted net interest income is useful to investors because it is a component of net interest yield on Card Member loans, which provides a measure of profitability of our Card Member loan portfolio.

(a) Beginning December 1, 2015 through to the sale completion dates, for the purposes of the calculation of net interest yield on Card Member loans, average loans included the HFS loan portfolios.

Table of Contents

## Business Segment Results

## U.S. Consumer Services

Table 10: USCS Selected Income Statement Data

	Three Months Ended				Nine Months Ended			
	September 30,		Change 2017 vs. 2016		September 30,		Change 2017 vs. 2016	
(Millions, except percentages)	2017	2016			2017	2016		
Revenues								
Non-interest revenues	\$1,976	\$1,849	\$127	7 %	\$5,832	\$5,947	(115 )	(2 )%
Interest income	1,509	1,178	331	28	4,186	3,847	339	9
Interest expense	202	125	77	62	519	404	115	28
Net interest income	1,307	1,053	254	24	3,667	3,443	224	7
Total revenues net of interest expense	3,283	2,902	381	13	9,499	9,390	109	1
Provisions for losses	459	275	184	67	1,098	702	396	56
Total revenues net of interest expense after provisions for losses	2,824	2,627	197	7	8,401	8,688	(287 )	(3 )
Expenses								
Marketing, promotion, rewards, Card Member services and other	1,440	1,274	166	13	4,206	3,991	215	5
Salaries and employee benefits and other operating expenses	684	738	(54 )	(7 )	2,126	1,297	829	64
Total expenses	2,124	2,012	112	6	6,332	5,288	1,044	20
Pretax segment income	700	615	85	14	2,069	3,400	(1,331 )	(39)
Income tax provision	225	214	11	5	685	1,238	(553 )	(45)
Segment income	\$475	\$401	\$74	18 %	\$1,384	\$2,162	(778 )	(36)%
Effective tax rate	32.1 %	34.8 %			33.1 %	36.4 %		

USCS issues a wide range of proprietary consumer cards and provides services to consumers in the United States, including consumer travel services.

Non-interest revenues increased for the three month period and decreased for the nine month period, primarily driven by discount revenue, which increased \$74 million for the three month period, reflecting an increase in billed business of 6 percent, and decreased \$251 million for the nine month period, reflecting a decrease in billed business of 6 percent. The decreases in both discount revenue and billed business in the nine month period were driven by Costco-related volumes included in the prior year. Net card fees and other fees and commissions increased in both periods driven primarily by growth in the Platinum and Delta portfolios and higher delinquency fees, respectively. Net interest income increased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by growth in average Card Member loans and higher yields, partially offset by higher interest expense, primarily driven by marginally higher cost of funds.

Provisions for losses increased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by Card Member loans provision, which increased \$168 million and \$345 million in the three and nine month periods, respectively, due to strong loan growth, as well as increases in delinquencies and higher net write-off rates primarily due to the seasoning of recent loan vintages and a shift in mix towards non-cobrand lending products, which have higher write-off rates. Marketing, promotion, rewards, Card Member services and other expenses increased for both the three and nine month periods, reflecting higher Card Member rewards and Card Member services and other expenses in both periods,

partially offset by lower marketing and promotion expenses in both periods. Card Member rewards expense increased \$168 million and \$123 million for the three and nine month periods, respectively, primarily driven by enhancements to Platinum rewards and increased spending volumes, partially offset in the nine month period by Costco-related expenses in the prior year. Card Member services and other expenses increased \$48 million and \$104 million for the three and nine month periods, respectively, driven by higher usage of travel-related benefits and enhanced Platinum card benefits. Marketing and promotion expenses decreased \$50 million and \$12 million for the three and nine month periods, respectively, due to lower spending on growth initiatives.

Table of Contents

Salaries and employee benefits and other operating expenses decreased for the three month period and increased for the nine month period. The decrease in the three month period was primarily driven by lower technology and other servicing-related costs in the current year and the prior year HFS valuation allowance adjustment and restructuring charges. All of these impacts were more than offset in the nine month period by the prior-year gain on the sale of the Costco HFS portfolio.

The effective tax rate was lower for both the three and nine month periods, primarily reflecting the level of pretax income in relation to recurring permanent tax benefits.

Table of Contents

Table 11: USCS Selected Statistical Information

	As of or for the Three Months Ended		Change 2017 vs. 2016	As of or for the Nine Months Ended		Change 2017 vs. 2016
	September 30, 2017	September 30, 2016		September 30, 2017	September 30, 2016	
(Millions, except percentages and where indicated)						
Card billed business (billions)	\$83.7	\$78.6	6 %	\$246.0	\$261.0	(6 )%
Total cards-in-force	34.4	32.3	7	34.4	32.3	7
Basic cards-in-force	24.6	22.9	7	24.6	22.9	7
Average basic Card Member spending (dollars)	\$3,433	\$3,452	(1 )	\$10,271	\$9,878	4
Total segment assets (billions)	\$87.7	\$79.4	10	\$87.7	\$79.4	10
Segment capital (billions)	\$7.1	\$7.5	(5 )	\$7.1	\$7.5	(5 )
Return on average segment capital <sup>(a)</sup>	24.2 %	37.4 %		24.2 %	37.4 %	
Card Member loans: <sup>(b)</sup>						
Total loans (billions)	\$49.3	\$44.9	10	\$49.3	\$44.9	10
Average loans (billions)	\$49.0	\$44.8	9	\$48.1	\$43.7	10
Net write-off rate – principal only <sup>(c)</sup>	1.8 %	1.6 %		1.7 %	1.5 %	
Net write-off rate – principal, interest and fees <sup>(c)</sup>	2.1 %	1.9 %		2.0 %	1.8 %	
30+ days past due loans as a % of total	1.3 %	1.1 %		1.3 %	1.1 %	
Calculation of Net Interest Yield on Card Member loans:						
Net interest income	\$1,307	\$1,053		\$3,667	\$3,443	
Exclude:						
Interest expense not attributable to our Card Member loan portfolio	33	20		84	59	
Interest income not attributable to our Card Member loan portfolio	(29 )	(6 )		(70 )	(16 )	
Adjusted net interest income <sup>(d)</sup>	\$1,311	\$1,067		\$3,681	\$3,486	
Average loans (billions) <sup>(e)</sup>	\$49.0	\$44.8		\$48.1	\$50.1	
Net interest income divided by average loans	10.7 %	9.4 %		10.2 %	9.2 %	
Net interest yield on Card Member loans <sup>(d)</sup>	10.6 %	9.5 %		10.2 %	9.3 %	
Card Member receivables: <sup>(b)</sup>						
Total receivables (billions)	\$11.2	\$10.1	11 %	\$11.2	\$10.1	11 %
Net write-off rate – principal only <sup>(c)</sup>	1.2 %	1.1 %		1.3 %	1.4 %	
Net write-off rate – principal and fees <sup>(c)</sup>	1.3 %	1.3 %		1.5 %	1.6 %	
30+ days past due as a % of total	1.2 %	1.4 %		1.2 %	1.4 %	

Return on average segment capital is calculated by dividing (i) one-year period segment income (\$1.7 billion and (a) \$2.7 billion for the twelve months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively) by (ii) one-year average segment capital (\$7.2 billion for both the twelve months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016).

(b) Refer to Table 8 footnote (a).

(c) Refer to Table 8 footnote (e).

(d)



Adjusted net interest income and net interest yield on Card Member loans are non-GAAP measures. Refer to “Glossary of Selected Terminology” for the definitions of these terms. We believe adjusted net interest income is useful to investors because it is a component of net interest yield on Card Member loans, which provides a measure of profitability of our Card Member loan portfolio.

(e) Refer to Table 9 footnote (b).

Table of Contents

## International Consumer and Network Services

Table 12: ICNS Selected Income Statement Data

(Millions, except percentages)	Three Months Ended				Nine Months Ended			
	September 30,		Change 2017 vs. 2016		September 30,		Change 2017 vs. 2016	
	2017	2016			2017	2016		
<b>Revenues</b>								
Non-interest revenues	\$1,277	\$1,205	\$72	6 %	\$3,719	\$3,587	\$132	4 %
Interest income	271	231	40	17	752	692	60	9
Interest expense	65	55	10	18	178	167	11	7
Net interest income	206	176	30	17	574	525	49	9
Total revenues net of interest expense	1,483	1,381	102	7	4,293	4,112	181	4
Provisions for losses	106	84	22	26	256	233	23	10
Total revenues net of interest expense after provisions for losses	1,377	1,297	80	6	4,037	3,879	158	4
<b>Expenses</b>								
Marketing, promotion, rewards, Card Member services and other	587	554	33	6	1,653	1,535	118	8
Salaries and employee benefits and other operating expenses	483	535	(52)	(10)	1,510	1,608	(98)	(6)
Total expenses	1,070	1,089	(19)	(2)	3,163	3,143	20	1
Pretax segment income	307	208	99	48	874	736	138	19
Income tax provision	21	53	(32)	(60)	161	165	(4)	(2)
Segment income	\$286	\$155	\$131	85 %	\$713	\$571	\$142	25 %
Effective tax rate	6.8 %	25.5 %			18.4 %	22.4 %		

ICNS issues a wide range of proprietary consumer cards outside the United States and enters into partnership agreements with third-party card issuers and acquirers, licensing the American Express brand and extending the reach of the global network. It also provides travel services to consumers outside the United States.

Non-interest revenues increased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by higher discount revenue in both periods, due to an increase in proprietary billed business, as well as higher net card fees, partially offset in the nine month period by a prior-year contractual payment from a GNS partner. Total billed business increased, for both the three and nine months, reflecting higher cards-in-force and average spend per card. Refer to Tables 6, 7 and 13 for additional information on billed business.

Net interest income increased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by higher average loan balances and higher yields.

Provisions for losses increased for both the three and nine month periods due to strong growth in both Card Member receivables and loans, as well as an increase in net write-off rates.

