

NewStar Financial, Inc.
Form 10-K
March 02, 2017

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016

OR

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

For the transition period from to

Commission file number 001-33211

NewStar Financial, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

54-2157878
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

500 Boylston Street, Suite 1250, Boston, MA
(Address of principal executive offices)

02116
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (617) 848-2500

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

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| | |
|--|---|
| Title of each class | Name of each exchange on which registered |
| Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share | The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC |

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.
Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K

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

Large Accelerated Filer Accelerated Filer

Non-Accelerated Filer Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

As of June 30, 2016, the last business day of our most recently completed second fiscal quarter, the aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates was \$194,956,040, based on the number of shares held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2016, and based on the reported last sale price of common stock on June 30, 2016. This calculation does not reflect a determination that persons are affiliates for any other purposes.

As of February 27, 2017, 42,675,647 shares of common stock, par value of \$0.01 per share, were outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), relating to the Registrant's Annual Meeting of Stockholders scheduled to be held May 16, 2017 are incorporated by

reference into Part III of this Form 10-K. With the exception of the portions of the Proxy Statement specifically incorporated herein by reference, the Proxy Statement is not deemed to be filed as part of this Form 10-K.

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Forward-Looking Statements

Statements in this Annual Report about our anticipated financial condition, results of operations, and growth, as well as about the future development of our products and markets and the future performance of the financial markets in general, are forward-looking statements. You can identify forward-looking statements by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. They may include words such as “anticipate,” “estimate,” “expect,” “project,” “plan,” “intend,” “believe,” “may,” “should,” “can have,” “likely” and other words and terms of similar meaning in connection with any discussion of the timing or nature of future operating or financial performance or other events and circumstances, including the timing and amount of any future dividend payments. These forward-looking statements are based on assumptions that we have made in light of our industry experience and on our perceptions of historical trends, current conditions, expected future developments and other factors. As you read this Annual Report, you should understand that these statements are not guarantees of performance or results. They involve risks and uncertainties that are beyond our control. Important information about the bases for our assumptions and factors that may cause our actual results and other circumstances to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements are discussed in Item 1A. “Risk Factors” and generally throughout this Annual Report.

PART I

Item 1. Business Overview

NewStar Financial, Inc. (which is referred to throughout this Annual Report as “NewStar”, “the Company”, “we” and “us”) is an internally-managed, commercial finance company with \$6.7 billion of assets managed across two complementary business lines- middle market direct lending and asset management. The Company’s direct lending activities are focused on meeting the complex financing needs of companies and private investors in the middle market by offering a range of flexible debt financing options. Through its asset management platforms, NewStar offers a range of investment products employing credit-oriented strategies focused on middle market loans and liquid, tradeable credit.

We believe these lending activities require specialized skills and transaction experience, as well as, a significant investment in personnel and operating infrastructure. To meet these demands, our loans and leases are originated directly by teams of credit-trained bankers organized around key industry and market segments. These teams are supported by centralized credit management and operating platforms. This structure enables us to leverage common standards, systems, and industry and professional expertise across multiple businesses.

We target our marketing and origination efforts at private equity firms, mid-sized companies, corporate executives, banks and a variety of other referral sources and financial intermediaries to develop new customer relationships and source lending opportunities. Our origination network is national in scope and we target companies with business operations across a broad range of industry sectors. We employ highly experienced bankers and credit professionals to identify and structure new lending opportunities and manage customer relationships. We believe that the quality of our professionals, the breadth of their relationships and referral networks, and their ability to develop creative solutions for customers position us to be a valued partner and preferred lender for mid-sized companies and private equity funds with middle market investment strategies.

Our emphasis on direct origination is an important aspect of our marketing and credit strategy. Our national network is designed around specialized origination channels intended to generate a large set of potential lending opportunities. That allows us to be highly selective in our credit process and to allocate capital to market segments that we believe represent the most attractive opportunities. Our direct origination network also generates proprietary lending opportunities with yield characteristics that we believe would not otherwise be available through intermediaries. In addition, direct origination provides us with direct access to management teams and enhances our ability to conduct

detailed due diligence and credit analysis of prospective borrowers. It also allows us to negotiate transaction terms directly with borrowers and, as a result, advise our customers on financial strategies and capital structures, which we believe benefits our credit performance.

The Company typically provides financing commitments to companies in amounts that range in size from \$15 million to \$50 million. The size of financing commitments depends on various factors, including the type of loan, the credit characteristics of the borrower, the economic characteristics of the loan, and our role in the transaction. We also selectively arrange larger transactions that we may retain on our balance sheet or syndicate to other lenders, which may include funds that we manage for third party institutional investors. By syndicating loans to other lenders and our managed funds, we are able to provide larger financing commitments to our customers and generate fee income, while limiting our risk exposure to single borrowers. From time to time, however, our balance sheet exposure to a single borrower exceeds \$35 million.

Beginning in January 2016, our operations were divided into two reportable segments that represent our core businesses, Commercial Lending and Asset Management.

The Commercial Lending segment represents our direct lending activities which are focused on providing a range of flexible senior secured debt options to mid-sized companies with annual cash flow (EBITDA) typically between \$15 million and \$50 million owned by private equity investment funds and managed by established professional alternative asset managers.

The Asset Management segment represents our investment advisory activities which are focused on providing opportunities for qualified investors to invest in a range of credit funds managed by the Company. The Asset Management segment manages a series of private credit funds that co-invest in middle market loans originated through our established direct lending platform. Additionally, in October 2015, NewStar acquired Boston-based Feingold O’Keeffe Capital, LLC (“FOC Partners”), a boutique credit manager with \$2.3 billion of assets under management, to expand its existing asset management capabilities. NewStar operates FOC Partners as NewStar Capital. Through this wholly-owned subsidiary, the Company manages over \$2 billion in assets across a series of CLOs that invest primarily in broadly syndicated loans, as well as other sponsored funds and managed accounts that invest across various liquid, non-investment grade asset classes, including broadly syndicated loans and bonds.

Information regarding revenues, profits and losses and total assets of these segments can be found in the financial statements in Item 8.

NewStar is a Delaware corporation that was incorporated in 2004. Our principal executive office is located at 500 Boylston Street, Suite 1250, Boston, Massachusetts 02116, and our telephone number is (617) 848-2500. We maintain a website at www.newstarfin.com.

Commercial Lending

During 2016, the Company sold its asset based lending business, NewStar Business Credit LLC (“Business Credit”) and the assets of NewStar Equipment Finance (“Equipment Finance”) and the related platform. The sale of these lending platforms demonstrated a continuation of the Company’s transformation from a bank-styled, diversified commercial finance company into a more specialized middle market direct lender with a focus on managing assets for institutional investors. In addition to the sale, the Company has accelerated the disposition of the real estate portfolio. This reflects the Company’s strategic decision to exit businesses with economic models increasingly challenged by competition from banks and other lenders with access to lower cost funding.

Leveraged Finance

Through our Leveraged Finance group, the Company provides senior, secured cash flow loans and, to a lesser extent, first out, second lien and unitranche loans, to middle market companies. These companies are typically backed by established private equity groups that manage large investment funds and have proven investment track records. The proceeds of these loans are used primarily for acquisitions, recapitalizations and refinancing or other general corporate purposes. The Leveraged Finance group also provides senior secured loans to larger middle market companies with greater financing needs by participating in larger credit facilities with other lenders as a member of a syndicate.

We believe that private equity backed companies represent an attractive segment of the overall market for financing middle market companies. Commonly known as sponsored lending, this financing segment is large, often representing 30-40% of total middle market lending measured by new loan volume. Transaction activity in this financing segment is driven by an estimated 600 private equity firms in the US that specialize in investing in middle market companies. By focusing our origination activity on this universe of firms, the Company seeks to leverage its direct origination effort into significant transaction flow, as each firm typically completes several transactions per year.

We believe that NewStar is among the most active lenders focused on financing private equity backed companies in the middle market. We have established a recognized brand in the market with a reputation as a smart, reliable lender that is responsive, consistent and constructive. Since inception, the Company has funded loans totaling more than

\$13.7 billion related to approximately 650 transactions backed by approximately 250 different financial sponsors. We develop new customer relationships and source our loans primarily through the direct marketing and origination efforts of our bankers. The Company's bankers call directly on prospective clients and referrals sources from this network of offices. They have established relationships with a wide range of prospective customers and referral sources, including approximately 200 private equity groups with investment strategies focused on the middle market, mid-sized companies, corporate executives, banks, other non-bank "club" lenders, and investment banks. To a lesser extent, we may also source loans and other debt products by participating in larger credit facilities syndicated by other lenders.

We generally compete for lending opportunities on the basis of our reputation and transaction experience. In December of 2014, NewStar formed a strategic relationship with GSO Capital ("GSO"), the credit division of Blackstone, and Franklin Square Capital Partners ("Franklin Square"), one of the largest managers of business development companies. As part of this relationship, funds managed by Franklin Square and sub-advised by GSO purchased \$300 million of 8.25% subordinated notes due 2024 with warrants exercisable for 12 million shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$12.62 (the "warrants"). The Company used the proceeds from these issuances to enhance its ability to originate and lead transactions. In addition, our relationship with GSO has

resulted in cross-referral and co-lending opportunities, provided us with access to new channels of origination, and enabled us to provide larger capital commitments and a more complete set of financing options to our clients. We believe that our strategic relationship will continue to help us compete more effectively for lending opportunities by enabling us to provide larger credit commitments and “one-stop” financing solutions to customers comprised of unitranche loans or a combination of senior and junior debt capital in partnership with GSO or Franklin Square.

NewStar offers a range of senior debt financing options, including revolving credit facilities, term loans and other debt products secured by a variety of business assets. Loans are typically structured to mature in five to six years and require monthly or quarterly interest payments at variable rates based on a spread to LIBOR or the prime rate, many with interest rate floors. Through our strategic relationship, we also seek to offer a more complete range of debt financing options, including second lien term loans, unitranche term loans, subordinated notes and, to a lesser extent, private equity co-investments.

We target mid-sized companies operating in a broad range of industries and market segments where we believe that we have competitive advantages and significant lending and underwriting experience, including:

- healthcare;
- manufacturing and industrial;
- financial services;
- energy/chemical services;
- printing/publishing;
- consumer, retail and restaurants; and
- business and technology services.

Our loans and other debt products, which may be part of larger credit facilities, typically range in size from \$15 million to \$50 million, although we generally limit the size of the loans that we retain to \$25 million. In certain cases, however, our loans and debt products exceed \$35 million. We also have the capability to arrange significantly larger transactions which we syndicate to other lenders, including funds that we manage. As a result of syndication and asset management activities, our exposure to certain loans and other debt products exceeds \$35 million from time to time through “Loans held-for-sale,” which represent amounts in excess of our target hold for investment position.

The Company has well established lending guidelines and transaction parameters. We focus on transactions with established companies that have strong market positions in targeted industry sectors. Our borrowers are typically unrated, but have credit profiles that we believe are comparable to B1/B2/B3 rated companies due to their limited size and use of leverage. The Company’s preference is generally to finance acquisitions and other productive uses of capital subject to structural parameters, such as maximum leverage, that can vary significantly depending on the facts and circumstances of each situation. Substantially all the Company’s loans have significant lender protections, including financial covenants that are set at levels with cushions to projected financial performance. They also typically include restrictive covenants and mandatory prepayment provisions that limit borrowers’ ability to incur additional indebtedness and make acquisitions. Many transactions also include an excess cash flow recapture provision, which is designed to accelerate debt repayment and de-leveraging.

NewStar is also selective in targeting transaction sponsors, focusing on more established firms with between \$500 million and several billion dollars of committed capital managed across multiple funds. The Company invests significant resources in developing relationships with target sponsors and understanding their respective investment strategies, performance track records, access to capital, and industry focus, as well as the backgrounds of their investment professionals. Our management believes that a significant factor in the Company’s success has been the quality of its private equity franchise and the breadth of relationships it has developed with private equity firms. In many cases, the relationships that members of our management have with investment professionals at these firms extend from early in their professional careers. We believe the value created by our private equity relationships is reflected in the transaction flow that the Company generates and in the repeat business we have experienced with targeted sponsors.

NewStar's origination and credit strategies are strongly influenced by industry dynamics. The Company has invested in the development of an experienced staff of portfolio managers with deep industry expertise responsible for covering nine broad industry sectors. These portfolio managers maintain extensive networks of industry contacts in their respective industries and employ a research-driven framework to develop insights into these sectors intended to guide origination strategy and credit selection.

As of December 31, 2016, our Leveraged Finance loan portfolio (including the Arch Street loan portfolio) totaled \$3.9 billion in funding commitments and \$3.6 billion in balances outstanding, representing 99.7% of our loan portfolio. This represented 388 transactions with an average balance outstanding of approximately \$9.3 million. During 2016, we originated \$1.9 billion of new loans,

of which we retained \$1.1 billion and originated \$0.8 billion for credit funds. As of December 31, 2016, our exposure to energy (oil & gas) was approximately \$41.1 million or 1.2% of balance sheet assets.

Real Estate

We made the strategic decision to exit the real estate line of business in 2016 as we faced increased competition from banks and other lenders with access to lower cost of funding. As of December 31, 2016 our Real Estate loan portfolio totaled \$11.0 million in funding commitments and \$10.6 million in balances outstanding, representing 0.3% of our total loan portfolio. This represents our only remaining real estate lending relationship. During 2016, we did not originate any new commercial real estate loans.

Asset Management

As a registered investment adviser, NewStar offers investment products for qualified institutions to invest in private credit funds managed by the Company that employ credit oriented strategies, focused on middle market loans and liquid tradeable credit. Through its registered investment adviser subsidiary, NewStar Capital, the Company also manages assets across a series of CLOs that invest primarily in broadly syndicated loans, as well as other sponsored funds and managed accounts that invest across various liquid, non-investment grade asset classes, including broadly syndicated loans and bonds.

The Company's asset management activities provide important financial and strategic benefits. We earn management fees for our role as the investment manager for funds that we manage. Compensation as investment manager is comprised of both base management fees and incentive fees. We also enjoy important strategic benefits from the management of certain types of credit funds because they allow us to provide more capital to our customers, while limiting our direct balance sheet risk. We believe this enhances our competitive position.

We believe that NewStar was among the first independent commercial finance companies to develop an asset management platform to provide investment strategies targeting middle market loans. The Company launched its first fund in 2005, which was called NewStar Credit Opportunities Fund ("NCOF") to co-invest in loans originated by the Company. The fund was levered to support an investment portfolio of \$600 million using bank credit facilities to support the initial ramp-up followed by a securitization. The Company launched its second fund, the \$300 million Arlington Fund in 2013. It was increased to \$400 million in 2014, and also employed leverage through a loan securitization. The Company closed its third fund, a \$400 million levered fund known as the Clarendon Fund in 2014, with an anchor equity investment from funds sponsored by Franklin Square and sub-advised by GSO. The Company closed its fourth fund, a \$505 million levered fund known as the Berkeley Fund during 2016.

In October 2015, we acquired Boston-based FOC Partners, a boutique credit manager and also a registered investment adviser. We operate FOC Partners as a wholly owned subsidiary under the name NewStar Capital. NewStar Capital manages assets across a series of CLOs that invest primarily in broadly syndicated loans, as well as other sponsored funds and managed accounts that invest across various liquid, non-investment grade asset classes, including broadly syndicated loans and bonds. During 2016, NewStar Capital completed a \$410 million broadly syndicated loan securitization known as Arch Street.

The Company's managed funds are allocated a portion of the middle market loans we originate based on an established allocation policy that defines a set of rules for managing this activity. We are currently allocating loans to the Arlington, Berkeley and Clarendon Funds.

As of December 31, 2016, NewStar's managed assets totaled \$6.7 billion with \$3.2 billion managed within commercial lending, \$1.3 billion managed within asset management middle market direct lending and \$2.2 billion within liquid, tradeable credit.

Our asset management income was approximately \$13.4 million in 2016 and \$6.7 million in 2015.

Loans and Other Debt Products

Senior secured cash flow loans

Our senior secured cash flow loans are provided by our Leveraged Finance group. We underwrite these loans based on the cash flow, profitability and enterprise value of the borrower, with the value of any tangible assets as secondary protection. These loans are generally secured by a first-priority security interest in all or substantially all of the borrowers' assets and, in certain transactions, the pledge of their common stock.

As of December 31, 2016, senior secured cash flow loans totaled \$3.7 billion in funding commitments and \$3.4 billion in balances outstanding, representing 93.6% of our loan portfolio.

Senior secured asset-based loans

Our senior secured asset-based loans are secured by a first-priority lien on tangible assets and have a first-priority in right of payment. Senior secured asset-based loans are typically advanced under revolving credit facilities against a borrowing base comprised of collateral, including eligible accounts receivable, inventories and other long-term assets.

As of December 31, 2016, senior secured asset-based loans totaled \$32.8 million in funding commitments and \$29.2 million in balances outstanding, representing 0.8% of our loan portfolio.

First mortgage loans

Our first mortgage loans are provided by our Real Estate group and are secured by a mortgage bearing a first lien on the real property serving as collateral. Our first mortgage loans require borrowers to demonstrate satisfactory collateral value at closing through a third party property appraisal and typically contain provisions governing the use of property operating cash flow and disbursement of loan proceeds during the term of the loan.

As of December 31, 2016, first mortgage loans totaled \$11.0 million in funding commitments and \$10.6 million in balances outstanding, representing 0.3% of our loan portfolio.

Other

Our other loans and debt products are categorized as \$110.9 million of senior subordinated asset-based (which are equal as to collateral and subordinate as to right of payment to other senior lenders), \$71.6 million of second lien (which are second liens on all or substantially all of a borrower's assets, and in some cases, junior in right of payment to senior lenders), and \$6.6 million of mezzanine/subordinated (which are subordinated as to rights to collateral and right of payment to senior lenders).

Loan Portfolio

The Company's loan portfolio is comprised of loans, leases and other debt products. As of December 31, 2016, the loan portfolio totaled approximately \$3.9 billion of funding commitments, representing \$3.6 billion of balances outstanding and \$0.3 billion of funds committed but undrawn as of December 31, 2016. Consistent with our strategy to focus on senior secured lending, first lien senior debt represented 94.7% of the portfolio.

As of December 31, 2016, we had 11 loans with outstanding balances greater than \$25.0 million. In most of these cases, we either sought to maximize our potential recovery of the outstanding principal by adding to our position through a workout or our hold size increased as a result of a portfolio purchase, syndication or through asset management activities. As of December 31, 2016, we had one impaired loan that had an outstanding balance greater than \$20 million. As of December 31, 2016 our largest outstanding loan was 0.84% of our loan portfolio, and the top ten outstanding loans comprised 7.6% of our loan portfolio.

Loan Portfolio Overview

The following tables present information regarding the outstanding balances of our loans and other debt products:

| | December 31, 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|------------------|----------------------|------|------|
| | (\$ in thousands) | | |
| Composition Type | | | |

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| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| Senior secured cash flow | \$3,362,638 | 93.6 % | \$3,008,829 | 78.6 % | \$2,044,126 | 77.9 % |
| Senior secured asset-based | 29,213 | 0.8 | 534,980 | 14.0 | 383,584 | 14.7 |
| First mortgage | 10,624 | 0.3 | 100,732 | 2.6 | 105,394 | 4.0 |
| Other | 189,091 | 5.3 | 185,856 | 4.8 | 90,333 | 3.4 |
| Total | \$3,591,566 | 100.0% | \$3,830,397 | 100.0% | \$2,623,437 | 100.0% |

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| | December 31, | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | |
| Composition by Lending Group | | | |
| Leveraged Finance | \$3,580,942 | \$3,214,131 | \$2,134,459 |
| Business Credit | — | 342,281 | 286,918 |
| Real Estate | 10,624 | 100,732 | 105,394 |
| Equipment Finance | — | 173,253 | 96,666 |
| Total | \$3,591,566 | \$3,830,397 | \$2,623,437 |

| | December 31, 2016 | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|---|
| | Percentage | | Percentage | |
| | of | Percentage | of | |
| | Leveraged | of | Loan | |
| | Finance | Loan | Portfolio | |
| Leveraged Finance by Industry | | | | |
| Industrial/other | 15.3 | % | 13.5 | % |
| Other business services | 14.0 | | 12.4 | |
| Financial services | 14.0 | | 12.4 | |
| Auto/Transportation | 9.7 | | 8.5 | |
| Manufacturing—consumer durable | 6.2 | | 5.5 | |
| Manufacturing—consumer non-durable | 5.8 | | 5.1 | |
| Consumer services | 5.4 | | 4.8 | |
| Healthcare | 5.0 | | 4.4 | |
| Tech services | 4.1 | | 3.7 | |
| Energy/Chemical Services | 3.6 | | 3.2 | |
| Cable/Telecom | 3.1 | | 2.7 | |
| Environmental services | 3.0 | | 2.7 | |
| Restaurants | 2.9 | | 2.6 | |
| Marketing services | 2.4 | | 2.2 | |
| Retail | 2.0 | | 1.8 | |
| Printing/Publishing | 1.9 | | 1.6 | |
| Entertainment/Leisure | 0.9 | | 0.8 | |
| Building materials | 0.7 | | 0.6 | |
| Total | 100.0 | % | 88.5 | % |

| | December 31, 2016 | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| | Percentage | Percentage |
| | of | of |
| | Real | Loan |
| | Estate | Portfolio |
| Real Estate by Property Type | | |

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| | | | |
|--------|--------|-----|---|
| Retail | 100.0% | 0.3 | % |
| Total | 100.0% | 0.3 | % |

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| | December 31, 2016 | |
|---|-------------------|------------|
| | Percentage | Percentage |
| | of | of |
| | Asset | Loan |
| | Management | Portfolio |
| | Portfolio | Portfolio |
| Asset Management Balance Sheet Portfolio by Moody's | | |
| High Tech Industries | 10.5 % | 1.2 % |
| Services: Business | 10.5 | 1.2 |
| Retail | 10.1 | 1.1 |
| Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals | 8.4 | 1.0 |
| Chemicals, Plastics, & Rubber | 6.3 | 0.7 |
| Telecommunications | 4.9 | 0.6 |
| Beverage, Food & Tobacco | 4.5 | 0.5 |
| Media: Advertising, Printing & Publishing | 4.4 | 0.5 |
| Construction & Building | 4.2 | 0.5 |
| Media: Broadcasting & Subscription | 3.7 | 0.4 |
| Banking, Finance, Insurance & Real Estate | 3.7 | 0.4 |
| Hotel, Gaming & Leisure | 3.2 | 0.4 |
| Utilities: Electric | 3.1 | 0.4 |
| Consumer goods: Non-durable | 3.0 | 0.3 |
| Automotive | 3.0 | 0.3 |
| Services: Consumer | 2.9 | 0.3 |
| Containers, Packaging & Glass | 2.6 | 0.3 |
| Energy: Oil & Gas | 2.1 | 0.2 |
| Media: Diversified & Production | 1.5 | 0.2 |
| Environmental Industries | 1.4 | 0.1 |
| Consumer goods: Durable | 1.2 | 0.1 |
| Aerospace & Defense | 1.2 | 0.1 |
| Wholesale | 0.9 | 0.1 |
| Transportation: Consumer | 0.8 | 0.1 |
| Capital Equipment | 0.7 | 0.1 |
| Energy: Electricity | 0.5 | 0.1 |
| Transportation: Cargo | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| Metals & Mining | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Forest Products & Paper | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Total | 100.0% | 11.2 % |

The table below shows the final maturities of our loan portfolio as of December 31, 2016:

| Due in One | Due in One to Five Years | Due After Five Years | Total |
|------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------|
|------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------|

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| | Year or | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Less | | | |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | | |
| Senior secured cash flow | \$66,852 | \$2,080,237 | \$1,215,549 | \$3,362,638 |
| Senior secured asset-based | 9,477 | — | 19,736 | 29,213 |
| First mortgage | — | 10,624 | — | 10,624 |
| Other | 5,603 | 32,011 | 151,477 | 189,091 |
| Total | \$81,932 | \$2,122,872 | \$1,386,762 | \$3,591,566 |

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The table below shows the outstanding balances of fixed-rate and adjustable-rate loans and other debt products as of December 31, 2016:

| | Fixed- | Adjustable- | Total |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Rate | Rate(1)(2) | |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | |
| Senior secured cash flow | 1,308 | 3,361,330 | 3,362,638 |
| Senior secured asset-based | — | 29,213 | 29,213 |
| First mortgage | — | 10,624 | 10,624 |
| Other | — | 189,091 | 189,091 |
| Total | 1,308 | 3,590,258 | 3,591,566 |

(1) As of December 31, 2016, we had interest rate floors on \$3.2 billion of adjustable-rate loans outstanding with an average floor of 1.02%.

(2) As of December 31, 2016, adjustable-rate loans include \$99.2 million of non-accrual loans.

Recent Developments

Dividend Policy

On February 14, 2017, our Board of Directors initiated a quarterly cash dividend. The first cash dividend of \$0.02 per share is expected to be paid on March 17, 2017 to stockholders of record on March 2, 2017. While it is the Company's intention to pay quarterly cash dividends for the foreseeable future, the amount, timing and frequency of any future dividend payments remains in the discretion of our Board of Directors, taking into account our financial condition and results of operation, our capital needs, market conditions and other factors that the board considers appropriate at the time. In addition, the indenture governing our senior notes imposes certain limitations on our ability to declare and pay dividends on our common stock or to make other restricted payments, including repurchasing our common stock. Such limitations are calculated in part by reference to our consolidated net income, as calculated under the indenture. Our ability to declare dividends for future periods thus depends on both our earnings and the amount of prior dividends, stock repurchases and other restricted payments.

Stock Repurchase Program

On December 9, 2016, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$30.0 million of our common stock from time to time on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The timing and amount of any shares purchased under the repurchase program will be determined by our management based on its evaluation of market conditions and other factors. The new repurchase program, commenced immediately following the expiration of the prior stock repurchase program, which was authorized on October 7, 2015, amended on February 10, 2016 and expired on December 31, 2016. The new repurchase program will expire on December 31, 2017 unless extended by the Board and may be suspended or discontinued at any time without notice.

Sale of NewStar Equipment Finance assets and related platform

On December 1, 2016, the Company sold the assets of Equipment Finance and related platform to a third party and exited the business. The sale of equipment finance portfolio was the result of the Company's decision to exit businesses with economic models increasingly challenged by competition from banks and other lenders with access to

lower cost funding. The sale resulted in a gain of \$6.7 million, before transaction related costs of \$4.3 million. The net gain is recorded in non-interest income on the accompanying consolidated statement of operations. In connection with the sale of the assets of Equipment Finance, the Company established a contingent liability to cover any potential credit indemnification costs resulting from actual credit losses incurred on the assets sold.

Sale of NewStar Business Credit LLC

On March 31, 2016, the Company sold its asset based lending business, Business Credit to a third party. The Company opted to sell Business Credit because it was faced with challenges from increasing competition with access to lower cost of funding. The sale resulted in a gain of \$22.5 million, before transaction related costs of \$2.5 million. The net gain is recorded in non-interest income on the accompanying consolidated statement of operations.

Competition

Our markets are highly competitive and are characterized by competitive factors that vary based upon product and geographic region. We currently compete with a large number of financial services companies, including:

- specialty and commercial finance companies, including business development companies;
- private investment funds and hedge funds;

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national and regional banks;
investment banks; and
insurance companies.

The markets in which we operate are fragmented. We compete based on the following factors, which vary by industry, asset class and property types:

- the interest rates and other pricing and/or loan or other debt product terms;
- the quality of our people and their relationships;
- our knowledge of our customers' industries and business needs;
- the flexibility of our product offering;
- the responsiveness of our process; and
- our focus on customer service.

Regulation

Some aspects of our operations are subject to supervision and regulation by state and federal governmental authorities and may be subject to various laws and regulations imposing various requirements and restrictions, which, among other things:

- regulate credit granting activities, including establishing licensing requirements in some jurisdictions;
- establish the maximum interest rates, finance charges and other fees we may charge our customers;
- govern secured transactions;
- require specified information disclosures to our customers;
- set collection, foreclosure, repossession and claims handling customer procedures and other trade practices;
 - regulate our customers' insurance coverage;
- prohibit discrimination in the extension of credit and administration of our loans; and
 - regulate the use and reporting of information related to a customer's credit experience.

Many of our competitors are subject to more extensive supervision and regulation. If we were to become subject to similar supervision or regulation in the future, it could impact our ability to conduct our business.

During 2012, we registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Adviser Act of 1940 (the "Advisers Act") as a result of SEC rules promulgated under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act"). The Company and its investment management subsidiary, NewStar Capital, are registered investment advisors. The Advisers Act imposes numerous obligations on registered investment advisers including fiduciary duties, disclosure obligations and record-keeping, operational and marketing requirements. Registered investment advisers are required by the SEC to adopt and implement written policies and procedures designed to prevent violations of the Advisers Act and to designate a chief compliance officer responsible for administering these policies and procedures. The SEC is authorized to institute proceedings and impose sanctions for violations for the Advisers Act, which may include fines, censure or the suspension or termination of an investment adviser's registration.

Employees

As of December 31, 2016, we employed 69 people compared to 122 people at December 31, 2015. At December 31, 2016, our origination group had 15 employees, including 9 bankers who were either managing directors, directors or vice presidents, and six associates and analysts. Our credit organization had 15 employees, including eight managing directors. We employed 29 people who were involved in operational or administrative roles. NewStar Capital employs 10 employees, including nine investment management professionals. We believe our relations with our employees are good. We had 68 employees as of February 27, 2017.

Available Information

NewStar files Annual, Quarterly and Current Reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). These documents are available free of charge at www.newstarfin.com shortly after such material is electronically

filed with or furnished to the SEC. In addition, NewStar's codes of business conduct and ethics as well as the various charters governing the actions of certain of NewStar's Committees of its Board of Directors, including its Audit Committee, Risk Policy Committee, Compensation Committee and its Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, are available at www.newstarfin.com. References to our website are not intended to incorporate information on our website into this Annual Report by reference.

We will provide to any shareholder, upon request and without charge, copies of these documents (excluding any applicable exhibits unless specifically requested). Written requests should be directed to: Investor Relations, NewStar Financial, Inc., 500 Boylston St., Suite 1250, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

The following are important risks and uncertainties we have identified that could materially affect our future results. You should consider them carefully when evaluating forward-looking statements contained in this Annual Report and otherwise made by us or on our behalf because these contingencies could cause actual results and circumstances to differ materially from those projected in forward-looking statements. The Company's actual future results and trends may differ materially depending on a variety of factors including, but not limited to, the risks and uncertainties discussed below. If any of those contingencies actually occurs, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be negatively impacted and the trading price of our common stock could decline.

Risks Related to Our Loan Portfolio and Lending Activities

We may not recover all amounts contractually owed to us by our borrowers resulting in charge-offs, impairments and non-accruals, which may exceed our allowance for credit losses and could negatively impact our financial results and our ability to secure additional funding.

We had net charge offs of \$33.0 million of loans during 2016, and expect to have additional credit losses in the future through the normal course of our lending operations. If we were to experience a material increase in credit losses exceeding our allowance for loan losses in the future, our assets, net income and operating results would be adversely impacted, which could also lead to challenges in securing additional financing.

Like other commercial lenders, we experience delinquencies, impairments and non-accruals, which may indicate that our risk of credit loss for a particular loan has materially increased. When a loan is over 90 days past due or if management believes it is probable that we will be unable to collect principal and interest contractually owed to us, it is our policy to place the loan on non-accrual status and classify it as impaired. In certain circumstances, a loan can be classified as impaired, but continue to be performing as a result of a troubled debt restructuring.

As of December 31, 2016, we had delinquent loans of \$21.1 million and had loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$133.4 million classified as impaired. Of these impaired loans, loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$99.2 million at December 31, 2016 were also on non-accrual status. These non-accrual loans had a carrying value of \$92.9 million before specific reserves.

As of December 31, 2016, we had an allowance for credit losses of \$51.4 million, including specific reserves of \$19.8 million. Management periodically reviews the appropriateness of our allowance for credit losses. However, the history of our loans and leases makes it difficult to judge the expected credit performance of our loans and leases, as it may not be predictive of future losses. Our estimates and judgments with respect to the appropriateness of our allowance for credit losses may not be accurate, and the assumptions we use to make such estimates and judgments may not be accurate. Moreover, the estimates and judgments we make regarding workout loans are more sensitive to our

assumptions regarding the appropriateness of our allowance for credit losses. Our allowance may not be adequate to cover credit or other losses related to our loans and leases as a result of unanticipated adverse changes in the economy or events adversely affecting specific customers, industries or markets. If we were to experience material credit losses related to our loans, such losses could adversely impact our ability to fund future loans and our business and, to the extent losses exceed our allowance for credit losses, our results of operations and financial condition would be adversely affected.

We may have hold positions that exceed our targets which may result in more volatility in the performance of our loan portfolio.

Our loans and other debt products, which may be part of larger credit facilities, typically range in size from \$15 million to \$50 million, although we generally limit the size of the loans that we retain to \$25 million. In certain cases, however, our loans and debt products exceed \$35 million. We also have the capability to arrange significantly larger transactions that we syndicate to other lenders, including funds that we manage. As a result of syndication and asset management activities, our exposure to certain loans and other debt products will exceed \$35 million from time to time through "Loans held-for-sale," which represent amounts in excess of our target hold for investment position. As of December 31, 2016, we had 11 loans that had an outstanding balance greater than \$25

million. In each of these cases, we either sought to maximize our potential recovery of the outstanding principal by adding to our position through a workout or our hold size increased as a result of a portfolio purchase, syndication or through asset management activities. As of December 31, 2016, we had one impaired loan that had an outstanding balance greater than \$20 million. If a borrower in one of these larger hold positions were to experience difficulty in adhering to the repayment terms of its loan with us, the negative impact to our results of operations and financial condition could be greater than a loan within our general size limits.

Disruptions in global financial markets have in the past increased, and may in the future cause, additional charge-offs, impairments and non-accruals in our loan portfolio, which may exceed our allowance for credit losses and could negatively impact our financial results.

Our business, financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected by the economic and business conditions in the markets in which we operate. Delinquencies, non-accruals and credit losses generally increase during economic slowdowns or recessions. Our loan portfolio primarily consists of loans and leases to medium-sized businesses that may be particularly susceptible to economic slowdowns or recessions and may be unable to make scheduled payments of interest or principal on their borrowings during these periods. Therefore, to the extent that economic and business conditions are or become unfavorable, our non-performing assets are likely to remain elevated and the value of our loan portfolio is likely to decrease. Adverse economic conditions also may decrease the estimated value of the collateral, securing some of our loans or other debt products. Further or prolonged economic slowdowns or recessions could lead to financial losses in our loan portfolio and a decrease in our net interest income, net income and book value.

We make loans primarily to privately-owned, medium-sized companies that may carry more inherent risk and present an increased potential for loss than loans to larger companies.

Our loan portfolio consists primarily of loans to medium-sized, privately-owned companies, most of which do not publicly report their financial condition. Compared to larger, publicly-traded firms, loans to these types of companies may carry more inherent risk. The companies that we lend to generally have more limited access to capital and higher funding costs, may be in a weaker financial position, may need more capital to expand or compete, and may be unable to obtain financing from public capital markets or from traditional sources, such as commercial banks. Accordingly, loans and leases made to these types of customers involve higher risks than loans and leases made to companies that have larger businesses, greater financial resources or are otherwise able to access traditional credit sources. Numerous factors may make these types of companies more vulnerable to variations in results of operations, changes impacting their industry and changes in general market conditions. Companies in this market segment also face intense competition, including from companies with greater financial, technical, managerial and marketing resources. Any of these factors could impair a customer's cash flow or result in other adverse events, such as bankruptcy, which could limit a customer's ability to make scheduled payments on our loans and leases, and may lead to losses in our loan portfolio and a decrease in our net interest income, net income and book value.

Additionally, because most of our customers do not publicly report their financial condition, we are more susceptible to a customer's fraud, which could cause us to suffer losses on our loan portfolio. The failure of a customer to accurately report its financial position, compliance with loan covenants or eligibility for additional borrowings could result in our providing loans, leases or other debt products that do not meet our underwriting criteria, defaults in loan and lease payments, the loss of some or all of the principal of a particular loan or loans, including, in the case of revolving loans, amounts we may not have advanced had we possessed complete and accurate information.

Our concentration of loans and other debt products within a particular industry or region could impair our financial condition or results of operations if that industry or region were to experience adverse changes to economic or business conditions.

We specialize in certain broad industry segments, such as business services, industrial, manufacturing and healthcare in which our bankers have experience and strong networks of proprietary deal sources and our credit personnel have significant underwriting expertise. As a result, our portfolio currently has and may develop other concentrations of risk exposure related to those industry segments. If industry segments in which we have a concentration of investment experience adverse economic or business conditions, our delinquencies, default rate and loan charge-offs in those segments may increase, which may negatively impact our financial condition and results of operations.

Our balloon and bullet transactions may involve a greater degree of risk than other types of loans.

As of December 31, 2016, balloon and bullet transactions represented 82.6% of the outstanding balance of our loan portfolio. Balloon and bullet loans involve a greater degree of risk than other types of transactions because they are structured to allow for either small (balloon) or no (bullet) principal payments over the term of the loan, requiring the borrower to make a large final payment upon the maturity of the loan. The ability of our customers to make this final payment upon the maturity of the loan typically depends upon their ability either to refinance the loan prior to maturity or to generate sufficient cash flow to repay the loan at maturity. The ability of a customer to accomplish any of these goals will be affected by many factors, including the availability of financing at acceptable rates

to the customer, the financial condition of the customer, the marketability of the related collateral, the operating history of the related business, tax laws and the prevailing general economic conditions. Consequently, the customer may not have the ability to repay the loan at maturity, and we could lose all or most of the principal of our loan. Given their relative size and limited resources and access to capital, our small and mid-sized customers may have difficulty in repaying or financing their balloon and bullet loans on a timely basis or at all.

Our cash flow transactions are not fully covered by the value of tangible assets or collateral of the customer and, consequently, if any of these transactions become non-performing, we could suffer a loss of some or all of our value in the assets.