Marketing, promotion, rewards, Card Member services and other expenses increased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by higher Card Member rewards expense due to higher spending volumes, partially offset by lower marketing and promotion expenses in part due to lower spending on growth initiatives.

Salaries and employee benefits and other operating expenses decreased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by lower salaries and employee benefits costs, including restructuring charges in the prior year, partially offset in the nine month period by higher technology and other servicing-related costs.

The effective tax rates decreased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily reflecting the allocated share of tax benefits related to the realization of certain foreign tax credits and the geographic mix of business, and additionally in the nine month period, the allocated share of tax benefits related to the resolution of certain prior years' tax items. In addition, the effective tax rate in all periods reflected the impact of recurring permanent tax benefits both in relation to the segment's ongoing funding activities outside the United States, which is allocated to ICNS under our internal tax allocation process, and on varying levels of pretax income.

Table of Contents

Table 13: ICNS Selected Statistical Information

(Millions, except percentages and where indicated)	As of or for the Three Months Ended September 30,		Change 2017 vs. 2016		As of or for the Nine Months Ended September 30,		Change 2017 vs. 2016	
	2017	2016			2017	2016		
Card billed business (billions)								
Proprietary	\$30.5	\$26.6	15	%	\$86.0	\$77.8	11	%
GNS	46.6	44.8	4		135.8	129.1	5	
Total	\$77.1	\$71.4	8		\$221.8	\$206.9	7	
Total cards-in-force								
Proprietary	15.6	14.8	5		15.6	14.8	5	
GNS	49.0	48.1	2		49.0	48.1	2	
Total	64.6	62.9	3		64.6	62.9	3	
Proprietary basic cards-in-force	10.8	10.3	5		10.8	10.3	5	
Average proprietary basic Card Member spending (dollars)	\$2,840	\$2,596	9		\$8,111	\$7,665	6	
Total segment assets (billions)	\$38.9	\$34.4	13		\$38.9	\$34.4	13	
Segment capital (billions)	\$2.9	\$2.7	7		\$2.9	\$2.7	7	
Return on average segment capital <sup>(a)</sup>	29.5 %	26.4 %			29.5 %	26.4 %		
Card Member loans: <sup>(b)</sup>								
Total loans (billions)	\$7.8	\$6.7	16		\$7.8	\$6.7	16	
Average loans (billions)	\$7.5	\$6.7	12		\$7.2	\$6.8	6	%
Net write-off rate – principal only <sup>(c)</sup>	2.2 %	2.1 %			2.1 %	2.0 %		
Net write-off rate – principal, interest and fees <sup>(c)</sup>	2.7 %	2.6 %			2.6 %	2.5 %		
30+ days past due loans as a % of total	1.6 %	1.7 %			1.6 %	1.7 %		
Calculation of Net Interest Yield on Card Member loans:								
Net interest income	\$206	\$176			\$574	\$525		
Exclude:								
Interest expense not attributable to our Card Member loan portfolio	17	12			41	33		
Interest income not attributable to our Card Member loan portfolio	(4 )				(10 )	(7 )		
Adjusted net interest income <sup>(d)</sup>	\$219	\$188			\$605	\$551		
Average loans (billions)	\$7.5	\$6.7			\$7.2	\$6.8		
Net interest income divided by average loans	11.0 %	10.5 %			10.6 %	10.4 %		
Net interest yield on Card Member loans <sup>(d)</sup>	11.6 %	11.2 %			11.2 %	10.9 %		
Card Member receivables: <sup>(b)</sup>								
Total receivables (billions)	\$6.5	\$5.6	16	%	\$6.5	\$5.6	16	%
Net write-off rate – principal only <sup>(c)</sup>	2.2 %	2.0 %			2.1 %	2.1 %		
Net write-off rate – principal and fees <sup>(e)</sup>	2.4 %	2.2 %			2.2 %	2.3 %		
30+ days past due as a % of total	1.4 %	1.5 %			1.4 %	1.5 %		

Return on average segment capital is calculated by dividing (i) one-year period segment income (\$797 million and (a) \$711 million for the twelve months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively) by (ii) one-year average segment capital (\$2.7 billion for both the twelve months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016).

(b) Refer to Table 8 footnote (a).

(c) Refer to Table 8 footnote (e).

Adjusted net interest income and net interest yield on Card Member loans are non-GAAP measures. Refer to “Glossary of Selected Terminology” for the definitions of these terms. We believe adjusted net interest income is useful to investors because it is a component of net interest yield on Card Member loans, which provides a measure of profitability of our Card Member loan portfolio.

Table of Contents

## Global Commercial Services

Table 14: GCS Selected Income Statement Data

(Millions, except percentages)	Three Months Ended September 30,			Nine Months Ended September 30,				
	2017	2016	Change 2017 vs. 2016	2017	2016	Change 2017 vs. 2016		
<b>Revenues</b>								
Non-interest revenues	\$2,360	\$2,240	\$120	5 %	\$6,999	\$6,710	\$289	4 %
Interest income	351	282	69	24	1,004	913	91	10
Interest expense	144	98	46	47	382	297	85	29
Net interest income	207	184	23	13	622	616	6	1
Total revenues net of interest expense	2,567	2,424	143	6	7,621	7,326	295	4
Provisions for losses	194	134	60	45	556	433	123	28
Total revenues net of interest expense after provisions for losses	2,373	2,290	83	4	7,065	6,893	172	2
<b>Expenses</b>								
Marketing, promotion, rewards, Card Member services and other	905	808	97	12	2,792	2,415	377	16
Salaries and employee benefits and other operating expenses	696	753	(57 )	(8 )	2,098	2,078	20	1
Total expenses	1,601	1,561	40	3	4,890	4,493	397	9
Pretax segment income	772	729	43	6	2,175	2,400	(225)	(9 )
Income tax provision	243	263	(20 )	(8 )	728	873	(145)	(17)
Segment income	\$529	\$466	\$63	14 %	\$1,447	\$1,527	\$(80 )	(5 ) %
Effective tax rate	31.5 %	36.1 %			33.5 %	36.4 %		

GCS issues a wide range of proprietary corporate and small business cards and provides payment and expense management services globally. In addition, GCS provides commercial financing products.

Non-interest revenues increased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by higher discount revenue due to increases in billed business, partially offset by increased contra-discount revenue driven by higher client incentives. The increase in non-interest revenues, in both periods, was also driven by higher net card fees and higher other fees and commissions, primarily due to growth in the U.S. small business Platinum portfolio and higher delinquency fees, respectively.

Net interest income increased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by an increase in average Card Member loans and higher yields, partially offset by higher interest expense, reflecting an increase in the cost of funds.

Provisions for losses increased for both the three and nine month periods due to growth in both Card Member receivables and loans, as well as increases in net write-off and delinquency rates, all of which were partially offset in the nine month period by improving credit performance in the commercial financing portfolio.

Marketing, promotion, rewards, Card Member services and other expenses increased for both the three and nine month periods, driven by higher Card Member rewards expenses, which increased \$120 million and \$366 million for the three and nine month periods, respectively, partially offset by declines in marketing and promotion expenses in the same respective periods. The higher Card Member rewards expenses were primarily driven by enhancements to Platinum rewards and higher spending volumes, partially offset in the nine month period by Costco-related expenses in the prior year.

Salaries and employee benefits and other operating expenses decreased for the three month period and was relatively flat for the nine month period, primarily driven by lower technology and other servicing-related costs in the current year and the prior year HFS valuation allowance adjustment and restructuring charges, all of which were offset in the nine month period by the prior-year gain on the sale of the Costco HFS portfolio.

The effective tax rate was lower for both the three and nine months, primarily reflecting the geographic mix of business.

Table of Contents

Table 15: GCS Selected Statistical Information

	As of or for the Three Months Ended		Change 2017 vs. 2016	As of or for the Nine Months Ended		Change 2017 vs. 2016
	September 30, 2017	September 30, 2016		September 30, 2017	September 30, 2016	
(Millions, except percentages and where indicated)						
Card billed business (billions)	\$109.7	\$100.1	10 %	\$321.5	\$302.8	6 %
Total cards-in-force	13.9	13.6	2	13.9	13.6	2
Basic cards-in-force	13.9	13.6	2	13.9	13.6	2
Average basic Card Member spending (dollars)	\$7,907	\$7,386	7	\$23,364	\$20,857	12
Total segment assets (billions)	\$52.7	\$46.8	13	\$52.7	\$46.8	13
Segment capital (billions)	\$7.3	\$7.3		\$7.3	\$7.3	
Return on average segment capital <sup>(a)</sup>	25.3 %	28.0 %		25.3 %	28.0 %	
Card Member loans (billions)	\$10.7	\$9.1	18	\$10.7	\$9.1	18
Card Member receivables (billions)	\$33.8	\$29.6	14	\$33.8	\$29.6	14
Card Member loans: <sup>(b)</sup>						
Total loans - GSBS (billions)	\$10.7	\$9.0	19	\$10.7	\$9.0	19
Average loans - GSBS (billions)	\$10.5	\$8.8	19	\$10.1	\$8.4	20
Net write-off rate (principal only) - GSBS <sup>(c)</sup>	1.6 %	1.5 %		1.6 %	1.4 %	
Net write-off rate (principal, interest and fees) - GSBS <sup>(c)</sup>	1.9 %	1.8 %		1.9 %	1.7 %	
30+ days past due as a % of total - GSBS	1.1 %	1.1 %		1.1 %	1.1 %	
Calculation of Net Interest Yield on Card Member loans:						
Net interest income	\$207	\$184		\$622	\$616	
Exclude:						
Interest expense not attributable to our Card Member loan portfolio	108	79		290	231	
Interest income not attributable to our Card Member loan portfolio	(29 )	(28 )		(83 )	(85 )	
Adjusted net interest income <sup>(d)</sup>	\$286	\$235		\$829	\$762	
Average loans (billions) <sup>(e)</sup>	\$10.5	\$8.8		\$10.1	\$9.8	
Net interest income divided by average loans	7.9 %	8.3 %		8.2 %	8.4 %	
Net interest yield on Card Member loans <sup>(d)</sup>	10.8 %	10.6 %		10.9 %	10.4 %	
Card Member receivables: <sup>(b)</sup>						
Total receivables - GCP (billions)	\$17.9	\$15.8	13	\$17.9	\$15.8	13
90+ days past billing as a % of total - GCP <sup>(f)</sup>	0.9 %	0.8 %		0.9 %	0.8 %	
Net loss ratio (as a % of charge volume) - GCP	0.09 %	0.11 %		0.10 %	0.09 %	
Total receivables - GSBS (billions)	\$15.9	\$13.8	15 %	\$15.9	\$13.8	15 %
Net write-off rate (principal only) - GSBS <sup>(c)</sup>	1.5 %	1.3 %		1.6 %	1.6 %	
Net write-off rate (principal and fees) - GSBS <sup>(c)</sup>	1.7 %	1.5 %		1.8 %	1.8 %	
30+ days past due as a % of total - GSBS	1.4 %	1.5 %		1.4 %	1.5 %	

Return on average segment capital is calculated by dividing (i) one-year period segment income (\$1.8 billion and (a)\$2.0 billion for the twelve months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively) by (ii) one-year average segment capital (\$7.2 billion for both the twelve months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016).

(b)Refer to Table 8 footnote (a).



(c) Refer to Table 8 footnote (e).

Adjusted net interest income and net interest yield on Card Member loans are non-GAAP measures. Refer to

(d) “Glossary of Selected Terminology” for the definitions of these terms. We believe adjusted net interest income is useful to investors because it is a component of net interest yield on Card Member loans, which provides a measure of profitability of our Card Member loan portfolio.

(e) Refer to Table 9 footnote (b).

For GCP Card Member receivables, delinquency data is tracked based on days past billing status rather than days past due. A Card Member account is considered 90 days past billing if payment has not been received within 90

(f) days of the Card Member’s billing statement date. In addition, if we initiate collection procedures on an account prior to the account becoming 90 days past billing, the associated Card Member receivable balance is classified as 90 days past billing. These amounts are shown above as 90+ Days Past Due for presentation purposes.

Table of Contents

## Global Merchant Services

Table 16: GMS Selected Income Statement Data

(Millions, except percentages)	Three Months Ended			Change					Nine Months Ended		
	September 30,		2016	2017 vs.		September 30,		2016	2017 vs.		
	2017	2016		2016		2017	2016		2016		
Revenues											
Non-interest revenues	\$1,088	\$1,044	\$44	4 %	\$3,191	\$3,172	\$19	1 %			
Interest income					1	1					
Interest expense	(65 )	(60 )	(5 )	8	(188 )	(180 )	(8 )	4			
Net interest income	65	60	5	8	189	181	8	4			
Total revenues net of interest expense	1,153	1,104	49	4	3,380	3,353	27	1			
Provisions for losses	8	8			11	21	(10)	(48)			
Total revenues net of interest expense after provisions for losses	1,145	1,096	49	4	3,369	3,332	37	1			
Expenses											
Marketing, promotion, rewards, Card Member services and other	48	55	(7 )	(13)	117	171	(54)	(32)			
Salaries and employee benefits and other operating expenses	580	470	110	23	1,488	1,422	66	5			
Total expenses	628	525	103	20	1,605	1,593	12	1			
Pretax segment income	517	571	(54 )	(9 )	1,764	1,739	25	1			
Income tax provision	149	212	(63 )	(30)	603	650	(47)	(7 )			
Segment income	\$368	\$359	\$9	3 %	\$1,161	\$1,089	\$72	7 %			
Effective tax rate	28.8 %	37.1 %			34.2 %	37.4 %					

GMS operates a global payments network that processes and settles proprietary and non-proprietary card transactions. GMS acquires merchants and provides multi-channel marketing programs and capabilities, services and data analytics, leveraging our global closed-loop network. GMS also operates loyalty coalition businesses in certain countries around the world.

Non-interest revenues increased for the three month period and were relatively flat for the nine month period, primarily driven by discount revenue, which increased and was relatively flat for the same respective periods. The discount revenue increase in the three month period was driven by billed business growth and an increase in loyalty coalition revenues, both of which were offset in the nine month period by Costco-related revenues in the prior year. Marketing, promotion, rewards, Card Member services and other expenses decreased for both the three and nine month periods, reflecting lower levels of spending on growth initiatives.

Salaries and employee benefits and other operating expenses increased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily driven by charges related to the U.S. loyalty coalition business in the current quarter, partially offset by a benefit from a change in the liability related to non-delivery of goods and services by merchants and growth of the OptBlue program, which does not entail merchant acquirer payments.

The effective tax rate decreased for both the three and nine month periods, primarily reflecting the allocated share of tax benefits related to the realization of certain foreign tax credits and the geographic mix of business.



Table of Contents

Table 17: GMS Selected Statistical Information

	As of or for the Three Months Ended September 30,			Change 2017 vs. 2016	As of or for the Nine Months Ended September 30,			Change 2017 vs. 2016
	2017	2016	2016		2017	2016	2016	
(Millions, except percentages and where indicated)								
Loyalty Coalition revenue	\$116	\$106	9	%	\$332	\$304	9	%
Average discount rate	2.42%	2.47%			2.44%	2.45%		
Total segment assets (billions)	\$26.7	\$23.2	15	%	\$26.7	\$23.2	15	%
Segment capital (billions)	\$2.6	\$2.3	13	%	\$2.6	\$2.3	13	%
Return on average segment capital <sup>(a)</sup>	59.3%	59.9%			59.3%	59.9%		

Return on average segment capital is calculated by dividing (i) one-year period segment income (\$1.5 billion for (a) both the twelve months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016) by (ii) one-year average segment capital (\$2.6 billion and \$2.4 billion for the twelve months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively).

## Corporate &amp; Other

Corporate functions and certain other businesses, including our Prepaid Services business and other operations, are included in Corporate & Other.

Corporate & Other net expense increased to \$302 million for the three month period, compared to \$239 million in the same period a year ago and increased to \$772 million for the nine month period compared to \$766 million in the same period a year ago. The increase in the three month period was driven in part by charges related to the U.S. prepaid business, which were partially offset in the nine month period by prior-year restructuring charges.

Results for both periods included net interest expense related to maintaining the liquidity requirements discussed in “Consolidated Capital Resources and Liquidity – Liquidity Management,” as well as interest expense related to other corporate indebtedness.

Table of Contents

## CONSOLIDATED CAPITAL RESOURCES AND LIQUIDITY

Our balance sheet management objectives are to maintain:

• A solid and flexible equity capital profile;

- A broad, deep and diverse set of funding sources to finance our assets and meet operating requirements; and

Liquidity programs that enable us to continuously meet expected future financing obligations and business requirements for at least a twelve-month period, even in the event we are unable to continue to raise new funds under our traditional funding programs during a substantial weakening in economic conditions.

## Transitional Basel III

The following table presents our regulatory risk-based capital ratios and leverage ratios and those of our significant bank subsidiaries, American Express Centurion Bank (Centurion Bank) and American Express Bank, FSB (American Express Bank), as of September 30, 2017.

Table 18: Regulatory Risk-Based Capital and Leverage Ratios

	Basel III Standards 2017 <sup>(a)</sup>	Ratios as of September 30, 2017	
Risk-Based Capital			
Common Equity Tier 1	5.8	%	
American Express Company		11.9	%
American Express Centurion Bank		16.6	
American Express Bank, FSB		13.3	
Tier 1	7.3		
American Express Company		13.0	
American Express Centurion Bank		16.6	
American Express Bank, FSB		13.3	
Total	9.3		
American Express Company		14.7	
American Express Centurion Bank		17.9	
American Express Bank, FSB		14.6	
Tier 1 Leverage	4.0		
American Express Company		10.9	
American Express Centurion Bank		15.9	
American Express Bank, FSB		11.8	
Supplementary Leverage Ratio <sup>(b)</sup>	3.0	%	
American Express Company		9.3	
American Express Centurion Bank		12.3	
American Express Bank, FSB		9.7	%

(a) Transitional Basel III minimum capital requirement and additional capital conservation buffer as defined by the Federal Reserve for calendar year 2017 for advanced approaches institutions.

(b) The minimum supplementary leverage ratio (SLR) requirement of 3 percent is effective January 1, 2018.

Table 19: Regulatory Risk-Based Capital Components and Risk Weighted Assets

American Express Company (\$ in Billions)	September 30, 2017
Risk-Based Capital	
Common Equity Tier 1	\$ 16.4
Tier 1 Capital	17.9
Tier 2 Capital <sup>(a)</sup>	2.3
Total Capital	20.2
Risk-Weighted Assets	138.0
Average Total Assets to calculate the Tier 1 Leverage Ratio	164.6
Total Leverage Exposure to calculate SLR	\$ 191.7

(a) Tier 2 capital is the sum of the allowance for loan and receivable losses (limited to 1.25 percent of risk-weighted assets) and \$600 million of subordinated notes adjusted for capital held by insurance subsidiaries.

Table of Contents

We seek to maintain capital levels and ratios in excess of the minimum regulatory requirements and finance such capital in a cost efficient manner; failure to maintain minimum capital levels could affect our status as a financial holding company and cause the regulatory agencies with oversight of American Express, Centurion Bank and American Express Bank to take actions that could limit our business operations.

Our primary source of equity capital has been the generation of net income. Historically, capital generated through net income and other sources, such as the exercise of stock options by employees, has exceeded the annual growth in our capital requirements. To the extent capital has exceeded business, regulatory and rating agency requirements, we have historically returned excess capital to shareholders through our regular common share dividend and share repurchase program.

We maintain certain flexibility to shift capital across our businesses as appropriate. For example, we may infuse additional capital into subsidiaries to maintain capital at targeted levels in consideration of debt ratings and regulatory requirements. These infused amounts can affect the capital profile and liquidity levels at the American Express parent company level. We do not currently intend or foresee a need to shift capital from non-U.S. subsidiaries with permanently reinvested earnings to a U.S. parent company.