Cash flow lending involves lending money to a customer based primarily on the expected cash flow, profitability and enterprise value of a customer, with the value of any tangible assets as secondary protection. In some cases, these loans may have more leverage than traditional bank debt. As of December 31, 2016, cash flow transactions comprised \$3.4 billion, or 93.6%, of the outstanding balance of our loan portfolio. In the case of our senior cash flow loans, we generally take a lien on substantially all of a customer's assets, but the value of those assets is typically substantially less than the amount of money we advance to the customer under a cash flow transaction. In addition, some of our cash flow loans may be viewed as stretch loans, meaning they may be at leverage multiples that exceed traditional accepted bank lending standards for senior cash flow loans. Thus, if a cash flow transaction becomes non-performing, our primary recourse to recover some or all of the principal of our loan or other debt product would be to force the sale of all or part of the company as a going concern. Additionally, we may obtain equity ownership in a borrower as a means to recover some or all of the principal of our loan. The risks inherent in cash flow lending include, among other things:

- reduced use of or demand for the customer's products or services and, thus, reduced cash flow of the customer to service the loan and other debt product as well as reduced value of the customer as a going concern;
- inability of the customer to manage working capital, which could result in lower cash flow;
- inaccurate or fraudulent reporting of our customer's positions or financial statements;
- economic downturns, political events, regulatory changes, litigation or acts of terrorism that affect the customer's business, financial condition and prospects; and
- our customer's poor management of their business.

Additionally, many of our customers use the proceeds of our cash flow transactions to make acquisitions. Poorly executed or poorly conceived acquisitions can tax management, systems and the operations of the existing business, causing a decline in both the customer's cash flow and the value of its business as a going concern. In addition, many acquisitions involve new management teams taking over control of a business. These new management teams may fail to execute at the same level as the former management team, which could reduce the cash flow of the customer available to service the loan or other debt product, as well as reduce the value of the customer as a going concern.

If interest rates rise, demand for our loans or other debt products may decrease and some of our existing customers may be unable to service interest on their loans or other debt products.

Most of our loans and other debt products bear interest at floating interest rates subject to floors. To the extent interest rates increase, monthly interest obligations owed by our customers to us will also increase. Demand for our loans or other debt products may decrease as interest rates rise or if interest rates are expected to rise in the future. In addition, if prevailing interest rates increase, some of our customers may not be able to make the increased interest payments or refinance their balloon and bullet transaction, resulting in payment defaults and loan impairments. Conversely if interest rates decline, our customers may refinance the loans they have with us at lower interest rates, or with others, leading to lower revenues.

Errors by, or dishonesty of, our employees in making credit decisions or in our loan and other debt product servicing activities could result in credit losses and harm our reputation.

We rely heavily on the performance and integrity of our employees in making our initial credit decisions with respect to our loans and other debt products and in servicing our loans and other debt products after they have closed. Because there is generally little or no publicly available information about our customers, we cannot independently confirm or verify the information our employees provide us for use in making our credit and funding decisions. Errors by our employees in assembling, analyzing or recording information concerning our customers could cause us to originate loans or fund subsequent advances that we would not otherwise originate or fund, which could result in loan losses. Losses could also arise if any of our employees were dishonest, particularly if they colluded with a customer to misrepresent the creditworthiness of a prospective customer or to provide inaccurate reports regarding the customer's compliance with the covenants in its loan or other debt products agreement. If, based on an employee's dishonesty, we made a loan or other debt product to a customer that was not creditworthy or failed to exercise our rights under a loan or other debt product agreement against a customer that was not in compliance with covenants in the agreement, we

could lose some or all of the principal of the loan or other debt product. Fraud or dishonesty on the part of our employees could also damage our reputation which could harm our competitive position and adversely affect our business.

We are not the sole lender or agent for most of our leveraged finance loans or other debt products. Consequently, we do not have absolute control over how these loans or other debt products are administered or have control over those loans. When we are not the sole lender or agent, we may be required to seek approvals from other lenders before we take actions to enforce our rights.

Our loan originations are comprised of a larger percentage of broadly syndicated deals. As such, a majority of our loan portfolio consists of loans and other debt products in which we are neither the sole lender, the agent for the lending group that receives payments under the loan or other debt product nor the agent that controls the underlying collateral. These loans may not include the same covenants that we generally require of our borrowers. For these loans and other debt products, we may not have direct access to the customer and, as a result, may not receive the same financial or operational information as we receive for loans or other debt products for which we are the agent. This may make it more difficult for us to track or rate these loans or other debt products. Additionally, we may be prohibited or otherwise restricted from taking actions to enforce the loan or other debt product or to foreclose upon the collateral securing the loan or other debt product without the agreement of other lenders holding a specified minimum aggregate percentage, generally a majority or two-thirds of the outstanding principal balance. It is possible that an agent for one of these loans or other debt products may choose not to take the same actions to enforce the loan or other debt product or to foreclose upon the collateral securing the loan that we would have taken had we been the agent for the loan or other debt product.

Our commitments to lend additional sums to customers may exceed our resources available to fund these commitments, adversely affecting our financial condition and results of operations.

Our contractual commitments to lend additional sums to our customers may exceed our resources available to fund these commitments. Some of our funding sources are only available to fund a portion of a loan and other funding sources may not be immediately available. Our customers' ability to borrow these funds may be restricted until they are able to demonstrate, among other things, that they have sufficient collateral to secure the requested additional borrowings or that the borrowing conforms to specific uses or meets certain conditions. We may have miscalculated the likelihood that our customers will request additional borrowings in excess of our readily available funds. If our calculations prove incorrect, we will not have the funds to make these loan advances without obtaining additional financing. Our failure to satisfy our full contractual funding commitment to one or more of our customers could create breach of contract or other liabilities for us and damage our reputation in the marketplace, which could then adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Because there is no active trading market for most of the loans and other debt products in our loan portfolio, we might not be able to sell them at a favorable price or at all. The lack of active secondary markets for some of our investments may also create uncertainty as to the value of these investments.

We may seek to dispose of one or more of our loans and other debt products to obtain liquidity or to reduce or limit potential losses with respect to non-performing assets. There is no established trading market for most of our loans and other debt products. In addition, the fair value of other debt products that have lower levels of liquidity or are not publicly-traded may not be readily determinable and may fluctuate significantly on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. Because these valuations are inherently uncertain, may fluctuate over short periods of time and may be based on estimates, our determinations of the fair value of our other debt products may differ materially from the values that we ultimately attain for these debt products or would be able to attain if we have to sell our other debt products. Our determinations regarding the fair value of these investments may be materially higher than the values that we ultimately realize upon their disposal. In addition, given the limited trading market for our loans and other debt products and the uncertainty as to their fair value at any point in time, if we seek to sell a loan or other debt product to

obtain liquidity or reduce or limit losses, we may not be able to do so at a favorable price or at all.

We selectively underwrite transactions that we may be unable to syndicate or sell to our credit funds.

On a selective basis, we commit to underwrite transactions that are significantly larger than our internal hold targets and we then seek to syndicate amounts in excess of our target to other lenders or plan to season the loan on our balance sheet to satisfy tax requirements and then sell the excess amounts to our credit funds. If we are unable to syndicate or sell these commitments, we may have to sell the additional exposure to third parties on unfavorable terms, which could adversely affect our financial condition or results of operations. In addition, if we must hold a larger portion of a transaction than we would like, we may not be able to complete other transactions and our loan portfolio may become more concentrated, which could affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We provide second lien, subordinated / mezzanine loans, other debt products and equity-linked products that may rank junior to rights of other lenders, representing a higher risk of loss than our other loans and debt products in which we have a first priority position.

Although our loans are usually senior in right of payment, we also provide second lien, subordinated / mezzanine loans, other debt products and equity-linked products, which are often junior in right of payment to obligations to customers' senior secured lenders and contain either junior or no collateral rights. As a result of their junior nature, we may be limited in our ability to enforce our rights to collect principal and interest on these loans and other debt products or to recover any of their outstanding balance through a foreclosure of collateral. For example, typically we are not contractually entitled to receive payments of principal on a junior loan or other debt product until the senior loan or other debt product is paid in full, and we may only receive interest payments on a second lien or subordinated / mezzanine asset if the customer is not in default under its senior secured loan. In many instances, we are also prohibited from foreclosing on collateral securing a second lien, subordinated / mezzanine loan or other debt product until the senior loan is paid in full. Moreover, any amounts that we might realize as a result of our collection efforts or in connection with a bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding involving a customer under a second lien, subordinated / mezzanine loan or other debt product must generally be turned over to the senior secured lender until the senior secured lender has realized the full value of its own claims. These restrictions may materially and adversely affect our ability to recover the principal of any non-performing senior subordinate, second lien, subordinated / mezzanine loans and other debt product. In addition, on occasion we provide senior loans or other debt products that are contractually subordinated to one or more senior secured loans for the customer. In those cases, we may have a first lien security interest, but one or more creditors have payment priority over us. As of December 31, 2016, our second lien and, subordinated/mezzanine loans totaled \$78.2 million.

Risks Related to Our Funding and Leverage

Our ability to grow our business depends on our ability to obtain external financing. If our lenders terminate any of our credit facilities or if we default on our credit facilities, we may not be able to continue to fund our business.

We require a substantial amount of cash to provide new loans and other debt products and to fund our obligations to existing customers. In the past, we have obtained the cash required for our operations through the issuance of equity interests and by borrowing money through credit facilities, term debt securitizations, the issuance of senior notes and subordinated notes, and repurchase agreements. We may not be able to continue to access these or other sources of funds.

During 2016, we completed a term debt securitization of \$348.0 million and a \$409.8 million broadly syndicated loan securitization. We also increased the commitment amount of one of our credit facilities to fund leveraged finance loans from \$475.0 million to \$615.0 million. We called a term debt securitization and redeemed the notes at par. In connection with the sale of Business Credit and the assets of Equipment Finance and the related platform, we repaid three of our credit facilities. Additionally, we used the net proceed of the broadly syndicated loan securitization to repay a credit facility that was used to provide transitional financing during the warehouse phase of the securitization.

Our credit facilities contain customary representations and warranties, covenants, conditions, events of default and termination events that if breached, not satisfied or triggered, could result in termination of the facility. These events of default and termination events include, but are not limited to, failure to service debt obligations, failure to meet liquidity covenants and tangible net worth covenants, and failure to remain within prescribed facility portfolio delinquency and charge-off levels. Further, all cash flow generated by our loans and other debt products subject to a particular facility would go to pay down our borrowings thereunder rather than to us if we are in default. Additionally, if the facility were terminated due to our breach, noncompliance or default, our lenders could liquidate or sell all or a portion of our loans and other debt products held in that facility. Also, if we trigger a default or there is a termination event under one facility, or a default under our outstanding notes, and that default or termination results in a payment

default or in the acceleration of that facility's debt or the applicable notes, it may trigger a default or termination event under our other facilities that have cross-acceleration or payment cross-default provisions. Consequently, if one or more of these facilities were to terminate prior to its expected maturity date, our liquidity position would be materially adversely affected, and we may not be able to satisfy our undrawn commitment balances, originate new loans or other debt products or continue to fund our operations. Even if we are able to refinance our debt, we may not be able to do so on favorable terms. If we are not able to obtain additional funding on favorable terms or at all, our ability to grow our business will be impaired.

Our deferred financing fees amortize over the contractual life of credit facilities and over the weighted average expected life of our term debt securitizations.

We have recorded deferred financing fees associated with most of our financing facilities. These deferred financing fees amortize over the contractual life of our credit facilities and over the weighted average expected life of our term debt securitizations. If a credit facility were to terminate before its contractual maturity date or if a term debt securitization were to terminate before its weighted average expected life, we would be required to accelerate amortization of the remaining balance of the deferred financing fees which could have a negative impact our results of operations and financial condition.

Our lenders and noteholders could terminate us as servicer of our loans, which would adversely affect our ability to manage our loan portfolio and reduce our net interest income.

Upon the occurrence of specified servicer termination events, our lenders under our credit facilities and the holders of the notes issued in our term debt securitizations may elect to terminate our role as servicer of the loans and other debt products under the applicable facility and appoint a successor servicer. These servicer termination events include, but are not limited to, maintenance of certain financial covenants and the loss of certain key members of our senior management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer. We do not maintain key man life insurance on any of our senior management nor have we taken any other precautions to offset the financial loss we could incur as a result of any of their departures. Certain of our credit facilities include cure rights which would enable us to correct the event of default and maintain our status as servicer.

If we are terminated as servicer, we will no longer receive our servicing fee, but we will continue to receive the excess interest rate spread as long as the term debt securitization does not need to trap the excess spread as a result of defaulted loan collateral. In addition, because any successor servicer may not be able to service our loan portfolio according to our standards, any transfer of servicing to a successor servicer could result in reduced or delayed collections, delays in processing payments and information regarding the loans and other debt products and a failure to meet all of the servicing procedures required by the applicable servicing agreement. Consequently, the performance of our loans and other debt products could be adversely affected and our income generated from those loans and other debt products significantly reduced.

Our liquidity position could be adversely affected if we were unable to complete additional term debt securitizations in the future, or if the reinvestment periods in our term debt securitizations terminate early, which could create a material adverse affect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We have completed ten middle market term debt securitizations and one broadly syndicated securitization to fund our loans and other debt products, all of which we accounted for on our balance sheet. Seven of these balance sheet securitizations were outstanding as of December 31, 2016. Our term debt securitizations consist of asset securitization transactions in which we transfer loans and other debt products to a trust that aggregates our loans and, in turn, sells notes, collateralized by the trust's assets, to institutional investors. The notes issued by the trusts have been rated by nationally recognized statistical rating organizations. At December 31, 2016, the ratings range from AAA to B by Standard & Poor's, Inc. and Fitch Ratings, Inc. and Aaa to B2 by Moody's Investors Service, Inc., depending on the class of notes.

We intend to complete additional term debt securitizations in the future. Several factors will affect demand for, and our ability to complete, additional term debt securitizations, including:

- disruptions in the capital markets generally, and the asset-backed securities market in particular;
- disruptions in the credit quality and performance of our loan portfolio, particularly that portion which has been previously securitized and serves as collateral for existing term debt securitizations;
- regulatory considerations;
- changes in rating agency methodology;
- our ability to service our loan portfolio and that ability continuing to be perceived as adequate to make the issued securities attractive to investors; and
- any material downgrading or withdrawal of ratings given to securities previously issued in our term debt securitizations.

If we are unable to complete additional term debt securitizations, our ability to obtain the capital needed for us to continue to operate and grow our business would be adversely affected. In addition, our credit facilities are only intended to provide short-term financing for our transactions. If we are unable to finance our transactions over the longer term through our term debt securitizations, our credit facilities may not be renewed. Moreover, our credit facilities typically carry a higher interest rate than our term debt securitizations. Accordingly, our inability to complete

additional term debt securitizations in the future could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. See “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Market Conditions.”

If a specified default event occurred in a term debt securitization, the reinvestment period would be terminated. This could have an adverse effect on our ability to fund new assets.

The cash flows we receive from the interests we retain in our term debt securitizations could be delayed or reduced due to the requirements of the term debt securitization.

We have retained 100% of the junior-most interests issued in our balance sheet term debt securitizations, totaling \$446.7 million in principal amount, issued in each of our seven outstanding balance sheet term debt securitizations as of December 31, 2016. The notes issued in the term debt securitizations that we did not retain are senior to the junior-most interests we did retain. Our receipt of future cash flows on the junior-most interests is governed by provisions that control the distribution of cash flows from the loans and other debt products included in our term debt securitizations. On a quarterly basis, interest cash flows from the loans and other debt products must first be used to pay the interest on the senior notes and expenses of the term debt securitization. Any funds remaining after the payment of these amounts are distributed to us.

Several factors may influence the timing and amount of the cash flows we receive from loans and other debt products included in our term debt securitizations, including:

- if any loan or other debt product included in a term debt securitization becomes (a) delinquent for a specified period of time as outlined in the indenture, (b) is classified as a non-performing asset, or (c) is charged off, all funds, after paying expenses and interest to the senior notes, go to a reserve account which then pays down an amount of senior notes equal to the amount of the delinquent loan or other debt product or if an overcollateralization test is present, is diverted, and used to de-lever the securitization to bring the ratio back into compliance. Except for specified senior management fees, we will not receive any distributions from funds during this period; and
- if other specified events occur to the trusts, for example an event of default, our cash flows would be used to reduce the outstanding balance of the senior notes and would not be available to us until the full principal balance of the senior notes had been repaid.

We have obtained a significant portion of our debt financing through a limited number of financial institutions. This concentration of funding sources exposes us to funding risks.

We have obtained our credit facility financing from a limited number of financial institutions. Our reliance on the underwriters of our debt financing and their affiliates for a significant amount of our funding exposes us to funding risks. If these participating lenders decided to terminate our credit facilities, we would need to establish new lending relationships to satisfy our funding needs.

We bear the risk of loss for off balance sheet obligations.

The term “off-balance sheet risk” refers to an unrecorded potential liability that, even though it does not appear on our balance sheet, may result in future obligation or loss. We are party to financial instruments with off balance sheet risk in the normal course of business to meet the financing needs of our borrowers, including unfunded commitments and standby letters of credit. In addition, we enter into derivative instruments and hedging activities from time to time that are not on our balance that also subject us to off-balance sheet risk.

Risks Related to Our Operations and Financial Results

Our quarterly net interest income and results of operations are difficult to forecast and may fluctuate substantially.

Our quarterly net interest income and results of operations are difficult to forecast. We have experienced and may continue to experience substantial fluctuations in net interest income and results of operations from quarter to quarter. You should not rely on our results of operations in any prior reporting period to be indicative of our performance in future reporting periods. Many different factors could cause our results of operations to vary from quarter to quarter, including:

- the success of our origination activities;

pre-payments on our loan portfolio;
credit losses on recent transaction and legacy workouts;
default rates;
our ability to enter into financing arrangements;
competition;
seasonal fluctuations in our business, including the timing of transactions;
costs of compliance with regulatory requirements;

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- private equity activity;
- the timing and effect of any future acquisitions;
- personnel changes;
- changes in accounting rules;
- changes in allowance for credit losses methodology;
- changes in prevailing interest rates;
- general changes to the U.S. and global economies;
- political conditions or events; and
- LIBOR floors.

We base our current and future operating expense levels and our investment plans on estimates of future net interest income, transaction activity and rate of growth. The majority of our loans have LIBOR floors; until the 90 day LIBOR exceeds the level of these floors our net interest margin will be negatively impacted during the early phase of a rising interest rate environment. We expect that our expenses will increase in the future, and we may not be able to adjust our spending quickly enough if our net interest income falls short of our expectations. Any shortfalls in our net interest income or in our expected growth rates would adversely impact our results of operations and could result in decreases in our stock price.

Our business is highly dependent on key personnel.

Our future success depends to a significant extent on the continued services of our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Investment Officer as well as other key personnel. Our employment agreements with each of these officers will terminate in October of 2018. If we were to lose the services of any of these executives for any reason, including voluntary resignation or retirement, we may not be able to replace them with someone of equal skill or ability and our business may be adversely affected. Moreover, we may not function well without the continued services of these executives.

We may not be able to attract and retain the highly skilled employees we need to support our business.

Our ability to originate and underwrite loans and other debt products is dependent on the experience and expertise of our employees. In order to grow our business, we must attract and retain qualified personnel, especially origination and credit personnel who have relationships with referral sources and an understanding of middle-market businesses and the industries in which our borrowers operate. Many of the financial institutions with which we compete for experienced personnel may be able to offer more attractive terms of employment. If any of our key origination personnel leave, our new loan and other debt product volume from their business contacts may decline or cease, regardless of the terms of our loan and other debt product offerings or our level of service. In addition, we invest significant time and expense in training our employees, which increases their value to competitors who may seek to recruit them and increases the costs of retaining them. As competition for qualified employees grows, our cost of labor could increase, which could adversely impact our results of operations.

Maintenance of our Investment Company Act exemption imposes limits on our operations.

We intend to conduct our operations so that we are not required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, which we refer to as the Investment Company Act. Section 3(a)(1)(C) of the Investment Company Act defines as an investment company any issuer that is engaged or proposes to engage in the business of investing, reinvesting, owning, holding or trading in securities and owns or proposes to acquire investment securities having a value exceeding 40.0% of the value of the issuer's total assets (exclusive of government securities and cash items) on an unconsolidated basis. Excluded from the term "investment securities" are, among other things, securities issued by majority-owned subsidiaries that are not themselves investment companies and are not relying on the exception from the definition of investment company in Section 3(c)(1) or Section 3(c)(7) of the Investment Company Act.

We expect that many of our majority-owned subsidiaries, including those which we have created (or may in the future create) in connection with our term debt securitizations, will rely on exceptions and exemptions from the Investment Company Act available to certain structured finance companies and that our interests in those subsidiaries will not constitute “investment securities” for purposes of the Investment Company Act. Because these exceptions and exemptions may, among other things, limit the types of assets these subsidiaries may purchase or counterparties with which we may deal, we must monitor each subsidiary’s compliance with its applicable exception or exemption.

We must also monitor our loan portfolio to ensure that the value of the investment securities we hold does not exceed 40.0% of our total assets (exclusive of government securities and cash items) on an unconsolidated basis. If the combined value of the investment securities issued by our subsidiaries that are investment companies or that must rely on the exceptions provided by Section 3(c)(1) or Section 3(c)(7) of the Investment Company Act rather than another exception or exemption, together with any other investment securities we may own, exceeds 40.0% of our total assets on an unconsolidated basis, we may be deemed to be an investment company. Because we believe that the interests we hold in our subsidiaries generally will not be investment securities, we do not expect to own nor do we propose to acquire investment securities in excess of 40.0% of the value of our total assets on an unconsolidated basis. We monitor for compliance with the Investment Company Act on an ongoing basis and may be compelled to take or refrain from taking actions, to acquire additional income or loss generating assets or to forgo opportunities that might otherwise be beneficial or advisable, including, but not limited to selling assets that are considered to be investment securities or foregoing sale of assets which are not investment securities, in order to ensure that we (or a subsidiary) may continue to rely on the applicable exceptions or exemptions. These limitations on our freedom of action could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

If we fail to maintain an exemption, exception or other exclusion from registration as an investment company, we could, among other things, be required to substantially change the manner in which we conduct our operations either to avoid being required to register as an investment company or to register as an investment company. If we were required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act, we would become subject to substantial regulation with respect to, among other things, our capital structure (including our ability to use leverage), management, operations, transactions with affiliated persons (as defined in the Investment Company Act), portfolio composition, including restrictions with respect to diversification and industry concentration, and our financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected. If we did not register despite being required to do so, criminal and civil actions could be brought against us, our contracts would be unenforceable unless a court was to require enforcement, and a court could appoint a receiver to take control of us and liquidate our business. In addition, we may be required to prepay certain of our indebtedness if we were required to register as an investment company under the Investment Company Act.

A decline in the growth of our funds or an increase in the amount of transaction and advisory fees we share with our fund investors could result in a reduction in our management fee revenue.

Many factors could cause a decline in the growth of our asset management business, including the ability of our investment professionals to identify attractive investment opportunities, decreased availability of capital on attractive terms, increased regulatory or legal oversight, or a downturn in the U.S. or global economy any of which may significantly limit our ability to grow our asset management business and generate fee revenue.

Full realization of asset management fee income is dependent upon the performance of underlying funds.

We earn both base management fees and incentive fees on our managed funds. While the base fee is calculated as a percentage of assets managed, the incentive fees are based upon the performance of the individual funds. Economic conditions along with other factors beyond our control may impact our ability to earn these incentive fees.

We are in a highly competitive business and may not be able to compete effectively, which could impact our profitability.

The commercial lending industry is highly competitive and includes a number of competitors who provide similar types of loans to our target customers. Our principal competitors include a variety of:

- specialty and commercial finance companies, including business development companies and real estate investment trusts;
- private investment funds and hedge funds;

- national and regional banks;
- investment banks; and
- insurance companies.

Some of our competitors offer a broader range of financial, lending and banking services than we do and can leverage their existing customer relationships to offer and sell services that compete directly with our products and services. In addition, some of our competitors have greater financial, technical, marketing, origination and other resources than we do. They may also have greater access to capital than we do and at a lower cost than is available to us. For example, if national and regional banks or other large competitors seek to expand within or enter our target markets, they may provide loans at lower interest rates to gain market share, which could force us to lower our rates and result in decreased returns. As a result of competition, we may not be able to attract new customers, retain existing customers or sustain the rate of growth that we have experienced to date, and our ability to expand our loan

portfolio and grow future revenue may decline. If our existing clients choose to use competing sources of credit to refinance their debt, our loan portfolio could be adversely affected.

We are subject to regulation, which limits our activities and exposes us to additional fines and penalties, and any changes in such regulations could affect our business and our profitability.

We are subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations that govern non-depository commercial lenders and businesses generally. In response to SEC rules promulgated under the Dodd-Frank Act, we have registered with the SEC as an investment adviser and conformed our activities to regulation under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. Each of the regulatory bodies with jurisdiction over us has regulatory powers dealing with many aspects of financial services, including the authority to grant, and, in specific circumstances to cancel, permissions to carry on particular businesses. Our failure to comply with applicable laws or regulations could result in fines, censure, suspensions of personnel or other sanctions, including revocation of any registration that we may be required to hold. Even if a sanction imposed against us or our personnel is small in monetary amount, the adverse publicity arising from the imposition of sanctions against us by regulators could harm our reputation and impair our ability to retain clients and develop new client relationships, which may reduce our revenues.

Furthermore, the regulatory environment in which we operate is subject to further modifications and regulation. Any changes in such laws or regulations could affect our business and profitability. In addition, if we expand our business into areas or jurisdictions that are subject to, or have adopted, more stringent laws and regulations than those that are currently applicable to us and our business, we may have to incur significant additional expense or restrict our operations in order to comply, which could adversely impact our business, results of operations or prospects.

The asset management business is very competitive; we face competition in the pursuit of capital for our funds and in sourcing attractive yielding assets for our managed funds. It is possible that we may experience difficulty in raising capital as funds compete for a limited number of qualified investors. Economic downturns, poor returns in alternative assets and increased volatility may temporarily stop new fund investments, resulting in a smaller pool of available capital. This may cause investors to seek or negotiate reduced fee structures or other modifications to our fund structures before making an investment.

Our common stock may continue to have a volatile public trading price.

Historically, the market price of our common stock has been highly volatile, and the market for our common stock has experienced significant price and volume fluctuations, some of which are unrelated to our company's operating performance. Since our common stock began trading publicly in 2006, the trading price of our stock has fluctuated from a high of \$20.85 to a low of \$0.61. It is likely that the market price of our common stock will continue to fluctuate in the future. Factors which may have a significant adverse effect on our common stock's market price include:

- the rate of charge-offs, impairments and non-accruals in our loan portfolio;
- fluctuations in interest rates and the actual or perceived impact of these rates on our current customers and future prospects;
- changes to the regulatory environment in which we operate;
- our ability to raise additional capital and the terms on which we can secure such capital;
- general market and economic conditions; and
- quarterly fluctuations in our revenues and other financial results.

The reported average daily trading volume of our common stock for the twelve-month period ending December 31, 2016 was approximately 57 thousand shares. Such a low average trading volume may impact our shareholders' ability to buy and sell shares of our common stock.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

None.

Item 2. Properties

Our headquarters is located at 500 Boylston Street, Suite 1250, Boston, Massachusetts 02116, where we lease 18,628 square feet of office space under a lease that is scheduled to terminate on February 28, 2020. We also maintain additional leased offices in Darien,

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Connecticut, Chicago, Illinois, and New York, New York. We believe our office facilities are suitable and adequate for us to conduct our business.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

The Company from time to time is involved in litigation in the ordinary course of business. We are not currently subject to any material pending legal proceedings.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

PART II

Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

As of February 27, 2017, there were approximately 98 stockholders of record. The number of stockholders does not include individuals or entities who beneficially own shares but whose shares are held of record by a broker or clearing agency, but does include each such broker or clearing agency as one stockholder. American Stock Transfer & Trust Company serves as transfer agent for our shares of common stock.

Our common stock has traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "NEWS" since December 14, 2006. The quarterly range of the high and low sales price for our common stock during 2016 and 2015 is presented below:

| | 2016 | | 2015 | |
|----------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| | High | Low | High | Low |
| Quarter ended: | | | | |
| December 31 | \$11.10 | \$8.03 | \$10.99 | \$7.85 |
| September 30 | 11.37 | 7.41 | 12.55 | 8.12 |
| June 30 | 10.75 | 6.53 | 12.86 | 9.38 |
| March 31 | 9.43 | 4.25 | 12.88 | 9.43 |

On February 27, 2017, the last reported closing price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$9.94 per share.

The following graph shows a comparison from December 31, 2011 through December 31, 2016 of cumulative total return for our common stock, the S&P 500 Index and the S&P Financials Index. The graph assumes a \$100 investment at the closing price on December 31, 2011. Such returns are based on historical results and are not intended to suggest future performance. The following information in this Item 5 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K is not deemed to be "soliciting material" or to be "filed" with the SEC or subject to Regulation 14A or 14C under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and will not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent we specifically incorporate it by reference into such a filing.

Dividend Policy

On February 14, 2017, our Board of Directors initiated a quarterly cash dividend. The first cash dividend of \$0.02 per share is expected to be paid on March 17, 2017 to stockholders of record on March 2, 2017. While it is the Company's intention to pay quarterly cash dividends for the foreseeable future, the amount, timing and frequency of any future dividend payments remains in the

discretion of our Board of Directors, taking into account our financial condition and results of operation, our capital needs, market conditions and other factors that the board considers appropriate at the time. In addition, the indenture governing our senior notes imposes certain limitations on our ability to declare and pay dividends on our common stock or to make other restricted payments, including repurchasing our common stock. Such limitations are calculated in part by reference to our consolidated net income, as calculated under the indenture. Our ability to declare dividends for future periods thus depends on both our earnings and the amount of prior dividends, stock repurchases and other restricted payments.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

The following table sets forth the repurchases of our Common Stock that we made for the three-month period ending on December 31, 2016:

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs (1)(2)(3) | Average Price Paid Per Share (1) | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs (1)(2) | Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (2) | (4) |
|---|---|---|--|--|-----|
| October 1-31, 2016 | 2,500,000 | 8.93 | — | \$21,081,400 | |
| November 1-30, 2016 | 586,299 | 8.55 | 586,299 | 16,067,344 | |
| December 1-31, 2016 | 812,246 | 8.37 | 812,246 | — | (4) |
| Total: Three months ended December 31, 2016 | 3,898,545 | 8.76 | 1,398,545 | — | (4) |

- (1)The Company repurchased 1,398,545 shares during the period pursuant to the share repurchase program that we announced on October 7, 2015 (the “Repurchase Program”) and amended on February 10, 2016. Certain of these shares were repurchased on the open market pursuant to a trading plan under Rule 10b5-1 of the Exchange Act.
- (2)The Repurchase Program, as amended in February 2016, provided for the repurchase of up to \$30.0 million of the Company’s common stock from time to time on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions.
- (3)The Company repurchased 2,500,000 shares in October 2016, in two privately negotiated transactions outside of the Company’s announced stock repurchase program.
- (4)The Repurchase Program, as amended in February 2016, expired on December 31, 2016. On December 9, 2016, the Company’s Board of Directors approved a new stock repurchase program under which the Company may purchase up to \$30 million of its common shares, commencing upon the termination of the prior program.

Item 6. Selected Financial Data

Selected consolidated financial and other data for the periods and at the dates indicated and should be read in conjunction with the consolidated audited financial statements, related notes and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included herein.

| | Years Ended December 31, | | | | |
|--|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| | (\$ in thousands, except for share and per share data) | | | | |
| Statement of Operations Data: | | | | | |
| Interest income | \$250,716 | \$201,785 | \$136,171 | \$127,684 | \$123,945 |
| Interest expense | 161,345 | 120,986 | 57,775 | 42,971 | 35,591 |
| Net interest income | 89,371 | 80,799 | 78,396 | 84,713 | 88,354 |
| Provision for credit losses | 27,541 | 18,387 | 27,108 | 9,738 | 12,651 |
| Net interest income after provision for credit losses | 61,830 | 62,412 | 51,288 | 74,975 | 75,703 |
| Asset management income | 13,399 | 6,661 | 1,054 | 2,482 | 2,984 |
| Fee income | 7,278 | 13,508 | 2,467 | 3,670 | 4,619 |
| Realized loss on derivatives, net | (184) | (29) | (39) | (143) | (315) |
| Realized (loss) gain on sale of loans, net | (2,095) | 467 | (230) | 72 | 335 |
| Other miscellaneous income, net | 10,352 | 5,271 | 8,801 | 7,431 | 3,948 |
| Loss on total return swap | (6,062) | (4,953) | (863) | — | — |
| Gain (loss) on loans held-for-sale, net | 2,406 | (2,568) | 26 | — | — |
| Gain on sale of divested business and assets | 29,166 | — | — | — | — |
| Total non-interest income | 54,260 | 18,357 | 11,216 | 13,512 | 11,571 |
| Compensation and benefits | 43,344 | 35,909 | 30,383 | 32,672 | 31,139 |
| General and administrative expenses | 24,095 | 16,019 | 15,133 | 16,726 | 15,158 |
| Total operating expenses | 67,439 | 51,928 | 45,516 | 49,398 | 46,297 |
| Operating income before income taxes | 48,651 | 28,841 | 16,988 | 39,089 | 40,977 |
| Results of Consolidated VIE | | | | | |
| Interest income | — | — | 5,268 | 5,321 | — |
| Interest expense—credit facilities | — | — | 2,865 | 1,879 | — |
| Interest expense—Fund membership interest | — | — | 1,292 | 1,353 | — |
| Other income | — | — | 229 | 51 | — |
| Operating expenses | — | — | 249 | 78 | — |
| Net results from consolidated VIE | — | — | 1,091 | 2,062 | — |
| Income before income taxes | 48,651 | 28,841 | 18,079 | 41,151 | 40,977 |
| Income tax expense | 20,427 | 11,951 | 7,485 | 16,556 | 17,000 |
| Net income attributable to NewStar Financial, Inc. common stockholders | \$28,224 | \$16,890 | \$10,594 | \$24,595 | \$23,977 |
| Earnings per share: | | | | | |
| Basic | \$0.61 | \$0.37 | \$0.22 | \$0.51 | \$0.51 |
| Diluted | 0.61 | 0.35 | 0.21 | 0.46 | 0.45 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding: | | | | | |
| Basic | 45,592,320 | 45,630,867 | 48,266,731 | 48,157,319 | 47,370,095 |
| Diluted | 45,618,100 | 47,535,016 | 51,575,491 | 52,941,981 | 52,733,552 |
| Outstanding shares of common stock | 42,820,198 | 46,527,288 | 46,620,474 | 48,658,606 | 49,311,008 |

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| | December 31, | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Balance Sheet Data: | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 154,480 | \$ 35,933 | \$ 33,033 | \$ 43,401 | \$ 27,212 |
| Restricted cash | 262,643 | 153,992 | 95,411 | 167,920 | 208,667 |
| Cash collateral on deposit with custodians | 7,564 | 61,081 | 38,975 | — | — |
| Investments in debt securities, available-for-sale | 119,307 | 94,177 | 46,881 | 22,198 | 21,127 |
| Loans, held-for-sale, net | 144,060 | 478,785 | 200,569 | 14,831 | 51,602 |
| Loans and leases, net (including loans at fair value of \$403,745, \$0, \$0, \$0 and \$0, respectively) | 3,239,191 | 3,134,072 | 2,305,896 | 2,095,250 | 1,720,789 |
| Other assets (1) | 113,347 | 93,343 | 63,730 | 65,476 | 108,609 |
| Subtotal (1) | \$ 4,040,592 | \$ 4,051,383 | \$ 2,784,495 | \$ 2,409,076 | \$ 2,138,006 |
| Assets of Consolidated VIE | | | | | |
| Restricted cash | — | — | — | 1,950 | — |
| Loans, net | — | — | — | 171,427 | — |
| Other assets | — | — | — | 2,025 | — |
| Total assets of Consolidated VIE | — | — | — | 175,402 | — |
| Total Assets (1) | \$ 4,040,592 | \$ 4,051,383 | \$ 2,784,495 | \$ 2,584,478 | \$ 2,138,006 |
| Credit facilities, net (1) | \$ 445,493 | \$ 832,686 | \$ 482,818 | \$ 326,846 | \$ 221,417 |
| Term debt securitizations, net (1) | 2,195,064 | 1,821,519 | 1,182,760 | 1,202,565 | 1,115,324 |
| Senior notes, net (1) | 373,919 | 372,153 | — | — | — |
| Corporate debt | — | — | 234,344 | 194,993 | 97,037 |
| Subordinated notes, net (1) | 241,390 | 209,509 | 150,758 | — | — |
| Repurchase agreements, net (1) | 55,046 | 96,224 | 56,319 | 66,696 | 29,446 |
| Other liabilities | 82,258 | 59,814 | 36,499 | 26,544 | 79,965 |
| Subtotal | 3,393,170 | 3,391,905 | 2,143,498 | 1,817,644 | 1,543,189 |
| Liabilities of Consolidated VIE | | | | | |
| Credit facilities, net (1) | — | — | — | 119,347 | — |
| Subordinated debt | — | — | — | 30,000 | — |
| Other liabilities | — | — | — | 1,277 | — |
| Total liabilities of Consolidated VIE | — | — | — | 150,624 | — |
| Total liabilities (1) | 3,393,170 | 3,391,905 | 2,143,498 | 1,968,268 | 1,543,189 |
| NewStar Financial, Inc. stockholders' equity | 647,422 | 659,478 | 640,997 | 615,552 | 594,817 |
| Retained earnings of Consolidated VIE | — | — | — | 658 | — |
| Total stockholders' equity | 647,422 | 659,478 | 640,997 | 616,210 | 594,817 |
| Supplemental Data: | | | | | |
| Investments in debt securities | \$ 126,050 | \$ 100,943 | \$ 50,813 | \$ 23,995 | \$ 23,151 |
| Loans held-for-sale | 145,966 | 485,874 | 202,369 | 14,897 | 52,120 |
| Loans held-for-investment (including loans at fair value of \$403,745, \$0, \$0, \$0 and \$0) | 3,319,550 | 3,243,580 | 2,370,255 | 2,325,144 | 1,796,845 |
| Loans and investments in debt securities | 3,591,566 | 3,830,397 | 2,623,437 | 2,364,036 | 1,872,116 |
| Deferred fees, net | (38,072) | (65,104) | (27,108) | (18,927) | (29,479) |
| Allowance for loan losses—general | (31,165) | (31,506) | (22,258) | (18,099) | (19,423) |
| Allowance for loan losses—specific | (19,771) | (26,753) | (20,725) | (23,304) | (30,213) |
| Total loans and investments in debt securities, net | \$ 3,502,558 | \$ 3,707,034 | \$ 2,553,346 | \$ 2,303,706 | \$ 1,793,001 |
| Unused lines of credit | \$ 326,051 | 601,805 | 317,583 | 326,231 | 245,483 |
| Standby letters of credit | 8,239 | 8,696 | 7,911 | 6,880 | 4,497 |
| Total funded commitments | \$ 334,290 | \$ 610,501 | \$ 325,494 | \$ 333,111 | \$ 249,980 |

(1) Prior year amounts have been adjusted to reflect the adoption of ASU 2015-03.

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| | December 31, | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Managed Portfolio (AUM) | | | | | |
| Middle Market Direct Lending | | | | | |
| NewStar Financial, Inc. portfolio (1) | \$3,187,821 | \$3,830,397 | \$2,623,437 | \$2,193,689 | \$1,872,116 |
| Arlington Program (2) | 402,762 | 401,794 | 399,953 | — | — |
| Arlington Fund (2)(3) | — | — | — | 173,187 | — |
| Berkeley Fund (2) | 502,245 | — | — | — | — |
| Clarendon Fund (2) | 399,022 | 397,852 | 236,703 | — | — |
| Credit Opportunities Fund (2) | 10,661 | 24,926 | 36,272 | 93,263 | 559,328 |
| Sub-total Middle Market Direct Lending | 4,502,511 | 4,654,969 | 3,296,365 | 2,460,139 | 2,431,444 |
| Liquid/Tradeable Credit | | | | | |
| Arch Street (1)(2) | 403,745 | — | — | — | — |
| Avery Street (2) | 51,556 | 123,765 | — | — | — |
| Emerson Place (2) | 82,660 | 163,575 | — | — | — |
| Hull Street (2) | 495,684 | 499,428 | — | — | — |
| Lime Street (2) | 241,145 | 251,628 | — | — | — |
| Longfellow Place (2) | 500,080 | 502,038 | — | — | — |
| Staniford Street (2) | 398,329 | 400,074 | — | — | — |
| TRS Fund (1)(3) | — | 163,399 | 85,024 | — | — |
| Other (1) | 64,153 | 190,590 | — | — | — |
| Sub-total Liquid/Tradeable Credit | 2,237,352 | 2,294,497 | 85,024 | — | — |
| Total Managed Assets | \$6,739,863 | \$6,949,466 | \$3,381,389 | \$2,460,139 | \$2,431,444 |
| Average Balances (4): | | | | | |
| Loans and other debt products, gross | \$3,871,931 | \$3,216,805 | \$2,320,186 | \$1,988,416 | \$1,893,571 |
| Interest earning assets (5) | 4,081,983 | 3,380,100 | 2,508,729 | 2,223,908 | 2,036,526 |
| Total assets | 4,080,800 | 3,449,618 | 2,543,967 | 2,275,309 | 2,051,565 |
| Interest bearing liabilities | 3,472,392 | 2,782,044 | 1,983,516 | 1,627,816 | 1,414,967 |
| Equity | 659,004 | 658,600 | 617,044 | 604,742 | 579,083 |
| Assets under management | 6,736,247 | 4,626,098 | 2,586,986 | 2,453,868 | 2,421,406 |

| | Years Ended December 31, | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| Performance Ratios (6): | | | | | |
| Return on average assets | 0.69 % | 0.49 % | 0.42 % | 1.08 % | 1.17 % |
| Return on average equity | 4.28 | 2.56 | 1.72 | 4.07 | 4.14 |
| Net interest margin, before provision | 2.19 | 2.39 | 3.17 | 3.90 | 4.34 |
| Loan portfolio yield | 6.46 | 6.27 | 6.09 | 6.68 | 6.54 |
| Efficiency ratio | 46.95 | 52.37 | 50.32 | 49.30 | 46.46 |
| Credit Quality and Leverage Ratios (7): | | | | | |
| Delinquent loan rate (at period end) | 0.64 % | 0.84 % | 1.84 % | 0.22 % | 3.59 % |
| Non-accrual loan rate (at period end) | 2.99 % | 3.43 % | 3.70 % | 3.04 % | 4.05 % |
| Non-performing asset rate (at period end) | 3.45 % | 3.44 % | 3.84 % | 3.60 % | 4.77 % |
| Net charge off rate (end of period loans) | 1.00 % | 0.10 % | 1.07 % | 0.77 % | 1.49 % |
| Net charge off rate (average period loans) | 0.88 % | 0.11 % | 1.10 % | 0.91 % | 1.43 % |
| Allowance for credit losses ratio (at period end) | 1.76 % | 1.81 % | 1.84 % | 1.80 % | 2.78 % |
| Debt to equity (at period end) (8) | 5.11 % | 5.05 % | 3.29 % | 3.15 % | 2.46 % |
| Equity to assets (at period end) (8) | 16.02 % | 16.28 % | 23.02 % | 23.84 % | 27.82 % |

- (1) Managed assets owned by NewStar Financial Inc. include investments in debt securities, loans held-for-sale (LHFS) and loans held-for-investment. At December 31, 2015 and 2014, they also include loans referenced by a total return swap managed in the TRS Fund. Cash and other consolidated assets of NewStar Financial Inc. are excluded.
- (2) Managed assets include loans, cash and other investments held by funds and managed by NewStar Financial and its affiliates.
- (3) TRS Fund was structured as a total return swap that references a portfolio of broadly syndicated loans. NewStar earns net interest income and retains the risk of the reference assets. The TRS matured on March 31, 2016.
- (4) Averages are based upon the average daily balance during the period.
- (5) Includes loan portfolio, cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash.
- (6) See “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” for a discussion of the calculation of performance ratios.
- (7) See “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” for additional information related to our credit quality and leverage ratios.
- (8) Prior year amounts have been adjusted to reflect the adoption of ASU 2015-03.

Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion contains forward-looking statements. Important factors that may cause actual results and circumstances to differ materially from those described in such statements are contained below and in Item 1A. “Risk Factors” of this report.

Overview

NewStar Financial, Inc. is an internally-managed, commercial finance company with \$6.7 billion of assets managed across two complementary business lines- middle market direct lending and asset management. The Company’s direct lending activities are focused on meeting the complex financing needs of companies and private investors in the middle market through by offering a range of flexible debt financing options. Credit investments are originated directly through teams of experienced, senior bankers organized around key industry and market segments. Through

its asset management platforms, NewStar offers a range of investment products employing credit-oriented strategies focused on middle market loans and liquid, tradeable credit. The Company manages approximately \$1.3 billion of assets in a series of private credit funds that co-invest in middle market loans originated through its established leveraged finance lending platform and its strategic relationship with GSO Capital, the credit division of The Blackstone Group. Through its wholly-owned subsidiary, NewStar Capital, the Company also has more than \$2 billion of assets managed across a series of CLOs that invest primarily in broadly syndicated, non-investment grade loans, as well as other sponsored funds and managed accounts that invest across various asset classes, including non-investment grade loans and bonds.

We target our marketing and origination efforts at private equity firms, mid-sized companies, corporate executives, banks and a variety of other referral sources and financial intermediaries to develop new customer relationships and source lending opportunities. Our origination network is national in scope and we target companies with business operations across a broad range of industry sectors. We employ highly experienced bankers and credit professionals to identify and structure new lending opportunities and manage customer relationships. We believe that the quality of our professionals, the breadth of their relationships and referral networks, and their ability to develop creative solutions for customers position us to be a valued partner and preferred lender for mid-sized companies and private equity funds with middle market investment strategies.

Our emphasis on direct origination is an important aspect of our marketing and credit strategy. Our national network is designed around specialized origination channels intended to generate a large set of potential lending opportunities. That allows us to be highly selective in our credit process and to allocate capital to market segments that we believe represent the most attractive opportunities. Our direct origination network also generates proprietary lending opportunities with yield characteristics that we believe would not otherwise be available through intermediaries. In addition, direct origination provides us with direct access to management teams and enhances our ability to conduct detailed due diligence and credit analysis of prospective borrowers. It also allows us to negotiate transaction terms directly with borrowers and, as a result, advise our customers' financial strategies and capital structures, which we believe benefits our credit performance.

The Company typically provides financing commitments to companies in amounts that range in size from \$15 million to \$50 million. The size of financing commitments depends on various factors, including the type of loan, the credit characteristics of the borrower, the economic characteristics of the loan, and our role in the transaction. We also selectively arrange larger transactions that we may retain on our balance sheet or syndicate to other lenders, which may include funds that we manage for third party institutional investors. By syndicating loans to other lenders and our managed funds, we are able to provide larger financing commitments to our customers and generate fee income, while limiting our risk exposure to single borrowers. From time to time, however, our balance sheet exposure to a single borrower will exceed \$25 million and we currently have 11 loans in that category.

Beginning in January 2016, the Company's operations were divided into two reportable segments that represent its core businesses, Commercial Lending and Asset Management.

The Commercial Lending segment represents our middle market direct lending activities which are focused on providing a range of flexible senior secured debt options to mid-sized companies with annual cash flow (EBITDA) typically between \$15 million and \$50 million owned by private equity investment funds and managed by established professional alternative asset managers.

The Asset Management segment represents our investment advisory activities which are focused on providing opportunities for qualified investors to invest in a range of credit funds managed by the Company. The Asset Management segment manages a series of private credit funds that co-invest in middle market loans originated through its established direct lending platform. Additionally, through its wholly-owned subsidiary, NewStar Capital, the Company also manages assets across a series of CLOs that invest primarily in broadly syndicated loans, as well as other sponsored funds and managed accounts that invest across various liquid, non-investment grade asset classes, including broadly syndicated loans and bonds.

Market Conditions

Market conditions in our primary target loan market were mixed in the fourth quarter of 2016 as middle market loan volume increased and pricing decreased, each as compared to the third quarter of 2016. According to Thomson Reuters, overall middle market loan volume in the fourth quarter was \$39 billion versus \$36 billion last quarter and versus \$40 billion in the same period in 2015. Total middle market loan volume for 2016 was \$139 billion versus \$143 billion in 2015. The volume represented by new middle market transactions, as opposed to refinancing transactions, increased in the fourth quarter to \$21 billion from \$19 billion in the prior quarter and from \$16 billion in the same quarter in 2015. Refinancing volume increased in the fourth quarter of 2016 to \$18 billion from \$17 billion in the prior quarter but decreased from \$24 billion in the same quarter in 2015. As a percentage of total middle market volume, new transactions increased in the fourth quarter to 54% versus 53% last quarter and versus 39% in the same period last in 2015. Total new transactions for 2016 represented 51% of total middle market volume, versus 42% in 2015.

The pricing environment in our primary target market tightened in the fourth quarter as middle market loan yields were down to 6.4% from 6.7% last quarter and down from 7.1% in the same quarter last year. Middle market loan

yields continue to exhibit a premium versus large corporate loans. Yields in the large corporate market were down to 4.9% in the fourth quarter from 5.2% last quarter and down from 5.8% in the same quarter last year.

Our direct lending platforms provide us with certain flexibility to allocate capital and redirect our origination focus to market segments with the most favorable conditions in terms of demand and relative value. We believe that the yields on our new loan origination will continue to reflect a combination of these broad market trends and shifts in the mix of loans we originate.

Conditions in our core funding markets continued to improve through the second half of the year relative to the first half of the year when broader market uncertainty, soft CLO equity demand and regulatory constraints weighed on CLO pricing and volume. Conditions have improved in the fourth quarter and we believe conditions will continue to improve throughout 2017 as industry-specific concerns and regulatory constraints are addressed and investors continue to favor high-yielding, shorter duration floating rate bank loans and CLO bonds over fixed rate debt.

Total U.S. CLO issuance of \$72 billion in 2016 represented a decrease relative to \$99 billion last year, but throughout the year volume increased in each successive quarter, with the fourth quarter totaling \$26 billion, an increase versus \$20 billion in the fourth quarter of 2015. Total U.S. CLO issuance in 2014 and 2013 was approximately \$124 billion and \$81 billion, respectively. Along with the increasing momentum in CLO issuance, CLO credit spreads tightened through the second half of 2016 and beginning of 2017, a trend we anticipate will continue through 2017 as market conditions remain supportive for experienced managers such as NewStar to issue new CLOs. We also believe the availability and cost of warehouse financing among banks remains accommodative as an increasing number of banks are providing this type of financing and existing providers are expanding their lending activity. As a result, we believe that the terms and conditions for financings available to established firms like NewStar will continue to be supportive.

Loan demand in the middle market is strongly influenced by the level of refinancing, acquisition activity and private investment, which is driven largely by changes in the perceived risk environment, prevailing borrowing rates and private investment activity. These factors were generally favorable as we originated \$671 million of new loans at attractive yields in the fourth quarter and over \$1.9 billion in the year. With attractive pricing, leverage below the broader loan market, and equity contributions higher than the broader market, conditions in our primary target markets continue to remain favorable. We anticipate that demand for loans and leases offered by the Company and conditions in our lending markets will remain supportive through 2017 and continue to provide opportunities for us to increase our origination volume.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016, 2015 AND 2014

NewStar's basic and diluted earnings per share for 2016 was \$0.61, on net income of \$28.2 million compared to basic and diluted earnings per share for 2015 of \$0.37 and \$0.35, respectively, on net income of \$16.9 million, and basic and diluted earnings per share for 2014 of \$0.22 and \$0.21, respectively, on net income of \$10.6 million. Our managed portfolio was \$6.7 billion at December 31, 2016 compared to \$6.9 billion at December 31, 2015 and \$3.4 billion at December 31, 2014.

Loan portfolio yield

Loan portfolio yield, which is interest income on our loans and leases divided by the average balances outstanding of our loans and leases, was 6.46% for 2016, 6.27% for 2015 and 6.09% for 2014. The increase in loan portfolio yield from 2015 to 2016 was primarily driven by an increase in our average yield on interest earning assets from new loan and lease origination, re-pricings and increase in the LIBOR index subsequent to December 31, 2015. The increase in loan portfolio yield from 2014 to 2015 was primarily driven by an increase in our average yield on interest earning assets from new loan and lease origination and re-pricings subsequent to December 31, 2014.

Net interest margin

Net interest margin, which is net interest income divided by average interest earning assets, was 2.19% for 2016, 2.39% for 2015 and 3.17% for 2014. The primary factors impacting net interest margin for 2016 were an increase in costs of borrowings, changes in the three-month LIBOR, and the acceleration of amortization of \$3.2 million of deferred financing fees related to the repayment of the financing arrangement with Macquarie Bank Limited, two credit facilities due to the sale of Business Credit and the 2015-1 ABS due to the sale of the assets of Equipment Finance and the related platform. The primary factors impacting net interest margin for 2015 were an increase in costs of borrowings, change in the three-month LIBOR, and the acceleration of amortization of \$3.5 million of deferred financing fees related to the repayment of our corporate credit facility with Fortress Credit Corp. The primary factors impacting net interest margin for 2014 were the acceleration of amortization of \$1.1 million of deferred financing fees related to the Arlington Fund's payoff of its credit facility with a portion of the proceeds from the Arlington Program's term debt securitization, the subordinated notes interest expense, the composition of interest earning assets, non-accrual loans, changes in three-month LIBOR, credit spreads and cost of borrowings.

Efficiency ratio

Our efficiency ratio, which is total operating expenses divided by net interest income before provision for credit losses plus total non-interest income, was 46.95% for 2016, 52.37% for 2015 and 50.32% for 2014. The decrease in our efficiency ratio for 2016 as compared to 2015 is primarily due to an increase in non-interest income. During 2016, we sold Business Credit and the assets of Equipment Finance and the related platform, which resulted in a gain of \$29.2 million and asset management income increased \$6.7 million from the previous year. This was offset by a \$6.2 million decline in fee income. Our efficiency ratio was further impacted by an increase in operating expenses of \$15.5 million, comprised primarily of \$7.7 million of severance related costs, and an increase of strategic initiative costs of \$6.3 million. The increase in our efficiency ratio for 2015 as compared to 2014 is primarily due to increased interest expense driven by an increase in our interest bearing liabilities, and the accelerated amortization of deferred financing fees totaling \$3.5 million related to the repayment of our corporate credit facility with Fortress Credit Corp.

Allowance for credit losses ratio

Allowance for credit losses ratio, which is allowance for credit losses divided by the amortized cost outstanding gross loans and leases excluding loans held-for-sale, was 1.76% at December 31, 2016, 1.81% as of December 31, 2015 and 1.84% as of December 31, 2014. The decrease in the allowance for credit losses ratio from 2015 to 2016 is primarily due to a decrease in the specific allowance as a result of an increase in charge-offs primarily related to one credit that was restructured during the year and a slight decrease in the general allowance. The slight decrease in the general provision is primarily related to the release of \$1.3 million related to the sale of the equipment finance assets and a smaller amortized cost loan portfolio that is subject to the allowance for loan and lease losses. This decrease was slightly offset by an increase related to ordinary course ratings migration within the portfolio. The decrease in the allowance for credit losses ratio from 2014 to 2015 is primarily due to the increased mix of recently originated loans as a percentage of the overall portfolio and a slight decrease in the general allowance, which was partially offset by the increase in general provision primarily driven by an increase in outstanding loans and leases, and an increase in the specific allowance. During 2016, we recorded \$24.8 million of net specific provision for credit losses on impaired loans and had net charge offs totaling \$33.0 million. During 2016, we recorded \$2.8 million of general provision for credit losses. At December 31, 2016, the specific allowance for credit losses was \$19.8 million, and the general allowance for credit losses was \$31.6 million. At December 31, 2015, the specific allowance for credit losses was \$26.8 million, and the general allowance for credit losses was \$31.9 million. We continually evaluate our allowance for credit losses methodology. If we determine that a change in our allowance for credit losses methodology is advisable, as a result of the rapidly changing economic environment or otherwise, the revised allowance methodology may result in higher or lower levels of allowance. Moreover, actual losses under our current or any revised methodology may differ materially from our estimate.

Delinquent loan rate

Delinquent loan rate, which is total delinquent loans that are 60 days or more past due, divided by outstanding gross loans and leases, was 0.64% as of December 31, 2016 as compared to 0.84% as of December 31, 2015. We had delinquent loans with an outstanding balance of \$21.1 million and \$27.2 million as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively. We expect the delinquent loan rate to correlate to current economic conditions. During times of economic expansion we expect the rate to decline, and during times of economic contraction, we expect the rate to increase.

Non-accrual loan rate

Non-accrual loan rate is defined as total balances outstanding of loans on non-accrual status divided by the total outstanding balance of our loans and leases held for investment. Loans are put on non-accrual status if they are 90 days or more past due or if management believes it is probable that the Company will be unable to collect contractual principal and interest in the normal course of business. The non-accrual loan rate was 2.99% as of December 31, 2016 and 3.43% as of December 31, 2015. As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, the aggregate outstanding balance of non-accrual loans was \$99.2 million and \$111.3 million, respectively and total outstanding loans and leases held for investment held at amortized cost was \$3.3 billion and \$3.2 billion, respectively. As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, these non-accrual loans had a carrying value before specific reserves of \$92.9 million and \$104.7 million, respectively. We expect the non-accrual loan rate to correlate to economic conditions. During times of economic expansion we expect the rate to decline, and during times of economic contraction, we expect the rate to increase, although actual results may vary.

Non-performing asset rate

Non-performing asset rate is defined as the sum of total balances outstanding of loans on non-accrual status, other real estate owned and other repossessed assets, divided by the sum of the total outstanding balance of our loans and leases held for investment and other real estate owned. The non-performing asset rate was 3.45% as of December 31, 2016

and 3.44% as of December 31, 2015. As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, the sum of the aggregate outstanding balance of non-performing assets was \$115.0 million and \$111.5 million, respectively. We expect the non-performing asset rate to correlate to economic conditions. During times of economic expansion we expect the rate to decline, and during times of economic contraction, we expect the rate to increase, although actual results may vary.

Net charge off rate (end of period loans and leases)

Net charge off rate as a percentage of end of period loan and lease portfolio is defined as annualized charge-offs net of recoveries divided by the total outstanding balance of our loans and leases held for investment. A charge-off occurs when management believes that all or part of the principal of a particular loan is no longer recoverable and will not be repaid. Typically, a charge off occurs in a period after a loan has been identified as impaired and a specific allowance has been established. For 2016, 2015 and 2014, the net charge off rate was 1.00%, 0.10% and 1.07% respectively. We expect the net charge-off rate (end of period loans and leases) to correlate to economic conditions. During times of economic expansion we expect the rate to decline, and during times of economic contraction, we expect the rate to increase, although actual results may vary.

Net charge off rate (average period loans and leases)

Net charge off rate as a percentage of average period loan and lease portfolio is defined as annualized charge-offs net of recoveries divided by the average total outstanding balance of our loans and leases held for investment for the period. For 2016, 2015 and 2014, the net charge off rate was 0.88%, 0.11% and 1.10% respectively. We expect the net charge-off rate (average period loans and leases) to correlate to economic conditions. During times of economic expansion we expect the rate to decline, and during times of economic contraction, we expect the rate to increase, although actual results may vary.

Return on average assets

Return on average assets, which is net income divided by average total assets was 0.69% for 2016, 0.49% for 2015, and 0.42% for 2014.

Return on average equity

Return on average equity, which is net income divided by average equity, was 4.28% for 2016, 2.56% for 2015, and 1.72% for 2014.

Review of Consolidated Results

A summary of NewStar's consolidated financial results for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014 follows:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | |
| Net interest income: | | | |
| Interest income | \$250,716 | \$201,785 | \$136,171 |
| Interest expense | 161,345 | 120,986 | 57,775 |
| Net interest income | 89,371 | 80,799 | 78,396 |
| Provision for credit losses | 27,541 | 18,387 | 27,108 |
| Net interest income after provision for credit losses | 61,830 | 62,412 | 51,288 |
| Non-interest income: | | | |
| Asset management income | 13,399 | 6,661 | 1,054 |
| Fee income | 7,278 | 13,508 | 2,467 |
| Realized loss on derivatives, net | (184) | (29) | (39) |
| Realized (loss) gain on sale of loans, net | (2,095) | 467 | (230) |
| Other miscellaneous income, net | 10,352 | 5,271 | 8,801 |
| Loss on total return swap | (6,062) | (4,953) | (863) |
| Gain (loss) on loans held-for-sale, net | 2,406 | (2,568) | 26 |
| Gain on sale of divested business and assets | 29,166 | — | — |
| Total non-interest income | 54,260 | 18,357 | 11,216 |
| Operating expenses: | | | |
| Compensation and benefits | 43,344 | 35,909 | 30,383 |
| General and administrative expenses | 24,095 | 16,019 | 15,133 |
| Total operating expenses | 67,439 | 51,928 | 45,516 |
| Operating income before income taxes | 48,651 | 28,841 | 16,988 |
| Results of Consolidated Variable Interest Entity: | | | |
| Interest income | — | — | 5,268 |
| Interest expense—credit facilities | — | — | 2,865 |
| Interest expense—Fund membership interest | — | — | 1,292 |
| Other income | — | — | 229 |
| Operating expenses | — | — | 249 |
| Net results from Consolidated Variable Interest Entity | — | — | 1,091 |
| Income before income taxes | 48,651 | 28,841 | 18,079 |
| Income tax expense | 20,427 | 11,951 | 7,485 |
| Net income | \$28,224 | \$16,890 | \$10,594 |

Comparison of the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

Interest income. Interest income increased \$48.9 million, to \$250.7 million for 2016 from \$201.8 million for 2015. The increase was primarily due to an increase in the average balance of our interest earning assets to \$4.1 billion from \$3.4 billion and an increase in the yield on average interest earning assets to 6.14% from 5.97% primarily due to an increase in contractual interest rates from new loan origination and re-pricing subsequent to December 31, 2015. In addition, we had a nonperforming loan pay off at par on which we recognized \$3.2 million of interest income in 2016.

Interest expense. Interest expense increased \$40.3 million, to \$161.3 million for 2016 from \$121.0 million for 2015. The increase is primarily due to an increase in leverage and higher costs of funds. During 2016, we accelerated amortization of deferred financing fees totaling \$3.2 million related to the repayment of the financing arrangement with Macquarie Bank Limited, two credit facilities due to the sale of Business Credit and the 2015-1 ABS due to the sale of the assets of Equipment Finance and the related platform. This compares to the accelerated amortization of deferred financing fees of \$3.5 million related to the repayment of our corporate credit facility with Fortress Credit Corp during 2015. The average balance of our interest bearing liabilities increased to \$3.5 billion from \$2.8 billion, and our average cost of funds increased to 4.65% from 4.35%.

Net interest margin. Net interest margin decreased to 2.19% for 2016 from 2.39% for 2015. The decrease in net interest margin was primarily due to the shift in the mix of debt and the issuance of higher cost long-term debt during the first quarter of 2016. This

was partially offset by the increase in the average yield on interest earning assets noted above. The net interest spread, the difference between gross yield on our interest earning assets and the total cost of our interest bearing liabilities, decreased to 1.49% from 1.62%.

The following table summarizes the yield and cost of interest earning assets and interest bearing liabilities for 2016 and 2015:

| | Year Ended December 31, 2016 | | | | Year Ended December 31, 2015 | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|---------|--|------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| | (\$ in thousands) | | | | | | |
| | Interest | | Average | | Interest | | Average |
| | Average | Income/ | Yield/ | | Average | Income/ | Yield/ |
| | Balance | Expense | Cost | | Balance | Expense | Cost |
| Total interest earning assets | \$4,081,983 | \$250,716 | 6.14 % | | \$3,380,100 | \$201,785 | 5.97 % |
| Total interest bearing liabilities | 3,472,392 | 161,345 | 4.65 | | 2,782,044 | 120,986 | 4.35 |
| Net interest spread | | \$89,371 | 1.49 % | | | \$80,799 | 1.62 % |
| Net interest margin | | | 2.19 % | | | | 2.39 % |

Provision for credit losses. The provision for credit losses increased to \$27.5 million for 2016 from \$18.4 million for 2015. The increase in the provision was primarily due to an increase of \$15.3 million of net specific provisions, partially off-set by a decrease of \$6.2 million of general provisions recorded during 2016 as compared to 2015. During 2016, we recorded net specific provisions for impaired loans of \$24.8 million compared to \$9.5 million recorded during 2015. The increase in the net specific component of the provision for credit losses was primarily due to the deterioration of five credits during the year. During 2016, we recorded general provisions of \$2.7 million compared to general provisions of \$8.9 million recorded during 2015. The decrease in the general provision was primarily due to the release of \$1.3 million of general provision due to the sale of Equipment Finance assets as well as a smaller amortized loan portfolio balance that is subject to the allowance for loan and leases. Our general allowance for credit losses covers probable losses in our amortized cost loan and lease portfolio with respect to loans and leases that are not impaired and for which no specific impairment has been identified. A specific provision for credit losses is recorded with respect to loans for which it is probable that we will be unable to collect all amounts due in accordance with the contractual terms of the loan agreement for which there is impairment recognized. The Company employs a variety of internally developed and third-party modeling and estimation tools for measuring credit risk, which are used in developing an allowance for loan and lease losses on outstanding loans and leases held at amortized cost. The Company's allowance framework addresses economic conditions, capital market liquidity and industry circumstances from both a top-down and bottom-up perspective. The Company considers and evaluates a number of factors, including but not limited to, changes in economic conditions, credit availability, industry, loss emergence period, and multiple obligor concentrations in assessing both probabilities of default and loss severities as part of the general component of the allowance for loan and lease losses.

On at least a quarterly basis, loans and leases are internally risk-rated based on individual credit criteria, including loan and lease type, loan and lease structures (including balloon and bullet structures common in the Company's loans), borrower industry, payment capacity, location and quality of collateral if any. Borrowers provide the Company with financial information on either a monthly or quarterly basis. Ratings, corresponding assumed default rates and assumed loss severities are dynamically updated to reflect any changes in borrower condition or profile.

Prior to the sale of Business Credit, our asset based lending business, the Company utilized a proprietary model to risk rate the asset based loans on a monthly basis. This model captured the impact of changes in industry and economic conditions as well as changes in the quality of the borrower's collateral and financial performance to assign a final risk rating. The Company also evaluated historical net loss trends by risk rating from a comprehensive industry database

covering more than twenty-five years of experience of the majority of the asset based lenders operating in the United States. Based upon the monthly risk rating from the model, the reserve was adjusted to reflect the historical average for expected loss from the industry database.

For Real Estate loans, the Company employs two mechanisms to capture the impact of industry and economic conditions. First, a loan's risk rating, and thereby its assumed default likelihood, can be adjusted to account for overall commercial real estate market conditions. Second, to the extent that economic or industry trends adversely affect a substandard rated borrower's loan-to-value ratio enough to impact its repayment ability, the Company applies a stress multiplier to the loan's probability of default. The multiplier is designed to account for default characteristics that are difficult to quantify when market conditions cause commercial real estate prices to decline.

The Company periodically reviews its allowance for credit loss methodology to assess any necessary adjustments based upon changing economic and capital market conditions. If the Company determines that changes in its allowance for credit losses methodology are advisable, as a result of changes in the economic environment or otherwise, the revised allowance methodology may result in higher or lower levels of allowance. In 2015 the Company enhanced its approach for determining the expected exposure at

default to more precisely reflect loan and lease exposures at December 31, 2015. Actual losses under the Company's current or any revised allowance methodology may differ materially from the Company's estimate.

Additionally, when determining the amount of the general allowance, the Company supplements the base amount with an environmental reserve amount which is governed by a score card system comprised of seven risk factors. In 2015, the scoring system of the environmental reserve risk factors was recalibrated to align with the enhancement made to the approach for determining the exposure at default. The Company also performs a ratio analysis of comparable money center banks, regional banks and finance companies. While the Company does not rely on this peer group comparison to set the level of allowance for credit losses, it does assist management in identifying market trends and serves as an overall reasonableness check on the allowance for credit losses computation.

A loan is considered impaired when it is probable that a creditor will be unable to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the loan agreement. Impairment of a loan is based upon (i) the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate, (ii) the loan's observable market price, or (iii) the fair value of the collateral if the loan is collateral dependent, depending on the circumstances and our collection strategy. Impaired loans are identified based on the loan-by-loan risk rating process described above. Impaired loans include all non-accrual loans, loans with partial charge-offs and loans which are troubled debt restructurings. It is the Company's policy during the reporting period to record a specific provision for credit losses to cover the identified impairment on a loan.

Impaired loans at December 31, 2016 were in Leveraged Finance over a range of industries impacted by the then current economic environment including the following: Media and Communications, Healthcare, Energy, Industrial, Other Business Services, Consumer/Retail, and Building Materials. For impaired Leveraged Finance and Equipment Finance loans (prior to the latter's sale), the Company measured impairment based on expected cash flows utilizing relevant information provided by the borrower and consideration of other market conditions or specific factors impacting recoverability. Such amounts are discounted based on original loan or lease terms. For impaired Real Estate loans, the Company determined that the loans were collateral dependent and measured impairment based on the fair value of the related collateral utilizing recent appraisals from third-party appraisers, as well as internal estimates of market value. As of December 31, 2016, we had impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$133.4 million. Impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$114.8 million have been restructured and classified as troubled debt restructurings. At December 31, 2016, the Company had a \$19.8 million specific allowance for impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$73.5 million. As of December 31, 2016, we had one restructured impaired loan that had an outstanding balance greater than \$20.0 million. In this instance, we added to our position to maximize our potential recovery of the outstanding principal. Impaired loans at December 31, 2015 were in Leveraged Finance, Equipment Finance and Real Estate over a range of industries impacted by the then current economic environment including the following: Media and Communications, Industrial, Commercial Real Estate, Other Business Services, Consumer/Retail, and Building Materials. As of December 31, 2015, we had impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$193.2 million. Impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$183.6 million had been restructured and classified as troubled debt restructurings. At December 31, 2015, the Company had a \$26.8 million specific allowance for impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$121.1 million. As of December 31, 2015, we had one restructured impaired loan that had an outstanding balance greater than \$20.0 million and two restructured impaired loans that had an outstanding balance greater than \$30.0 million. In each of these cases, we added to our position to maximize our potential recovery of the outstanding principal.

Non-interest income. Non-interest income increased \$35.9 million to \$54.3 million for 2016 from \$18.4 million for 2015. For 2016, non-interest income was primarily comprised of \$29.2 million gain on sale of Business Credit and the assets of Equipment Finance and the related platform, \$13.4 million of asset management fees, \$7.3 million of fee income, \$2.4 million realized gain on loans held-for-sale and a \$5.6 million positive mark-to-market adjustment on the loans held at fair value, offset by a \$6.1 million loss on the total return swap and a \$2.1 million loss on loans sold. For 2015, non-interest income was primarily comprised of \$13.5 million of fee income, \$6.7 million of asset management fees, \$2.6 million of unused fees and a one-time \$2.1 million gain on the sale of an equity interest in a restructured

credit, offset by a \$5.1 million unrealized loss on a total return swap, and a \$2.6 million unrealized loss on loans held for sale.

As a result of certain of our troubled debt restructurings, we have received equity interests in several of our impaired borrowers. The equity interest in certain impaired borrowers is initially recorded at fair value when the debt is restructured and is subsequently analyzed at the end of each quarter. In situations where we are deemed to be under the equity method of accounting, we record our ownership share of the borrowers' results of operations in non-interest income. Additionally, our corresponding share of our borrowers' results of operations may directly impact the remaining net book value of these respective loans. These equity interests may give rise to potential capital gains or losses, for tax purposes. This could impact future period tax rates depending on our ability to recognize capital losses to the extent of any capital gains.

Operating expenses. Operating expenses increased \$15.5 million, to \$67.4 million for 2016 from \$51.9 million for 2015. Employee compensation and benefits increased \$7.4 million primarily the result of severance costs associated with a reduction in

staffing level to streamline operations. General and administrative expenses increased \$8.1 million primarily associated with an increase of strategic initiative costs of \$6.3 million.

Income taxes. For 2016 and 2015, we provided for income taxes based on an effective tax rate of 42% and 41%, respectively. The effective tax rates differed from the federal statutory rate of 35% due largely to state tax expense in both years.

As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, we had net deferred tax assets of \$40.8 million and \$33.1 million, respectively. In assessing if we will be able to realize our deferred tax assets, management considers whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. We considered all available evidence, both positive and negative, in determining the realizability of deferred tax assets at December 31, 2016. We considered carryback availability, the scheduled reversals of deferred tax liabilities, projected future taxable income during the reversal periods, and tax planning strategies in making this assessment. We also considered our recent history of taxable income, trends in our earnings and tax rate, positive financial ratios, and the impact of the downturn in the current economic environment (including the impact of credit on allowance and provision for loan losses; and the impact on funding levels) on the Company. Based upon our assessment, we believe that a valuation allowance was not necessary as of December 31, 2016. As of December 31, 2016, our deferred tax asset was primarily comprised of \$23.4 million related to our allowance for credit losses and \$9.4 million related to equity compensation, accrued bonus and severance. The increase in our deferred tax asset was primarily the result of the sale of the assets of Equipment Finance and the related platform, which had a deferred tax liability prior to the sale.

Comparison of the Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014

Interest income. Interest income increased \$60.4 million, to \$201.8 million for 2015 from \$141.4 million for 2014. The increase was primarily due to an increase in the average balance of our interest earning assets to \$3.4 billion from \$2.5 billion and an increase in the yield on average interest earning assets to 5.97% from 5.64% primarily due to an increase in contractual interest rates from new loan origination and re-pricing subsequent to December 31, 2014.

Interest expense. Interest expense increased \$59.1 million, to \$121.0 million for 2015 from \$61.9 million for 2014. The increase was primarily due to an increase in the average balance of our interest bearing liabilities to \$2.8 billion from \$2.0 billion, an increase in the average cost of funds to 4.35% from 3.12%, and the accelerated amortization of deferred financing fees totaling \$3.5 million related to the repayment of our corporate credit facility with Fortress Credit Corp during 2015 compared to the accelerated amortization of deferred financing fees totaling \$1.1 million related to the repayment of Arlington Fund's credit facility during 2014.

Net interest margin. Net interest margin decreased to 2.39% for 2015 from 3.17% for 2014. The decrease in net interest margin was primarily due to an increase in our average cost of interest bearing liabilities, an increase in average cost of funds, and the accelerated amortization of deferred financing fees totaling \$3.5 million related to the repayment of our corporate credit facility with Fortress Credit Corp. This was partially offset by an increase in the average yield on interest earning assets from 5.64% to 5.97% in 2015. The net interest spread, the difference between gross yield on our interest earning assets and the total cost of our interest bearing liabilities, decreased to 1.62% from 2.52%.

The following table summarizes the yield and cost of interest earning assets and interest bearing liabilities for 2015 and 2014:

| Year Ended December 31, 2015 | | | Year Ended December 31, 2014 | | |
|------------------------------|----------|---------|------------------------------|----------|---------|
| (\$ in thousands) | | | | | |
| Average | Interest | Average | Average | Interest | Average |

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| | Balance | Income/ Expense | Yield/ Cost | | Balance | Income/ Expense | Yield/ Cost | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|---|-------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| Total interest earning assets | \$3,380,100 | \$201,785 | 5.97 | % | \$2,508,729 | \$141,439 | 5.64 | % |
| Total interest bearing liabilities | 2,782,044 | 120,986 | 4.35 | | 1,983,516 | 61,932 | 3.12 | |
| Net interest spread | | \$80,799 | 1.62 | % | | \$79,507 | 2.52 | % |
| Net interest margin | | | 2.39 | % | | | 3.17 | % |

Provision for credit losses. The provision for credit losses decreased to \$18.4 million for 2015 from \$27.1 million for 2014. The decrease in the provision was primarily due to a decrease of \$12.6 million of net specific provisions, partially off-set by an increase of \$3.9 million of general provisions recorded during 2015 as compared to 2014. During 2015, we recorded net specific provisions for impaired loans of \$9.5 million compared to \$22.1 million recorded during 2014. The decrease in the net specific component of the provision for credit losses was primarily due to improvement in credit performance related to two impaired loans offset by further negative credit migration related to previously identified impaired loans. Five loans that had been previously identified as impaired had been resolved during 2015 and two loans were identified as impaired during 2015. During 2015, we recorded general provisions of \$8.9 million compared to a general provisions of \$5.0 million recorded during 2014.