The following are definitions for our regulatory risk-based capital ratios and leverage ratio, which are calculated as per standard regulatory guidance:

**Risk-Weighted Assets** — Assets are weighted for risk according to a formula used by the Federal Reserve to conform to capital adequacy guidelines. On- and off-balance sheet items are weighted for risk, with off-balance sheet items converted to balance sheet equivalents, using risk conversion factors, before being allocated a risk-adjusted weight. Off-balance sheet exposures comprise a minimal part of the total risk-weighted assets.

**Common Equity Tier 1 Risk-Based Capital Ratio** — Calculated as Common Equity Tier 1 capital (CET1), divided by risk-weighted assets. CET1 is the sum of common shareholders' equity, adjusted for ineligible goodwill and intangible assets, certain deferred tax assets, as well as certain other comprehensive income items as follows: net unrealized gains/losses on securities and derivatives, and net unrealized pension and other postretirement benefit/losses, all net of tax and subject to transition provisions.

**Tier 1 Risk-Based Capital Ratio** — Calculated as Tier 1 capital divided by risk-weighted assets. Tier 1 capital is the sum of CET1, our perpetual preferred stock and third-party non-controlling interests in consolidated subsidiaries adjusted for capital held by insurance subsidiaries and deferred tax assets from net operating losses not deducted from CET1. The minimum requirement for the Tier 1 risk-based capital ratio is 1.5 percent higher than the minimum for the CET1 risk-based capital ratio. We have \$1.6 billion of preferred shares outstanding to help address a portion of the Tier 1 capital requirements in excess of common equity requirements.

**Total Risk-Based Capital Ratio** — Calculated as the sum of Tier 1 capital and Tier 2 capital, divided by risk-weighted assets. Tier 2 capital is the sum of the allowance for loan and receivable losses (limited to 1.25 percent of risk-weighted assets), a portion of the unrealized gains on equity securities and \$600 million of subordinated notes, adjusted for capital held by insurance subsidiaries.

**Tier 1 Leverage Ratio** — Calculated by dividing Tier 1 capital by our average total consolidated assets for the most recent quarter.

**Supplementary Leverage Ratio** — Calculated by dividing Tier 1 capital by total leverage exposure under Basel III. Leverage exposure, which reflects average total consolidated assets with adjustments for Tier 1 capital deductions, average off-balance sheet derivatives exposures, securities purchased under agreements to resell and credit equivalents

of undrawn commitments that are both conditionally and unconditionally cancellable.

#### Fully Phased-in Basel III

Basel III, when fully phased in, will require bank holding companies and their bank subsidiaries to maintain more capital than prior requirements, with a greater emphasis on common equity. The following table presents our estimates for our regulatory risk-based capital ratios and leverage ratios had Basel III been fully phased in as of September 30, 2017. These ratios are calculated using the standardized approach for determining risk-weighted assets. We are currently taking steps toward Basel III advanced approaches implementation in the United States. We believe the presentation of these ratios is helpful to investors by showing the impact of future regulatory capital standards on our capital and leverage ratios.



Table of Contents

Table 20: Estimated Fully Phased-in Basel III Capital and Leverage Ratios

(\$ in Billions)	September 30, 2017	
Estimated Common Equity Tier 1 Ratio under Fully Phased-In Basel III <sup>(a)</sup>	11.5	%
Estimated Tier 1 Capital Ratio under Fully Phased-In Basel III <sup>(a)</sup>	12.7	
Estimated Tier 1 Leverage Ratio under Fully Phased-In Basel III <sup>(b)</sup>	10.7	
Estimated Supplementary Leverage Ratio under Fully Phased-In Basel III <sup>(b)</sup>	9.2	%
Estimated Risk-Weighted Assets under Fully Phased-In Basel III <sup>(c)</sup>	\$ 139.2	
Estimated Average Total Assets to calculate the Tier 1 Leverage Ratio <sup>(b)</sup>	164.4	
Estimated Total Leverage Exposure to calculate SLR under Fully Phased-In Basel III <sup>(d)</sup>	\$ 191.5	

The Fully Phased-in Basel III Common Equity Tier 1 and Tier 1 risk-based capital ratios, non-GAAP measures, are calculated as Common Equity Tier 1 or Tier 1 capital under Fully Phased-in Basel III rules, as applicable, divided (a) by risk-weighted assets under Fully Phased-in Basel III rules. Refer to Table 21 for a reconciliation of Common Equity Tier 1 and Tier 1 capital under Fully Phased-in Basel III rules to Common Equity Tier 1 and Tier 1 capital under Transitional Basel III rules.

The Fully Phased-in Basel III Tier 1 and supplementary leverage ratios, non-GAAP measures, are calculated by (b) dividing Fully Phased-in Basel III Tier 1 capital by our average total assets and Fully Phased-in total leverage exposure for supplementary leverage ratio purposes under Fully Phased-in Basel III, respectively.

Estimated Fully Phased-in Basel III risk-weighted assets, a non-GAAP measure, reflect our Basel III risk-weighted (c) assets, with all transition provisions fully phased in. This includes incremental risk weighting applied to deferred tax assets and significant investments in unconsolidated financial institutions, as well as exposures to past due accounts, equities and sovereigns.

Estimated Fully Phased-in Basel III Leverage Exposure, a non-GAAP measure, reflects average total consolidated (d) assets with adjustments for Tier 1 capital deductions on a fully phased-in basis, off-balance sheet derivatives, undrawn conditionally and unconditionally cancellable commitments and other off-balance sheet liabilities.

The following table presents a comparison of our CET1 and Tier 1 risk-based capital under Transitional Basel III rules to our estimated CET1 and Tier 1 risk-based capital under Fully Phased-in Basel III rules as of September 30, 2017.

Table 21: Transitional Basel III versus Fully Phased-in Basel III

(Billions)	CET1	Tier 1
Risk-Based Capital under Transitional Basel III	\$ 16.4	\$ 17.9
Adjustments related to:		
AOI	(0.1 )	(0.1 )
Transition provisions for intangible assets	(0.2 )	(0.2 )
Estimated CET1 and Tier 1 Risk-Based Capital under Fully Phased-in Basel III	\$ 16.1	\$ 17.6

Fully Phased-in Basel III Risk-Weighted Assets — Reflects our Basel III risk-weighted assets, with all transition provisions fully phased in. This includes incremental risk weighting applied to deferred tax assets and significant investments in unconsolidated financial institutions, as well as exposures to past due accounts, equities and sovereigns.

Fully Phased-in Basel III Tier 1 Leverage Ratio — Calculated by dividing Fully Phased-in Basel III Tier 1 capital by our average total consolidated assets.

Fully Phased-in Basel III Supplementary Leverage Ratio — Calculated by dividing Fully Phased-in Basel III Tier 1 capital by our Fully Phased-in total leverage exposure for supplementary leverage ratio purposes under Fully Phased-in Basel III.

#### Share Repurchases and Dividends

We return capital to common shareholders through dividends and share repurchases. The share repurchases reduce common shares outstanding and more than offset the issuance of new shares as part of employee compensation plans.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2017, we returned \$1.6 billion and \$3.9 billion, respectively, to our shareholders in the form of common stock dividends (\$0.3 billion and \$0.9 billion, respectively) and share repurchases (\$1.3 billion and \$3.0 billion, respectively). We repurchased 15 million common shares at an average price of \$86.08 in the third quarter of 2017. These dividend and share repurchase amounts collectively represent approximately 115 percent and 97 percent of total capital generated during the three and nine-month periods, respectively.

Table of Contents

In addition, during the three months ended September 30, 2017, we had \$750 million of non-cumulative perpetual preferred shares (the “Series B Preferred Shares”) and \$850 million of non-cumulative perpetual preferred shares (the “Series C Preferred Shares”) outstanding. Dividends declared and paid on Series C Preferred Shares during the third quarter of 2017 were \$21 million.

**Funding Strategy**

Our principal funding objective is to maintain broad and well-diversified funding sources to allow us to meet our maturing obligations, cost-effectively finance current and future asset growth in our global businesses as well as to maintain a strong liquidity profile.

**Summary of Consolidated Debt**

We had the following consolidated debt and customer deposits outstanding as of September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016:

Table 22: Summary of Consolidated Debt and Customer Deposits

(Billions)	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
Short-term borrowings	\$ 2.3	\$ 5.6
Long-term debt	48.8	47.0
Total debt	51.1	52.6
Customer deposits	61.3	53.0
Total debt and customer deposits	\$ 112.4	\$ 105.6

During the three months ended September 30, 2017, we issued (i) \$519 million of asset-backed securities from the American Express Credit Account Master Trust (the Lending Trust) consisting of \$500 million of five year Class A Certificates at a floating rate of 1-month LIBOR plus 38 basis points and \$19 million of five year Class B Certificates at a floating rate of 1-month LIBOR plus 58 basis points, and (ii) \$2.3 billion of senior unsecured notes from American Express Company consisting of \$1.9 billion of five year notes at a fixed rate of 2.50% and \$400 million of five year notes at a floating rate of 3-month LIBOR plus 61 basis points.

Our equity capital and funding strategies are designed, among other things, to maintain appropriate and stable unsecured debt ratings from the major credit rating agencies: Moody’s Investor Services (Moody’s), Standard & Poor’s (S&P), Fitch Ratings (Fitch) and Dominion Bond Rating Services (DBRS). Such ratings help support our access to cost-effective unsecured funding as part of our overall funding strategy. Our asset securitization activities are rated separately.

Table 23: Unsecured Debt Ratings

Credit Agency	American Express Entity	Short-Term Ratings	Long-Term Ratings	Outlook
DBRS	All rated entities	R-1 (middle)	A (high)	Stable
Fitch	All rated entities	F1	A	Stable
Moody’s	TRS and rated operating subsidiaries <sup>(a)</sup>	Prime 1	A2	Stable
Moody’s	American Express Company	Prime 2	A3	Stable
S&P	TRS <sup>(a)</sup>	N/A	A-	Stable
S&P	Other rated operating subsidiaries	A-2	A-	Stable
S&P	American Express Company	A-2	BBB+	Stable

(a) American Express Travel Related Services Company, Inc.