Impaired loans at December 31, 2015 were in Leveraged Finance, Equipment Finance and Real Estate over a range of industries impacted by the then current economic environment including the following: Media and Communications, Industrial, Commercial Real Estate, Other Business Services, Consumer/Retail, and Building Materials. For impaired Leveraged Finance and Equipment Finance loans, the Company measured impairment based on expected cash flows utilizing relevant information provided by the borrower and consideration of other market conditions or specific factors impacting recoverability. Such amounts are discounted based on original loan or lease terms. For impaired Real Estate loans, the Company determined that the loans were collateral dependent and measured impairment based on the fair value of the related collateral utilizing recent appraisals from third-party appraisers, as well as internal estimates of market value. As of December 31, 2015, we had impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$193.2 million. Impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$183.6 million had been restructured and classified as troubled debt restructurings. At December 31, 2015, the Company had a \$26.8 million specific allowance for impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$121.1 million. As of December 31, 2015, we had one restructured impaired loan that had an outstanding balance greater than \$20.0 million and two restructured impaired loans that had an outstanding balance greater than \$30.0 million. In each of these cases, we added to our position to maximize our potential recovery of the outstanding principal. Impaired loans at December 31, 2014 were in Leveraged Finance, Equipment Finance and Real Estate over a range of industries impacted by the then current economic environment including the following: Media and Communications, Industrial, Commercial Real Estate, Other Business Services, Consumer/Retail, and Building Materials. As of December 31, 2014, we had impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$217.2 million. Impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$175.6 million had been restructured and classified as troubled debt restructurings. At December 31, 2014, the Company had a \$20.7 million specific allowance for impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$103.2 million. As of December 31, 2014, we had one restructured impaired loan that had an outstanding balance greater than \$20.0 million and one restructured impaired loan that had an outstanding balance greater than \$30.0 million. In each of these cases, we added to our position to maximize our potential recovery of the outstanding principal.

Non-interest income. Non-interest income increased \$7.0 million to \$18.4 million for 2015 from \$11.4 million for 2014. For 2015, non-interest income was primarily comprised of \$13.5 million of fee income, \$6.7 million of asset management fees, \$2.6 million of unused fees and a one-time gain \$2.1 million gain on the sale of an equity interest in a restructured credit, offset by a \$5.1 million unrealized loss on a total return swap, and a \$2.6 million unrealized loss on loans held for sale. For 2014, non-interest income was primarily comprised of \$6.7 million of gains recognized from the sale of equity interests in certain impaired borrowers, \$2.5 million of fee income, \$2.1 million of income from other real estate owned properties, \$1.8 million of unused fees, \$1.1 million of asset management fees, \$0.8 million of equity method of accounting losses, \$0.6 million of net losses on the value of equity interests in certain impaired borrowers, a \$0.9 million unrealized loss on a total return swap, and a \$0.8 million loss on the creation of a new credit fund.

Operating expenses. Operating expenses increased \$6.1 million, to \$51.9 million for 2015 from \$45.8 million for 2014. Employee compensation and benefits increased \$5.5 million primarily due to an increase in the number of employees as a result of the NewStar Capital acquisition. General and administrative expenses increased \$0.9 million.

Income taxes. For 2015 and 2014, we provided for income taxes based on an effective tax rate of 41%. The effective tax rates differed from the federal statutory rate of 35% due largely to state tax expense in both years.

As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, we had net deferred tax assets of \$33.1 million and \$28.1 million, respectively. In assessing if we will be able to realize our deferred tax assets, management considers whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. We considered all available evidence, both positive and negative, in determining the realizability of deferred tax assets at December 31, 2015. We considered carryback availability, the scheduled reversals of deferred tax liabilities, projected future taxable income during the reversal periods, and tax planning strategies in making this assessment. We also considered our recent history of taxable income, trends in our earnings and tax rate, positive financial ratios, and the impact of the downturn in the current economic environment (including the impact of credit on allowance and provision for loan losses; and the

impact on funding levels) on the Company. Based upon our assessment, we believe that a valuation allowance was not necessary as of December 31, 2015. As of December 31, 2015, our deferred tax asset was primarily comprised of \$29.1 million related to our allowance for credit losses and \$13.7 million related to equity compensation, which was partially offset by deferred tax liabilities related the Equipment Finance portfolio.

Segment Reporting

NewStar manages its operations through two business segments, Commercial Lending and Asset Management.

Commercial Lending

The Commercial Lending segment represents our direct lending activities which are focused on providing a range of flexible senior secured debt options to mid-sized companies with annual cash flow (EBITDA) typically between \$15 million and \$50 million owned by private equity investment funds and managed by established professional alternative asset managers.

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to assets within the Commercial Lending segment.

| | December 31, 2016 | December 31, 2015 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | (\$ in thousands) | |
| Loans and leases, gross | \$2,915,805 | \$3,243,580 |
| Loans held-for-sale, gross | 145,966 | 485,874 |
| Total Commercial Lending Assets | \$3,061,771 | \$3,729,454 |

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to the results of financial operations for the Commercial Lending segment.

| | Twelve Months Ended December 31, | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | |
| Net interest income | \$84,454 | \$81,005 | \$83,663 |
| Provision for loan losses | 27,541 | 18,387 | 27,108 |
| Net interest income after provision | 56,913 | 62,618 | 56,555 |
| Noninterest income: | | | |
| Other lending fees | 7,141 | 13,508 | 2,466 |
| Gain/(loss) on sale of loans and equipment | (1,598) | 1,108 | (201) |
| Other noninterest income (loss) | 29,298 | (2,982) | 8,585 |
| Total noninterest income: | 34,841 | 11,634 | 10,850 |
| Non-interest expense | 55,177 | 46,873 | 45,363 |
| Income before income taxes | \$36,577 | \$27,379 | \$22,042 |

Comparison of the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

The Commercial Lending segment reported income before taxes of \$36.6 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2016, compared to \$27.4 million for the same period in 2015. Net interest income increased \$3.5 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2016 compared to the twelve months ended December 31, 2015, primarily as a result of the recognition of interest income on a nonperforming loan that was paid off at par, as well as an increase in average interest earning assets due to originations subsequent to December 31, 2015. This was offset by an increase in average interest bearing liabilities and an increase in costs of borrowings. The provision for loan loss amounted to \$27.5 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2016 compared to \$18.4 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2015. Noninterest income derived from the Commercial Lending segment totaled \$34.8 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2016, up from \$11.6 million from the twelve months ended December 31, 2015. The increase in noninterest income was primarily the result of the sale of Business Credit and the assets of Equipment Finance and the related platform. This was offset by a decrease of other lending fees of \$6.4 million from the same period in 2015. Commercial Lending noninterest expenses for the twelve months ended December 31, 2016 increased by \$8.3 million from the same period in 2015, primarily related to strategic initiative

costs and severance related cost savings initiatives.

Comparison of the Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014

The Commercial Lending segment reported income before taxes of \$27.4 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2015, compared to \$22.0 million for the same period in 2014. Net interest income decreased \$2.7 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2015 compared to the twelve months ended December 31, 2014, primarily due to an increase in our average cost of interest bearing liabilities and increase in average cost of funds. This was offset by an increase in average balances of our interest earning assets and an increase in yield on average earning assets. The provision for loan loss amounted to \$18.4 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2015 compared to \$27.1 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2014. Noninterest income derived from the Commercial Lending segment totaled \$11.6 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2015, up from \$10.9

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million from the twelve months ended December 31, 2014. The increase in noninterest income was primarily the result of an increase of \$11.0 million in fee income, which was offset by an increase in losses on the total return swap of \$4.1 million and an increase in losses on loans held-for-sale of \$2.6 million. Commercial Lending noninterest expenses for the twelve months ended December 31, 2015 increased by \$1.5 million from the same period in 2015 primarily related to employee compensation.

Asset Management

The Asset Management segment includes credit funds managed by the Company and NewStar Capital. Credit funds managed by the Company focus on middle market loans, liquid tradeable credit and liquid loan strategies. NewStar Capital manages assets across a series of CLOs that invest primarily in broadly syndicated loans, as well as other sponsored funds and managed accounts that invest across various liquid, non-investment grade asset classes, including broadly syndicated loans and bonds.

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to assets within the Asset Management segment.

| | December 31, 2016 | December 31, 2015 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| | (\$ in thousands) | |
| Loans and leases, gross (at fair value) | \$403,745 | \$ — |
| Investments in debt securities, available-for-sale, net of mark (1) | 126,050 | 100,942 |
| Illiquid Credit * | 1,314,690 | 824,573 |
| Liquid/Tradeable Credit * | 1,833,607 | 2,294,497 |
| Total Asset Management Assets | \$3,678,092 | \$ 3,220,012 |

(1) Investment in debt securities gross of amortization of deferred fees, net of fair value adjustment.

*Assets managed by the Company for the Illiquid Credit and Liquid/Tradeable Credit Funds are not assets of the Company and are not included in the Consolidated Total Assets as reflected in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet.

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to the results of financial operations for the Asset Management segment.

| | Twelve Months Ended December 31, | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | |
| Net interest income (loss) | \$4,917 | \$(206) | \$(4,156) |
| Noninterest income: | | | |
| Management fees | 11,665 | 6,661 | 1,054 |
| Performance fees | 1,734 | — | — |
| Other lending fees | 137 | — | 1 |
| Gain on sale of loans and equipment | 307 | — | — |
| Other noninterest income (loss) (1) | 5,576 | 62 | (460) |
| Total noninterest income | 19,419 | 6,723 | 595 |
| Non-interest expense | 12,262 | 5,055 | 402 |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | \$12,074 | \$1,462 | \$(3,963) |

(1) Includes mark to mark adjustment on fair value portfolio.

Comparison of the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

The Asset Management segment reported income before taxes of \$12.1 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2016, compared to \$1.5 million for the same period in 2015. Net interest income increased \$5.1 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2016 compared to the twelve months ended December 31, 2015, primarily as a result of the completion of the Arch Street CLO. Noninterest income derived from the Asset Management segment was \$19.4 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2016, up from \$6.7 million, for the same period in 2015. This increase is the result of our continued expansion of our asset management activities through new fund formation and the acquisition of NewStar Capital during the fourth quarter of 2015. Noninterest expense increased by \$7.2 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2016 as the result of a full year of compensation costs associated with NewStar Capital, which was acquired in the fourth quarter of 2015.

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Comparison of the Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014

The Asset Management segment reported income before taxes of \$1.5 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2015, compared to a loss before taxes of \$4.0 million for the same period in 2014. Net interest income increased \$4.0 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2015 compared to the twelve months ended December 31, 2014, primarily as a result of the completion of the Clarendon Fund. Noninterest income derived from the Asset Management segment was \$6.7 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2015, up from \$0.6 million in 2014. This increase is the result of our continued expansion of our asset management activities through new fund formation and the acquisition of NewStar Capital during the fourth quarter of 2015. Noninterest expense increased by \$4.7 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2015 primarily as the result of compensation and strategic costs associated with NewStar Capital.

FINANCIAL CONDITION, LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Our primary sources of liquidity consist of cash flow from operations, credit facilities, term debt securitizations and proceeds from equity and debt offerings. We believe that these sources will be sufficient to fund our current operations, lending activities and other short-term liquidity needs. In addition, we had \$144.1 million in net loans held-for-sale on our balance sheet at December 31, 2016, which we have the ability to sell to generate additional liquidity. In addition to opportunistic funding related to potential growth initiatives, our future liquidity needs will be determined primarily based on prevailing market and economic conditions, the credit performance of our loan portfolio and loan origination volume. We may need to raise additional capital in the future based on various factors including, but not limited to: faster than expected increases in the level of non-accrual loans; lower than anticipated recoveries or cash flow from operations; and unexpected limitations on our ability to fund certain loans with credit facilities. We may not be able to raise debt or equity capital on acceptable terms or at all. The incurrence of additional debt will increase our leverage and interest expense, and the issuance of any equity or securities exercisable, convertible or exchangeable into Company common stock may be dilutive for existing shareholders.

During the fourth quarter of 2016, the U.S. economy continued to exhibit slow-to-moderate growth. Despite lingering uncertainty surrounding a number of economic issues and a new administration, the fourth quarter saw largely positive results from leading economic indicators. Positive signals were seen in consumer spending, consumer confidence, business equipment investment, housing, equities and manufacturing with stable signals shown in labor and inflation. We expect stable trends and slow-to-moderate growth in the U.S. to continue and monetary policy to remain conducive to gradual growth in the near term. We expect Treasury and investment grade bond rates to gradually increase, but remain relatively low in the near term, leading investors to continue to focus on allocating capital to riskier, higher yielding, fixed and floating rate asset classes in order to generate additional yield from their investments. In addition, we believe that the CLO market, which the Company partially relies upon for funding, will improve in 2017 and remain supportive for experienced managers such as NewStar to issue CLOs. We believe the Company has substantially greater financial flexibility and increased financing options due to our market experience and improvement in our financial performance.

We believe that our ability to access the capital markets, secure new credit facilities, and renew and/or amend our existing credit facilities continues to demonstrate an overall improvement in the market conditions for funding and indicates progress in our ability to obtain financings on improved terms in the future. Despite these signs of improving market conditions and relative stability in recent years, we cannot assure that these conditions will continue, and it is possible that the financial markets could experience stress, volatility, and/or illiquidity. If they do, we could face materially higher financing costs and reductions in leverage, which would affect our operating strategy and could materially and adversely affect our financial condition.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, we had \$154.5 million and \$35.9 million, respectively, in cash and cash equivalents. We may invest a portion of cash on hand in short-term liquid investments. From time to time, we may use a portion of our unrestricted cash to pay down our credit facilities creating undrawn capacity which may be redrawn to meet liquidity needs in the future or to equity fund loans.

Restricted Cash

Separately, we had \$262.6 million and \$154.0 million of restricted cash as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively. The restricted cash represents the balance of the principal and interest collections accounts and pre-funding amounts in our credit facilities, our term debt securitizations and customer holdbacks and escrows. The use of the principal collection accounts' cash is limited to funding the growth of our loans and portfolio within the facilities or paying down related credit facilities or term debt securitizations. As of December 31, 2016, we could use \$183.6 million of restricted cash to fund new or existing loans. The interest collection account cash is limited to the payment of interest, servicing fees and other expenses of our credit facilities and term debt securitizations and, if either a ratings downgrade or failure to receive ratings confirmation occurs on the rated notes in a term debt securitization at the end of

the funding period or if coverage ratios are not met, paying down principal with respect thereto. Cash to fund the growth of our loan portfolio and to pay interest on our term debt securitizations represented a large portion of our restricted cash balance at December 31, 2016.

Asset Quality and Allowance for Loan and Lease Losses

If a loan is 90 days or more past due, or if management believes it is probable we will be unable to collect contractual principal and interest in the normal course of business, it is our policy to place the loan on non-accrual status. If a loan placed on non-accrual status is financed in a term debt securitization which has an overcollateralization test and the overcollateralization test is out of compliance, then excess interest spread cash is diverted and used to de-lever the securitization to bring the test back into compliance. If no overcollateralization test is present in the term debt securitization, the loan may remain in the term debt securitization and excess interest spread cash distributions to us will cease until cash accumulated in the term debt securitization equals the outstanding balance of the non-accrual loan. When a loan is on non-accrual status, accrued interest previously recognized as interest income subsequent to the last cash receipt in the current year will be reversed, and the recognition of interest income on that loan will stop until factors indicating doubtful collection no longer exist and the loan has been brought current. We may make exceptions to this policy if the loan is well secured and is in the process of collection. As of December 31, 2016 we had impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$133.4 million. Impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$114.8 million have been restructured and classified as troubled debt restructurings. Impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$99.2 million were on non-accrual status. These non-accrual loans had a carrying value of \$92.9 million before specific reserves. During 2016, \$33.0 million of impaired loans were charged-off. Impaired loans of \$21.1 million were greater than 60 days past due and classified as delinquent. During 2016, we recorded \$24.8 million of net specific provisions for impaired loans. Included in our specific allowance for impaired loans was \$7.9 million related to delinquent loans. During 2016, we recorded \$2.7 million of general provision which reflected the release of \$1.3 million of general provisions due to the sale of Equipment Finance assets. We closely monitor the credit quality of our loans and leases which are partly reflected in our credit metrics such as loan delinquencies, non-accruals, and charge-offs. Changes to these credit metrics are largely due to changes in economic conditions and seasoning of the loan and lease portfolio.

We have provided an allowance for loan and lease losses to provide for probable losses inherent in our loan and lease amortized cost portfolio. Our allowance for loan and lease losses as of December 31, 2016 and 2015 was \$50.9 million and \$58.3 million, respectively, or 1.75% and 1.80% of loans and leases, gross, respectively. As of December 31, 2016, we also had a \$0.5 million allowance for unfunded commitments, resulting in an allowance for credit losses of 1.76%.

The allowance for credit losses is based on a review of the appropriateness of the allowance for credit losses and its two components on a quarterly basis. The estimate of each component is based on observable information and on market and third-party data believed to be reflective of the underlying credit losses being estimated.

It is the Company's policy to record a specific provision for credit losses for all loans which we have identified impairments during the reporting period. Subsequently, we may charge-off the portion of the loan for which a specific provision was recorded. All of these loans are classified as impaired (if they have not been so classified already as a result of a troubled debt restructuring) and are disclosed in the Allowance for Credit Losses footnote to the financial statements.

Activity in the allowance for loan and lease losses for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014 was as follows:

Years Ended December 31,

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| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|---|-------------------|----------|----------|
| | (\$ in thousands) | | |
| Balance as of beginning of period | \$58,259 | \$42,983 | \$41,403 |
| General provision for loan and lease losses | 2,746 | 9,135 | 4,779 |
| Specific provision for loan losses | 24,790 | 9,495 | 22,070 |
| Net charge offs | (33,040) | (3,354) | (25,269) |
| Reversal due to sale of Business Credit | (1,819) | — | — |
| Balance as of end of period | 50,936 | 58,259 | 42,983 |
| Allowance for losses on unfunded loan commitments | 472 | 467 | 710 |
| Allowance for credit losses | \$51,408 | \$58,726 | \$43,693 |

During 2016 we recorded a total provision for credit losses of \$27.5 million. The Company decreased its allowance for credit losses five basis points to 1.76% of gross loans at December 31, 2016 from 1.81% at December 31, 2015.

Borrowings and Liquidity

As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, we had outstanding borrowings totaling \$3.4 billion. Borrowings under our various credit facilities and term debt securitizations are used to partially fund our positions in our loan portfolio.

As of December 31, 2016, our funding sources, maximum debt amounts, amounts outstanding and unused debt capacity, subject to certain covenants and conditions, are summarized below:

| Funding Source | Maximum Debt | Amounts Outstanding | Unused Debt Capacity | Maturity |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| | Amount (\$ in thousands) | | | |
| Credit facilities | \$865,000 | \$454,300 | \$410,700 | 2020 |
| Term debt securitizations(1) | 2,218,302 | 2,215,840 | 2,462 | 2023 – 2028 |
| Repurchase agreements | 55,046 | 55,046 | — | 2017 |
| Senior notes | 380,000 | 380,000 | — | 2020 |
| Subordinated notes | 300,000 | 300,000 | — | 2024 |
| Total | \$3,818,348 | \$3,405,186 | \$413,162 | |

(1)Maturities for term debt are based on contractual maturity dates. Actual maturities may occur earlier.

We must comply with various covenants. The breach of certain of these covenants could result in a termination event and the exercise of remedies if not cured. At December 31, 2016, we were in compliance with all such covenants. These covenants are customary and vary depending on the type of facility. These covenants include, but are not limited to, failure to service debt obligations, failure to meet liquidity covenants, key person events and tangible net worth covenants, and failure to remain within prescribed facility portfolio delinquency, charge-off levels, and overcollateralization tests.

Credit Facilities

As of December 31, 2016 we had two credit facilities through certain of our wholly-owned subsidiaries: (i) a \$615.0 million credit facility with syndicated lenders agented by Wells Fargo Bank, National Association (“Wells Fargo”) to fund leveraged finance loans and (ii) a \$250.0 million credit facility with Citibank, N.A. (“Citibank”) to fund leveraged finance loans.

We have a \$615.0 million credit facility with Wells Fargo to fund leveraged finance loans. The credit facility had an outstanding balance of \$401.1 million and unamortized deferred financing fees of \$6.4 million as of December 31, 2016. In February 2016 and June 2016, the Company upsized this facility, which increased the commitment amount from \$475.0 million to \$615.0 million. Interest on this facility accrues at a variable rate per annum. The facility matures on August 10, 2020. The facility provides for a revolving reinvestment period which ends on August 10, 2018, with a two-year amortization period.

The Company has a \$250.0 million credit facility with Citibank to fund leveraged finance loans. The credit facility had an outstanding balance of \$53.2 million and unamortized deferred financing fees of \$2.4 million as of December 31, 2016. Interest on this facility accrues at a variable rate per annum. The facility provides for a revolving reinvestment period that ends on May 5, 2018, with a two-year amortization period.

On December 1, 2016, the Company sold the assets of NewStar Equipment Finance (“Equipment Finance”) and the related platform. In connection with the sale, the Company repaid all outstanding indebtedness of Equipment Finance, including amounts outstanding under the \$75.0 million note purchase agreement with Wells Fargo, with an outstanding balance of \$16.9 million.

On September 15, 2016, the Company repaid the \$350.0 million note purchase agreement with Credit Suisse that provided the financing to fund the purchase of broadly syndicated bank loans during the warehouse phase of the Arch Street CLO. The supplemental junior note commitment by NewStar Capital was also repaid in full. The notes were repaid from proceeds of the Arch Street CLO bond issuance.

On March 31, 2016, the Company sold its membership interest in NewStar Business Credit LLC (“Business Credit”). In connection with the sale, the Company repaid all outstanding indebtedness of Business Credit, including amounts outstanding under the \$175.0 million credit facility with a syndicate of lenders agented by DZ Bank AG Deutsche Zentral-Genossenschaftsbank Frankfurt (“DZ Bank”) with an outstanding balance of \$102.0 million and the \$165.0 million credit facility with a syndicate of lenders agented by Wells Fargo with an outstanding balance of \$135.4 million, each of which was terminated. The Company accelerated and recognized deferred financing fees of \$1.1 million and \$0.7 million, respectively, related to the warehouse facilities during the first quarter of 2016.

Senior notes

On April 22, 2015, the Company issued \$300.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 7.25% Senior Notes due 2020 (the "2020 Notes"). On November 9, 2015, the Company issued an additional \$80.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 2020 Notes. The 2020 Notes were issued on November 9, 2015, were issued at a debt discount of \$0.8 million which will amortize over the life of the 2020 Notes. The Company used a portion of the net proceeds from the April notes offering to repay in full its corporate credit facility with Fortress Credit Corp. The 2020 Notes mature on May 1, 2020, and bear interest at a rate of 7.25% per annum, which is payable semi-annually on May 1 and November 1 of each year. At any time prior to May 1, 2017, the Company may redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the 2020 Notes with the net cash proceeds of certain public equity offerings at a price equal to 107.25% of the aggregate principal amount so redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon provided that immediately following the redemption, at least 65% of the 2020 Notes that were originally issued remain outstanding. Additionally, at any time prior to May 1, 2017, the Company may redeem some or all of the 2020 Notes at a price equal to 100% of the aggregate principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon and a make-whole premium. On or after May 1, 2017, the Company may redeem the 2020 Notes, in whole or in part, at redemption prices specified in the 2020 Notes plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon. In addition, if the Company undergoes a change of control, the Company will be required to make an offer to purchase each holder's 2020 Notes at a price equal to 101% of the principal amount of the 2020 Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest. As of December 31, 2016 unamortized deferred financing fees were \$5.5 million.

We must comply with certain covenants and restrictions related to the 2020 Notes. Subject to certain exceptions as detailed therein, the indenture relating to the 2020 Notes restricts our ability to incur additional Non-Funding Indebtedness (as defined in the indenture) but permits the incurrence of indebtedness if on the date of such incurrence and after giving pro forma effect thereto (including pro forma application of the proceeds thereof), our Consolidated Non-Funding Debt to Equity Ratio (together with our Restricted Subsidiaries) is not greater than 1.75 to 1.00. Consolidated Non-Funding Debt to Equity Ratio is defined, with respect to any person on any determination date, as the ratio of Consolidated Non-Funding Debt (as defined in the indenture) of such person as of such determination date to the Consolidated Stockholders Equity (as defined in the indenture) of such person as of such determination date. If we fail to comply with this and certain other covenants included in the senior notes indenture, it could constitute an event of default that could result in the acceleration of the payment of the aggregate principal amount of 2020 Notes then outstanding and accrued interest. At December 31, 2016 and currently, we were in compliance with all such covenants under the 2020 Notes indenture.

As market conditions warrant and subject to our liquidity requirements, contractual restrictions and other factors, we may from time to time seek to retire or repurchase our outstanding senior notes through cash purchases and/or exchanges for other debt or equity securities in open market transactions, privately negotiated transactions, by tender offer or otherwise. Any such cash repurchases by us may be funded by cash on hand or incurring new debt. The amounts involved in any such transactions, individually or in the aggregate, may be material to us. Furthermore, any such repurchases or exchanges may result in our acquiring and retiring a substantial amount of indebtedness, which may impact the trading liquidity of such indebtedness.

Subordinated notes

On December 4, 2014, the Company completed the initial closing of an investment of long-term capital from funds sponsored by Franklin Square Capital Partners ("Franklin Square") and sub-advised by GSO Capital Partners at which the Franklin Square funds purchased \$200.0 million of 10-year subordinated notes (the "Subordinated Notes"), which rank junior to the Company's existing and future senior debt. During 2015, the Company drew an additional \$75 million of these Subordinated Notes. The Company drew the remaining \$25 million in January 2016. The Subordinated Notes were recorded at par less the initial relative fair value of the warrants issued in connection with the investment on December 4, 2014 and January 23, 2015 which was \$53.7 million as of December 31, 2016 and \$60.0 million as of December 31, 2015. The debt discount will amortize over the life of the notes and will be

recorded as non-cash interest expense as the Subordinated Notes accrete to par value. As of December 31, 2016, unamortized deferred financing fees were \$4.9 million. The Subordinated Notes bear interest at 8.25% and include a Payment-in-Kind ("PIK Toggle") feature that allows the Company, at its option, to elect to have interest accrued at a rate of 8.75% added to the principal of the Subordinated Notes instead of paying it in cash. The Subordinated Notes have a ten year term and mature on December 4, 2024. They are callable during the first three years with payment of a make-whole premium. The prepayment premium decreases to 103% and 101% after the third and fourth anniversaries of the closing, respectively. They are callable at par after December 4, 2019. The Subordinated Notes require a mandatory payment at the end of each accrual period, beginning on December 5, 2019. The Company is required to make a cash payment of principal plus accrued interest in an amount required to prevent the Subordinated Notes from being treated as an "Applicable High Yield Discount Obligation" within the meaning of Section 163(i)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Events of default under the Subordinated Notes include failure to pay interest or principal when due subject to applicable grace periods, material uncured breaches of the terms of the Subordinated Notes, and bankruptcy/insolvency events.

Term Debt Securitizations

2012-2 CLO. On December 18, 2012, we completed a term debt securitization transaction. In conjunction with this transaction we established a separate single-purpose bankruptcy-remote subsidiary, NewStar Commercial Loan Funding 2012-2 LLC (the “2012-2 CLO”) and sold and contributed \$325.9 million in loans and investments (including unfunded commitments), or portions thereof, to the 2012-2 CLO. We remain the servicer of the loans. Simultaneously with the initial sale and contribution, the 2012-2 CLO issued \$263.3 million of notes to institutional investors. We retained \$62.6 million, comprising 100% of the 2012-2 CLO’s membership interests, Class E notes, Class F notes, and subordinated notes. On June 12, 2015, we sold 100% of the 2012-2 CLO’s Class E Notes totaling \$16.3 million to institutional investors. At December 31, 2016, the \$233.0 million of outstanding drawn notes were collateralized by the specific loans and investments, principal collection account cash and principal payment receivables totaling \$279.2 million. At December 31, 2016, deferred financing fees were \$0.7 million. The 2012-2 CLO permitted reinvestment of collateral principal repayments for a three-year period which ended in January 2016.

We receive a loan collateral management fee and excess interest spread. We also receive payments with respect to the classes of notes we own in accordance with the transaction documents. We expect to receive a principal distribution as owner of the membership interests when the term debt is retired. If loan collateral in the 2012-2 CLO is in default under the terms of the indenture, the excess interest spread from the 2012-2 CLO may not be distributed if the overcollateralization ratio, or other collateral quality tests, is not satisfied.

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to the 2012-2 CLO:

| | Notes | Outstanding balance December 31, originally issued (\$ in thousands) | Borrowing spread to LIBOR | |
|----------------------|------------|--|---------------------------------|---|
| 2012-2 CLO | | | | |
| Class A | \$ 190,700 | \$ 144,053 | 1.90 | % |
| Class B | 26,000 | 26,000 | 3.25 | % |
| Class C | 35,200 | 35,200 | 4.25 | % |
| Class D | 11,400 | 11,400 | 6.25 | % |
| Class E | 16,300 | 16,300 | 6.75 | % |
| Total notes | 279,600 | 232,953 | | |
| Class F | 24,100 | 24,100 | N/A | |
| Subordinated notes | 22,183 | 22,183 | N/A | |
| Total for 2012-2 CLO | \$ 325,883 | \$ 279,236 | | |

2013-1 CLO. On September 11, 2013, we completed a term debt securitization transaction through our separate single-purpose bankruptcy-remote subsidiary, NewStar Commercial Loan Funding 2013-1 LLC (the “2013-1 CLO”) and sold and contributed \$247.6 million in loans and investments (including unfunded commitments), or portions thereof, to the 2013-1 CLO. We remain the servicer of the loans. Simultaneously with the initial sale and contribution,

the 2013-1 CLO issued \$338.6 million of notes to institutional investors. We retained \$61.4 million, comprising 100% of the 2013-1 CLO's membership interests, Class F notes, Class G notes, and subordinated notes. At December 31, 2016, the \$321.9 million of outstanding drawn notes were collateralized by the specific loans and investments, principal collection account cash and principal payment receivables totaling \$383.3 million. At December 31, 2016, deferred financing fees were \$2.6 million. The 2013-1 CLO permitted reinvestment of collateral principal repayments for a three-year period which ended in September 2016.

We receive a loan collateral management fee and excess interest spread. We also receive payments with respect to the classes of notes we own in accordance with the transaction documents. We expect to receive a principal distribution as owner of the membership interests when the term debt is retired. If loan collateral in the 2013-1 CLO is in default under the terms of the indenture, the excess interest spread from the 2013-1 CLO may not be distributed if the overcollateralization ratio, or other collateral quality tests, is not satisfied.

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to the 2013-1 CLO:

| | Notes | Outstanding balance December originally issued 2016 (\$ in thousands) | Borrowing spread to LIBOR | |
|----------------------|-----------|--|---------------------------------|---|
| 2013-1 CLO | | | | |
| Class A-T | \$202,600 | \$ 188,349 | 1.65 | % |
| Class A-R | 35,000 | 32,538 | (1 |) |
| Class B | 38,000 | 38,000 | 2.30 | % |
| Class C | 36,000 | 36,000 | 3.80 | % |
| Class D | 21,000 | 21,000 | 4.55 | % |
| Class E | 6,000 | 6,000 | 5.30 | % |
| Total notes | 338,600 | 321,887 | | |
| Class F | 17,400 | 17,400 | N/A | |
| Class G | 15,200 | 15,200 | N/A | |
| Subordinated notes | 28,800 | 28,800 | N/A | |
| Total for 2013-1 CLO | \$400,000 | \$ 383,287 | | |

(1) Class A-R Notes accrue interest at the Class A-R CP Rate so long as they are held by a CP Conduit, and otherwise will accrue interest at the Class A-R LIBOR Rate or, in certain circumstances, the Class A-R Base Rate, but in no event shall interest rate payable pari passu with the Class A-T Notes exceed the Class A-R Waterfall Rate Cap.

2014-1 CLO. On April 17, 2014, we completed a term debt securitization transaction through our separate single-purpose bankruptcy-remote subsidiary, NewStar Commercial Loan Funding 2014-1 LLC (the "2014-1 CLO") and sold and contributed \$249.6 million in loans and investments (including unfunded commitments), or portions thereof, to the 2014-1 CLO. We remain the servicer of the loans. Simultaneously with the initial sale and contribution, the 2014-1 CLO issued \$289.5 million of notes to institutional investors. We retained \$58.9 million, comprising 100% of the 2014-1 CLO's membership interests, Class E notes, Class F notes, and subordinated notes. At December 31, 2016, the \$289.5 million of outstanding drawn notes were collateralized by the specific loans and investments, principal collection account cash and principal payment receivables totaling \$348.4 million. At December 31, 2016, deferred financing fees were \$2.0 million. The 2014-1 CLO permits reinvestment of collateral principal repayments for a four-year period ending in April 2018. Should we determine that reinvestment of collateral principal repayments are impractical in light of market conditions or if collateral principal repayments are not reinvested within a prescribed timeframe, such funds may be used to repay the outstanding notes.

We receive a loan collateral management fee and excess interest spread. We also receive payments with respect to the classes of notes we own in accordance with the transaction documents. We expect to receive a principal distribution as owner of the membership interests when the term debt is retired. If loan collateral in the 2014-1 CLO is in default under the terms of the indenture, the excess interest spread from the 2014-1 CLO may not be distributed if the overcollateralization ratio, or other collateral quality tests, is not satisfied.

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to the 2014-1 CLO:

| | Notes | Outstanding balance December originally issued 2016 (\$ in thousands) | Borrowing spread to LIBOR | |
|----------------------|-----------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 2014-1 CLO | | | | |
| Class A | \$202,500 | \$ 202,500 | 1.80 | % |
| Class B-1 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 2.60 | % |
| Class B-2 | 13,250 | 13,250 | (1 |) |
| Class C | 30,250 | 30,250 | 3.60 | % |
| Class D | 23,500 | 23,500 | 4.75 | % |
| Total notes | 289,500 | 289,500 | | |
| Class E | 18,500 | 18,500 | N/A | |
| Class F | 14,000 | 14,000 | N/A | |
| Subordinated notes | 26,375 | 26,375 | N/A | |
| Total for 2014-1 CLO | \$348,375 | \$ 348,375 | | |

(1) Class B-2 Notes accrue interest at a fixed rate of 4.902%.

2015-1 CLO. On March 20, 2015, we completed a term debt securitization transaction through our separate single-purpose bankruptcy-remote subsidiary, NewStar Commercial Loan Funding 2015-1 LLC (the “2015-1 CLO”) and sold and contributed \$336.3 million in loans and investments (including unfunded commitments), or portions thereof, to the 2015-1 CLO. We remain the servicer of the loans. Simultaneously with the initial sale and contribution, the 2015-1 CLO issued \$410.3 million of notes to institutional investors. We retained \$85.8 million, comprising 100% of the 2015-1 CLO’s membership interests and subordinated notes. At December 31, 2016, the \$410.3 million of outstanding drawn notes were collateralized by the specific loans and investments, principal collection account cash and principal payment receivables totaling \$496.1 million. At December 31, 2016, deferred financing fees were \$3.2 million. The 2015-1 CLO permits reinvestment of collateral principal repayments for a four-year period ending in April 2019. Should we determine that reinvestment of collateral principal repayments are impractical in light of market conditions or if collateral principal repayments are not reinvested within a prescribed timeframe, such funds may be used to repay the outstanding notes.

We receive a loan collateral management fee and excess interest spread. We also receive payments with respect to the classes of notes it owns in accordance with the transaction documents. We expect to receive a principal distribution as owner of the membership interests when the term debt is retired. If loan collateral in the 2015-1 CLO is in default under the terms of the indenture, the excess interest spread from the 2015-1 CLO may not be distributed if the overcollateralization ratio, or if other collateral quality tests, are not satisfied.

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to the 2015-1 CLO:

| | Notes | Outstanding balance December originally issued 2016 (\$ in thousands) | Borrowing spread to LIBOR | |
|----------------------|-----------|--|---------------------------------|---|
| 2015-1 CLO | | | | |
| Class A-1 | \$253,500 | \$ 253,500 | 1.80 | % |
| Class A-2 | 35,000 | 35,000 | (1 |) |
| Class B | 50,000 | 50,000 | 2.80 | % |
| Class C | 38,500 | 38,500 | 3.85 | % |
| Class D | 33,250 | 33,250 | 5.50 | % |
| Total notes | 410,250 | 410,250 | | |
| Subordinated notes | 85,815 | 85,815 | N/A | |
| Total for 2015-1 CLO | \$496,065 | \$ 496,065 | | |

(1) Class A-2 Notes accrue interest at a spread over Libor of 1.65% from the closing date to, but excluding March 20, 2017, and 2.00% thereafter.

2015-2 CLO. On September 15, 2015, we completed a term debt securitization transaction through our separate single-purpose bankruptcy-remote subsidiary, NewStar Commercial Loan Funding 2015-2 LLC (the “2015-2 CLO”) and sold and contributed \$298.4 million in loans and investments (including unfunded commitments), or portions thereof, to the 2015-2 CLO. We remain the servicer of the loans. Simultaneously with the initial sale and contribution, the 2015-2 CLO issued \$327.8 million of notes to institutional investors. We retained \$70.1 million, comprising 100% of the 2015-2 CLO’s membership interests and a portion of the Class E notes. At December 31, 2016, the \$327.8 million of outstanding drawn notes were collateralized by the specific loans and investments, principal collection account cash and principal payment receivables totaling \$397.8 million. At December 31, 2016, deferred financing fees were \$2.9 million. The 2015-2 CLO permits reinvestment of collateral principal repayments for a four-year period ending in August 2019. Should we determine that reinvestment of collateral principal repayments are impractical in light of market conditions or if collateral principal repayments are not reinvested within a prescribed timeframe, such funds may be used to repay the outstanding notes.

We receive a loan collateral management fee and excess interest spread. We also receive payments with respect to the classes of notes we own in accordance with the transaction documents. We expect to receive a principal distribution as owner of the membership interests when the term debt is retired. If loan collateral in the 2015-2 CLO is in default under the terms of the indenture, the excess interest spread from the 2015-2 CLO may not be distributed if the overcollateralization ratio, or other collateral quality tests, are not satisfied.

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to the 2015-2 CLO:

| Notes | Outstanding | Borrowing |
|------------|-------------|-----------|
| originally | balance | spread to |

| | issued | December | LIBOR | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|---|
| | | 31, | | |
| | | 2016 | | |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | | |
| 2015-2 CLO | | | | |
| Class A-1 | \$205,000 | \$ 205,000 | 2.00 | % |
| Class A-2 | 23,000 | 23,000 | (1 |) |
| Class B | 40,000 | 40,000 | 2.90 | % |
| Class C | 26,250 | 26,250 | 3.95 | % |
| Class D | 28,500 | 28,500 | 5.25 | % |
| Class E | 5,000 | 5,000 | 7.50 | % |
| Total notes | 327,750 | 327,750 | | |
| Class E (retained) | 23,250 | 23,250 | 7.50 | % |
| Subordinated notes | 46,806 | 46,806 | N/A | |
| Total for 2015-2 CLO | \$397,806 | \$ 397,806 | | |

(1) Class A-2 Notes accrue interest at a fixed rate of 3.461%.

2016-1 CLO. On March 2, 2016, the Company completed a term debt securitization transaction through its separate single-purpose bankruptcy-remote subsidiary, NewStar Commercial Loan Funding 2016-1 LLC (the "2016-1 CLO") and sold and contributed \$247.3 million in loans and investments (including unfunded commitments), or portions thereof, to the 2016-1 CLO. The

Company remains the servicer of the loans. Simultaneously with the initial sale and contribution, the 2016-1 CLO issued \$255.8 million of notes to institutional investors. The Company retained \$92.2 million, comprising 100% of the 2016-1 CLO's membership interests, and the Class D and Class E notes. During the fourth quarter of 2016, the Company sold \$7.5 million of the Class D notes. At December 31, 2016, the \$263.3 million of outstanding drawn notes were collateralized by the specific loans and investments, principal collection account cash and principal payment receivables totaling \$348.0 million. At December 31, 2016, unamortized deferred financing fees were \$2.4 million. The 2016-1 CLO permits reinvestment of collateral principal repayments for a four-year period ending in February 2020. Should the Company determine that reinvestment of collateral principal repayments are impractical in light of market conditions or if collateral principal repayments are not reinvested within a prescribed timeframe, such funds may be used to repay the outstanding notes.

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to the 2016-1 CLO:

| | Notes originally issued (\$ in thousands) | Outstanding balance December 31, 2016 | Borrowing spread to LIBOR |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| 2016-1 CLO | | | |
| Class A-1 | \$176,500 | \$ 176,500 | 2.30% |
| Class A-2 | 20,000 | 20,000 | (1) |
| Class B | 36,750 | 36,750 | 3.75% |
| Class C | 22,500 | 22,500 | 5.40% |
| Class D | 7,500 | 7,500 | 5.50 % |
| Total notes | 263,250 | 263,250 | |
| Class D (retained) | 16,250 | 16,250 | 5.50 % |
| Class E (retained) | 23,000 | 23,000 | 7.50% |
| Subordinated notes | 45,506 | 45,506 | N/A |
| Total for 2016-1 CLO | \$348,006 | \$ 348,006 | |

(1) Class A-2 Notes accrue interest at a fixed rate of 3.44%.

Arch Street CLO. On September 15, 2016, NewStar Capital LLC completed a \$409.8 million broadly syndicated loan securitization. The notes offered in the collateralized loan obligation ("Arch Street CLO") were issued by Arch Street CLO, Ltd., an exempted company incorporated under the laws of the Cayman Islands, and (with the exception of the Class E and F notes) by Arch Street CLO, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (each a subsidiary of NewStar Capital and collectively, "Arch Street"). The Arch Street CLO notes are backed by a diversified portfolio of broadly syndicated loans purchased and serviced by the Company. Investors purchased approximately \$370.3 million of the Arch Street CLO notes, representing approximately 90.4% of the total capitalization of Arch Street. The Company retained all of the Class F notes and subordinated notes which together totaled approximately \$39.5 million, representing approximately 9.6% of the total capitalization of Arch Street. At December 31, 2016, the outstanding note balance was \$370.3 million and unamortized deferred financing fees were \$4.2 million. The reinvestment period is expected to end in October 2020 and scheduled to mature in October 2028.

The Company receives a loan collateral management fee and excess interest spread. The Company also receives payments with respect to the classes of notes it owns in accordance with the transaction documents. The Company expects to receive a principal distribution as owner of the membership interests when the term debt is retired. If loan

collateral in the Arch Street CLO is in default under the terms of the indenture, the excess interest spread from the Arch Street CLO may not be distributed if the overcollateralization ratio, or other collateral quality tests, are not satisfied.

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to the Arch Street CLO:

| | Notes | Outstanding balance December originally 31, issued 2016 (\$ in thousands) | Borrowing spread to LIBOR | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|
| Arch Street CLO | | | | |
| Class X | \$2,500 | \$ 2,500 | 1.25 | % |
| Class A | 256,000 | 256,000 | 1.65 | % |
| Class B | 48,000 | 48,000 | 2.24 | % |
| Class C | 20,000 | 20,000 | 3.00 | % |
| Class D | 22,750 | 22,750 | 4.20 | % |
| Class E | 21,000 | 21,000 | 6.95 | % |
| Total notes | 370,250 | 370,250 | | |
| Class F (retained) | 5,500 | 5,500 | 8.60 | % |
| Subordinated notes | 34,000 | 34,000 | N/A | |
| Total for Arch Street CLO | \$409,750 | \$ 409,750 | | |

2007-1 CLO. In June 2007, we completed a term debt securitization transaction. In conjunction with this transaction we established a separate single-purpose bankruptcy-remote subsidiary, NewStar Commercial Loan Trust 2007-1 (the “2007-1 CLO Trust”) and sold and contributed \$600 million in loans and investments (including unfunded commitments), or portions thereof, to the 2007-1 CLO Trust. We remained the servicer of the loans. Simultaneously with the initial sale and contribution, the 2007-1 CLO Trust issued \$546.0 million of notes to institutional investors. We retained \$54.0 million, comprising 100% of the 2007-1 CLO Trust’s trust certificates. During 2012, we purchased \$0.2 million of the 2007-1 CLO Trust’s Class C notes. During 2010, we purchased \$5.0 million of the 2007-1 CLO Trust’s Class D notes. During 2009, we purchased \$1.0 million of the 2007-1 CLO Trust’s Class D notes. On November 30, 2016, we called the 2007-1 CLO Trust and redeemed the notes at par. In conjunction with the call, we received a principal distribution of \$35.8 million.

2015-1 ABS. On September 1, 2015, NewStar Equipment Finance I, LLC, our subsidiary, completed a static asset-backed securitization transaction through a separate single-purpose bankruptcy-remote subsidiary, NewStar Commercial Lease Funding 2015-1 LLC (the “2015-1 ABS”) and sold and contributed \$100.1 million in leases and equipment loans (including unfunded commitments), or portions thereof, to the 2015-1 ABS. Simultaneously with the initial sale and contribution, the 2015-1 ABS issued \$70.0 million of notes to institutional investors. We retained all of the 2015-1 ABS’s membership interest and the Class B notes, totaling \$40.6 million. On October 17, 2016, the Company called the 2015-1 ABS and redeemed the notes at par. In conjunction with the call, the Company received a principal distribution of \$12.8 million. The Company accelerated and recognized deferred financing fees of \$1.1 million related to the repayment of the 2015-1 ABS.

2006-1 CLO. In June 2006 we completed a term debt securitization transaction. In conjunction with this transaction we established a separate single-purpose bankruptcy remote subsidiary, NewStar Commercial Loan Trust 2006-1 (the “2006 CLO Trust”) and sold and contributed \$500 million in loans and investments (including unfunded commitments), or portions thereof, to the 2006 CLO Trust. Simultaneously with the initial sale and contribution, the 2006 CLO Trust issued \$456.3 million of notes to institutional investors. We retained \$43.8 million, comprising 100% of the 2006 CLO Trust’s trust certificates. The 2006 CLO Trust permitted reinvestment of collateral principal repayments for a

five-year period which ended in June 2011. During 2011, we purchased \$7.0 million of the 2006 CLO Trust's Class C notes, \$6.0 million of the 2006 CLO Trust's Class D notes and \$2.0 million of the 2006 CLO Trust's Class E notes. During 2010, we purchased \$3.0 million of the 2006 CLO Trust's Class D notes and \$3.0 million of the 2006 CLO Trust's Class E notes. During 2009, we purchased \$6.5 million of the 2006 CLO Trust's Class D notes and \$1.8 million of the 2006 CLO Trust's Class E notes. During 2008, we purchased \$3.3 million of the 2006 CLO Trust's Class D and \$2.5 million of the 2006 CLO Trust's Class E notes, respectively. On September 30, 2014, we called the 2006 CLO Trust and redeemed the notes at par. In conjunction with the call, we received a principal distribution of \$9.7 million.

Corporate Credit Facility

On January 5, 2010, we entered into a note agreement with Fortress Credit Corp., which was subsequently amended on August 31, 2010, January 27, 2012, November 5, 2012, and December 4, 2012. The agreement was amended and restated on May 13, 2013 and further amended on June 3, 2013. The credit facility, as amended, consisted of a \$238.5 million term note with Fortress Credit Corp. as agent, which consisted of the existing outstanding balance of \$100.0 million (the "Existing Funding"), an initial funding of \$98.5 million (the "Initial Funding"), and three subsequent borrowings, of \$5.0 million (the "Delay Draw Term A"), \$25.0 million (the "Delay Draw Term B") and the \$10.0 million Term C Loan. On April 22, 2015, we repaid in full the term note with Fortress Credit Corp.

Repurchase Agreements

We entered into a repurchase transaction with Deutsche Bank AG, pursuant to the terms of a Global Master Repurchase Agreement (2000 version), dated as of February 13, 2015 between Deutsche Bank AG and NS Bond Funding I LLC (the “Deutsche Bank Repurchase Agreement”). Pursuant to the Deutsche Bank Repurchase Agreement, Deutsche Bank AG will purchase securities and simultaneously agree to sell the securities back to us at a specified date. Under the terms of the Deutsche Bank Repurchase Agreement, we are required at all times to maintain a level of overcollateralization for the obligations, which is maintained through daily margining. As of December 31, 2016, the outstanding balance was zero. We have made certain representations and warranties and are required to comply with various covenants and requirements customary for financing arrangements of this nature.

We entered into a repurchase transaction with Citigroup Global Markets, pursuant to the terms of a Global Master Repurchase Agreement (2000 version), dated as of March 16, 2015 between Citigroup Global Markets and NS Loan Originator LLC (the “Citigroup Repurchase Agreement”). Pursuant to the Citigroup Repurchase Agreement, Citigroup Global Markets will purchase securities and simultaneously agree to sell the securities back to us at a specified date. Under the terms of the Citigroup Repurchase Agreement, we are required at all times to maintain a level of overcollateralization for the obligations, which is maintained through daily margining. As of December 31, 2016, the outstanding balance was \$31.3 million. We have made certain representations and warranties and are required to comply with various covenants and requirements customary for financing arrangements of this nature.

We entered into a repurchase transaction with JP Morgan Chase Bank pursuant to the terms of a Global Master Repurchase Agreement (2000 version), dated as of April 2, 2015 between JP Morgan Chase Bank and NS Bond Funding II LLC (the “JP Morgan Repurchase Agreement”). Pursuant to the JP Morgan Repurchase Agreement, JP Morgan Chase Bank will purchase securities and simultaneously agree to sell the securities back to us at a specified date. Under the terms of the JP Morgan Repurchase Agreement, we are required at all times to maintain a level of overcollateralization for the obligations, which is maintained through daily margining. A portion of the proceeds from our senior notes offering in November 2015 were used to pay down this facility. As of December 31, 2016, the outstanding balance was \$22.0 million. We have made certain representations and warranties and are required to comply with various covenants and requirements customary for financing arrangements of this nature.

We entered into a repurchase transaction with Natixis Securities Americas LLC pursuant to the terms of a Global Master Repurchase Agreement (2000 version), dated as of October 14, 2015 between Natixis Securities Americas LLC and NS Bond Funding III LLC (the “Natixis Repurchase Agreement”). Pursuant to the Natixis Repurchase Agreement, Natixis Securities Americas LLC will purchase securities and simultaneously agree to sell the securities back to us at a specified date. Under the terms of the Natixis Repurchase Agreement, we are required at all times to maintain a level of overcollateralization for the obligations, which is maintained through daily margining. As of December 31, 2016, the outstanding balance was \$1.7 million. We have made certain representations and warranties and is required to comply with various covenants and requirements customary for financing arrangements of this nature.

On June 7, 2011, we entered into a five-year, \$68.0 million financing arrangement with Macquarie Bank Limited backed primarily by a portfolio of commercial mortgage loans previously originated by us. The financing was structured as a master repurchase agreement under which we sold the portfolio of commercial mortgage loans to Macquarie for an aggregate purchase price of \$68.0 million. We also agreed to repurchase the commercial mortgage loans from time to time (including a minimum quarterly amount), and agreed to repurchase all of the commercial mortgage loans by June 7, 2016. On October 2, 2013, we entered into an amendment to this financing arrangement which, among other things, extended the date by which we had agreed to repurchase all of the commercial mortgage loans by one year to June 7, 2017, provided for \$25.5 million of additional advances for existing eligible assets owned by us, allowed for the advance of up to \$15.0 million to fund an additional commercial mortgage loan, and released \$41.1 million of principal payments to us as unrestricted cash. On August 29, 2016, the Company redeemed in full the five-year, \$68.0 million financing arrangement with Macquarie Bank Limited with an outstanding balance of \$10.7

million. The Company accelerated and recognized deferred financial fees of \$0.3 million related to repurchase facility during 2016.

Stock Repurchase Program

On December 9, 2016, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$30.0 million of the Company's common stock from time to time on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The timing and amount of any shares purchased under the repurchase program will be determined by our management based on its evaluation of market conditions and other factors. The new repurchase program, commenced immediately following the expiration of the prior stock repurchase program, which was authorized on October 7, 2015, amended on February 10, 2016 and expired on December 31, 2016. The new repurchase program will expire on December 31, 2017 unless extended by the Board and may be suspended or discontinued at any time without notice.

On October 21, 2016, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of 2,500,000 shares of our common stock in privately negotiated transactions outside of the Company's previously announced stock repurchase program.

On October 7, 2015, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$5.0 million of the Company's common stock from time to time on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. On February 10, 2016, our Board of Directors authorized an increase to this stock repurchase program to authorize the repurchase of up to an aggregate of \$30.0 million of the Company's common stock (inclusive of approximately \$4.9 million remaining under the existing program). The timing and amount of any shares purchased under the repurchase program will be determined by our management based on its evaluation of market conditions and other factors. We completed this repurchase program on December 31, 2016. Under this stock repurchase program, we repurchased 2,640,544 shares of our common stock under this program at a weighted average price per share of \$7.85, of which 1,000,000 shares were repurchased in a privately negotiated transaction with an unaffiliated third party for an aggregate purchase price of \$7.0 million.

On March 24, 2015, the Company repurchased 1,000,000 shares of its common stock in a privately negotiated transaction with an unaffiliated third party for an aggregate purchase price of \$10.3 million.

On December 22, 2014, we repurchased 1,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock in a privately negotiated transaction with an unaffiliated third party for an aggregate purchase price of \$10.2 million.

On August 13, 2014, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$10.0 million of the Company's common stock from time to time on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The timing and amount of any shares purchased are determined by our management based on its evaluation of market conditions and other factors. We completed this repurchase program during August 2015. Under this stock repurchase program, we repurchased 892,911 shares of our common stock at a weighted average price per share of \$11.20.

On May 5, 2014, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$20.0 million of the Company's common stock from time to time on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The timing and amount of any shares purchased were determined by our management based on its evaluation of market conditions and other factors. We completed this repurchase program during July 2014. Under this stock repurchase program, we repurchased 1,519,615 shares of our common stock at a weighted average price per share of \$13.13 in the aggregate.

Contractual Obligations

The following table sets forth information relating to our contractual obligations as of December 31, 2016:

| | Payments due by period | | | | Total |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Less than 1 year | 1-3 years | 3-5 years | More than 5 years | |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | | | |
| Credit facilities (1) | \$— | \$— | \$454,300 | \$— | \$454,300 |
| Term debt (1) | — | — | — | 2,215,840 | 2,215,840 |
| Senior Notes | — | — | 380,000 | — | 380,000 |
| Subordinated notes | — | — | — | 300,000 | 300,000 |
| Repurchase agreement | 55,046 | — | — | — | 55,046 |
| Non-cancelable operating leases | 1,567 | 3,291 | — | — | 4,858 |
| Total | \$56,613 | \$3,291 | \$834,300 | \$2,515,840 | \$3,410,044 |

(1)

Amounts for credit facilities and term debt presented represent principal amounts due based on contractual maturity dates and do not include interest amounts owed. The actual timing of payments will ultimately vary from the above data due to future fundings and repayments we expect to occur.

DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS AND HEDGING ACTIVITIES

We maintain an overall risk management strategy that may incorporate the use of derivative instruments to minimize significant unplanned fluctuations in earnings caused by interest rate volatility. Our operations are subject to risks resulting from interest rate fluctuations on our interest-earning assets and our interest-bearing liabilities. We seek to provide maximum levels of net interest income, while maintaining acceptable levels of interest rate and liquidity risk. As such, we may enter into interest rate swap and interest rate cap agreements to hedge interest rate exposure to interest rate fluctuations. Under the interest rate swap contracts, we agree to exchange, at specified intervals, the difference between fixed and floating interest amounts calculated on an agreed-upon notional principal amount. We record the exchanged amount in net interest income in our statements of operations. Under the interest rate cap contracts, we agree to exchange, at specified intervals, the difference between a specified fixed interest (the cap) and floating interest amounts calculated on an agreed-upon notional principal amount, but only if the floating interest rate exceeds the cap rate. The interest rate caps may not be matched to specific assets or liabilities and would not qualify for hedge accounting.

Interest rate risk mitigation products are offered to enable customers to meet their financing and risk management objectives. Derivative financial instruments consist predominantly of interest rate swaps, interest rate caps and floors. The interest rate risks to the Company of these customer derivatives is mitigated by entering into similar derivatives having offsetting terms with other counterparties consisting primarily of large financial institutions. The interest rate mitigation products do not qualify for hedge accounting treatment.

Gains and losses on derivatives not designated as hedges, including any cash payments made or received, are reported as gain or (loss) on derivatives in our consolidated statements of operations.

OFF BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS

We are party to financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk in the normal course of business to meet the financing needs of our borrowers. These financial instruments include unfunded commitments, standby letters of credit and interest rate mitigation products. The instruments involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit and interest rate risk in excess of the amount recognized in the consolidated balance sheet. The contract or notional amounts of those instruments reflect the extent of involvement we have in particular classes of financial instruments.

Our exposure to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the other party to the financial instrument for standby letters of credit is represented by the contractual amount of those instruments. We use the same credit policies in making commitments and conditional obligations as we do for on-balance sheet instruments.

Unused lines of credit are commitments to lend to a borrower if certain conditions have been met. These commitments generally have fixed expiration dates or other termination clauses and may require payment of a fee. We evaluate each borrower's creditworthiness on a case-by-case basis. The amount of collateral required is based on factors that include management's credit evaluation of the borrower and the borrower's compliance with financial covenants. Due to their nature, we cannot know with certainty the aggregate amounts that will be required to fund our unfunded commitments. The aggregate amount of these unfunded commitments may exceed our available funds. At December 31, 2016, we had \$326.1 million of unused lines of credit. Of these unused lines of credit, unfunded commitments related to revolving credit facilities were \$257.5 million and unfunded commitments related to delayed draw term loans were \$68.6 million. These commitments may expire without being drawn upon, and as such the total commitment does not necessarily represent future cash requirements.

Standby letters of credit are conditional commitments issued by us to guarantee the performance by a borrower to a third party. The credit risk involved in issuing letters of credit is essentially the same as that involved in extending credit to our borrowers. At December 31, 2016 we had \$8.2 million of standby letters of credit.

On December 4, 2014, we entered into a total return swap ("TRS") for senior floating rate loans with Citibank, N.A. ("Citibank"). The TRS with Citibank enabled us, through a wholly owned financing subsidiary, to obtain the economic benefits of the loans subject to the TRS, despite the fact that such loans would not be directly owned by us, in return for an interest payment to Citibank. The underlying loan portfolio of the TRS was typically large, liquid broadly syndicated loans. We acted as the manager of the TRS and selected the specific loans to be subject to the TRS. The TRS did not qualify for hedge accounting treatment as it did not offset the risks of another investment position. The initial maximum market value (determined at the time such loans became subject to the TRS) of the portfolio of loans subject to the TRS was \$75.0 million. On each of December 15, 2014, March 2, 2015 and July 14, 2015, we entered into amendments to increase the maximum value of the TRS to \$125.0 million, \$150.0 million and \$175.0 million, respectively. Interest accrued at one-month LIBOR+1.60% per annum. We were required to cash collateralize a specified percentage of each loan included under the TRS in accordance with margin requirements. On March 31, 2016, the TRS matured. At maturity we purchased approximately \$138.9 million of the loans that were referenced by the TRS. The majority of these loans were purchased to fund future CLOs.

Critical Accounting Policies

Accounting policies involving significant estimates and assumptions by management, which have, or could have, a material impact on our financial statements, are considered critical accounting policies. The following are our critical accounting policies:

Allowance for credit losses

A general allowance is provided for loans and leases held at amortized cost that are not impaired. The Company employs a variety of internally developed and third-party modeling and estimation tools for measuring credit risk, which are used in developing an allowance for loan and lease losses on outstanding loans and leases within our amortized cost portfolio. The Company's allowance framework addresses economic conditions, capital market liquidity and industry circumstances from both a top-down and bottom-up perspective. The Company considers and evaluates a number of factors, including but not limited to, changes in economic conditions,

credit availability, industry, loss emergence period, and multiple obligor concentrations in assessing both probabilities of default and loss severities as part of the general component of the allowance for loan and lease losses.

On at least a quarterly basis, loans and leases are internally risk-rated based on individual credit criteria, including loan and lease type, loan and lease structures (including balloon and bullet structures common in the Company's Leveraged Finance and Real Estate cash flow loans), borrower industry, payment capacity, location and quality of collateral if any (including the Company's Real Estate loans). Borrowers provide the Company with financial information on either a monthly or quarterly basis. Ratings, corresponding assumed default rates and assumed loss severities are dynamically updated to reflect any changes in borrower condition and/or profile.

For Leveraged Finance loans and Equipment Finance (prior to the latter's sale) loans and leases, the data set used to construct probabilities of default in its allowance for loan losses model, Moody's CRD Private Firm Database, primarily contains middle market loans that share attributes similar to the Company's loans. The Company also considers the quality of the loan or lease terms and lender protections in determining a loan loss in the event of default.

Prior to the sale of Business Credit, the Company utilized a proprietary model to risk rate the asset based loans on a monthly basis. This model captured the impact of changes in industry and economic conditions as well as changes in the quality of the borrower's collateral and financial performance to assign a final risk rating. The Company also evaluated historical net loss trends by risk rating from a comprehensive industry database covering more than twenty-five years of experience of the majority of the asset based lenders operating in the United States. Based upon the monthly risk rating from the model, the reserve was adjusted to reflect the historical average for expected loss from the industry database. For Real Estate loans, the Company employs two mechanisms to capture the impact of industry and economic conditions. First, a loan's risk rating, and thereby its assumed default likelihood, can be adjusted to account for overall commercial real estate market conditions. Second, to the extent that economic or industry trends adversely affect a substandard rated borrower's loan-to-value ratio enough to impact its repayment ability, the Company applies a stress multiplier to the loan's probability of default. The multiplier is designed to account for default characteristics that are difficult to quantify when market conditions cause commercial real estate prices to decline.

The Company periodically reviews its allowance for credit loss methodology to assess any necessary adjustments based upon changing economic and capital market conditions. If the Company determines that changes in its allowance for credit losses methodology are advisable, as a result of changes in the economic environment or otherwise, the revised allowance methodology may result in higher or lower levels of allowance. In the fourth quarter of 2015, the Company enhanced its approach for determining the expected exposure at default to more precisely reflect loan and lease exposures at December 31, 2015. Given uncertain market conditions, actual losses under the Company's current or any revised allowance methodology may differ materially from the Company's estimate.

Additionally, when determining the amount of the general allowance, the Company supplements the base amount with an environmental reserve amount which is governed by a score card system comprised of seven risk factors. In the fourth quarter of 2015, the scoring system of the environmental reserve risk factors was recalibrated to align with the enhancement made to the approach for determining the exposure at default. The Company also performs a ratio analysis of comparable money center banks, regional banks and finance companies. While the Company does not rely on this peer group comparison to set the level of allowance for credit losses, it does assist management in identifying market trends and serves as an overall reasonableness check on the allowance for credit losses computation.

A loan is considered impaired when it is probable that a creditor will be unable to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the loan agreement. Impairment of a loan is based upon (i) the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate, (ii) the loan's observable market price, or (iii) the fair value of the collateral if the loan is collateral dependent, depending on the circumstances and our collection strategy. Impaired loans are identified based on the loan-by-loan risk rating process described above. Impaired loans include all

non-accrual loans, loans with partial charge-offs and loans which are Troubled Debt Restructurings. It is the Company's policy during the reporting period to record a specific provision for credit losses to cover the identified impairment on a loan.

Impaired loans at December 31, 2016 were in Leveraged Finance over a range of industries impacted by the then current economic environment including the following: Media and Communications, Healthcare, Energy, Industrial, Other Business Services, Consumer/Retail, and Building Materials. For impaired Leveraged Finance and Equipment Finance loans (prior to the latter's sale), the Company measured impairment based on expected cash flows utilizing relevant information provided by the borrower and consideration of other market conditions or specific factors impacting recoverability. Such amounts are discounted based on original loan terms. For impaired Real Estate loans, the Company determined that the loans were collateral dependent and measured impairment based on the fair value of the related collateral utilizing recent appraisals from third-party appraisers, as well as internal estimates of market value.

Loans deemed to be uncollectible are charged off and the allowance is reduced by the charged off balance of the loan. The provision for credit losses and recoveries on loans previously charged off are added to the allowance.

Valuation of deferred tax assets

We recognize deferred tax assets and liabilities resulting from the differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases, and operating loss and tax credit carry forwards. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date. We regularly review our deferred tax assets to assess their potential realization and whether or not a valuation allowance is necessary. In performing these reviews we make estimates about future profits and tax planning strategies that would affect future taxable income and the realization of these deferred tax assets. A change in these assumptions could result in a difference in valuation and impact our results of operations. Based upon our assessment, we believe that a valuation allowance was not necessary as of December 31, 2016.

ASC 740, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes—An interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109 provides that a company can only recognize the tax position in the financial statements if the position is more likely than not to be upheld on audit, based only on the technical merits of the tax position. If the recognition threshold is met, the tax benefit is measured at the largest amount that is more than 50% likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement.

ASC 740 also addresses how interest and penalties should be accrued for uncertain tax positions, requiring that interest expense should be recognized in the first period interest would be accrued under the tax law. The Company classifies all interest and penalties on recognized tax benefits as a part of income tax expense.

The Company files U.S. federal and state income tax returns. As of December 31, 2016, the Company is subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service and most state tax authorities for tax years after December 31, 2012. A few states remain subject to examination for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Revenue recognition

Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis in accordance with the terms of the respective loan and debt product. The accrual of interest on loans and other debt products is discontinued when principal or interest payments are past due by 90 days or more or when, in the opinion of management, it is probable we will be unable to collect contractual principal and interest in the normal course of business. If loans are placed on non-accrual status, all interest previously accrued but not collected is reversed against current period interest income. Interest income on non-accrual loans is subsequently recognized only to the extent that cash is received and the principal balance is deemed collectible.

Nonrefundable fees and related direct costs associated with the origination or purchase of loans and other debt products are deferred and netted against balances outstanding. The net deferred fees or costs are recognized as an adjustment to interest income over the contractual life of the loans using a method which approximates the effective interest method. In connection with the prepayment of a loan or other debt product, a partial amount of the remaining unamortized net deferred fees, costs, premiums or discounts are accelerated and recognized as interest income. The amortization of fees is discontinued on non-accrual loans. Depending on the terms of a loan or other debt product, we may charge a prepayment fee and recognize it in the period of the prepayment. We accrete any discount and amortize any premium from purchased debt products or acquired loans in a business combination into interest income as a yield adjustment over the contractual life. Syndication, arrangement and structuring fees are recognized in the period the service is completed as a component of non-interest income.

Valuation of investments in debt securities

We review the fair value of our other debt products quarterly. The fair value of our investments in debt securities, non-investment grade securities and residual securities, are based on independent third-party quoted market prices, when available, at the reporting date for those or similar investments. When no market is available, we estimate fair value using various valuation methodologies, including cash flow analysis and internally generated financial models that incorporate significant assumptions and judgments, as well as qualitative factors.

Even if the general accuracy of our valuation models are validated, there are no assurances that our valuations are accurate because of the high number of variables that affect cash flows associated with these complex cash flow structures, which differ on each securitization. Valuations are highly dependent upon the reasonableness of our assumptions and the predictability of the relationships that drive the results of the model. Because of the inherent uncertainty of determining the fair value of investments that do not have a readily ascertainable market value, the fair value of investments may differ significantly from the values that would have

been used had a market existed for the investments, and the differences could be material. In addition, if our estimates or assumptions with respect to these assets prove to be incorrect, we may be required to write down some or all of the value of these assets.

A debt product is considered impaired when the fair value of the debt product declines below its amortized cost. The cost basis of the investment is then written down to fair value. If management determines the impairment to be temporary, it is recorded in other comprehensive income, a component of stockholders' equity. If management determines the impairment to be other than temporary, it is recorded as an offset to other income on our statements of operations. From time to time we may become aware of cash flow or credit issues with respect to our other debt products and these other debt products are then monitored by management to determine if a write-down is appropriate.

Although we view write-downs of our other debt products as a normal and anticipated aspect of our business, material write-downs of the fair value of our other debt products could adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition. Our allowance for credit losses does not cover write-downs because we classify these assets as available-for-sale securities.

The description of certain instruments as "debt securities" is intended to describe the accounting treatment of those instruments and is not a characterization of those instruments as securities for any other purpose.

Goodwill and Identified Intangible Assets

We record the excess of the cost of an acquisition over the fair value of the net assets acquired. Our goodwill impairment assessment is performed annually, or more frequently, should circumstances suggest fair value has declined below the related carrying value. If we determine that the fair value has declined below our related carrying value, an impairment is recognized to reduce the carrying value to its fair value.

Identified intangible assets are comprised of customer contracts and related customer relationships and are amortized over their estimated useful lives. We monitor the useful lives of these assets and revise them, if necessary. We review historical and projected attrition rates and other events that may influence our projections of the future economic benefit that we will derive from these relationships. Significant judgment is required to estimate the period that these assets will contribute to our cash flows and the pattern over which these assets will be consumed. We are currently amortizing our identified intangible assets over an average useful life of approximately one year.

Loans Held-for-Sale

Loans classified as held-for-sale consist of loans originated by the Company, intended to be sold or syndicated to third parties (including credit funds managed by the Company) or impaired loans for which a sale of the loan is expected as a result of a workout strategy. These loans are carried at the lower of aggregate cost, net of any deferred origination costs or fees, or fair value.

Total Return Swap

We were party to a total return swap ("TRS") through March 31, 2016. A TRS is a contract in which one party agrees to make periodic payments to another party based on the change in the market value of the assets underlying the TRS, in return for periodic payments based on a fixed or variable interest rate. The TRS effectively added leverage to our

portfolio by providing investment exposure to underlying loans without owning or taking physical custody, in return for an interest-type payment to Citi. The TRS was recorded at fair value as an asset or liability with changes in fair value recorded as unrealized appreciation or depreciation. Realized gains or losses were recognized at the termination of the contract.

Valuation of debt and equity linked instruments

We account for the subordinated notes and associated warrants issued to Franklin Square as debt and equity-linked instruments. The warrants are freestanding, indexed to the Company's common stock and are classified as equity. They were initially recorded at relative fair value, with no subsequent re-measurement. The allocation of the proceeds from the issuance of debt and warrants to Franklin Square was determined using the relative fair value method. The allocation of proceeds to the warrants created a debt discount to the subordinated debt and will be amortized over the life of the subordinated notes. The subordinated debt is presented net of the debt discount.

Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

We are exposed to changes in market values of our loans for which we elected to apply fair value option accounting, loans held-for-sale, which are carried at lower of cost or market, and our investment in debt securities, available-for-sale and derivatives, which are carried at fair value. Fair value is defined as the market price for those securities for which a market quotation is readily available and for all other investments and derivatives, fair value is determined pursuant to a valuation policy and a consistent valuation process. Where a market quotation is not readily available, we estimate fair value using various valuation methodologies, including cash flow analysis, as well as qualitative factors.

As of December 31, 2016, loans at fair value totaled \$403.7 million. At December 31, 2016, we recorded a gain of \$5.5 million related to the change in fair value which was recorded in other miscellaneous income, net. We did not have any loans at fair value as of December 31, 2015.

As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, loans held-for-sale totaled \$144.1 million and \$478.8 million, respectively. At December 31, 2016 and 2015, we recorded a \$2.4 million gain and a \$2.6 million loss, respectively on loans held-for-sale.

As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, investments in debt securities available-for-sale totaled \$119.3 million and \$94.2 million, respectively. At December 31, 2016 and 2015, we had a net unrealized loss of \$6.4 million and \$10.1 million, respectively on those debt securities. Any unrealized gain or loss on these investments is included in Other Comprehensive Income in the equity section of the balance sheet, until realized.

Interest rate risk represents a market risk exposure to us. Interest rate risk is measured as the potential volatility to our net interest income caused by changes in market interest rates.

As of December 31, 2016, substantially all of the loans in our portfolio were at variable rates. For the loans at variable rates, approximately 91.8% contain an interest rate floor, with an average floor of 1.02%. Our credit facilities and term debt securitizations all bear interest at variable rates without interest rate floors. Our senior and subordinated notes are fixed rate.

The presence of interest rate floors in our loan agreements results in assets with hybrid fixed and floating rate loan characteristics. Provided that the contractual interest rate remains at or below the interest rate floor, a performing loan will typically behave as a fixed rate instrument. If contractual interest rates are in excess of the interest rate floor, a performing loan will typically behave as a floating rate instrument. In a low interest rate environment, floors provide a benefit as we are able to earn additional income equal to the difference between the stated rate of the interest rate floor and the corresponding contractual rate. If interest rates rise, the potential benefit provided by interest rate floors would decrease resulting in lower net interest income. The cost of our variable rate debt would increase, while interest income from loans with interest rate floors would not change until interest rates exceed the stated rate of the interest rate floors or upon the re-pricing or principal repayment of the loans.

The following table shows the hypothetical estimated change in net interest income over a 12-month period based on a static, instantaneous parallel shift in interest rates applied to our portfolio and cash and cash equivalents as of December 31, 2016. Our modeling is based on contractual terms and does not consider prepayment or changes in the composition of our portfolio or our current capital structure. It further generalizes that both variable rate assets and liabilities are indexed to a flat 3 month LIBOR yield curve. Although we believe these measurements are representative of our interest rate sensitivity, we can give no assurance that actual results would not differ materially from our modeled outcomes.

Estimated Change

| | Rate Change (Basis Points) | in Net Interest Income Over 12 Months (\$ in thousands) |
|-------------|---|--|
| Decrease of | 100 | \$ 19,921 |
| Increase of | 100 | 11,905 |
| Increase of | 200 | 24,363 |
| Increase of | 300 | 36,822 |

The estimated changes in net interest income reflect the potential effect of interest rate floors on loans totaling approximately \$3.2 billion. Due to the presence of these interest rate floors, as interest rates begin to rise from current levels, the cost of our variable rate debt increases. The interest rate on performing loans will remain fixed until the contractual rate exceeds the stated rate on the interest rate floors. Consequently, the result may be a negative net interest income impact as interest rates initially increase until they reach an inflection point. Beyond this inflection point, which is typically close to the portfolios weighted average stated floor rate, the benefit of rising rates begins to accrue to us as the interest rate on performing loans starts to adjust upward.

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

NEWSTAR FINANCIAL, INC.