Downgrades in the ratings of our unsecured debt or asset securitization program securities could result in higher funding costs, as well as higher fees related to borrowings under our unused lines of credit. Declines in credit ratings could also reduce our borrowing capacity in the unsecured debt and asset securitization capital markets. We believe our funding mix, including the proportion of U.S. retail deposits insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), should reduce the impact that credit rating downgrades would have on our funding capacity and costs.

## Table of Contents

### Liquidity Management

We incur liquidity risk that arises in the course of offering our products and services. Our liquidity objective is to maintain access to a diverse set of on- and off-balance sheet liquidity sources. We seek to maintain liquidity sources, even in the event we are unable to raise new funds under our regular funding programs during a substantial weakening in economic conditions, in amounts sufficient to meet our expected future financial obligations and business requirements for liquidity for a period of at least twelve months. Our liquidity risk policy sets out our objectives and approach to managing liquidity risk.

The liquidity risks that we are exposed to could arise from a wide variety of scenarios. Our liquidity management strategy thus includes a number of elements, including, but not limited to:

- Maintaining diversified funding sources (refer to the “Funding Strategy” section for more details);
- Maintaining unencumbered liquid assets and off-balance sheet liquidity sources;
- Projecting cash inflows and outflows under a variety of economic and market scenarios;
- Establishing clear objectives for liquidity risk management, including compliance with regulatory requirements;
- Incorporating liquidity risk management as appropriate into our capital adequacy framework.

The amount and type of liquidity resources we maintain can vary over time, based upon the results of stress scenarios required under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank) and other various regulatory liquidity requirements, such as the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR), as well as additional stress scenarios required under our liquidity risk policy.

The investment income we receive on liquidity resources, such as cash, is less than the interest expense on the sources of funding for these balances. The net interest costs to maintain these resources have been substantial. The level of future net interest costs depends on the amount of liquidity resources we maintain and the difference between our cost of funding these amounts and their investment yields.

### Securitized Borrowing Capacity

As of September 30, 2017, we maintained our committed, revolving, secured borrowing facility, with a maturity date of July 15, 2020, that gives us the right to sell up to \$3.0 billion face amount of eligible AAA notes from the American Express Issuance Trust II (the Charge Trust). We also maintained our committed, revolving, secured borrowing facility that gives us the right to sell up to \$2.0 billion face amount of eligible AAA certificates from the Lending Trust. On September 15, 2017, we extended the Lending Trust’s \$2.0 billion facility by two years to mature on September 15, 2020. Both facilities are used in the ordinary course of business to fund seasonal working capital needs, as well as to further enhance our contingent funding resources. As of September 30, 2017, no amounts were drawn on the Charge Trust or Lending Trust facilities. On October 6, 2017, \$3.0 billion was drawn on the Charge Trust facility.

### Federal Reserve Discount Window

As insured depository institutions, Centurion Bank and American Express Bank may borrow from the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, subject to the amount of qualifying collateral that they may pledge. The Federal Reserve has indicated that both credit and charge card receivables are a form of qualifying collateral for secured borrowings made through the discount window. Whether specific assets will be considered qualifying collateral and the amount that may be borrowed against the collateral, remain at the discretion of the Federal Reserve.

We had approximately \$64.3 billion as of September 30, 2017 in U.S. credit card loans and charge card receivables that could be sold over time through our securitization trusts or pledged in return for secured borrowings to provide further liquidity, subject in each case to applicable market conditions and eligibility criteria.

#### Committed Bank Credit Facility

In addition to the secured borrowing facilities described earlier in this section, we maintained a committed syndicated bank credit facility as of September 30, 2017 of \$3.0 billion. On October 16, 2017, we increased the committed syndicated bank credit facility size to \$3.5 billion and extended the facility by two years to mature on October 16, 2020. As of September 30, 2017, no amounts were drawn on this facility.

#### Unused Credit Outstanding

As of September 30, 2017, we had approximately \$268 billion of unused credit outstanding as part of established lending product agreements. Total unused credit does not represent potential future cash requirements, as a significant portion of this unused credit will likely not be drawn. Our charge card products generally have no pre-set limit, and therefore are not reflected in unused credit available to Card Members.

Table of Contents

## Cash Flows

The following table summarizes our cash flow activity for the nine months ended September 30:

Table 24: Cash Flows

(Billions)	2017	2016
Total cash provided by (used in):		
Operating activities	\$8.6	\$5.0
Investing activities	(10.5)	10.1
Financing activities	2.6	(11.3)
Effect of foreign currency exchange rates on cash and cash equivalents	0.3	
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	\$1.0	\$3.8

## Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Our cash flows from operating activities primarily include net income adjusted for (i) non-cash items included in net income and (ii) changes in the balances of operating assets and liabilities, which can vary significantly in the normal course of business due to the amount and timing of payments.

Net cash provided by operating activities was driven by net income of \$3.9 billion and \$4.6 billion for the current and prior periods, respectively, adjusted for non-cash items including changes in provisions for losses, depreciation and amortization, deferred taxes, and stock-based compensation. The prior period net income includes gains of \$1.2 billion on the sales of the HFS portfolios, which are presented in Net (increase) decrease in Card Member receivables and loans, including held for sale, within cash flows from investing activities. The increase in cash provided by operating activities during the periods of comparison was also driven by impacts from movements in Other receivables and Accounts payable and other liabilities as a result of normal business operating activities.

## Cash Flows from Investing Activities

Our cash flows from investing activities primarily include changes in Card Member receivables and loans, including Card Member loans and receivables HFS, along with gains on sales related thereto, as well as changes in our available for sale investment securities portfolio.

The decrease in net cash provided by investing activities primarily reflected the sale of the HFS portfolios in the prior period, as well as growth in Card Member loans and receivables and a higher increase in restricted cash in the current period.

## Cash Flows from Financing Activities

Our cash flows from financing activities primarily include issuing and repaying debt, changes in customer deposits, issuing and repurchasing our common shares, and paying dividends.

The increase in net cash provided by financing activities was primarily driven by an increase in customer deposits during the current period, versus a decrease in the prior period, and net long-term debt issuances during the current period, versus net long-term debt repayments during the prior period.

Table of Contents

OTHER MATTERS

Certain Legislative, Regulatory and Other Developments

We are subject to comprehensive government regulation and supervision in jurisdictions around the world, and the costs of compliance are substantial. In recent years, the financial services industry has been subject to rigorous scrutiny, high regulatory expectations, and a stringent and unpredictable regulatory enforcement environment. Please see the “Supervision and Regulation” and “Risk Factors” sections of the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 (the 2016 Form 10-K) for further information.

Payments Regulation

Legislators and regulators in various countries in which we operate have focused on the operation of card networks, including through antitrust actions, legislation and regulations to change certain practices or pricing of card issuers, merchant acquirers and payment networks, and, in some cases, to establish broad and ongoing regulatory oversight regimes for payment systems.

The European Union, Australia and other jurisdictions have focused on the fees merchants pay to accept cards, including the way bankcard network members collectively set the “interchange” (that is, the fee paid by the bankcard merchant acquirer to the card issuer in “four party” networks like Visa and MasterCard), as well as the rules, contract terms and practices governing merchant card acceptance. Even where we are not directly regulated, regulation of bankcard fees can significantly negatively impact the discount revenue derived from our business, including as a result of downward pressure on our discount rate from decreases in competitor pricing in connection with caps on interchange fees. In some cases, such regulation extends to certain aspects of our business. For example, the EU regulation might apply price caps as well as other regulatory measures in circumstances where three-party networks issue cards with a cobrand partner or through an agent. We have brought a legal challenge and seek a ruling from the EU Court of Justice to clarify the interpretation and validity of that part of the regulation. As a precursor to the Court’s final ruling, an advisory opinion was issued on July 6, 2017 advising the Court that (a) the case should be declared inadmissible and (b) if the Court determines to treat the case as admissible, the law should be considered valid and applicable. The advisory opinion is not binding on the Court and there can be no assurance as to the outcome of our legal challenge. For more information on the European Union payments legislation, our related legal challenge and the Australia payments regulation, as well as the potential impacts on our results of operations and business, please see the “Supervision and Regulation” and “Risk Factors” sections of the 2016 Form 10-K.

Broad regulatory oversight over payment systems can also include, in some cases, requirements for international card networks to localize aspects of their operations, such as processing infrastructure, which could increase our costs and diminish the value of our closed loop. The development and enforcement of payment system regulatory regimes generally continue to grow and may adversely affect our ability to compete effectively and maintain and extend our global network.

Surcharging

In certain countries, such as certain Member States in the European Union and Australia, merchants are permitted by law to surcharge card purchases. While surcharging continues to be actively considered in certain jurisdictions, the benefits to customers have not been apparent in countries that have allowed it, and in some cases regulators are addressing concerns about excessive surcharging by merchants. For example, the Reserve Bank of Australia amended its rules to limit surcharging in Australia to the actual cost of card acceptance paid to the merchant acquirer. Surcharging, particularly where it disproportionately impacts American Express Card Members, which is known as differential surcharging, as well as other steering practices that are permitted by regulation in some countries, could have a material adverse effect on us if it becomes widespread. As revisions to the Payment Services Directive in the European Union are transposed into national law by each Member State, there may be increased instances of differential surcharging of our cards, customer and merchant confusion as to which transactions may be surcharged and Card Member dissatisfaction. On July 19, 2017, the U.K. indicated it would ban surcharging on consumer cards starting January 2018. In addition, the laws of a number of states in the United States that prohibit surcharging are being challenged in litigation brought by merchant groups.





Table of Contents

For more information on the potential impacts of surcharging and other actions that could impair the Card Member experience, please see the “Risk Factors” section of the 2016 Form 10-K.

Consumer Financial Products Regulation

In the United States, our marketing, sale and servicing of consumer financial products and our compliance with certain federal consumer financial laws are supervised and examined by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), which has broad rulemaking and enforcement authority over providers of credit, savings and payment services and products and authority to prevent “unfair, deceptive or abusive” acts or practices. In addition, a number of U.S. states have significant consumer credit protection, disclosure and other laws (in certain cases more stringent than U.S. federal laws). U.S. federal law also regulates abusive debt collection practices, which along with bankruptcy and debtor relief laws, can affect our ability to collect amounts owed to us or subject us to regulatory scrutiny.

Internal and regulatory reviews to assess compliance with such laws and regulations have resulted in, and are likely to continue to result in, changes to our practices, products and procedures, substantial restitution to our Card Members and increased costs related to regulatory oversight, supervision and examination. Such reviews may also result in additional regulatory actions, including civil money penalties.

These types of reviews will be a continuing focus for the CFPB and regulators more broadly, as well as for the company itself. As an example, federal banking regulators announced they are conducting horizontal reviews of banking sales practices and we are cooperating with regulators in those reviews. Also, in August 2017 we announced that certain of our subsidiaries signed a consent order with the CFPB to resolve issues related to a previously-disclosed internal review of our card product offerings in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and other U.S. Territories.

On July 10, 2017, the CFPB issued a final rule that, among other changes, would prohibit providers of certain consumer financial products and services from using a pre-dispute arbitration agreement to bar consumers from filing or participating in a class action. The rule would apply to agreements entered into on or after March 19, 2018. As a result of the rule, we may face increased class claims and therefore be subject to the complexities and costs associated with class action litigation. Given the inherent uncertainties involved in litigation, and the very large or indeterminate damages sought in some class action matters, there is significant uncertainty as to the ultimate impact of this rule. For more information on consumer financial products regulation, as well as the potential impacts on our results of operations and business, please see the “Supervision and Regulation” and “Risk Factors” sections of the 2016 Form 10-K.

Antitrust Litigation

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and certain states’ attorneys general brought an action against us in 2010 alleging that the provisions in our card acceptance agreements with merchants that prohibit merchants from engaging in various actions to discriminate against our card products violate the U.S. antitrust laws. We continue to vigorously defend this and similar antitrust claims initiated by merchants in other court and arbitration proceedings. See Part II, Item 1. “Legal Proceedings” below and the “Legal Proceedings” section in our 2016 Form 10-K for descriptions of the DOJ and related cases. It is possible that significantly increased merchant steering or other actions impairing the Card Member experience, or the resolution of one or any combination of these merchant claims for damages, could have a material adverse effect on our business. For more information on the potential impacts of an adverse decision in the merchant litigations on our business, please see the “Risk Factors” section of the 2016 Form 10-K.

Table of Contents

Recently Issued Accounting Standards

Refer to the Recently Issued Accounting Standards section of Note 1 to the “Consolidated Financial Statements.”

Glossary of Selected Terminology

**Adjusted net interest income** — A non-GAAP measure that represents net interest income attributable to our Card Member loans and loans HFS (which includes, on a GAAP basis, interest that is deemed uncollectible), excluding the impact of interest expense and interest income not attributable to our Card Member loans. We believe adjusted net interest income is useful to investors because it is a component of net interest yield on Card Member loans.

**Asset securitizations** — Asset securitization involves the transfer and sale of loans or receivables to a special-purpose entity created for the securitization activity, typically a trust. The trust, in turn, issues securities, commonly referred to as asset-backed securities that are secured by the transferred loans and receivables. The trust uses the proceeds from the sale of such securities to pay the purchase price for the underlying loans or receivables. The loans and receivables of our Lending Trust and Charge Trust (collectively, the Trusts) securitized are reported as assets and the securities issued by the Trusts are reported as liabilities on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

**Average discount rate** — This calculation is generally designed to reflect pricing at merchants accepting general-purpose American Express cards. It represents the percentage of billed business (generated from both proprietary and GNS Card Member spending) retained by us from merchants we acquire, or for merchants acquired by a third party on our behalf, net of amounts retained by such third party.

**Basic cards-in-force** — Proprietary basic consumer cards-in-force includes basic cards issued to the primary account owner, (i.e., not including additional supplemental cards issued on accounts). Proprietary basic small business and corporate cards-in-force includes both basic and supplemental cards issued. Non-proprietary basic cards-in-force includes cards that are issued and outstanding under network partnership agreements, except for supplemental cards and retail cobrand Card Member accounts which have had no out-of-store spending activity during the prior twelve-month period.

**Billed business** — Includes activities (including cash advances) related to proprietary cards, cards issued under network partnership agreements (non-proprietary billed business), corporate payment services and certain insurance fees charged on proprietary cards. In-store spending activity within retail cobrand portfolios in GNS, from which we earn no revenue, is not included in non-proprietary billed business. Card billed business is included in the United States or outside the United States based on where the issuer is located.

**Capital ratios** — Represents the minimum standards established by the regulatory agencies as a measure to determine whether the regulated entity has sufficient capital to absorb on- and off-balance sheet losses beyond current loss accrual estimates. Refer to the Capital Strategy section under “Consolidated Capital Resources and Liquidity” for further related definitions under Transitional Basel III and Fully Phased-in Basel III.

**Card Member** — The individual holder of an issued American Express-branded charge, credit and certain prepaid cards.

**Card Member loans** — Represents the outstanding amount due from Card Members for charges made on their American Express credit cards, as well as any interest charges and card-related fees. Card Member loans also include revolving balances on certain American Express charge card products.

**Card Member loans and receivables HFS** — Beginning as of December 1, 2015 and continuing until the sales were completed, represents Card Member loans and receivables related to our cobrand partnerships with Costco in the United States and JetBlue. The JetBlue and Costco portfolio sales were completed on March 18 and June 17, 2016, respectively.

**Card Member receivables** — Represents the outstanding amount due from Card Members for charges made on their American Express charge cards, as well as any card-related fees.

**Charge cards** — Represents cards that generally carry no pre-set spending limits and are primarily designed as a method of payment and not as a means of financing purchases. Charge Card Members generally must pay the full amount billed each month. No finance charges are assessed on charge cards. Each charge card transaction is authorized based on its likely economics reflecting a Card Member’s most recent credit information and spend patterns. Some charge card accounts have additional “Pay Over Time” feature(s) that allow revolving of certain balances.



Table of Contents

Cobrand cards — Cards issued under cobrand agreements with selected commercial firms. Pursuant to the cobrand agreements, we make payments to our cobrand partners, which can be significant, based primarily on the amount of Card Member spending and corresponding rewards earned on such spending and, under certain arrangements, on the number of accounts acquired and retained. In some cases, the partner is liable for providing rewards to the Card Member under the cobrand partner's own loyalty program.

Credit cards — Represents cards that have a range of revolving payment terms, grace periods, and rate and fee structures.

Discount revenue — Represents revenue earned from fees generally charged to merchants who have entered into a card acceptance agreement. The discount fee generally is deducted from our payment for Card Member purchases.

Discount revenue is reduced by incentive payments made to merchants, payments to third-party card issuing partners, cash-back reward costs and statement credits, corporate incentive payments and other similar items.

Interest expense — Includes interest incurred primarily to fund Card Member loans and receivables, general corporate purposes and liquidity needs, and is recognized as incurred. Interest expense is divided principally into two categories: (i) deposits, which primarily relates to interest expense on deposits taken from customers and institutions, and (ii) debt, which primarily relates to interest expense on our long-term financing and short-term borrowings, (e.g., commercial paper, federal funds purchased, bank overdrafts and other short-term borrowings), as well as the realized impact of derivatives hedging interest rate risk on our long-term debt.

Interest income — Includes (i) interest on loans, (ii) interest and dividends on investment securities and (iii) interest income on deposits with banks and other.

Interest on loans — Assessed using the average daily balance method for Card Member loans and loans HFS. Unless the loan is classified as non-accrual, interest is recognized based upon the principal amount outstanding in accordance with the terms of the applicable account agreement until the outstanding balance is paid or written off.

Interest and dividends on investment securities — Primarily relates to our performing fixed-income securities. Interest income is recognized as earned using the effective interest method, which adjusts the yield for security premiums and discounts, fees and other payments, so a constant rate of return is recognized on the outstanding balance of the related investment security throughout its term. Amounts are recognized until securities are in default or when it is likely that future interest payments will not be made as scheduled.

Interest income on deposits with banks and other — Recognized as earned, and primarily relates to the placement of cash in excess of near-term funding requirements in interest-bearing time deposits, overnight sweep accounts, and other interest-bearing demand and call accounts.

Liquidity Coverage Ratio — Represents the minimum standards established by the regulatory agencies as a measure to determine whether the regulated entity has sufficient liquidity to meet liquidity needs in periods of financial and economic stress.

Merchant acquisition — Represents our process of entering into agreements with merchants to accept American Express-branded cards.

Net card fees — Represents the card membership fees earned during the period. These fees are recognized as revenue over the covered card membership period (typically one year), net of the provision for projected refunds for Card Membership cancellation and deferred acquisition costs.

Net interest yield on Card Member loans — A non-GAAP measure that is computed by dividing adjusted net interest income by average loans, computed on an annualized basis. Reserves and net write-offs related to uncollectible interest are recorded through provisions for losses, and are thus not included in the net interest yield calculation. We believe net interest yield on Card Member loans is useful to investors because it provides a measure of profitability of our Card Member loan portfolio.

Net loss ratio — Represents the ratio of GCP charge card write-offs, consisting of principal (resulting from authorized transactions) and fee components, less recoveries, on Card Member receivables expressed as a percentage of gross amounts billed to corporate Card Members.

Net write-off rate — principal only — Represents the amount of proprietary consumer or small business Card Member loans or receivables written off, consisting of principal (resulting from authorized transactions), less recoveries, as a percentage of the average loan or receivables balance during the period.

Net write-off rate — principal, interest and fees — Includes, in the calculation of the net write-off rate, amounts for interest and fees in addition to principal for Card Member loans and fees in addition to principal for Card Member receivables.