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders

NewStar Financial, Inc.:

We have audited NewStar Financial Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016, based on criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). NewStar Financial Inc.'s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audit also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, NewStar Financial Inc. maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016, based on criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of NewStar Financial Inc. as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, changes in stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2016, and our report dated March 2, 2017 expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Boston, Massachusetts
March 2, 2017

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders

NewStar Financial Inc.:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of NewStar Financial Inc. and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, changes in stockholders’ equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three year period ended December 31, 2016. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of NewStar Financial Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2016 and 2015 and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the years in the three year period ended December 31, 2016, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2016, based on criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), and our report dated March 2, 2017 expressed an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ KPMG LLP
Boston, Massachusetts
March 2, 2017

NEWSTAR FINANCIAL, INC.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

| | December 31, 2016 | December 31, 2015 |
|--|--|----------------------|
| | (\$ in thousands, except share and par value amounts) | |
| Assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 154,480 | \$ 35,933 |
| Restricted cash | 262,643 | 153,992 |
| Cash collateral on deposit with custodians | 7,564 | 61,081 |
| Investments in debt securities, available-for-sale | 119,307 | 94,177 |
| Loans held-for-sale, net | 144,060 | 478,785 |
| Loans and leases, net (including loans at fair value of \$403,745 and \$0, respectively) | 3,239,191 | 3,134,072 |
| Interest receivable | 14,622 | 13,932 |
| Property and equipment, net | 274 | 638 |
| Deferred income taxes, net | 40,807 | 33,133 |
| Income tax receivable | — | 5,342 |
| Goodwill | 17,884 | 17,884 |
| Identified intangible assets, net | 572 | 910 |
| Other assets | 39,188 | 21,504 |
| Total assets | \$ 4,040,592 | \$ 4,051,383 |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Credit facilities, net | \$ 445,493 | \$ 832,686 |
| Term debt securitizations, net | 2,195,064 | 1,821,519 |
| Senior notes, net | 373,919 | 372,153 |
| Subordinated notes, net | 241,390 | 209,509 |
| Repurchase agreements, net | 55,046 | 96,224 |
| Accrued interest payable | 21,319 | 18,073 |
| Income tax payable | 12,562 | — |
| Other liabilities | 48,377 | 41,741 |
| Total liabilities | 3,393,170 | 3,391,905 |
| Stockholders' equity: | | |
| Preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share (5,000,000 shares authorized; no shares outstanding) | | |
| Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share: | | |
| Shares authorized: 145,000,000 in 2016 and 2015; | | |
| Shares outstanding 42,820,198 in 2016 and 46,527,288 in 2015 | 428 | 465 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 743,783 | 742,970 |
| Retained earnings | 59,577 | 31,353 |
| Common stock held in treasury, at cost \$0.01 par value; 14,352,904 in 2016 and 9,154,548 in 2015 | | |
| | (152,720) | (109,245) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss, net | (3,646) | (6,065) |
| Total stockholders' equity | 647,422 | 659,478 |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$ 4,040,592 | \$ 4,051,383 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

NEWSTAR FINANCIAL, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|---|-----------|-----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
| | (\$ in thousands, except per share amounts) | | |
| Net interest income: | | | |
| Interest income | \$250,716 | \$201,785 | \$136,171 |
| Interest expense | 161,345 | 120,986 | 57,775 |
| Net interest income | 89,371 | 80,799 | 78,396 |
| Provision for credit losses | 27,541 | 18,387 | 27,108 |
| Net interest income after provision for credit losses | 61,830 | 62,412 | 51,288 |
| Non-interest income: | | | |
| Asset management income | 13,399 | 6,661 | 1,054 |
| Fee income | 7,278 | 13,508 | 2,467 |
| Realized loss on derivatives, net | (184) | (29) | (39) |
| Realized (loss) gain on sale of loans, net | (2,095) | 467 | (230) |
| Other miscellaneous income, net | 10,352 | 5,271 | 8,801 |
| Loss on total return swap | (6,062) | (4,953) | (863) |
| Gain (loss) on loans held-for-sale, net | 2,406 | (2,568) | 26 |
| Gain on sale of divested business and assets | 29,166 | — | — |
| Total non-interest income | 54,260 | 18,357 | 11,216 |
| Operating expenses: | | | |
| Compensation and benefits | 43,344 | 35,909 | 30,383 |
| General and administrative expenses | 24,095 | 16,019 | 15,133 |
| Total operating expenses | 67,439 | 51,928 | 45,516 |
| Operating income before income taxes | 48,651 | 28,841 | 16,988 |
| Results of Consolidated Variable Interest Entity: | | | |
| Interest income | — | — | 5,268 |
| Interest expense— credit facilities | — | — | 2,865 |
| Interest expense—Fund membership interest | — | — | 1,292 |
| Other income | — | — | 229 |
| Operating expenses | — | — | 249 |
| Net results from Consolidated Variable Interest Entity | — | — | 1,091 |
| Income before income taxes | 48,651 | 28,841 | 18,079 |
| Income tax expense | 20,427 | 11,951 | 7,485 |
| Net income | \$28,224 | \$16,890 | \$10,594 |
| Basic Earnings per share | \$0.61 | \$0.37 | \$0.22 |
| Diluted Earnings per share | 0.61 | 0.35 | 0.21 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

NEWSTAR FINANCIAL, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|---|----------|----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
| | (\$ in thousands, except per share amounts) | | |
| Net income | \$28,224 | \$16,890 | \$10,594 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax: | | | |
| Net unrealized securities gains (losses), net of tax expense (benefit) | | | |
| of \$1,613, \$(4,112) and \$(401), respectively | 2,329 | (5,985) | (583) |
| Net unrealized derivative gains (losses), net of tax expense (benefit) | | | |
| of \$62, \$(33) and \$(10), respectively | 90 | (47) | (19) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) | 2,419 | (6,032) | (602) |
| Comprehensive income | \$30,643 | \$10,858 | \$9,992 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

NEWSTAR FINANCIAL, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

| | NewStar Financial, Inc. Stockholders' Equity | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|--|---|------------|
| | Preferred Stock | Common Stock | Paid-in Capital | Retained Earnings (Accumulated Deficit) | Treasury Stock | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss), net | Retained Earnings Consolidated Stockholders' Equity | |
| | (\$ in thousands) | (\$ in thousands) | (\$ in thousands) | (\$ in thousands) | (\$ in thousands) | (\$ in thousands) | (\$ in thousands) | |
| Balance at December 31, 2013 | \$— | \$ 487 | \$ 655,143 | \$ 2,624 | \$(43,271) | \$ 569 | \$ 658 | \$ 616,210 |
| Net income | — | — | — | 9,952 | — | — | 642 | 10,594 |
| Other comprehensive loss | — | — | — | — | — | (602) | — | (602) |
| Issuance of restricted stock | — | 1 | (1) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Net shares reacquired from employee transactions | — | — | — | — | (533) | — | — | (533) |
| Tax benefit from vesting of restricted common stock awards | — | — | 1,819 | — | — | — | — | 1,819 |
| Repurchase of common stock | — | (29) | 29 | — | (34,672) | — | — | (34,672) |
| Issuance of warrants | — | — | 41,785 | — | — | — | — | 41,785 |
| Exercise of warrants | — | 3 | 15,244 | — | (14,248) | — | — | 999 |
| Exercise of common stock options, net | — | 4 | 300 | — | — | — | — | 304 |
| Tax benefit form exercise of common stock awards | — | — | 1,920 | — | — | — | — | 1,920 |
| Reclassification of VIE dividend | — | — | — | — | — | — | 587 | 587 |
| Deconsolidation of VIE | — | — | — | 1,887 | — | — | (1,887) | — |
| Amortization of restricted common stock awards | — | — | 2,532 | — | — | — | — | 2,532 |
| Amortization of stock option awards | — | — | 54 | — | — | — | — | 54 |
| Balance December 31, 2014 | — | 466 | 718,825 | 14,463 | (92,724) | (33) | — | 640,997 |
| Net income | — | — | — | 16,890 | — | — | — | 16,890 |

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| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|--------|------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|------|------------|
| Other comprehensive loss | — | — | — | — | — | (6,032) | — | (6,032) |
| Issuance of restricted stock | — | 4 | (4) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Net shares reacquired from employee transactions | — | (1) | 1 | — | (603) | — | — | (603) |
| Tax expense from vesting of restricted common stock awards | — | — | (164) | — | — | — | — | (164) |
| Repurchase of common stock | — | (15) | 15 | — | (15,918) | — | — | (15,918) |
| Issuance of warrants | — | — | 21,766 | — | — | — | — | 21,766 |
| Exercise of warrants | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Exercise of common stock options, net | — | 11 | (2,843) | — | — | — | — | (2,832) |
| Tax benefit from exercise of common stock awards | — | — | 2,101 | — | — | — | — | 2,101 |
| Amortization of restricted common stock awards | — | — | 3,273 | — | — | — | — | 3,273 |
| Balance December 31, 2015 | — | 465 | 742,970 | 31,353 | (109,245) | (6,065) | — | 659,478 |
| Net income | — | — | — | 28,224 | — | — | — | 28,224 |
| Other comprehensive income | — | — | — | — | — | 2,419 | — | 2,419 |
| Issuance of restricted stock | — | 6 | (6) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Net shares reacquired from employee transactions | — | (1) | 1 | — | (445) | — | — | (445) |
| Tax benefit from vesting of restricted common stock awards | — | — | (473) | — | — | — | — | (473) |
| Repurchase of common stock | — | (51) | 51 | — | (43,030) | — | — | (43,030) |
| Exercise of common stock options, net | — | 9 | (1,003) | — | — | — | — | (994) |
| Tax expense from exercise of common stock awards | — | — | (1,499) | — | — | — | — | (1,499) |
| Amortization of restricted common stock awards | — | — | 3,742 | — | — | — | — | 3,742 |
| Balance December 31, 2016 | \$— | \$ 428 | \$ 743,783 | \$ 59,577 | \$ (152,720) | \$ (3,646) | \$ — | \$ 647,422 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

NEWSTAR FINANCIAL, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | |
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | | |
| Net income | \$28,224 | \$16,890 | \$10,594 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash used for operations: | | | |
| Provision for credit losses | 27,541 | 18,387 | 27,108 |
| Depreciation and amortization and accretion, net | (14,550) | (9,431) | (9,381) |
| Amortization of debt issuance costs | 19,201 | 19,330 | 6,938 |
| Equity compensation expense | 3,742 | 3,273 | 2,586 |
| Gain on sale of Business Credit | (22,511) | — | — |
| Gain on sale of Equipment Finance assets | (6,655) | — | — |
| Loss (gain) on sale of loans, net | 2,095 | (467) | 230 |
| Gain on repurchase of debt | — | — | — |
| Losses (gains) on other real estate owned | — | 82 | (15) |
| Gains on lease equipment | (798) | (601) | — |
| Gains from equity method investments, net | — | — | (1,625) |
| Loss from total return swap | 6,062 | 4,953 | 863 |
| Net change in deferred income taxes | (9,348) | (905) | 2,573 |
| Loans held-for-sale originated | (437,252) | (677,445) | (328,157) |
| Proceeds from sale and repayment of loans held-for-sale | 826,815 | 396,661 | 174,985 |
| Unrealized (gain) loss on loans held-for-sale | (2,406) | 2,568 | — |
| Net change in interest receivable | (2,133) | (6,455) | (62) |
| Net change in other assets | (12,477) | (6,970) | (10,462) |
| Net change in accrued interest payable | 3,246 | 11,497 | 243 |
| Net change in other liabilities | 3,065 | 11,258 | 9,867 |
| Consolidated Variable Interest Entity: | | | |
| Amortization of debt issuance costs | — | — | 1,247 |
| Depreciation and amortization and accretion | — | — | (315) |
| Net change in interest receivable | — | — | 1,079 |
| Net change in other assets | — | — | 946 |
| Net change in accrued interest payable | — | — | (606) |
| Net change in accounts payable | — | — | 587 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | 411,861 | (217,375) | (110,777) |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | | |
| Payment for acquisition, net of cash acquired | — | (19,183) | — |
| Net change in restricted cash | (108,651) | (58,581) | 72,509 |
| Net change in loans and leases | (125,658) | (836,347) | (261,756) |
| Purchase of equity investments | (3,637) | — | — |
| Proceeds from sale of other real estate owned | — | 3,211 | 10,276 |
| Purchase of debt securities available-for-sale | (26,313) | (89,602) | (38,255) |
| Proceeds from repayments of debt securities available-for-sale | 6,000 | 33,000 | 14,000 |
| Acquisition of property and equipment | (19) | (218) | (80) |
| Consolidated Variable Interest Entity: | | | |
| Net change in loans | — | — | 171,427 |

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| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Net change in restricted cash | — | — | 1,950 |
| VIE cash dividends | — | — | (671) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (258,278) | (967,720) | (30,600) |

(continued)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

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NEWSTAR FINANCIAL, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS, continued

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | | |
| Proceeds from exercise of stock options, net | (994) | (2,843) | 300 |
| Proceeds from exercise of warrants | — | — | 999 |
| Tax (expense) benefit from exercise of stock options | (1,499) | 2,101 | 1,920 |
| Tax (expense) benefit from vesting of restricted stock | (473) | (164) | 1,819 |
| Advances on credit facilities | 1,574,022 | 2,701,016 | 1,557,162 |
| Repayment of borrowings on credit facilities | (1,963,618) | (2,344,888) | (1,401,552) |
| Issuance of term debt | 43,447 | 824,163 | 289,500 |
| Borrowings on term debt | 600,250 | 61,500 | 77,900 |
| Repayment of borrowings on term debt | (268,684) | (241,010) | (386,587) |
| Borrowings on corporate debt | — | — | 38,500 |
| Repayment of corporate debt | — | (238,500) | — |
| Issuance of senior notes | — | 379,208 | — |
| Issuance of subordinated notes | 24,500 | 73,500 | 200,000 |
| Borrowings on repurchase agreements | 19,998 | 139,744 | — |
| Repayment of borrowings on repurchase agreements | (61,741) | (100,182) | (10,727) |
| Release (posting) of cash collateral | 53,517 | (22,106) | (38,975) |
| Payment of deferred financing costs | (10,286) | (27,023) | (13,451) |
| Purchase of treasury stock | (43,475) | (16,521) | (35,205) |
| Consolidated Variable Interest Entity: | | | |
| Advances on credit facilities | — | — | 17,156 |
| Repayment of borrowings on credit facilities | — | — | (137,500) |
| Borrowings on subordinated debt | — | — | — |
| Repayment of borrowings on subordinated debt | — | — | (30,000) |
| Payment of deferred financing costs | — | — | (250) |
| Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities | (35,036) | 1,187,995 | 131,009 |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash during the period | \$ 118,547 | \$ 2,900 | \$ (10,368) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | 35,933 | 33,033 | 43,401 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | \$ 154,480 | \$ 35,933 | \$ 33,033 |
| Supplemental cash flows information: | | | |
| Interest paid | \$ 158,099 | \$ 109,489 | \$ 57,532 |
| Interest paid by VIE | — | — | 4,763 |
| Taxes paid, net of refund | 13,841 | 12,631 | 2,554 |
| Transfers of loans held-for-sale to loans, net | — | 7,740 | — |
| Transfers of loans, net to loans held-for-sale, at fair value | 72,091 | 34,387 | 32,567 |
| Transfers of LHFS, net to other real estate owned, at fair value | 15,272 | 250 | — |
| Unsettled trades payable | 14,000 | — | — |
| Issuance of warrants | — | 21,766 | 41,785 |
| Fair value of assets acquired, net of cash acquired | — | 3,464 | — |
| Fair value of liabilities assumed | — | 2,165 | — |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

NEWSTAR FINANCIAL, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1. Organization

NewStar Financial, Inc. is an internally-managed, commercial finance company with \$6.7 billion of assets managed across two complementary business lines- middle market direct lending and asset management. The Company's direct lending activities are focused on meeting the complex financing needs of companies and private investors in the middle market through by offering a range of flexible debt financing options. Through its asset management platforms, NewStar offers a range of investment products employing credit-oriented strategies focused on middle market loans and liquid, tradeable credit. The Company manages approximately \$1.3 billion of assets in a series of private credit funds that co-invest in middle market loans originated through its established leveraged finance lending platform and its strategic relationship with GSO Capital, the credit division of The Blackstone Group. Through its wholly-owned subsidiary, NewStar Capital, the Company also has more than \$2 billion of assets managed across a series of CLOs that invest primarily in broadly syndicated, non-investment grade loans, as well as other sponsored funds and managed accounts that invest across various asset classes, including non-investment grade loans and bonds.

These lending activities require specialized skills and transaction experience, as well as a significant investment in personnel and operating infrastructure. To meet these demands, our loans and leases are originated directly by teams of credit-trained bankers organized around key industry and market segments. These teams are supported by centralized credit management and operating platforms. This structure enables us to leverage common standards, systems, and industry and professional expertise across multiple businesses.

The Company targets its marketing and origination efforts at private equity firms, mid-sized companies, corporate executives, banks and a variety of other referral sources and financial intermediaries to develop new customer relationships and source lending opportunities. The Company's origination network is national in scope and it targets companies with business operations across a broad range of industry sectors. The Company employs highly experienced bankers and credit professionals to identify and structure new lending opportunities and manage customer relationships. The Company believes that the quality of its professionals, the breadth of their relationships and referral networks, and their ability to develop creative solutions for customers position it to be a valued partner and preferred lender for mid-sized companies and private equity funds with middle market investment strategies.

The Company's emphasis on direct origination is an important aspect of its marketing and credit strategy. The Company's national network is designed around specialized origination channels intended to generate a large set of potential lending opportunities. That allows the Company to be highly selective in its credit process and to allocate capital to market segments that we believe represent the most attractive opportunities. The Company's direct origination network also generates proprietary lending opportunities with yield characteristics that we believe would not otherwise be available through intermediaries. In addition, direct origination provides the Company with direct access to management teams and enhances its ability to conduct detailed due diligence and credit analysis of prospective borrowers. It also allows the Company to negotiate transaction terms directly with borrowers and, as a result, advise its customers on financial strategies and capital structures, which it believes benefits its credit performance.

The Company typically provides financing commitments to companies in amounts that range in size from \$15 million to \$50 million. The size of financing commitments depends on various factors, including the type of loan, the credit

characteristics of the borrower, the economic characteristics of the loan, and the Company's role in the transaction. The Company also selectively arranges larger transactions that it may retain on its balance sheet or syndicate to other lenders, which may include funds that it manages for third party institutional investors. By syndicating loans to other lenders and the Company's managed funds, it is able to provide larger financing commitments to its customers and generate fee income, while limiting our risk exposure to single borrowers. From time to time, however, the Company's balance sheet exposure to a single borrower exceeds \$35 million.

Beginning in January 2016, the Company's operations were divided into two reportable segments that represent its core businesses, Commercial Lending and Asset Management.

The Commercial Lending segment represents our direct lending activities which are focused on providing a range of flexible senior secured debt options to mid-sized companies with annual cash flow (EBITDA) typically between \$15 million and \$50 million owned by private equity investment funds and managed by established professional alternative asset managers.

The Asset Management segment represents our investment advisory activities which are focused on providing opportunities for qualified investors to invest in a range of credit funds managed by the Company. The Asset Management segment manages a series of private credit funds that co-invest in middle market loans originated through its established direct lending platform. Additionally, through its wholly-owned subsidiary, NewStar Capital, the Company also manages assets across a series of CLOs that invest primarily

in broadly syndicated loans, as well as other sponsored funds and managed accounts that invest across various liquid, non-investment grade asset classes, including broadly syndicated loans and bonds.

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Consolidation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries (collectively, "NewStar") have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"). All material intercompany transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Estimates most susceptible to change in the near-term are the Company's estimates of the allowance for credit losses, impairment of loans, recorded amounts of deferred income taxes, contingent liability and impairment of goodwill and identifiable intangible assets.

Prior Period Reclassifications

Certain prior period disclosure amounts have been reclassified to conform to current period presentation.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include all demand deposits held in banks and certain highly liquid instruments with original maturities of 90 days or less.

Investments in Debt Securities

Management determines the classification of securities at the time of purchase. If management has the intent and the Company has the ability at the time of purchase to hold securities until maturity, they are classified as held-to-maturity. Investment securities held-to-maturity are stated at amortized cost. Securities to be held for indefinite periods of time, but not necessarily to be held-to-maturity or on a long-term basis, are classified as available-for-sale and carried at fair value with unrealized gains or losses reported in other comprehensive income (loss), net of applicable income taxes. The fair value of debt securities are based on quoted market prices, when available, at the reporting date. When no market is available, the Company estimates fair value using various valuation tools, including cash flow analyses that utilize financial statements, business plans, as well as qualitative factors. The carrying values of all securities are adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts over the shorter of the period to call or maturity of the related security using a method that approximates the interest method. Realized gains or losses on the sale of securities, if any, are determined using the amortized cost of the specific securities sold. Management evaluates securities for other-than-temporary impairment ("OTTI") on a periodic basis. Factors considered in determining whether an impairment is OTTI include: (1) the length of time and the extent to which the fair value has been less than amortized cost, (2) projected future cash flows, (3) the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuers and (4) the intent and ability of the Company to hold the investment for a period of time sufficient to allow for recovery in fair value which may be until maturity. The Company records an OTTI loss in an amount equal to the entire difference between the fair value and amortized cost if (1) the Company intends to

sell an impaired investment security, (2) it is more likely than not that the Company will be required to sell the investment security before its amortized costs are recovered or (3) for debt securities, the present value of expected future cash flows is not sufficient to recover the entire amortized cost basis. If an investment security is determined to be OTTI but the Company does not intend to sell the investment security, only the credit portion of the estimated loss is recognized in earnings, with the non-credit portion of the loss recognized in other comprehensive income.

Loans Held-for-Sale

Loans classified as held-for-sale consist of loans originated by the Company, intended to be sold or syndicated to third parties (including credit funds managed by the Company) or impaired loans for which a sale of the loan is expected as a result of a workout strategy. These loans are carried at the lower of aggregate cost, net of any deferred origination costs or fees, or fair value.

Loans

Loans are stated at the principal amount outstanding or fair value when fair value option accounting has been elected. The Company has elected to apply fair value option accounting to loans designated to the credit funds managed by NewStar Capital. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis in accordance with the terms of the respective loan. Loans on which the accrual of interest has been discontinued are designated as nonaccrual loans. The accrual of interest on loans is typically discontinued when principal or interest payments are past due 90 days or when, in the opinion of management, it is probable it will be unable to collect contractual principal and interest in the normal course of business. When loans are placed on nonaccrual status, all interest previously accrued but not collected is reversed against current period interest income. Income on nonaccrual loans is subsequently recognized only to the extent that cash is received and the loan's principal balance is deemed collectible.

Nonrefundable loan fees and related direct costs associated with the origination of loans are deferred and included in loans, net in the consolidated balance sheet. The net deferred fees or costs are recognized as an adjustment to interest income over the contractual life of the loans using a method which approximates the interest method or taken into income when the related loans are paid off or sold. The Company accretes any discount from purchased loans into loan fee income as a yield adjustment over the contractual life of the loan. The amortization of loan fees is discontinued on non-accrual loans.

Provision and Allowance for Credit Losses

Our general allowance for credit losses covers probable losses incurred in our loan and lease amortized cost portfolio with respect to loans and leases that are not impaired and for which no specific impairment has been identified. A specific provision for credit losses is recorded with respect to loans for which it is probable that we will be unable to collect all amounts due in accordance with the contractual terms of the loan agreement. The Company employs a variety of internally developed and third-party modeling and estimation tools for measuring credit risk, which are used in developing an allowance for loan and lease losses on outstanding loans and leases within our amortized cost portfolio. The Company's allowance framework addresses economic conditions, capital market liquidity and industry circumstances from both a top-down and bottom-up perspective. The Company considers and evaluates a number of factors, including but not limited to, changes in economic conditions, credit availability, industry, loss emergence period, and multiple obligor concentrations in assessing both probabilities of default and loss severities as part of the general component of the allowance for loan and lease losses.

The Company periodically reviews its allowance for credit loss methodology to assess any necessary adjustments based upon changing economic and capital market conditions. If the Company determines that changes in its allowance for credit losses methodology are advisable, as a result of changes in the economic environment or otherwise, the revised allowance methodology may result in higher or lower levels of allowance. In 2015, the Company enhanced its approach for determining the expected exposure at default to more precisely reflect loan and lease exposures at December 31, 2015. Given uncertain market conditions, actual losses under the Company's current or any revised allowance methodology may differ materially from the Company's estimate.

Additionally, when determining the amount of the general allowance, the Company supplements the base amount with an environmental reserve amount which is governed by a score card system comprised of seven risk factors. In 2015, the scoring system of the environmental reserve risk factors was recalibrated to align with the enhancement made to the approach for determining the exposure at default. The Company also performs a ratio analysis of comparable money center banks, regional banks and finance companies. While the Company does not rely on this peer group comparison to set the level of allowance for credit losses, it does assist management in identifying market trends and serves as an overall reasonableness check on the allowance for credit losses computation.

A loan is considered impaired when it is probable that a creditor will be unable to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the loan agreement. Impairment of a loan is based upon (i) the present value of expected

future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate, (ii) the loan's observable market price, or (iii) the fair value of the collateral if the loan is collateral dependent, depending on the circumstances and our collection strategy. Impaired loans are identified based on the loan-by-loan risk rating process described above. Impaired loans include all non-accrual loans, loans with partial charge-offs and loans which are Troubled Debt Restructurings (see Note 4). It is the Company's policy during the reporting period to record a specific provision for credit losses to cover the identified impairment on a loan.

Impaired loans at December 31, 2016 were in Leveraged Finance over a range of industries impacted by the current economic environment including the following: Media and Communications, Healthcare, Energy, Industrial, Other Business Services, Consumer/Retail and Building Materials. For impaired Leveraged Finance loans, the Company measured impairment based on expected cash flows utilizing relevant information provided by the borrower and consideration of other market conditions or specific factors impacting recoverability. Such amounts are discounted based on original loan terms.

Loans deemed to be uncollectible are charged off and the allowance is reduced by the charged off balance of the loan. The provision for credit losses and recoveries on loans previously charged off are added to the allowance.

Deferred Financing Costs

Deferred financing costs represent fees and other direct incremental costs incurred in connection with borrowings and term debt securitizations. These amounts are amortized using the straight-line method into earnings as interest expense ratably over the contractual term of the facility or the estimated life of the term debt securitization.

Debt and equity linked instruments

We account for the subordinated notes and associated warrants issued to Franklin Square as debt and equity-linked instruments. The warrants are freestanding, indexed to the Company's common stock and are classified as equity. They were initially recorded at relative fair value, with no subsequent re-measurement. The allocation of the proceeds from the issuance of debt and warrants to Franklin Square was determined using the relative fair value method. The allocation of proceeds to the warrants created a debt discount to the subordinated debt and will be amortized over the life of the subordinated notes. The subordinated debt is presented net of the debt discount.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are carried at cost and depreciated or amortized on a straight-line basis over the following useful lives:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Leasehold improvements | Shorter of estimated life or remaining lease term |
| Furniture, fixtures and equipment | 3-5 years |

Goodwill and Identified Intangible Assets

Goodwill represents the excess of the consideration paid of an acquisition over the fair value of the net assets acquired. Goodwill is not subject to amortization but tested for impairment at least annually utilizing a qualitative or quantitative approach or more frequently if events or circumstances occur that indicate that impairment may have occurred. Factors that could trigger an impairment review include significant underperformance relative to historical or projected operating results, significant changes in the use of acquired assets or significant negative industry or economic trends.

The Company performs its assessment for impairment of goodwill annually. As part of this evaluation, the Company makes a qualitative assessment of whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of an acquired asset is greater than its carrying amount. If the Company qualitatively concludes that it is more likely than not that the fair value of an acquired asset is greater than its carrying amount, no further testing is necessary. If, however, the Company qualitatively concludes that it is more likely than not that the fair value of an acquired asset is less than its carrying value, the Company performs a two-step quantitative impairment test to determine whether the asset is impaired. If impairment is deemed to have occurred, then an impairment loss would be recognized for the amount by which the carrying amount exceeds its fair value.

Identified intangible assets are assets resulting from acquisitions that are being amortized over their estimated useful lives. The recoverability of identified intangible assets is evaluated for impairment at least annually. If impairment is deemed to have occurred, then an impairment loss would be recognized for the amount by which the carrying amount exceeds fair value.

Earnings Per Share (“EPS”)

The Company utilizes the two-class method to calculate earnings per share, which requires that unvested share-based awards be treated as participating securities in the computation of EPS. Under the two-class method, earnings are allocated to common shareholders and participating securities based upon the proportion of each to the total weighted average shares available. Basic earnings per common share is computed by dividing net earnings allocated to common shareholders by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding. Diluted earnings reflect the potential dilution that would occur if securities or other contracts to issue common stock were exercised or converted into common stock or resulted in the issuance of common stock that then shared in our earnings.

Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. A fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability occurs in the principal market for the asset or liability or, in the absence of a principal market, the most advantageous market for the asset or liability. The price in the principal (or most advantageous) market used to measure the fair value of the asset or liability is not adjusted for transaction costs. An orderly transaction is a transaction that assumes exposure to the market for a period prior to the measurement date to allow for marketing activities that are usual and customary for transactions involving such assets and liabilities. Market participants are buyers and sellers in the principal market that are independent, knowledgeable, able to transact and willing to transact.

ASC 820, Fair Value Measurement, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and provides disclosures about fair value measurements. The required disclosures about fair value measurements have been included in Note 18.

Income Taxes

Income taxes are accounted for under the asset and liability method. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases, and operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. The effect on deferred tax assets and liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date. The Company classifies all interest and penalties on recognized tax benefits as a part of income tax expense.

Fee Income Recognition

Origination fees and costs are deferred and amortized as yield adjustments over the contractual life of the loans and investments. In connection with the prepayment of a loan or other debt product, any remaining unamortized net deferred fees for that loan are accelerated and, depending on the terms of the loan, there may be an additional fee charged based upon the prepayment and recognized in the period of the prepayment. Syndication and structuring fees are recognized in the period the service is completed and funds received as fee income.

Asset Management Income

NewStar Financial, Inc. earns asset management income for investment management services performed for managed credit funds that co-invest in middle market loans originated through its established direct lending platform and managed assets across a series of CLOs that investment primarily in broadly syndicated loans, as well as other sponsored funds and managed accounts. NewStar accrues this income when earned, on a monthly basis, and classifies it as asset management income in the consolidated statements of operations.

Stock Based Compensation

The Company follows ASC 718, Share-Based Payment, which requires all share-based payments to employees, including grants of employee stock options, to be recognized in the financial statements based on their fair values on the grant date.

For awards granted, modified, repurchased or cancelled after January 1, 2006, the Company estimates the fair value of stock-based awards using the Black-Scholes valuation model, which requires the input of subjective assumptions, including expected term and expected price volatility. Changes in these assumptions can materially affect the calculated fair value of stock-based compensation and the related expense to be recognized. Further, for awards that contain performance measures and conditions, the Company makes an assessment, based on management's judgment, of the probability of these conditions being satisfied, which affects the timing and the amount of expense to be recognized. If the Company's judgment as to whether these conditions are probable of occurrence are not appropriate, the financial statements could be materially affected.

Gain (loss) on sale of loans

All loans sold to date have been sold without recourse. When loans are sold, a gain or loss is recognized to the extent that the sales proceeds net of deferred fees and costs exceed or are less than the carrying value of the loans. Gains and losses are determined using the specific identification method.

Equity and Cost Method Investments

The Company may acquire a portion of the equity in borrowers. In cases where the Company has the ability to exercise significant influence over the borrower, it accounts for its equity interest under the equity method of accounting. Under the equity method of accounting, the Company recognizes its proportional share of the borrower's GAAP net income in its results of operations. In cases where the equity of the underlying company has no value, and the borrower incurs losses, the Company will apply its proportional share of the GAAP loss against the principal of the outstanding loan to the borrower. In circumstances where we do not have substantial influence over the company, we account for the equity interest under the cost method of accounting. The equity interest is recorded at its historical cost within other assets on our consolidated balance sheet. The Company evaluates its equity and cost method investments for impairment by assessing whether the fair value of the equity interest has declined below its carrying value for a period we consider other-than-temporary. If it determines that a decline in fair value below our carrying value is other-than-temporary, an impairment is recognized to reduce the carrying value of the investment to its fair value.

Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities

The Company accounts for derivatives and hedging activities on the consolidated balance sheet in either other assets or other liabilities at their respective fair values.

On the date a derivative contract is entered into, the Company designates the derivative as either (1) a hedge of a forecasted transaction or the variability of cash flows to be received or paid related to a recognized asset or liability (cash flow hedge) or as (2) a derivative trading instrument. For all hedging relationships the Company formally documents the hedging relationship and its risk-management objective and strategy for undertaking the hedge, the hedging instrument, the item, the nature of the risk being hedged, how the hedging instrument's effectiveness in offsetting the hedged risk will be assessed, and a description of the method of measuring ineffectiveness. This process includes linking all derivatives that are designated as hedges to specific assets and liabilities on the balance sheet or to forecasted transactions. The Company also formally assesses, both at the hedge's inception and on an ongoing basis, whether the derivatives that are used in hedging transactions are highly effective in offsetting changes in cash flows of hedged items. Changes in the fair value of a derivative that is highly effective and that is designated and qualifies as a cash-flow hedge are recorded in other comprehensive income to the extent that the derivative is effective as a hedge, until earnings are affected by the variability in cash flows of the designated hedged item. The ineffective portion of the change in fair value of a derivative instrument that qualifies as a cash-flow hedge is reported in earnings.

The Company discontinues hedge accounting prospectively when it is determined that the derivative is no longer effective in offsetting changes in the cash flows of the hedged item, the derivative expires or is sold, terminated, or exercised, the derivative is de-designated as a hedging instrument because it is unlikely that a forecasted transaction will occur, or management determines that designation of the derivative as a hedging instrument is no longer appropriate. In all situations in which hedge accounting is discontinued or was never applied, the Company continues to carry the derivative at its fair value on the balance sheet and recognizes any subsequent changes in its fair value in earnings. When hedge accounting is discontinued because it is probable that a forecasted transaction will not occur by the date (or within the time period) originally specified or within an additional two-month period of time thereafter, the Company recognizes immediately in earnings, gains and losses that were accumulated in other comprehensive income. Gains and losses on derivatives not designated as hedges, including any cash payments made or received, are reported as gain (loss) on derivatives in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations.

Total Return Swap

The Company was party to a total return swap ("TRS") through March 31, 2016. A TRS is a contract in which one party agrees to make periodic payments to another party based on the change in the market value of the assets underlying the TRS, in return for periodic payments based on a fixed or variable interest rate. The TRS effectively added leverage to our portfolio by providing investment exposure to underlying loans without owning or taking physical custody, in return for an interest-type payment to Citi. The TRS was recorded at fair value as an asset or liability with changes in fair value recorded as unrealized appreciation or depreciation. Realized gains or losses are recognized at the maturity of the contract.

Comprehensive Income (Loss), net of tax

The Company records the change in fair value of cash flow hedge derivatives and unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale securities in other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax. Gains and losses on available-for-sale securities are reclassified to net income as the gains and losses are realized upon sale of the securities. Other than temporary impairment charges are reclassified to earnings at the time of the charge.

Recently Adopted Accounting Standards

In September 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-16, Simplifying the Accounting for Measurement-Period Adjustments in Business Combinations (Topic 805). ASU 2015-16 eliminated the requirement to retrospectively adjust the financial statements for measurement-period adjustments that occur in periods after a business combination is consummated. ASU 2015-16 is effective for annual periods and interim periods within that period beginning after December 15, 2015. The Company adopted ASU 2015-16 on January 1, 2016. The adoption of ASU 2015-16 did not have a material impact on our results from operations or financial position.

In April 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-03, Interest - Imputation of Interest (Subtopic 835-30): Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs. ASU 2015-03 requires that debt issuance costs related to a recognized debt liability be presented in the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the carrying amount of the debt liability, consistent with debt discounts. ASU 2015-03 is effective for the interim or annual period beginning after December 15, 2015. The Company adopted ASU 2015-03 on January 1, 2016 and applied the standard retrospectively. The balance sheet presented has been adjusted to reflect the period specific effects of the adoption of the guidance. The adoption of ASU 2015-03 had the following impact on the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2015.

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| (in thousands) | December 31, 2015 |
|--|----------------------|
| As previously reported under GAAP applicable at the time | |
| Deferred financing costs, net | 40,733 |
| Credit facilities | 843,896 |
| Term debt securitizations, net | 1,837,889 |
| Senior notes, net | 379,232 |
| Subordinated notes, net | 215,018 |
| Repurchase agreements | 96,789 |
| As currently reported under ASU 2015-03 | |
| Deferred financing costs, net | — |
| Credit facilities, net | 832,686 |
| Term debt securitizations, net | 1,821,519 |
| Senior notes, net | 372,153 |
| Subordinated notes, net | 209,509 |
| Repurchase agreements, net | 96,224 |

In August 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-15, Presentation of Financial Statements- Going Concern (Subtopic 205-40). ASU 2014-15 provides guidance about management's responsibility to evaluate whether there is substantial doubt about an entity's ability to continue as a going concern and to provide related footnote disclosures. ASU 2014-15 is effective for the annual period ending after December 15, 2016, and for annual periods and interim periods thereafter. The Company adopted ASU 2014-15 on December 31, 2016. The adoption of ASU 2014-15 did not have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards not yet required to be adopted as of December 31, 2016

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606). ASU 2014-09 requires an entity to recognize the amount of revenue to which it expects to be entitled for the transfer of promised goods or services to customers. ASU 2014-09 will replace most existing revenue recognition guidance in GAAP when it becomes effective. The standard permits the use of either the retrospective or cumulative effect transition method. In August 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-14, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606): Deferral of the Effective Date, which deferred the effective date of ASU 2014-09 to annual and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2017, while earlier application is permitted only for annual and interim periods beginning after December 31, 2016. In March, 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-08, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606): Principal versus Agent Considerations (Reporting Revenue Gross versus Net), that clarifies how to apply revenue recognition guidance related to whether an entity is a principal or an agent. The update clarifies that an entity is a principal when it controls the specified good or service before that good or service is transferred to the customer, and is an agent when it does not control the specified good or service before it is transferred to the customer. The effective date and transition of ASU 2016-08 is the same as the effective date and transition of ASU 2014-09. The Company has established a team which continues to evaluate and document the possible impacts of the standard, including potential changes to the accounting for investment management services performed, and also considering any reporting, tax and operational implications. The Company has not yet finalized a decision regarding a transition method and does not expect the provisions of ASU 2014-09 to result in any material changes to the timing of when revenue is recognized. The Company will adopt this standard effective January 1, 2018.

In November 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-17, Income Taxes (Topic 740). ASU 2015-17 eliminates the requirement to separate deferred income tax liabilities into current and non-current classification in a classified balance sheet. It further requires that all deferred income taxes be classified as non-current in a classified balance sheet. ASU 2015-17 is effective for annual periods and interim periods within that reporting period beginning after December 15, 2016, with early adoption permitted. ASU 2015-17 is effective for annual periods and interim periods within that reporting period beginning after December 15, 2016. ASU 2015-17 may be applied prospectively or retrospectively. The Company does not classify its deferred income tax liabilities into current and non-current in its Consolidated Balance Sheet. As a result, there is no impact of the adoption of ASU 2015-17 to the Company.

In January 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-01, Financial Instruments – Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities (Topic 825-10). ASU 2016-01 amends existing guidance related to the accounting for certain financial assets and liabilities. These amendments, among other things, require equity investments (except those accounted for under the equity method of accounting, or those that result in consolidation of the investee) to be measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in net income, require public business entities to use the exit price notion when measuring the fair value of financial instruments for disclosure purposes, require separate presentation of financial assets and financial liabilities by measurement category and form of financial asset and eliminate the requirement for public business entities to disclose the method(s) and significant

assumptions used to estimate the fair value that is required to be disclosed for financial instruments measured at amortized cost. ASU 2016-01 is effective for annual periods and interim periods within that reporting period beginning after December 15, 2017, with early adoption permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of ASU 2016-01 will have on results from operations and financial position.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842). ASU 2016-02 amends existing guidance related to the accounting for leases. These amendments, among other things, require lessees to account for most leases on the balance sheet while recognizing expense on the income statement in a manner similar to existing guidance. For lessors the guidance modifies the classification criteria and the accounting for sales-type and direct finance leases. ASU 2016-02 is effective for annual periods and interim periods within that reporting period beginning after December 15, 2018, with early adoption permitted. ASU 2016-02 mandates a modified retrospective transition method for all entities. The Company has performed a preliminary analysis of ASU 2016-02. The Company typically categorizes its leases as either office space leases or as other leases. The adoption of ASU 2016-02 is expected to have an impact on the balance sheet of the Company, as both the value of the leased office space as well as the current value of future lease liabilities will be recorded. The Company does not expect there to be a material impact to financial position for all other leases due to the limited volume and size of transactions; however the evaluation has yet to be performed. The Company plans to adopt this standard effective January 1, 2019.

In March 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-07, Simplifying the Transition to the Equity Method of Accounting (Topic 323). ASU 2016-07 eliminates the requirement for an investor to retroactively apply the equity method when its increase in ownership interest (or degree of influence) in an investee triggers equity method accounting. ASU 2016-07 is effective for interim and annual periods in fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016, with early adoption permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of ASU 2016-07 will have on results from operations and financial position.