Table of Contents

Operating expenses — Represents salaries and employee benefits, professional services, occupancy and equipment, and other expenses.

Return on average equity — Calculated by dividing one-year period net income by one-year average total shareholders' equity.

Return on average segment capital — Calculated by dividing one-year period segment income by one-year average segment capital.

Segment capital — Represents the capital allocated to a segment based upon specific business operational needs, risk measures, and regulatory capital requirements.

Total cards-in-force — Represents the total number of charge and credit cards that are issued and outstanding and accepted on our network. Non-proprietary cards-in-force includes all charge and credit cards that are issued and outstanding under network partnership agreements, except for retail cobrand Card Member accounts which have no out-of-store spending activity during the prior twelve-month period.

Table of Contents

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Market risk is the risk to earnings or asset and liability values resulting from movements in market prices. Our market risk exposures include (i) interest rate risk due to changes in the relationship between the interest rates on our assets (such as loans, receivables and investment securities) and the interest rates on our liabilities (such as debt and deposits); and (ii) foreign exchange risk related to transactions, funding, investments and earnings in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. There were no material changes in these market risks since December 31, 2016.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of our 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 report. Based on such evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that, as of the end of such period, our disclosure controls and procedures are effective and designed to ensure that the information required to be disclosed in our reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the requisite time periods specified in the applicable rules and forms, and that it is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

There have not been any changes in our 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 fiscal quarter to which this report relates that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-looking Statements

This report includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which are subject to risks and uncertainties. The forward-looking statements, which address our expected business and financial performance, among other matters, contain words such as “believe,” “expect,” “estimate,” “anticipate,” “intend,” “plan,” “aim,” “will,” “may,” “should,” “could,” “would,” “likely,” and similar expressions. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date on which they are made. We undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from these forward-looking statements, include, but are not limited to, the following:

- our ability to grow in the future, which will depend in part on the following: revenues growing consistently with current expectations, which could be impacted by, among other things, the factors identified in the subsequent bullet;
- credit performance remaining consistent with current expectations;
- the level of spend in bonus categories on rewards-based and/or cash-back cards and redemptions of Card Member rewards and offers;
- the impact of any future contingencies, including, but not limited to, litigation-related settlements, judgments or expenses, the imposition of fines or civil money penalties, an increase in Card Member reimbursements, restructurings, impairments and changes in reserves;
- the ability to continue to realize benefits from restructuring actions and operating leverage at levels consistent with current expectations;
- the amount we spend on Card Member engagement and our ability to drive growth from such investments;
- changes in interest rates beyond current expectations (including the impact of hedge ineffectiveness and deposit rate increases);
- the impact of regulation and litigation, which could affect the profitability of our business activities, limit our ability to pursue business opportunities, require changes to business practices or alter our relationships with partners, merchants and Card Members;
- our tax rate remaining in line with current expectations, which could be impacted by, among other things, our geographic mix of income being weighted more to higher tax jurisdictions than expected, changes in tax laws and regulation and unfavorable tax audits and other unanticipated tax items;
- write-downs of deferred tax assets as a result of tax law or other changes;
- the impact of accounting changes and reclassifications; and
- our ability to continue executing the share repurchase program;





Table of Contents

our ability to grow revenues net of interest expense, which could be impacted by, among other things, weakening economic conditions in the United States or internationally, a decline in consumer confidence impacting the willingness and ability of Card Members to sustain and grow spending, continued growth of Card Member loans, a greater erosion of the average discount rate than expected, the strengthening of the U.S. dollar, a greater impact on discount revenue from cash back and cobrand partner and client incentive payments, more cautious spending by large and global corporate Card Members, the willingness of Card Members to pay higher card fees, and lower spending on new cards acquired than estimated; and will depend on factors such as our success in addressing competitive pressures and implementing our strategies and business initiatives, including growing profitable spending from existing and new Card Members, increasing penetration among middle market and small business clients, expanding our international footprint and increasing merchant acceptance;

changes in the substantial and increasing worldwide competition in the payments industry, including competitive pressure that may impact the prices we charge merchants that accept our cards, competition for cobrand relationships and the success of marketing, promotion or rewards programs;

rewards expense and cost of Card Member services growing inconsistently from expectations, which will depend in part on Card Member behavior as it relates to their spending patterns and actual usage and redemption of rewards, as well as the degree of interest of Card Members in the value proposition we offer; increasing competition, which could result in greater rewards offerings; our ability to enhance card products and services to make them attractive to Card Members; and the amount we spend on the promotion of enhanced services and rewards categories and the success of such promotion;

the actual amount to be spent on marketing and promotion, which will be based in part on management's assessment of competitive opportunities; overall business performance and changes in macroeconomic conditions; the actual amount of advertising and Card Member acquisition costs; competitive pressures that may require additional expenditures; our ability to continue to shift Card Member acquisition to digital channels; contractual obligations with business partners and other fixed costs and prior commitments; management's ability to identify attractive investment opportunities and make such investments, which could be impacted by business, regulatory or legal complexities; and our ability to realize efficiencies, optimize investment spending and control expenses to fund such spending;

our ability to reduce our overall cost base, which will depend in part on the timing and financial impact of reengineering plans, which could be impacted by factors such as our inability to mitigate the operational and other risks posed by potential staff reductions, our inability to develop and implement technology resources to realize cost savings and underestimating hiring and other employee needs; our ability to reduce annual operating expenses, which could be impacted by, among other things, the factors identified below; our ability to optimize marketing and promotion expenses, which could be impacted by the factors identified in the preceding bullet;

the ability to reduce annual operating expenses, which could be impacted by the need to increase significant categories of operating expenses, such as consulting or professional fees, including as a result of increased litigation, compliance or regulatory-related costs, or fraud costs; our ability to develop, implement and achieve substantial benefits from reengineering plans; higher than expected employee levels; the impact of changes in foreign currency exchange rates on costs; the payment of civil money penalties, disgorgement, restitution, non-income tax assessments and litigation-related settlements; impairments of goodwill or other assets; management's decision to increase or decrease spending in such areas as technology, business and product development and sales forces; greater than expected inflation; our ability to balance expense control and investments in the business; the impact of accounting changes and reclassifications; and the level of M&A activity and related expenses;

our delinquency and write-off rates and growth of provisions for losses being higher than current expectations, which will depend in part on changes in the level of loan balances and delinquencies, mix of loan balances, loans and receivables related to new Card Members and other borrowers performing as expected, credit performance of new and enhanced lending products, unemployment rates, the volume of bankruptcies and recoveries of previously written-off loans;

our ability to execute against our lending strategy to grow loans, which may be affected by increasing competition, brand perceptions and reputation, our ability to manage risk in a growing Card Member loan portfolio, and the behavior of Card Members and their actual spending and borrowing patterns, which in turn may be driven by our

ability to issue new and enhanced card products, offer attractive non-card lending products, capture a greater share of existing Card Members' spending and borrowings, reduce Card Member attrition and attract new customers;

Table of Contents

the growth in net interest income moderating more than expected, which will be impacted by the growth and mix of Card Member and other loans, which will depend in part on the factors identified in the preceding bullet, and our net interest yield on Card Member loans, which will be influenced by, among other things, interest rates, changes in consumer behavior that affect loan balances, such as paydown rates, Card Member acquisition strategy, product mix, cost of funds, credit actions, including line size and other adjustments to credit availability, potential pricing changes and deposit rates, which could be impacted by, among other things, the factors identified in the subsequent bullet; deposit rates increasing faster or slower than current expectations due to changes in our funding mix, market pressures, regulatory constraints or changes in benchmark interest rates, which could affect net interest yield and our funding costs;

the possibility that we will not execute on our plans to significantly increase merchant coverage, which will depend in part on the success of OptBlue merchant acquirers in signing merchants to accept American Express, which could be impacted by the pricing set by the merchant acquirers, the value proposition offered to small merchants and the efforts of OptBlue merchant acquirers to sign merchants for American Express acceptance, as well as the awareness and willingness of Card Members to use American Express cards at small merchants and of those merchants to accept American Express cards;

changes affecting our ability or desire to return capital to shareholders through dividends and share repurchases, which will depend on factors such as approval of our capital plans by our primary regulators, the amount we spend on acquisitions of companies and our results of operations and capital needs and economic environment in any given period;

changes in global economic and business conditions, consumer and business spending, the availability and cost of capital, unemployment rates, geopolitical conditions (including potential impacts resulting from the U.S. Administration and the proposed exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union), foreign currency rates and interest rates, all of which may significantly affect demand for and spending on American Express cards, delinquency rates, loan balances and other aspects of our business and results of operations;

changes in capital and credit market conditions, including sovereign creditworthiness, which may significantly affect our ability to meet our liquidity needs, expectations regarding capital and liquidity ratios, access to capital and cost of capital, including changes in interest rates; changes in market conditions affecting the valuation of our assets; or any reduction in our credit ratings or those of our subsidiaries, which could materially increase the cost and other terms of our funding, restrict our access to the capital markets or result in contingent payments under contracts;

legal and regulatory developments, including with regard to broad payment system regulatory regimes, actions by the CFPB and other regulators and the stricter regulation of financial institutions, which could require us to make fundamental changes to many of our business practices, including our ability to continue certain GNS and other partnerships; exert further pressure on the average discount rate and GNS volumes; result in increased costs related to regulatory oversight, litigation-related settlements, judgments or expenses, restitution to Card Members or the imposition of fines or civil money penalties; materially affect our capital or liquidity requirements, results of operations or ability to pay dividends or repurchase our stock; or result in harm to the American Express brand;

uncertainty relating to the ultimate outcome of the antitrust lawsuit filed against us by the U.S. Department of Justice and certain state attorneys general, including the review of the case by the U.S. Supreme Court and the impact on existing private merchant cases and potentially additional litigation and/or arbitrations;

potential actions by the FDIC and credit rating agencies applicable to securitization trusts, which could impact our asset securitization program;

potential changes to the taxation of our businesses, the allowance of deductions for significant expenses, or the incidence of consumption taxes on our transactions, products and services;

changes in the financial condition and creditworthiness of our business partners, such as bankruptcies, restructurings or consolidations, including merchants that represent a significant portion of our business, such as the airline industry, or our partners in GNS or financial institutions that we rely on for routine funding and liquidity, which could materially affect our financial condition or results of operations; and

factors beyond our control such as fire, power loss, disruptions in telecommunications, severe weather conditions, natural disasters (including further impacts from the recent hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico), health

pandemics, terrorism, cyberattacks or fraud, any of which could significantly affect demand for and spending on American Express cards, delinquency rates, loan balances and other aspects of our business and results of operations or disrupt our global network systems and ability to process transactions.

A further description of these uncertainties and other risks can be found in the 2016 Form 10-K and our other reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Table of Contents

## PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

## ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

In the ordinary course of business, we are subject to various pending and potential legal actions, arbitration proceedings, claims, investigations, examinations, information gathering requests, subpoenas, inquiries and matters relating to compliance with laws and regulations (collectively, legal proceedings).

We do not believe we are a party to, nor are any of our properties the subject of, any legal proceeding that would have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial condition or liquidity. However, in light of the uncertainties involved in such matters, including the fact that some pending legal proceedings are at preliminary stages or seek an indeterminate amount of damages, it is possible that the outcome of legal proceedings, including the possible resolution of merchant claims, could have a material impact on our results of operations. In addition, it is possible that significantly increased merchant steering or other actions impairing the Card Member experience could have a material adverse effect on our business. Certain legal proceedings involving us or our subsidiaries are described in this section and others, for which there have been no subsequent material developments since the filing of our 2016 Form 10-K, are described in such report. For additional information, see Note 8 to our “Consolidated Financial Statements.” In 2010, the DOJ, along with Attorneys General from Arizona, Connecticut, Hawaii (Hawaii has since withdrawn its claim), Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Vermont filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York against us, MasterCard International Incorporated and Visa, Inc., alleging a violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Antitrust Act (the DOJ case). The complaint included allegations that provisions in our merchant agreements prohibiting merchants from steering a customer to use another network’s card or another type of general-purpose card (“anti-steering” and “non-discrimination” contractual provisions) violate the antitrust laws. The complaint sought a judgment permanently enjoining us from enforcing our non-discrimination contractual provisions. The complaint did not seek monetary damages.

Following a non-jury trial in the DOJ case, the trial court found that the challenged provisions were anticompetitive and on April 30, 2015, the court issued a final judgment entering a permanent injunction. Following our appeal of this judgment, on September 26, 2016, the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit reversed the trial court decision and directed the trial court to enter a judgment for American Express. Following denial of rehearing en banc by the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, the trial court entered judgment for American Express on January 25, 2017. On June 2, 2017, the DOJ announced it would not petition the U.S. Supreme Court to review the Second Circuit’s decision in favor of American Express. At the same time, 11 of the 17 states that are party to the case filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking such a review. On October 16, 2017, the U.S. Supreme Court granted certiorari.

On July 30, 2015, plaintiff Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 137 Pension Fund, on behalf of themselves and other purchasers of American Express stock, filed a suit, captioned Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 137 Pension Fund v. American Express Co., Kenneth I. Chenault and Jeffrey C. Campbell, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York for violation of federal securities law, alleging that the Company deliberately issued false and misleading statements to, and omitted important information from, the public relating to the financial importance of the Costco cobrand relationship to the Company, including, but not limited to, the decision to accelerate negotiations to renew the cobrand agreement. The plaintiff sought damages and injunctive relief. On October 2, 2017, the Court granted defendants’ motion to dismiss the plaintiff’s amended complaint with leave to replead.

On October 16, 2015, a putative class action, captioned Houssain v. American Express Company, et al., was filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) relating to disclosures of the Costco cobrand relationship. On May 10, 2016, the plaintiff filed an amended complaint naming certain officers of the Company as defendants and alleging that the defendants violated certain ERISA fiduciary obligations by, among other things, allowing the investment of American Express Retirement Savings Plan (Plan) assets in American Express common stock when American Express common

stock was not a prudent investment and misrepresenting and failing to disclose material facts to Plan participants in connection with the administration of the Plan. The amended complaint sought, among other remedies, an unspecified amount of damages. On September 28, 2017, the Court granted defendants' motion to dismiss the amended complaint.

Table of Contents

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

For a discussion of our risk factors, see Part I, Item 1A. “Risk Factors” of the 2016 Form 10-K. There are no material changes from the risk factors set forth in the 2016 Form 10-K. However, the risks and uncertainties that we face are not limited to those set forth in the 2016 Form 10-K. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently believe to be immaterial may also adversely affect our business and the trading price of our securities.



Table of Contents

## ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

## (c) ISSUER PURCHASES OF SECURITIES

The table below sets forth the information with respect to purchases of our common stock made by or on behalf of us during the three months ended September 30, 2017.

	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs <sup>(c)</sup>	Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
July 1-31, 2017				
Repurchase program <sup>(a)</sup>	3,203,577	\$ 85.05	3,203,577	110,708,033
Employee transactions <sup>(b)</sup>			N/A	N/A
August 1-31, 2017				
Repurchase program <sup>(a)</sup>	6,481,629	\$ 85.65	6,481,629	104,226,404
Employee transactions <sup>(b)</sup>	26,593	\$ 84.80	N/A	N/A
September 1-30, 2017				
Repurchase program <sup>(a)</sup>	5,530,176	\$ 87.18	5,530,176	98,696,228
Employee transactions <sup>(b)</sup>	12	\$ 85.97	N/A	N/A
Total				
Repurchase program <sup>(a)</sup>	15,215,382	\$ 86.08	15,215,382	98,696,228
Employee transactions <sup>(b)</sup>	26,605	\$ 84.80	N/A	N/A

On September 26, 2016, the Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to 150 million shares of common (a) stock from time to time, subject to market conditions and the Federal Reserve's non-objection to our capital plans.

This authorization replaced the prior repurchase authorization and does not have an expiration date.

Includes: (i) shares surrendered by holders of employee stock options who exercised options (granted under our incentive compensation plans) in satisfaction of the exercise price and/or tax withholding obligation of such holders and (ii) restricted shares withheld (under the terms of grants under our incentive compensation plans) to (b) offset tax withholding obligations that occur upon vesting and release of restricted shares. Our incentive compensation plans provide that the value of the shares delivered or attested to, or withheld, be based on the price of our common stock on the date the relevant transaction occurs.

Share purchases under publicly announced programs are made pursuant to open market purchases or privately (c) negotiated transactions (including employee benefit plans) as market conditions warrant and at prices we deem appropriate.

Table of Contents

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

CEO Succession

On October 18, 2017, we announced that the Board of Directors appointed Stephen J. Squeri, 58, Chief Executive Officer of American Express Company and elected him Chairman of the Board, each effective February 1, 2018. Mr. Squeri succeeds Kenneth I. Chenault, 66, who will retire as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer on that date. Mr. Squeri has been Vice Chairman since 2015 and prior to that was Group President, Global Corporate Services.

In connection with his new role, effective February 1, 2018 Mr. Squeri will receive an annual base salary of \$1.5 million and will be eligible to earn an annual cash incentive award of \$4.5 million and an annual long-term incentive award consisting of restricted stock units and stock options with a value of \$10.2 million.

In addition, Mr. Squeri will be awarded performance-vesting options on October 31, 2017 with a grant date fair value of \$4.5 million. On the same date, Douglas E. Buckminster, President, Global Consumer Services, and Anré Williams, President, Global Merchant Services and Loyalty, will also be granted performance-vesting stock options, each with a grant date fair value of \$2.25 million, in connection with the CEO transition. The options will have a term of seven years, an exercise price equal to the closing price on the grant date and vesting subject to (i) a stock price goal of 30% above the closing price on the grant date, which must be met for a period of 20 consecutive trading days during the five-year period beginning on the grant date, (ii) a financial goal of positive cumulative GAAP net income for the three-year period 2018-2020 and (iii) a three-year service condition. 50% of the net after-tax shares received upon exercise must be held for at least 12 months.

Required Iran Disclosures

Pursuant to Section 219 of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, which added Section 13(r) to the Exchange Act, an issuer is required to disclose in its annual or quarterly reports, as applicable, whether it or any of its affiliates knowingly engaged in certain activities, transactions or dealings relating to Iran or with individuals or entities designated pursuant to certain Executive Orders. Disclosure is generally required even where the activities, transactions or dealings were conducted outside the United States by non-U.S. affiliates in compliance with applicable law, and whether or not the activities are sanctionable under U.S. law.

American Express Global Business Travel (GBT) and certain entities that may be considered affiliates of GBT have informed us that during the third quarter of 2017 approximately 73 visas were obtained from Iranian embassies and consulates around the world in connection with certain travel arrangements on behalf of clients. GBT had negligible gross revenues and net profits attributable to these transactions and intends to continue to engage in these activities on a limited basis so long as such activities are permitted under U.S. law.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

The list of exhibits required to be filed as exhibits to this report are listed on page E-1 hereof, under “Exhibit Index” which is incorporated herein by reference.

Table of Contents

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.

AMERICAN EXPRESS  
COMPANY  
(Registrant)

Date: October 24, 2017    By /s/ Jeffrey C. Campbell  
Jeffrey C. Campbell  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: October 24, 2017    By /s/ Linda Zukauckas  
Linda Zukauckas  
Executive Vice President and  
Corporate Controller  
(Principal Accounting Officer)

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

The following exhibits are filed as part of this Quarterly Report:

Exhibit	Description
12	<u>Computation in Support of Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends.</u>
31.1	<u>Certification of Kenneth I. Chenault pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.</u>
31.2	<u>Certification of Jeffrey C. Campbell pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.</u>
32.1	<u>Certification of Kenneth I. Chenault pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>
32.2	<u>Certification of Jeffrey C. Campbell pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document