In March 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-09, Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting (Topic 718). ASU 2016-09 simplifies several aspects of the accounting for employee share-based payment transactions including the accounting for income taxes, forfeitures, and statutory tax withholding requirements, as well as classification of related amounts within the statement of cash flows. ASU 2016-09 is effective for annual periods and interim periods within that reporting period beginning after December 15, 2017, with early adoption permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of ASU 2016-09 will have on results from operations and financial position.

In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-13, Financial Instruments-Credit Losses (Topic 326). ASU 2016-13 sets forth a “current expected credit loss” (CECL) model which requires the Company to measure all expected credit losses for financial instruments held at the reporting date based on historical experience, current conditions and reasonable supportable forecasts. This replaces the existing incurred loss model and is applicable to the measurement of credit losses on financial assets measured at amortized cost and applies to some off-balance sheet credit exposures. ASU 2016-13 requires enhanced disclosures, including qualitative and quantitative requirements, to help understand significant estimates and judgments used in estimating credit losses, as well as provide additional information about the amounts recorded in the financial statements. ASU 2016-13 is effective for annual periods and interim periods within that reporting period beginning after December 15, 2019, with early adoption permitted after annual and interim periods within that reporting period beginning after December 31, 2018. ASU 2016-13 mandates a modified retrospective transition method for all entities. The Company is currently in the scoping and evaluating phase of the adoption of ASU 2016-13.

In August 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-15, Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230). ASU 2016-15 provides guidance on the classification of certain cash receipts and cash payments for presentation in the statement of cash flows. ASU 2016-15 is effective for annual periods and interim periods within that reporting period beginning after December 15, 2017, with early adoption permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact that the adoption of ASU 2016-15 will have on results from operations or financial position.

In October 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-17, Consolidation (Topic 810), Interest Held Through Related Parties That Are Under Common Control. ASU 2016-17 changes the evaluation of whether a reporting entity is the primary beneficiary of a VIE by changing how a reporting entity that is a single decision maker of a VIE treats indirect interests in the entity held through related parties that are under common control with the reporting entity. ASU 2016-17 is effective for annual periods and interim periods within that reporting period beginning after December 15, 2017, with early adoption permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the potential impact of ASU 2016-17 on our consolidated financial statements.

In November 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-18, Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230): Restricted Cash. ASU 2016-18 requires that the statement of cash flows include restricted cash in the beginning and end-of-period total amounts shown on the statement of cash flows and that the statement of cash flows explain changes in restricted cash during the period. ASU 2016-18 is effective for annual periods and interim periods within that reporting period beginning after December 15, 2017, with early adoption permitted. However, adjustments should be reflected as of the beginning of the fiscal year that includes that interim period. The

Company does not expect the adoption of ASU 2016-18 to have an impact on its financial position or result of operations and expects the impact to be disclosure only.

In January 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-04, Intangibles - Goodwill and Other (Topic 350): Simplifying the Test for Goodwill Impairment. ASU 2017-04 simplifies the measurement of goodwill impairment by eliminating Step 2 from the goodwill impairment test. Under ASU 2017-04 an entity should perform its annual or interim goodwill impairment test by comparing the fair value of the reporting unit with its carrying amount, and should recognize an impairment charge for the amount by which the carrying amount exceeds the reporting unit's fair value with the loss not exceeding the total amount of goodwill allocated to that reporting unit. ASU 2017-04 is effective for annual periods and interim periods within that reporting period beginning after December 15, 2019, with early adoption permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the potential impact of ASU 2017-04 on our consolidated financial statements.

Note 3. Acquisitions and Disposition Activities

Sale of NewStar Equipment Finance assets and related platform

On December 1, 2016, the Company sold the assets of NewStar Equipment Finance (“Equipment Finance”) and related platform to a third party and exited the business. The sale of Equipment Finance assets was the result of the Company's decision to exit businesses with economic models increasingly challenged by competition from banks and other lenders with access to lower cost funding. The sale resulted in a gain of \$6.7 million, before transaction related costs of \$4.3 million. The net gain is recorded in non-interest income on the accompanying consolidated statement of operations. In connection with the sale of the assets of Equipment Finance, the Company established a contingent liability to cover any potential credit indemnification costs resulting from actual credit losses incurred on the assets sold. As of December 31, 2016 a \$1.4 million liability was recorded to cover any potential credit losses. This liability reflects management's best estimate of losses, taking into consideration the individual credit quality and borrower activity since origination and the anticipated residual value of the assets sold. The initial indemnification is capped at \$10.0 million of actual credit losses and is reduced to \$8.0 million at December 31, 2017, further reduced to \$5.0 million at December 31, 2018, \$3.0 million at December 31, 2019 and zero as of December 31, 2020.

Sale of NewStar Business Credit LLC

On March 31, 2016, the Company sold its asset based lending business, NewStar Business Credit LLC (“Business Credit”) to a third party. The Company opted to sell Business Credit because it was faced with challenges from increasing competition with access to lower cost of funding. The sale resulted in a gain of \$22.5 million, before transaction related costs of \$2.5 million. The net gain is recorded in non-interest income on the accompanying consolidated statement of operations.

Acquisition

On October 7, 2015 (the “Acquisition Date”), the Company acquired 100% of the outstanding limited liability company interests of Boston-based Feingold O’Keeffe Capital, LLC (“FOC Partners”), a boutique credit manager. The Company operates FOC Partners as NewStar Capital, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company. The primary reason for the acquisition was to expand the Company's existing asset management capabilities.

Total consideration paid in the FOC Partners acquisition consisted of \$20.8 million in cash. The assets acquired and the liabilities assumed in the acquisition were recorded by the company at their estimated fair values as of the Acquisition Date. The excess of consideration paid over the fair value of identifiable net assets was recorded as goodwill in the consolidated financial statements. As of the Acquisition Date, the Company recorded \$17.9 million of goodwill and \$1.4 million of identified intangible assets in connection with the acquisition of FOC Partners.

Note 4. Loans Held-for-Sale, Loans and Leases, and Allowance for Credit Losses

As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, loans held-for-sale consisted of the following:

| | December 31, 2016 | December 31, 2015 |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | (\$ in thousands) | |
| Leveraged Finance | \$ 145,966 | \$ 485,874 |
| Gross loans held-for-sale | 145,966 | 485,874 |
| Deferred loan fees, net | (1,906) | (7,089) |
| Total loans, net | \$ 144,060 | \$ 478,785 |

These loans are carried at the lower of aggregate cost, net of any deferred origination costs or fees, or fair value.

At December 31, 2016, loans held-for-sale consisted of loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$146.0 million that were intended to be sold to credit funds managed by the Company. The Company sold loans with an outstanding balance totaling \$638.3 million for an aggregate loss of \$0.9 million to credit funds managed by the Company during 2016. The Company sold loans with an outstanding balance totaling \$188.2 million for an aggregate loss of \$1.5 million to entities other than credit funds during 2016. The Company sold loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$105.3 million for a gain of \$0.5 million to entities other than credit funds during 2015. The Company sold loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$59.0 million for a gain of \$0.2 million to entities other than credit funds during 2014.

As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, loans and leases consisted of the following:

| | December 31, | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (\$ in thousands) | |
| Leveraged Finance (1) | \$3,308,926 | \$2,627,314 |
| Business Credit | — | 342,281 |
| Real Estate | 10,624 | 100,732 |
| Equipment Finance | — | 173,253 |
| Gross loans and leases | 3,319,550 | 3,243,580 |
| Deferred loan fees, net | (29,423) | (51,249) |
| Allowance for loan and lease losses | (50,936) | (58,259) |
| Total loans and leases, net | \$3,239,191 | \$3,134,072 |

(1) Includes loans at fair value of \$403.7 and \$0, respectively.

The Company provides commercial loans and commercial real estate loans to customers throughout the United States. The Company's borrowers may be susceptible to economic slowdowns or recessions and, as a result, may have a lower capacity to make scheduled payments of interest or principal on their borrowings during these periods. Adverse economic conditions also may decrease the estimated value of the collateral, particularly real estate, securing some of the Company's loans. Although the Company has a diversified loan portfolio, certain events may occur, including, but not limited to, adverse economic conditions and adverse events affecting specific clients, industries or markets, that could adversely affect the ability of borrowers to make timely scheduled principal and interest payments on their loans.

The Company internally risk rates loans based on individual credit criteria on at least a quarterly basis. Borrowers provide the Company with financial information on either a quarterly or monthly basis. Loan ratings as well as identification of impaired loans are dynamically updated to reflect changes in borrower condition or profile. A loan is considered to be impaired when it is probable that the Company will be unable to collect all amounts due to it according to the contractual terms of the loan agreement. Impaired loans include all non-accrual loans, loans with partial charge-offs and loans which are troubled debt restructurings ("TDR").

The Company utilizes a number of analytical tools for the purpose of estimating probability of default and loss given default for its lending groups. The quantitative models employed by the Company in its Leveraged Finance business utilize Moody's KMV RiskCalc credit risk model in combination with a proprietary qualitative model, which generates a rating that maps to a probability of default estimate. The Real Estate lending group utilizes a proprietary model that has been developed to capture risk characteristics unique to the lending activities in that line of business. The model produces an obligor risk rating which corresponds to a probability of default and also produces a loss given default. In each case, the probability of default and the loss given default are used to calculate an expected loss for those lending groups. Prior to the sale of the Equipment Finance assets, management used similar models for its Equipment Finance

portfolio as its Leveraged Finance group. Prior to the sale of Business Credit, management utilized a proprietary model that produced a rating that corresponded to an expected loss, for the Business Credit portfolio.

Loans and leases which are rated at or below a specified threshold are typically classified as “Pass”, and loans and leases rated above that threshold are typically classified as “Criticized”, a characterization that may apply to impaired loans, including TDR. As of December 31, 2016, \$118.7 million of the Company’s loans were classified as “Criticized”, all of which were impaired loans, and \$3.2 billion were classified as “Pass”. As of December 31, 2015, \$152.1 million of the Company’s loans were classified as “Criticized”, including \$143.6 million of the Company’s impaired loans, and \$3.1 billion were classified as “Pass”.

When the Company determines a loan is impaired, the Company will evaluate the loan individually and if necessary establish a specific allowance. The loan will be analyzed and may be placed on non-accrual status. If the asset deteriorates further, the specific allowance may increase, and ultimately may result in a loss and charge-off.

A TDR that performs in accordance with the terms of the restructuring may improve its risk profile over time. While the concessions in terms of pricing or amortization may not have been reversed and further amended to “market” levels, the financial

condition of the borrower may improve over time to the point where the rating improves from the “Criticized” classification that was appropriate immediately prior to, or at, restructuring.

A loan is considered impaired when it is probable that a creditor will be unable to collect all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the loan agreement. The measurement of impairment of a loan is based upon (i) the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan’s effective interest rate, (ii) the loan’s observable market price, or (iii) the fair value of the collateral if the loan is collateral dependent, depending on the circumstances and our collection strategy. Impaired loans are identified based on the loan-by-loan risk rating process described above. It is the Company’s policy during the reporting period to record a specific provision for credit losses for all loans for which we have serious doubts as to the ability of the borrowers to comply with the present loan repayment terms.

As of December 31, 2016, the Company had impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$133.4 million. Impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$114.8 million have been restructured and classified as TDR. As of December 31, 2016, the aggregate carrying value of equity investments in certain of the Company’s borrowers in connection with TDRs totaled \$9.9 million. Impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$99.2 million were also on non-accrual status. These non-accrual loans had a carrying value of \$92.9 million before specific reserves. For impaired loans on non-accrual status, the Company’s policy is to reverse the accrued interest previously recognized as interest income subsequent to the last cash receipt in the current year. The recognition of interest income on the loan only resumes when factors indicating doubtful collection no longer exist and the non-accrual loan has been brought current. During 2016, the Company charged off \$25.7 million of outstanding non-accrual loans. During 2016, the Company placed loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$27.1 million on non-accrual status and no loans were returned to performing status. During 2016, the Company recorded \$24.8 million of net specific provisions for impaired loans. At December 31, 2016, the Company had a \$19.8 million specific allowance for impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$73.5 million. At December 31, 2016, additional funding commitments for impaired loans totaled \$11.9 million. The Company’s obligation to fulfill the additional funding commitments on impaired loans is generally contingent on the borrower’s compliance with the terms of the credit agreement and the borrowing base availability for asset-based loans, or if the borrower is not in compliance additional funding commitments may be made at the Company’s discretion. As of December 31, 2016, loans to two borrowers totaling approximately \$21.1 million were on non-accrual status and were greater than 60 days past due and classified as delinquent by the Company. Included in the \$19.8 million specific allowance for impaired loans was \$7.9 million related to delinquent loans.

During 2016, the Company foreclosed on a held-for-sale impaired real estate loan. Simultaneous with the foreclosure, the Company sold a portion of the property for \$8.5 million and applied the proceeds to the principal loan balance. The remaining \$15.8 million was transferred to Other Real Estate Owned (“OREO”). During 2015, the Company sold one commercial real estate OREO property for \$3.0 million resulting in a loss on sale of \$0.01 million. During 2014, the Company sold one commercial real estate OREO property for \$9.5 million resulting in a gain on sale of \$0.01 million.

As of December 31, 2015, the Company had impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$193.2 million. Impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$183.6 million had been restructured and classified as TDR. As of December 31, 2015, the aggregate carrying value of equity investments in certain of the Company’s borrowers in connection with TDRs totaled \$11.4 million. Impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$111.3 million were also on non-accrual status. These non-accrual loans had a carrying value of \$104.7 million before specific reserves. During 2015, the Company charged off \$4.0 million of outstanding non-accrual loans. During 2015, the Company placed loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$38.2 million on non-accrual status and returned loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$0.9 million to performing status. During 2015, the Company recorded \$9.5 million of net specific provisions for impaired loans. At December 31, 2015, the Company had a \$26.8 million specific allowance for impaired loans with an aggregate outstanding balance of \$121.1 million. At December 31, 2015, additional funding commitments for impaired loans totaled \$10.9 million. As of December 31, 2015, \$18.6 million of loans on non-accrual status were greater than 60 days past due and classified as delinquent by the

Company. Included in the \$26.8 million specific allowance for impaired loans was \$2.8 million related to delinquent loans.

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A summary of impaired loans is as follows:

| | Investment, Net | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| | Investment, of Net of Charge-offs | Unamortized Discount/Premium | Unpaid Principal |
| (\$ in thousands) | | | |
| December 31, 2016 | | | |
| Leveraged Finance | \$ 133,413 | \$ 126,839 | \$ 154,879 |
| Real Estate | — | — | — |
| Total | \$ 133,413 | \$ 126,839 | \$ 154,879 |
| December 31, 2015 | | | |
| Leveraged Finance | \$ 157,446 | \$ 150,692 | \$ 188,453 |
| Business Credit | — | — | — |
| Real Estate | 34,941 | 34,915 | 38,286 |
| Equipment Finance | 772 | 709 | 772 |
| Total | \$ 193,159 | \$ 186,316 | \$ 227,511 |

| | Recorded | Recorded | Recorded | |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| | Recorded Investment with a Related Allowance for Credit Losses | Investment, net, with a Related Allowance for Credit Losses | Investment without a Related Allowance for Credit Losses | Investment, net, without a Related Allowance for Credit Losses |
| (\$ in thousands) | | | | |
| December 31, 2016 | | | | |
| Leveraged Finance | \$ 73,499 | \$ 68,924 | \$ 59,914 | \$ 57,915 |
| Total | \$ 73,499 | \$ 68,924 | \$ 59,914 | \$ 57,915 |
| December 31, 2015 | | | | |
| Leveraged Finance | \$ 113,397 | \$ 106,762 | \$ 44,049 | \$ 43,930 |
| Real Estate | 7,705 | 7,705 | 27,236 | 27,210 |
| Equipment Finance | — | — | 772 | 709 |
| Total | \$ 121,102 | \$ 114,467 | \$ 72,057 | \$ 71,849 |

During 2016, 2015 and 2014 the Company recorded net charge-offs of \$33.0 million, \$3.4 million and \$25.3 million, respectively. During 2016, 2015 and 2014 the Company recorded recoveries of previously charged-off loans of \$0.4 million, \$0.8 million and \$0.1 million, respectively.

When a loan is determined to be uncollectible, the specific allowance is charged off, which reduces the gross investment in the loan. The Company may record the initial specific allowance related to an impaired loan in the same period as it records a partial charge-off in certain circumstances such as if the terms of a restructured loan are finalized during that period.

While charge-offs typically have no net impact on the carrying value of net loans and leases, charge-offs lower the level of the allowance for loan and lease losses; and, as a result, reduce the percentage of allowance for loans and leases to total loans and leases, and the percentage of allowance for loan and leases losses to non-performing loans.

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Below is a summary of the Company's evaluation of its amortized cost portfolio and allowance for loan and lease losses by impairment methodology:

| December 31, 2016 | Leveraged Finance | | Real Estate | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | Investment | Allowance | Investment | Allowance |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | | |
| Collectively evaluated (1)(2) | \$2,771,768 | \$ 31,073 | \$10,624 | \$ 92 |
| Individually evaluated (3) | 133,413 | 19,771 | — | — |
| Total | \$2,905,181 | \$ 50,844 | \$10,624 | \$ 92 |

| December 31, 2015 | Leveraged Finance | | Business Credit | | Real Estate | | Equipment Finance | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | Investment | Allowance | Investment | Allowance | Investment | Allowance | Investment | Allowance |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | | | | | | |
| Collectively evaluated (1) | \$2,469,868 | \$ 27,874 | \$342,281 | \$ 1,991 | \$65,791 | \$ 350 | \$172,481 | \$ 1,291 |
| Individually evaluated (3) | 157,446 | 26,447 | — | — | 34,941 | 306 | 772 | — |
| Total | \$2,627,314 | \$ 54,321 | \$342,281 | \$ 1,991 | \$100,732 | \$ 656 | \$173,253 | \$ 1,291 |

Represents loans and leases collectively evaluated for impairment in accordance with ASC 450-20, Loss

(1) Contingencies, and pursuant to amendments by ASU 2010-20 regarding allowance for unimpaired loans and leases. These loans had a weighted average risk rating of 5.2 at December 31, 2016, based on the Company's internally developed 12 point scale for the Leveraged Finance and Real Estate loans. These loans and leases had a weighted average risk rating of 5.1 at December 31, 2015, based on the Company's internally developed 12 point scale for the Leveraged Finance, Real Estate and Equipment Finance loans and leases. Business Credit Loans had a weighted average risk rating of 5.0 at December 31, 2015 based on the Company's internally developed 10 point scale for Business Credit loans.

(2) Excludes \$403.7 million Leveraged Finance loans which the Company elected to record at fair value.

(3) Represents loans individually evaluated for impairment in accordance with ASU 310-10, Receivables, and pursuant to amendments by ASU 2010-20 regarding allowance for impaired loans and leases.

Below is a summary of the Company's net investment in nonaccrual loans:

| Recorded Investment in Nonaccrual Loans | December 31, | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (\$ in thousands) | |
| Leveraged Finance | \$99,233 | \$ 103,563 |
| Real Estate | — | 7,705 |
| Total | \$99,233 | \$ 111,268 |
| Less: Deferred fees | (6,485) | (6,616) |
| Add back: Interest Receivable | 116 | 34 |
| Total | \$92,864 | \$ 104,686 |

Loans being restructured typically develop adverse performance trends as a result of internal or external factors, the result of which is an inability to comply with the terms of the applicable credit agreement governing their obligations to the Company. In order to mitigate default risk and/or liquidation, assuming that liquidation proceeds are not viewed

as a more favorable outcome to the Company and other lenders, the Company will enter into negotiations with the borrower and its shareholders on the terms of a restructuring. When restructuring a loan, the Company undertakes an extensive diligence process which typically includes (i) construction of a financial model that runs through the tenor of the restructuring term, (ii) meetings with management of the borrower, (iii) engagement of third party consultants and (iv) internal analysis. Once a restructuring proposal is developed, it is subject to approval by both the Company's Underwriting Committee and the Company's Investment Committee. Loans will be removed from TDR classification after a period of performance following the refinancing of outstanding obligations on terms which are determined to be "market" in all material respects, or upon full payoff of the loan. The Company may modify loans that are not determined to be a TDR. Where a loan is modified or restructured but loan terms are considered market and no concessions were given on the loan terms, including price, principal amortization or obligation, or other restrictive covenants, a loan will not be classified as a TDR.

The Company has made the following types of concessions in the context of a TDR:

Group I:

- extension of principal repayment term

- principal holidays

- interest rate adjustments

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Group II:

- partial forgiveness
- conversion of debt to equity

A summary of the types of concessions that the Company made with respect to TDRs at December 31, 2016 and 2015 is provided below:

| (\$ in thousands) | Group I | Group II |
|-------------------|------------|------------|
| December 31, 2016 | \$ 114,803 | \$ 77,061 |
| December 31, 2015 | \$ 183,573 | \$ 162,986 |

Note: A loan may be included in both restructuring groups, but not repeated within each group.

For 2016 and 2015, the Company had net charge-offs totaling \$26.7 million and \$4.0 million, respectively, related to loans previously classified as a TDR. As of December 31, 2016, the Company had not removed the TDR classification from any loan previously identified as such, but had charged-off, sold and received repayments of outstanding TDRs.

The Company measures TDRs similarly to how it measures all loans for impairment. The Company performs a discounted cash flow analysis on cash flow dependent loans and assesses the underlying collateral value less reasonable costs of sale for collateral dependent loans. Management analyzes the projected performance of the borrower to determine if it has the ability to service principal and interest payments based on the terms of the restructuring. Loans will typically not be returned to accrual status until at least six months of contractual payments have been made in a timely manner or the borrower shows significant ability to maintain servicing of the restructured debt. Additionally, at the time of a restructuring and quarterly thereafter, an impairment analysis is undertaken to determine the measurement of specific reserve, if any, on each impaired loan.

Below is a summary of the Company's loans which were classified as TDR:

| | Pre-Modification Outstanding | Post-Modification Outstanding | Investment in TDR |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| For the Year Ended | Recorded | Recorded | Subsequently |
| December 31, 2016 | Investment | Investment | Defaulted |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | |
| Leveraged Finance | \$ 49,536 | \$ 27,216 | \$ 18,916 |
| Real Estate (1) | — | — | 4,483 |
| Total | \$ 49,536 | \$ 27,216 | \$ 23,399 |

(1) Amount reflects charge-off on an impaired Real Estate TDR that was taken prior to transfer to held-for-sale.

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| | Pre-Modification Outstanding | Post-Modification Outstanding | Investment in TDR |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| For the Year Ended | Recorded | Recorded | Subsequently |
| December 31, 2015 | Investment | Investment | Defaulted |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | |
| Leveraged Finance | \$13,650 | \$13,650 | \$29,339 |
| Business Credit | — | — | — |
| Real Estate | 27,704 | 27,704 | — |
| Equipment Finance | 922 | 922 | — |
| Total | \$42,276 | \$42,276 | \$29,339 |

The following sets forth a breakdown of TDRs at December 31, 2016 and 2015:

| As of December 31, 2016 | For the | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| | Accrual Status | Impaired | Specific | year | |
| (\$ in thousands) | Accruing | Nonaccrual | Balance | Allowance | |
| Loan Type | Charged-off | | | | |
| Leveraged Finance | \$24,367 | \$90,436 | \$114,803 | \$15,939 | \$26,684 |
| Total | \$24,367 | \$90,436 | \$114,803 | \$15,939 | \$26,684 |

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| | As of December 31, 2015 | | For the | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| (\$ in thousands) | Accrual Status | | Impaired | Specific | year |
| Loan Type | Accruing | Nonaccrual | Balance | Allowance | Charged-off |
| Leveraged Finance | \$53,883 | \$ 93,977 | \$ 147,860 | \$ 24,958 | \$ 4,000 |
| Real Estate | 27,236 | 7,705 | 34,941 | — | — |
| Equipment Finance | 772 | — | 772 | — | — |
| Total | \$81,891 | \$ 101,682 | \$ 183,573 | \$ 24,958 | \$ 4,000 |

The Company classifies a loan as Past Due when it is over 60 days delinquent.

An aged analysis of the Company's past due receivables is as follows:

| | 60-89 Day Greater than Past Due | | Total Past Due | Current | Total Loans and Leases | Investment in > 60 Days & Accruing |
|-------------------|--|----------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|--|
| December 31, 2016 | (\$ in thousands) | | | | | |
| Leveraged Finance | \$— | \$21,135 | \$21,135 | \$3,287,791 | \$3,308,926 | \$ — |
| Real Estate | — | — | \$— | 10,624 | 10,624 | — |
| Total | \$— | \$21,135 | \$21,135 | \$3,298,415 | \$3,319,550 | \$ — |
| December 31, 2015 | | | | | | |
| Leveraged Finance | \$— | \$27,165 | \$27,165 | \$2,600,149 | \$2,627,314 | \$ 8,530 |
| Business Credit | — | — | — | 342,281 | 342,281 | — |
| Real Estate | — | — | — | 100,732 | 100,732 | — |
| Equipment Finance | — | — | — | 173,253 | 173,253 | — |
| Total | \$— | \$27,165 | \$27,165 | \$3,216,415 | \$3,243,580 | \$ 8,530 |

A general allowance is provided for loans and leases within the amortized portfolio that are not impaired. The Company employs a variety of internally developed and third-party modeling and estimation tools for measuring credit risk, which are used in developing an allowance for loan and lease losses on outstanding loans and leases held at amortized cost. The Company's allowance framework addresses economic conditions, capital market liquidity and industry circumstances from both a top-down and bottom-up perspective. The Company considers and evaluates a number of factors, including but not limited to, changes in economic conditions, credit availability, industry, loss emergence period, and multiple obligor concentrations in assessing both probabilities of default and loss severities as part of the general component of the allowance for loan and lease losses. The Company continually evaluates the appropriateness of its allowance for credit losses methodology. Based on the Company's evaluation process to determine the level of the allowance for loan and lease losses, management believes the allowance to be adequate as of December 31, 2016 in light of the estimated known and inherent risks identified through its analysis.

The Company closely monitors the credit quality of its loans and leases which is partly reflected in its credit metrics such as loan delinquencies, non-accruals and charge-offs. Changes in these credit metrics are largely due to changes in economic conditions and seasoning of the loan and lease portfolio.

On at least a quarterly basis, loans and leases are internally risk-rated based on individual credit criteria, including loan and lease type, loan and lease structures (including balloon and bullet structures common in the Company's Leveraged Finance and Real Estate cash flow loans), borrower industry, payment capacity, location and quality of collateral if any (including the Company's Real Estate loans). Borrowers provide the Company with financial information on either a monthly or quarterly basis. Ratings, corresponding assumed default rates and assumed loss severities are dynamically updated to reflect any changes in borrower condition and/or profile.

For Leveraged Finance loans and Equipment Finance loans and leases (prior to the latter being sold), the data set used to construct probabilities of default in its allowance for loan losses model, Moody's CRD Private Firm Database, primarily contains middle market loans that share attributes similar to the Company's loans. The Company also considers the quality of the loan or lease terms and lender protections in determining a loan loss in the event of default.

For Real Estate loans, the Company employs two mechanisms to capture the impact of industry and economic conditions. First, a loan's risk rating, and thereby its assumed default likelihood, can be adjusted to account for overall commercial real estate market conditions. Second, to the extent that economic or industry trends adversely affect a substandard rated borrower's loan-to-value ratio enough to impact its repayment ability, the Company applies a stress multiplier to the loan's probability of default. The multiplier is

designed to account for default characteristics that are difficult to quantify when market conditions cause commercial real estate prices to decline.

Prior to the sale of Business Credit, the Company utilized a proprietary model to risk rate the loans on a monthly basis. This model captured the impact of changes in industry and economic conditions as well as changes in the quality of the borrower's collateral and financial performance to assign a final risk rating. The Company also evaluated historical net loss trends by risk rating from a comprehensive industry database covering more than twenty-five years of experience of the majority of the asset based lenders operating in the United States. Based upon the monthly risk rating from the model, the reserve was adjusted to reflect the historical average for expected loss from the industry database.

For consolidated VIEs to which the Company had provided transitional capital, we utilized a qualitative analysis which considered the business plans related to the entity, including expected hold periods, the terms of the agreements related to the entity, the Company's historical credit experience, the credit migration of the entity's loans to determine expected loss, as well as conditions in the capital markets.

The Company provided capital on a transitional basis to the Arlington Fund, prior to the completion of its term debt securitization on June 26, 2014. During the transitional hold period, the expected and actual loss on the Arlington Fund was zero and no allowance was recorded. The Company deconsolidated the Arlington Fund on June 26, 2014. The Company did not recognize any losses on loans on the date of deconsolidation.

If the Company determines that changes in its allowance for credit losses methodology are advisable, as a result of changes in the economic environment or otherwise, the revised allowance methodology may result in higher or lower levels of allowance. Moreover, given uncertain market conditions, actual losses under the Company's current or any revised allowance methodology may differ materially from the Company's estimate.

A summary of the activity in the allowance for credit losses is as follows:

| | Year Ended December 31, 2016 | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------|
| | Leveraged Finance | Business Credit | Real Estate | Equipment Finance | Total |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | | | |
| Balance, beginning of period | \$54,788 | \$ 1,991 | \$ 656 | \$ 1,291 | \$58,726 |
| Provision for credit losses—general | 3,204 | (172) | 1,010 | (1,291) | 2,751 |
| Provision for credit losses—specific | 20,483 | — | 4,307 | — | 24,790 |
| Reversal due to sale of Business Credit | — | (1,819) | — | — | (1,819) |
| Loans charged off, net of recoveries | (27,159) | — | (5,881) | — | (33,040) |
| Balance, end of period | \$51,316 | \$— | \$92 | \$— | \$51,408 |
| Balance, end of period—specific | \$19,771 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$19,771 |
| Balance, end of period—general | \$31,545 | \$— | \$92 | \$— | \$31,637 |
| Average balance of impaired loans | \$176,286 | \$— | \$24,595 | \$— | \$200,881 |
| Average net book value of impaired leases | — | — | — | 542 | 542 |
| Interest recognized from impaired loans and leases | \$9,679 | \$— | \$1,220 | \$12 | \$10,911 |
| Loans and leases (1) | | | | | |
| Loans individually evaluated with specific allowance | \$73,499 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$73,499 |
| Loans individually evaluated with no specific allowance | 59,914 | — | — | — | 59,914 |
| Loans and leases collectively evaluated without | 2,771,768 | — | 10,624 | — | 2,782,392 |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|-----|----------|-----|-------------|
| specific allowance | | | | | |
| Total loans and leases | \$2,905,181 | \$— | \$10,624 | \$— | \$2,915,805 |

(1) Excludes \$403.7 million of Leveraged Finance loans which the Company elected to record at fair value.

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| | Year Ended December 31, 2015 | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| | Leveraged | Business | Real | Equipment | |
| | Finance | Credit | Estate | Finance | Total |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | | | |
| Balance, beginning of period | \$41,480 | \$1,334 | \$257 | \$622 | \$43,693 |
| Provision for credit losses—general | 7,473 | 657 | 93 | 669 | 8,892 |
| Provision for credit losses—specific | 9,043 | — | 306 | 146 | 9,495 |
| Loans charged off, net of recoveries | (3,208) | — | — | (146) | (3,354) |
| Balance, end of period | \$54,788 | \$1,991 | \$656 | \$1,291 | \$58,726 |
| Balance, end of period—specific | \$26,447 | \$— | \$306 | \$— | \$26,753 |
| Balance, end of period—general | \$28,341 | \$1,991 | \$350 | \$1,291 | \$31,973 |
| Average balance of impaired loans | \$172,578 | \$— | \$36,106 | \$— | \$208,684 |
| Average net book value of impaired leases | — | — | — | 863 | 863 |
| Interest recognized from impaired loans and leases | \$11,370 | \$— | \$1,584 | \$36 | \$12,990 |
| Loans and leases | | | | | |
| Loans individually evaluated with specific allowance | \$113,397 | \$— | \$7,705 | \$— | \$121,102 |
| Loans individually evaluated with no specific allowance | 44,049 | — | 27,236 | 772 | 72,057 |
| Loans and leases collectively evaluated without specific allowance | 2,469,868 | 342,281 | 65,791 | 172,481 | 3,050,421 |
| Total loans and leases | \$2,627,314 | \$342,281 | \$100,732 | \$173,253 | \$3,243,580 |

Included in the allowance for credit losses at December 31, 2016 and 2015 is an allowance for unfunded commitments of \$0.5 million, which is recorded as a component of other liabilities on the Company's consolidated balance sheet with changes recorded in the provision for credit losses on the Company's consolidated statement of operations. The methodology for determining the allowance for unfunded commitments is consistent with the methodology for determining the allowance for loan and lease losses.

During 2016, the Company recorded a total provision for credit losses of \$27.5 million. The Company decreased its allowance for credit losses to \$51.4 million as of December 31, 2016 from \$58.7 million at December 31, 2015. The Company had \$33.0 million of net charge-offs and increased its general allowance for credit losses by 10 basis points during 2016, and recorded new specific provisions for credit losses of \$24.8 million. The general allowance for credit losses covers probable losses incurred in the Company's loan and lease amortized cost portfolio with respect to loans and leases for which no specific impairment has been identified. When a loan is classified as impaired, the loan is evaluated for a specific allowance and a specific provision may be recorded, thereby removing it from consideration under the general component of the allowance analysis. Loans that are deemed to be uncollectible are charged off and deducted from the allowance, and recoveries on loans previously charged off are netted against loans charged off. A specific provision for credit losses is recorded with respect to impaired loans for which it is probable that the Company will be unable to collect all amounts due in accordance with the contractual terms of the loan agreement for which there is impairment recognized. The outstanding balance of impaired loans, which include all of the outstanding balances of the Company's delinquent loans and its TDRs, as a percentage of "Loans and leases, net" was 4% as of December 31, 2016 and 6% as of December 31, 2015.

Note 5. Restricted Cash

Restricted cash as of December 31, 2016 and 2015 was as follows:

| | December 31, | |
|---|-------------------|-----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (\$ in thousands) | |
| Collections on loans pledged to credit facilities | \$43,822 | \$67,892 |
| Principal and interest collections on loans held in trust and | | |
| prefunding amounts | 216,501 | 85,823 |
| Customer escrow accounts | 2,320 | 277 |
| Total | \$262,643 | \$153,992 |

As of December 31, 2016, the Company had the ability to use \$183.6 million of restricted cash to fund new or existing loans.

Note 6. Investments in Debt Securities, Available-for-Sale

Amortized cost of investments in debt securities as of December 31, 2016 and 2015 was as follows:

| | December 31, | |
|---|-------------------|------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (\$ in thousands) | |
| Investments in debt securities—gross | \$ 132,180 | \$ 111,020 |
| Unamortized discount | (6,743) | (6,765) |
| Investments in debt securities—amortized cost | \$ 125,437 | \$ 104,255 |

The amortized cost, gross unrealized holding gains, gross unrealized holding losses, and fair value of available-for-sale securities at December 31, 2016 and 2015 were as follows:

| | Amortized | Gross unrealized holding gains | Gross unrealized holding losses | Fair value |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| | (\$ in thousands) | | | |
| December 31, 2016 | | | | |
| Collateralized loan obligations | \$ 125,437 | \$ 286 | \$ (6,416) | \$ 119,307 |
| | \$ 125,437 | \$ 286 | \$ (6,416) | \$ 119,307 |

| | Amortized | Gross unrealized holding gains | Gross unrealized holding losses | Fair value |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| | (\$ in thousands) | | | |
| December 31, 2015 | | | | |
| Collateralized loan obligations | \$ 104,255 | \$ — | \$ (10,078) | \$ 94,177 |
| | \$ 104,255 | \$ — | \$ (10,078) | \$ 94,177 |

During 2016, the Company purchased \$26.3 million of debt securities and a \$6.0 million investment in debt securities was redeemed at par.

The Company did not sell any debt securities during 2016, 2015 or 2014.

The following is an analysis of the continuous periods during which the Company has held investment positions which were carried at an unrealized loss as of December 31, 2016 and 2015:

| | December 31, 2016 | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|
| | Greater than | | |
| | Less than | or Equal to | |
| | 12 Months | 12 Months | Total |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | |
| Number of positions | 3 | 17 | 20 |
| Fair value | \$4,811 | \$68,737 | \$73,548 |
| Amortized cost | 4,885 | 75,079 | 79,964 |
| Unrealized loss | \$(74) | \$(6,342) | \$(6,416) |

| | December 31, 2015 | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Greater than | | |
| | Less than | or Equal to | |
| | 12 Months | 12 Months | Total |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | |
| Number of positions | 20 | 3 | 23 |
| Fair value | \$86,245 | \$7,932 | \$94,177 |
| Amortized cost | 95,624 | 8,631 | 104,255 |
| Unrealized loss | \$(9,379) | \$(699) | \$(10,078) |

As a result of the Company's evaluation of the securities, management concluded that the unrealized losses at December 31, 2016 and 2015 were caused by changes in market prices driven by interest rates and credit spreads. The Company's evaluation of impairment include quotes from third party pricing services, adjustments to prepayment speeds, delinquency, an analysis of expected

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cash flows, interest rates, market discount rates, other contract terms, and the timing and level of losses on the loans and leases within the underlying trusts. At December 31, 2016, the Company has determined that it is not more likely than not that it will be required to sell the securities before the Company recovers its amortized cost basis in the security. The Company has also determined that there has not been an adverse change in the cash flows expected to be collected. Based upon the Company's impairment review process, and the Company's ability and intent to hold these securities until maturity or a recovery of fair value, the decline in the value of these investments is not considered to be Other Than Temporary. The Company did not record any net OTTI during 2016, 2015 or 2014.

Maturities of debt securities classified as available-for-sale were as follows at December 31, 2016 and 2015:

| | December 31, 2016 | | December 31, 2015 | |
|---|--|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | Amortized cost (\$ in thousands) | Fair value | Amortized cost | Fair value |
| Available-for-sale: | | | | |
| Due one year or less | \$91 | \$20 | \$— | \$— |
| Due after one year through five years | — | — | — | — |
| Due after five years through ten years | 53,177 | 48,404 | 34,017 | 30,470 |
| Due after ten years through fifteen years | 72,169 | 70,883 | 70,238 | 63,707 |
| Total | \$125,437 | \$119,307 | \$104,255 | \$94,177 |

Actual maturities of debt securities may differ from those presented above since certain obligations amortize and provide the issuer of the individual debt securities the right to call or prepay the obligation prior to the scheduled final stated maturity without penalty.

Note 7. Fixed Assets

| | December 31, | |
|---|-------------------|---------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (\$ in thousands) | |
| Leasehold improvements | \$1,954 | \$2,271 |
| Non-depreciable assets | 20 | 20 |
| Furniture and equipment | 651 | 941 |
| Software | 390 | 492 |
| | 3,015 | 3,724 |
| Less: Accumulated depreciation and amortization | 2,741 | 3,086 |
| | \$274 | \$638 |

Depreciation expense for 2016, 2015, and 2014 was \$0.2 million, \$0.2 million and \$0.3 million, respectively.

Note 8. Goodwill and Identified Intangibles Assets

The following table presents the carrying value of goodwill at the reporting unit level:

| | December 31, | |
|----------|-------------------|-----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (\$ in thousands) | |
| Goodwill | \$ 17,884 | \$ 17,884 |
| Total | \$ 17,884 | \$ 17,884 |

The balance of goodwill at December 31, 2016 and 2015 is a result of the October 7, 2015 FOC Partners acquisition (Note 3).

Identified intangible assets consist of customer contracts resulting from the FOC Partners acquisition. The gross carrying amount of the identified intangible assets at December 31, 2016 was \$0.6 million. The identified intangible assets are being amortized over their expected economic useful life which we estimate to be approximately 33 months. Amortization expense for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, amounted to \$0.3 million and \$0.5 million, respectively. There was no amortization expense for the same period in 2014.

Note 9. Borrowings

Credit Facilities

As of December 31, 2016 the Company had two credit facilities through certain of its wholly owned subsidiaries: (i) a \$615.0 million credit facility with syndicated lenders agented by Wells Fargo Bank, National Association (“Wells Fargo”) to fund leveraged finance loans and (ii) a \$250.0 million credit facility with Citibank, N.A. (“Citibank”) to fund leveraged finance loans.

The Company must comply with various covenants under these facilities. The breach of certain of these covenants could result in a termination event and the exercise of remedies if not cured. At December 31, 2016, the Company was in compliance with all such covenants. These covenants are customary and vary depending on the type of facility. These covenants include, but are not limited to, failure to service debt obligations, failure to meet liquidity covenants and tangible net worth covenants, and failure to remain within prescribed facility portfolio delinquency, charge-off levels, and overcollateralization tests.

The Company has a \$615.0 million credit facility with syndicated lenders agented by Wells Fargo to fund leveraged finance loans. The credit facility had an outstanding balance of \$401.1 million and unamortized deferred financing fees of \$6.4 million as of December 31, 2016. In February 2016 and June 2016, the Company upsized this facility, which increased the commitment amount from \$475.0 million to \$615.0 million. Interest on this facility accrues at a variable rate per annum. The facility matures on August 10, 2020. The facility provides for a revolving reinvestment period which ends on August 10, 2018, with a two-year amortization period.

The Company has a \$250.0 million credit facility with Citibank to fund leveraged finance loans. The credit facility had an outstanding balance of \$53.2 million and unamortized deferred financing fees of \$2.4 million as of December 31, 2016. Interest on this facility accrues at a variable rate per annum. The facility provides for a revolving reinvestment period that ends on May 5, 2018, with a two-year amortization period.

On December 1, 2016, the Company sold the assets of Equipment Finance and the related platform. In connection with the sale, the company repaid all outstanding indebtedness of Equipment Finance, including amounts outstanding under its \$75.0 million note purchase agreement with Wells Fargo, with an outstanding balance of \$16.9 million.

In September 15, 2016, the Company repaid the \$350.0 million note purchase agreement with Credit Suisse that provided the financing to fund the purchase of broadly syndicated bank loans during the warehouse phase of the Arch Street CLO. The supplemental junior note commitment by NewStar Capital was also repaid in full. The notes were repaid from proceeds of the Arch Street CLO bond issuance.

On March 31, 2016, the Company sold its membership interest in Business Credit. In connection with the sale, the Company repaid all outstanding indebtedness of Business Credit, including amounts outstanding under the \$175.0 million credit facility with a syndicate of lenders agented by DZ Bank AG Deutsche Zentral-Genossenschaftsbank Frankfurt (“DZ Bank”) with an outstanding balance of \$102.0 million and the \$165.0 million credit facility with a syndicate of lenders agented by Wells Fargo with an outstanding balance of \$135.4 million, each of which was terminated. The Company accelerated and recognized deferred financing fees of \$1.1 million and \$0.7 million, respectively, related to the warehouse facilities during the first quarter of 2016.

Senior notes

On April 22, 2015, the Company issued \$300.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 7.25% Senior Notes due 2020 (the “2020 Notes”). On November 9, 2015, the Company issued an additional \$80.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 2020 Notes. The 2020 Notes issued on November 9, 2015, were issued at a debt discount of \$0.8 million which will amortize over the life of the 2020 Notes. The Company used a portion of the net proceeds from the April

notes offering to repay in full its corporate credit facility with Fortress Credit Corp. The 2020 Notes mature on May 1, 2020, and bear interest at a rate of 7.25% per annum, which is payable semi-annually on May 1 and November 1 of each year. At any time prior to May 1, 2017, the Company may redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the 2020 Notes with the net cash proceeds of certain public equity offerings at a price equal to 107.25% of the aggregate principal amount so redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon provided that immediately following the redemption, at least 65% of the 2020 Notes that were originally issued remain outstanding. Additionally, at any time prior to May 1, 2017, the Company may redeem some or all of the 2020 Notes at a price equal to 100% of the aggregate principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon and a make-whole premium. On or after May 1, 2017, the Company may redeem the 2020 Notes, in whole or in part, at redemption prices specified in the 2020 Notes plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon. In addition, if the Company undergoes a change of control, the Company will be required to make an offer to purchase each holder's 2020 Notes at a price equal to 101% of the principal amount of the 2020 Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest. As of December 31, 2016 unamortized deferred financing fees were \$5.5 million.

Subordinated notes

On December 4, 2014, the Company completed the initial closing of an investment of long-term capital from funds sponsored by Franklin Square Capital Partners ("Franklin Square") and sub-advised by GSO Capital Partners at which the Franklin Square funds purchased \$200.0 million of 10-year subordinated notes (the "Subordinated Notes"), which rank junior to the Company's existing and future senior debt. During 2015, the Company drew an additional \$75 million of these Subordinated Notes. The Company drew the remaining \$25 million in January 2016. The Subordinated Notes were recorded at par less the initial relative fair value of the warrants issued in connection with the investment on December 4, 2014 and January 23, 2015 which was \$53.7 million as of December 31, 2016 and \$60.0 million as of December 31, 2015. The debt discount will amortize over the life of the notes and will be recorded as non-cash interest expense as the Subordinated Notes accrete to par value. As of December 31, 2016, unamortized deferred financing fees were \$4.9 million. The Subordinated Notes bear interest at 8.25% and include a Payment-in-Kind ("PIK Toggle") feature that allows the Company, at its option, to elect to have interest accrued at a rate of 8.75% added to the principal of the Subordinated Notes instead of paying it in cash. The Subordinated Notes have a ten-year term and mature on December 4, 2024. They are callable during the first three years with payment of a make-whole premium. The prepayment premium decreases to 103% and 101% after the third and fourth anniversaries of the closing, respectively. They are callable at par after December 4, 2019. The Subordinated Notes require a mandatory payment at the end of each accrual period, beginning on December 5, 2019. The Company is required to make a cash payment of principal plus accrued interest in an amount required to prevent the Subordinated Notes from being treated as an "Applicable High Yield Discount Obligation" within the meaning of Section 163(i)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Events of default under the Subordinated Notes include failure to pay interest or principal when due subject to applicable grace periods, material uncured breaches of the terms of the Subordinated Notes, and bankruptcy/insolvency events.

Term Debt Securitizations

2012-2 CLO. On December 18, 2012, the Company completed a term debt securitization transaction. In conjunction with this transaction the Company established a separate single-purpose bankruptcy-remote subsidiary, NewStar Commercial Loan Funding 2012-2 LLC (the "2012-2 CLO") and sold and contributed \$325.9 million in loans and investments (including unfunded commitments), or portions thereof, to the 2012-2 CLO. The Company remains the servicer of the loans. Simultaneously with the initial sale and contribution, the 2012-2 CLO issued \$263.3 million of notes to institutional investors. The Company retained \$62.6 million, comprising 100% of the 2012-2 CLO's membership interests, Class E notes, Class F notes, and subordinated notes. On June 12, 2015, the Company sold 100% of the 2012-2 CLO's Class E Notes totaling \$16.3 million to institutional investors. At December 31, 2016, the \$233.0 million of outstanding drawn notes were collateralized by the specific loans and investments, principal collection account cash and principal payment receivables totaling \$279.2 million. At December 31, 2016, deferred financing fees were \$0.7 million. The 2012-2 CLO permitted reinvestment of collateral principal repayments for a three-year period which ended January 2016.

The Company receives a loan collateral management fee and excess interest spread. The Company also receives payments with respect to the classes of notes it owns in accordance with the transaction documents. The Company expects to receive a principal distribution as owner of the membership interests when the term debt is retired. If loan collateral in the 2012-2 CLO is in default under the terms of the indenture, the excess interest spread from the 2012-2 CLO may not be distributed if the overcollateralization ratio, or other collateral quality tests, are not satisfied.

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to the 2012-2 CLO:

| Notes | Outstanding | Interest | Legal final |
|-------|-------------|----------|-------------|
|-------|-------------|----------|-------------|

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| | originally | balance | rate | maturity |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|------------------|
| | issued | December | | |
| | | 31, 2016 | | |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | | |
| 2012-2 CLO | | | | |
| Class A | \$ 190,700 | \$ 144,053 | Libor+1.90% | January 20, 2023 |
| Class B | 26,000 | 26,000 | Libor+3.25% | January 20, 2023 |
| Class C | 35,200 | 35,200 | Libor+4.25% | January 20, 2023 |
| Class D | 11,400 | 11,400 | Libor+6.25% | January 20, 2023 |
| Class E | 16,300 | 16,300 | Libor+6.75% | January 20, 2023 |
| | \$279,600 | \$ 232,953 | | |

2013-1 CLO. On September 11, 2013, the Company completed a term debt securitization transaction through its separate single-purpose bankruptcy-remote subsidiary, NewStar Commercial Loan Funding 2013-1 LLC (the “2013-1 CLO”) and sold and contributed \$247.6 million in loans and investments (including unfunded commitments), or portions thereof, to the 2013-1 CLO. The

Company remains the servicer of the loans. Simultaneously with the initial sale and contribution, the 2013-1 CLO issued \$338.6 million of notes to institutional investors. The Company retained \$61.4 million, comprising 100% of the 2013-1 CLO's membership interests, Class F notes, Class G notes, and subordinated notes. At December 31, 2016, the \$321.9 million of outstanding drawn notes were collateralized by the specific loans and investments, principal collection account cash and principal payment receivables totaling \$383.3 million. At December 31, 2016, deferred financing fees were \$2.6 million. The 2013-1 CLO permitted reinvestment of collateral principal repayments for a three-year period which ended in September 2016.

The Company receives a loan collateral management fee and excess interest spread. The Company also receives payments with respect to the classes of notes it owns in accordance with the transaction documents. The Company expects to receive a principal distribution as owner of the membership interests when the term debt is retired. If loan collateral in the 2013-1 CLO is in default under the terms of the indenture, the excess interest spread from the 2013-1 CLO may not be distributed if the overcollateralization ratio, or other collateral quality tests, are not satisfied.

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to the 2013-1 CLO:

| Notes | Outstanding | | | Legal final |
|-------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------------|
| | balance | December | Interest | |
| originally issued | 31, | 2016 | rate | maturity |
| (\$ in thousands) | | | | |
| 2013-1 CLO | | | | |
| Class A-T | \$ 202,600 | \$ 188,349 | Libor+1.65% | September 20, 2023 |
| Class A-R | 35,000 | 32,538 | (1) | September 20, 2023 |
| Class B | 38,000 | 38,000 | Libor+2.30% | September 20, 2023 |
| Class C | 36,000 | 36,000 | Libor+3.80% | September 20, 2023 |
| Class D | 21,000 | 21,000 | Libor+4.55% | September 20, 2023 |
| Class E | 6,000 | 6,000 | Libor+5.30% | September 20, 2023 |
| | \$ 338,600 | \$ 321,887 | | |

(1) Class A-R Notes accrue interest at the Class A-R CP Rate so long as they are held by a CP Conduit, and otherwise will accrue interest at the Class A-R LIBOR Rate or, in certain circumstances, the Class A-R Base Rate, but in no event shall the interest rate payable pari passu with the Class A-T Notes exceed the Class A-R Waterfall Rate Cap. 2014-1 CLO. On April 17, 2014, the Company completed a term debt securitization transaction through its separate single-purpose bankruptcy-remote subsidiary, NewStar Commercial Loan Funding 2014-1 LLC (the "2014-1 CLO") and sold and contributed \$249.6 million in loans and investments (including unfunded commitments), or portions thereof, to the 2014-1 CLO. The Company remains the servicer of the loans. Simultaneously with the initial sale and contribution, the 2014-1 CLO issued \$289.5 million of notes to institutional investors. The Company retained \$58.9 million, comprising 100% of the 2014-1 CLO's membership interests, Class E notes, Class F notes, and subordinated notes. At December 31, 2016, the \$289.5 million of outstanding drawn notes were collateralized by the specific loans and investments, principal collection account cash and principal payment receivables totaling \$348.4 million. At December 31, 2016, deferred financing fees were \$2.0 million. The 2014-1 CLO permits reinvestment of collateral principal repayments for a four-year period ending in April 2018. Should the Company determine that reinvestment of collateral principal repayments are impractical in light of market conditions or if collateral principal repayments are not reinvested within a prescribed timeframe, such funds may be used to repay the outstanding notes.

The Company receives a loan collateral management fee and excess interest spread. The Company also receives payments with respect to the classes of notes it owns in accordance with the transaction documents. The Company expects to receive a principal distribution as owner of the membership interests when the term debt is retired. If loan collateral in the 2014-1 CLO is in default under the terms of the indenture, the excess interest spread from the 2014-1 CLO may not be distributed if the overcollateralization ratio, or other collateral quality tests, are not satisfied.

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to the 2014-1 CLO:

| | Notes | Outstanding balance | Interest | Legal final |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| | originally | December | rate | maturity |
| | issued | 31, 2016 | | |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | | |
| 2014-1 CLO | | | | |
| Class A | \$202,500 | \$ 202,500 | Libor+1.80% | April 20, 2025 |
| Class B-1 | 20,000 | 20,000 | Libor+2.60% | April 20, 2025 |
| Class B-2 | 13,250 | 13,250 | (1) | April 20, 2025 |
| Class C | 30,250 | 30,250 | Libor+3.60% | April 20, 2025 |
| Class D | 23,500 | 23,500 | Libor+4.75% | April 20, 2025 |
| | \$289,500 | \$ 289,500 | | |

(1) Class B-2 Notes accrue interest at a fixed rate of 4.902%.

2015-1 CLO. On March 20, 2015, the Company completed a term debt securitization transaction through its separate single-purpose bankruptcy-remote subsidiary, NewStar Commercial Loan Funding 2015-1 LLC (the “2015-1 CLO”) and sold and contributed \$336.3 million in loans and investments (including unfunded commitments), or portions thereof, to the 2015-1 CLO. The Company remains the servicer of the loans. Simultaneously with the initial sale and contribution, the 2015-1 CLO issued \$410.3 million of notes to institutional investors. The Company retained \$85.8 million, comprising 100% of the 2015-1 CLO’s membership interests and subordinated notes. At December 31, 2016, the \$410.3 million of outstanding drawn notes were collateralized by the specific loans and investments, principal collection account cash and principal payment receivables totaling \$496.1 million. At December 31, 2016, deferred financing fees were \$3.2 million. The 2015-1 CLO permits reinvestment of collateral principal repayments for a four-year period ending in April 2019. Should the Company determine that reinvestment of collateral principal repayments are impractical in light of market conditions or if collateral principal repayments are not reinvested within a prescribed timeframe, such funds may be used to repay the outstanding notes.

The Company receives a loan collateral management fee and excess interest spread. The Company also receives payments with respect to the classes of notes it owns in accordance with the transaction documents. The Company expects to receive a principal distribution as owner of the membership interests when the term debt is retired. If loan collateral in the 2015-1 CLO is in default under the terms of the indenture, the excess interest spread from the 2015-1 CLO may not be distributed if the overcollateralization ratio, or other collateral quality tests, are not satisfied.

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to the 2015-1 CLO:

| | Notes | Outstanding balance | Interest | Legal final |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------|-------------|
| | originally | December | rate | maturity |
| | issued | 31, 2016 | | |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | | |
| 2015-1 CLO | | | | |

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| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------------|
| Class A-1 | \$253,500 | \$253,500 | Libor+1.80% | January 20, 2027 |
| Class A-2 | 35,000 | 35,000 | (1) | January 20, 2027 |
| Class B | 50,000 | 50,000 | Libor+2.80% | January 20, 2027 |
| Class C | 38,500 | 38,500 | Libor+3.85% | January 20, 2027 |
| Class D | 33,250 | 33,250 | Libor+5.50% | January 20, 2027 |
| | \$410,250 | \$410,250 | | |

(1) Class A-2 Notes accrue interest at a spread over Libor of 1.65% from the closing date to, but excluding March 20, 2017, and 2.00% thereafter.

2015-2 CLO. On September 15, 2015, the Company completed a term debt securitization transaction through its separate single-purpose bankruptcy-remote subsidiary, NewStar Commercial Loan Funding 2015-2 LLC (the “2015-2 CLO”) and sold and contributed \$298.4 million in loans and investments (including unfunded commitments), or portions thereof, to the 2015-2 CLO. The Company remains the servicer of the loans. Simultaneously with the initial sale and contribution, the 2015-2 CLO issued \$327.8 million of notes to institutional investors. The Company retained \$70.1 million, comprising 100% of the 2015-2 CLO’s membership interests and a portion of the Class E notes. At December 31, 2016, the \$327.8 million of outstanding drawn notes were collateralized by the specific loans and investments, principal collection account cash and principal payment receivables totaling \$397.8 million. At December 31, 2016, deferred financing fees were \$2.9 million. The 2015-2 CLO permits reinvestment of collateral principal repayments for a four-year period ending in August 2019. Should the Company determine that reinvestment of collateral principal

repayments are impractical in light of market conditions or if collateral principal repayments are not reinvested within a prescribed timeframe, such funds may be used to repay the outstanding notes.

The Company receives a loan collateral management fee and excess interest spread. The Company also receives payments with respect to the classes of notes it owns in accordance with the transaction documents. The Company expects to receive a principal distribution as owner of the membership interests when the term debt is retired. If loan collateral in the 2015-2 CLO is in default under the terms of the indenture, the excess interest spread from the 2015-2 CLO may not be distributed if the overcollateralization ratio, or other collateral quality tests, are not satisfied.

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to the 2015-2 CLO:

| Notes | Outstanding | | Interest | Legal final |
|-------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|
| | originally | balance | | |
| issued | December | rate | maturity | |
| | 31, 2016 | | | |
| (\$ in thousands) | | | | |
| 2015-2 CLO | | | | |
| Class A-1 | \$ 205,000 | \$ 205,000 | Libor+2.00% | August 25, 2027 |
| Class A-2 | 23,000 | 23,000 | (1) | August 25, 2027 |
| Class B | 40,000 | 40,000 | Libor+2.90% | August 25, 2027 |
| Class C | 26,250 | 26,250 | Libor+3.95% | August 25, 2027 |
| Class D | 28,500 | 28,500 | Libor+5.25% | August 25, 2027 |
| Class E | 5,000 | 5,000 | Libor+7.50% | August 25, 2027 |
| | \$ 327,750 | \$ 327,750 | | |

(1) Class A-2 Notes accrue interest at a fixed rate of 3.461%.

2016-1 CLO. On March 2, 2016, the Company completed a term debt securitization transaction through its separate single-purpose bankruptcy-remote subsidiary, NewStar Commercial Loan Funding 2016-1 LLC (the "2016-1 CLO") and sold and contributed \$247.3 million in loans and investments (including unfunded commitments), or portions thereof, to the 2016-1 CLO. The Company remains the servicer of the loans. Simultaneously with the initial sale and contribution, the 2016-1 CLO issued \$255.8 million of notes to institutional investors. The Company retained \$92.2 million, comprising 100% of the 2016-1 CLO's membership interests, and the Class D and Class E notes. During the fourth quarter of 2016, the Company sold \$7.5 million of the Class D notes. At December 31, 2016, the \$263.3 million of outstanding drawn notes were collateralized by the specific loans and investments, principal collection account cash and principal payment receivables totaling \$348.0 million. At December 31, 2016, unamortized deferred financing fees were \$2.4 million. The 2016-1 CLO permits reinvestment of collateral principal repayments for a four-year period ending in February 2020. Should the Company determine that reinvestment of collateral principal repayments are impractical in light of market conditions or if collateral principal repayments are not reinvested within a prescribed timeframe, such funds may be used to repay the outstanding notes.

The following table sets forth selected information with respect to the 2016-1 CLO:

| Notes | Outstanding | Interest | Legal final |
|------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| originally | balance | rate | maturity |
| issued | | | |

December
31, 2016

| (\$ in thousands) | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 2016-1 CLO | | | | |
| Class A-1 | \$ 176,500 | \$ 176,500 | Libor+2.30% | February 25, 2028 |
| Class A-2 | 20,000 | 20,000 | (1) | February 25, 2028 |
| Class B | 36,750 | 36,750 | Libor+3.75% | February 25, 2028 |
| Class C | 22,500 | 22,500 | Libor+5.40% | February 25, 2028 |
| Class D | 7,500 | 7,500 | Libor+5.50% | February 25, 2028 |
| | \$263,250 | \$ 263,250 | | |

(1) Class A-2 Notes accrue interest at a fixed rate of 3.44%.

Arch Street CLO. On September 15, 2016, NewStar Capital LLC completed a \$409.8 million broadly syndicated loan securitization. The notes offered in the collateralized loan obligation (“Arch Street CLO”) were issued by Arch Street CLO, Ltd., an exempted company incorporated under the laws of the Cayman Islands, and (with the exception of the Class E and F notes) by Arch Street CLO, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company (each a subsidiary of NewStar Capital and collectively, “Arch Street”). The Arch Street CLO notes are backed by a diversified portfolio of broadly syndicated loans purchased and serviced by the Company. Investors purchased approximately \$370.3 million of the Arch Street CLO notes, representing approximately 90.4% of the total

capitalization of Arch Street. The Company retained all of the Class F notes and subordinated notes which together totaled approximately \$39.5 million, representing approximately 9.6% of the total capitalization of Arch Street. At December 31, 2016, the outstanding note balance was \$370.3 million and unamortized deferred financing fees were \$4.2 million. The reinvestment period is expected to end in October 2020 and scheduled to mature in October 2028.

The Company receives a loan collateral management fee and excess interest spread. The Company also receives payments with respect to the classes of notes it owns in accordance with the transaction documents. The Company expects to receive a principal distribution as owner of the membership interests when the term debt is retired. If loan collateral in the Arch Street CLO is in default under the terms of the indenture, the excess interest spread from the Arch Street CLO may not be distributed if the overcollateralization ratio, or other collateral quality tests, are not satisfied.

| Notes | Outstanding | | | Legal final |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| | originally issued | balance December 31, 2016 | Interest rate | |
| (\$ in thousands) | | | | |
| Arch Street CLO | | | | |
| Class X | \$2,500 | \$ 2,500 | Libor+1.25% | October 20, 2028 |
| Class A | 256,000 | 256,000 | Libor+1.65% | October 20, 2028 |
| Class B | 48,000 | 48,000 | Libor+2.24% | October 20, 2028 |
| Class C | 20,000 | 20,000 | Libor+3.00% | October 20, 2028 |
| Class D | 22,750 | 22,750 | Libor+4.20% | October 20, 2028 |
| Class E | 21,000 | 21,000 | Libor+6.95% | October 20, 2028 |
| | \$370,250 | \$ 370,250 | | |

2007-1 CLO. In June 2007, the Company completed a term debt securitization transaction. In conjunction with this transaction the Company established a separate single-purpose bankruptcy-remote subsidiary, NewStar Commercial Loan Trust 2007-1 (the "2007-1 CLO Trust") and sold and contributed \$600 million in loans and investments (including unfunded commitments), or portions thereof, to the 2007-1 CLO Trust. The Company remained the servicer of the loans. Simultaneously with the initial sale and contribution, the 2007-1 CLO Trust issued \$546.0 million of notes to institutional investors. The Company retained \$54.0 million, comprising 100% of the 2007-1 CLO Trust's trust certificates. The 2007-1 CLO Trust permitted reinvestment of collateral principal repayments for a six-year period which ended in May 2013. During 2012, the Company purchased \$0.2 million of the 2007-1 CLO Trust's Class C notes. During 2010, the Company purchased \$5.0 million of the 2007-1 CLO Trust's Class D notes. During 2009, the Company purchased \$1.0 million of the 2007-1 CLO Trust's Class D notes. On November 30, 2016, the Company called the 2007 CLO Trust and redeemed the notes at par. In conjunction with the call, the Company received a principal distribution of \$35.8 million.

2015-1 ABS. On September 1, 2015, NewStar Equipment Finance I, LLC, a subsidiary of the Company, completed a static asset-backed securitization transaction through its separate single-purpose bankruptcy-remote subsidiary, NewStar Commercial Lease Funding 2015-1 LLC (the "2015-1 ABS") and sold and contributed \$100.1 million in leases and equipment loans (including unfunded commitments), or portions thereof, to the 2015-1 ABS. The Company remained the servicer of the leases and equipment loans. Simultaneously with the initial sale and contribution, the 2015-1 ABS issued \$70.0 million of notes to institutional investors. The Company retained all of the 2015-1 ABS's membership interest and the Class B notes, totaling \$40.6 million. On October 17, 2016, the Company called the 2015-1 ABS and redeemed the notes at par. In conjunction with the call, the Company received a principal distribution of \$12.8 million. The Company accelerated and recognized deferred financing fees of \$1.1 million related

to the repayment of the 2015-1 ABS.

Corporate Credit Facility

On January 5, 2010, the Company entered into a note agreement with Fortress Credit Corp., which was subsequently amended on August 31, 2010, January 27, 2012, November 5, 2012, and December 4, 2012. The agreement was amended and restated on May 13, 2013 and further amended on June 3, 2013. The credit facility, as amended, consisted of a \$238.5 million term note with Fortress Credit Corp. as agent, which consisted of the existing outstanding balance of \$100.0 million (the “Existing Funding”), an initial funding of \$98.5 million (the “Initial Funding”), and three subsequent borrowings of \$5.0 million (the “Delay Draw Term A”), \$25.0 million (the “Delay Draw Term B”) and the \$10.0 million Term C Loan. On April 22, 2015, the Company repaid in full the term note with Fortress Credit Corp.

Debt Maturities

The contractual obligations under credit facilities and term debt as of December 31, 2016 were as follows:

| | Credit facilities | Term debt(1) | Senior notes | Subordinated notes | Total |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | (\$ in thousands) | | | | |
| 2017 | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— |
| 2018 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2019 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 2020 | 454,300 | — | 380,000 | — | 834,300 |
| 2021 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Thereafter | — | 2,215,840 | — | 300,000 | 2,515,840 |
| Total | \$454,300 | \$2,215,840 | \$380,000 | \$300,000 | \$3,350,140 |

(1)Maturities for term debt are based on contractual maturity dates. Actual maturities may occur earlier.

Note 10. Repurchase Agreements

The Company has entered into a repurchase transaction with Deutsche Bank AG, pursuant to the terms of a Global Master Repurchase Agreement (2000 version), dated as of February 13, 2015 between Deutsche Bank AG and NS Bond Funding I LLC (the “Deutsche Bank Repurchase Agreement”). Pursuant to the Deutsche Bank Repurchase Agreement, Deutsche Bank AG will purchase securities and simultaneously agree to sell the securities back to the Company at a specified date. Under the terms of the Deutsche Bank Repurchase Agreement, the Company is required at all times to maintain a level of overcollateralization for the obligations, which is maintained through daily margining. As of December 31, 2016, the outstanding balance was zero. The Company has made certain representations and warranties and is required to comply with various covenants and requirements customary for financing arrangements of this nature.

The Company has entered into a repurchase transaction with Citigroup Global Markets, pursuant to the terms of a Global Master Repurchase Agreement (2000 version), dated as of March 16, 2015 between Citigroup Global Markets and NS Loan Originator LLC (the “Citigroup Repurchase Agreement”). Pursuant to the Citigroup Repurchase Agreement, Citigroup Global Markets will purchase securities and simultaneously agree to sell the securities back to the Company at a specified date. Under the terms of the Citigroup Repurchase Agreement, the Company is required at all times to maintain a level of overcollateralization for the obligations, which is maintained through daily margining. As of December 31, 2016, the outstanding balance was \$31.3 million. The Company has made certain representations and warranties and is required to comply with various covenants and requirements customary for financing arrangements of this nature.

The Company has entered into a repurchase transaction with JP Morgan Chase Bank pursuant to the terms of a Global Master Repurchase Agreement (2000 version), dated as of April 2, 2015 between JP Morgan Chase Bank and NS Bond Funding II LLC (the “JP Morgan Repurchase Agreement”). Pursuant to the JP Morgan Repurchase Agreement, JP Morgan Chase Bank will purchase securities and simultaneously agree to sell the securities back to the Company at a specified date. Under the terms of the JP Morgan Repurchase Agreement, the Company is required at all times to maintain a level of overcollateralization for the obligations, which is maintained through daily margining. A portion of the proceeds from our senior notes offering in November 2015 were used to pay down this facility. As of

December 31, 2016, the outstanding balance was \$22.0 million. The Company has made certain representations and warranties and is required to comply with various covenants and requirements customary for financing arrangements of this nature.

The Company has entered into a repurchase transaction with Natixis Securities Americas LLC pursuant to the terms of a Global Master Repurchase Agreement (2000 version), dated as of October 14, 2015 between Natixis Securities Americas LLC and NS Bond Funding III LLC (the "Natixis Repurchase Agreement"). Pursuant to the Natixis Repurchase Agreement, Natixis Securities Americas LLC will purchase securities and simultaneously agree to sell the securities back to the Company at a specified date. Under the terms of the Natixis Repurchase Agreement, the Company is required at all times to maintain a level of overcollateralization for the obligations, which is maintained through daily margining. As of December 31, 2016, the outstanding balance was \$1.7 million. The Company has made certain representations and warranties and is required to comply with various covenants and requirements customary for financing arrangements of this nature.

On June 7, 2011, the Company entered into a five-year, \$68.0 million financing arrangement with Macquarie Bank Limited backed primarily by a portfolio of commercial mortgage loans previously originated by the Company. The financing was structured as a master repurchase agreement under which the Company sold the portfolio of commercial mortgage loans to Macquarie for an aggregate purchase price of \$68.0 million. The Company also agreed to repurchase the commercial mortgage loans from time to time

(including a minimum quarterly amount), and agreed to repurchase all of the commercial mortgage loans by June 7, 2016. Upon the repurchase of a commercial mortgage loan, the Company was obligated to repay the principal amount related to such mortgage loan plus accrued interest (at a rate based on LIBOR plus a margin) to the date of repurchase. On October 2, 2013, the Company entered into an amendment to this financing arrangement which, among other things, extended the date by which we had agreed to repurchase all of the commercial mortgage loans by one year to June 7, 2017, provided for \$25.5 million of additional advances for existing eligible assets owned by the Company, allowed for the advance of up to \$15.0 million to fund an additional commercial mortgage loan, and released \$41.1 million of principal payments to the Company as unrestricted cash. On August 29, 2016, the Company redeemed in full the five-year, \$68.0 million financing arrangement with Macquarie Bank Limited with an outstanding balance of \$10.7 million. The Company accelerated and recognized deferred financial fees of \$0.3 million related to repurchase facility during 2016.

Note 11. Commitments

The Company has non-cancelable operating leases for office space and office equipment and furniture. These leases expire over the next five years and contain provisions for certain annual rental escalations. Future minimum lease payments under non-cancelable operating leases as of December 31, 2016 were as follows:

| | (\$ in thousands) |
|------------|----------------------|
| 2017 | \$ 1,567 |
| 2018 | 1,409 |
| 2019 | 1,306 |
| 2020 | 576 |
| 2021 | — |
| Thereafter | — |

Rent expense was \$2.1 million, \$2.2 million and \$2.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

The Company's office space lease at its corporate headquarters in Boston, MA is scheduled to terminate on February 28, 2020.

Note 12. Stockholders' Equity

Stockholders' Equity

As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, the Company's authorized capital consists of preferred and common stock and the following was authorized and outstanding:

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| | December 31, 2016 | | December 31, 2015 | |
|-----------------|------------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|
| | Shares | Shares | Shares | Shares |
| | authorized outstanding | | authorized outstanding | |
| | (In thousands) | | | |
| Preferred stock | 5,000 | — | 5,000 | — |
| Common stock | 145,000 | 42,820 | 145,000 | 46,527 |

Preferred Stock

The Company's authorized capital stock has included 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock with a par value of \$0.01 per share, all of which remain undesignated.

Common Stock

On May 5, 2014, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$20.0 million of the Company's common stock from time to time on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The timing and amount of any shares purchased were determined by the Company's management based on its evaluation of market conditions and other factors. The Company completed the repurchase program during July 2014. Under this stock repurchase program, the Company repurchased 1,519,615 shares of its common stock at a weighted average price per share of \$13.13.

On August 13, 2014, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$10.0 million of the Company's common stock from time to time on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The timing and amount of any shares purchased were determined by the Company's management based on its evaluation of market conditions and other factors. The

Company completed the repurchase program during July 2015. Upon completion of the stock repurchase program, the Company had repurchased 892,911 shares of its common stock at a weighted average price per share of \$11.20.

On December 22, 2014, the Company repurchased 1,000,000 shares of its common stock in a privately negotiated transaction with an unaffiliated third party for an aggregate purchase price of \$10.2 million.

On March 24, 2015, the Company repurchased 1,000,000 shares of its common stock in a privately negotiated transaction with an unaffiliated third party for an aggregate purchase price of \$10.3 million.

On October 7, 2015, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$5.0 million of the Company's common stock from time to time in open market or in privately negotiated transactions. On February 10, 2016, the Company's Board of Directors authorized an increase to this stock repurchase program to authorize the repurchase of up to an aggregate of \$30.0 million of the Company's common stock (inclusive of approximately \$4.9 million remaining under the existing program). The timing and amount of any shares purchased was determined by the Company's management based on its evaluation of market conditions and other factors. The repurchase program expired on December 31, 2016. Upon completion of the stock repurchase program, the Company had repurchased 2,640,544 shares of its common stock under this program at a weighted average price per share of \$7.85, of which 1,000,000 shares were repurchased in a privately negotiated transaction with an unaffiliated third party for an aggregate purchase price of \$7.0 million.

On October 21, 2016, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of 2,500,000 shares of the Company's common stock in privately negotiated transactions outside of the Company's previously announced stock repurchase program.

On December 9, 2016, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$30.0 million of the Company's common stock from time to time on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The timing and amount of any shares purchased under the repurchase program will be determined by our management based on its evaluation of market conditions and other factors. The repurchase program, will commence immediately following the expiry of the stock repurchase program authorized on October 7, 2015 and amended on February 10, 2016. The timing and amount of any shares purchased under the repurchase program will be determined by our management based on its evaluation of market conditions and other factors. The new repurchase program, commenced immediately following the expiration of the prior stock repurchase program, which was authorized on October 7, 2015 amended on February 10, 2016 and expired on December 31, 2016. The new repurchase program will expire on December 31, 2017 unless extended by the Board and may be suspended or discontinued at any time without notice.

Warrants

On December 4, 2014, the Company issued warrants to purchase 9,500,000 million shares of its common stock as part of the strategic relationship with Franklin Square Capital Partners ("Franklin Square"). Each warrant allows the warrant holder to purchase one share of the Company's common stock at a purchase price equal to \$12.62 per share. The warrants were deemed to be freestanding and indexed to the Company's common stock. As such they were recorded at relative fair value, with no required subsequent re-measurement. The warrants expire on December 4, 2024. At December 31, 2016, the warrants had a fair value of \$63.6 million, net of assumed transaction costs.

On January 23, 2015, the Company completed its issuance of warrants as part of the strategic relationship with Franklin Square. The Company issued additional warrants to purchase 2,500,000 million shares of its common stock subject to the same terms as the warrants that were issued on December 4, 2014.

Restricted Stock

During 2014, the Company issued 91,360 shares of restricted stock to certain employees of the Company pursuant to the Company's 2006 Incentive Plan, as amended and 43,648 shares of restricted stock to non-employee members of the Board of Directors. The fair value of the shares of restricted stock is equal to the closing price of the Company's stock on the date of issuance. The shares of restricted stock vest in three equal installments on each of the first three anniversaries of the date of grant.

During 2015, the Company issued 355,876 shares of restricted stock to certain employees of the Company pursuant to the Company's 2006 Incentive Plan, as amended and 51,352 shares of restricted stock to non-employee members of the Board of Directors. The fair value of the shares of restricted stock is equal to the closing price of the Company's stock on the date of issuance. The shares of restricted stock vest in three equal installments on each of the first three anniversaries of the date of grant.

During 2016, the Company issued 523,903 shares of restricted stock to certain employees of the Company pursuant to the Company's 2006 Incentive Plan, as amended and 74,020 shares of restricted stock to non-employee members of the Board of Directors. The fair value of the shares of restricted stock is equal to the closing price of the Company's stock on the date of issuance.

The shares of restricted stock issued to employees of the Company vest in three equal installments on each of the first three anniversaries of the date of grant.

Restricted stock activity for 2016 and 2015 was as follows:

| | Shares | Grant-date fair value (\$ in thousands) |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Non-vested as of December 31, 2014 | 315,338 | \$ 4,091 |
| Granted | 407,228 | 4,322 |
| Vested | (219,802) | (2,710) |
| Forfeited | (6,060) | (74) |
| Non-vested as of December 31, 2015 | 496,704 | 5,629 |
| Granted | 597,923 | 3,835 |
| Vested | (250,846) | (2,876) |
| Forfeited | (2,947) | (24) |
| Non-vested as of December 31, 2016 | 840,834 | 6,564 |

The Company's compensation expense related to its restricted stock was \$3.7 million, \$3.3 million and \$2.5 million for 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The unrecognized compensation cost of \$2.3 million at December 31, 2016 is expected to be recognized over approximately the next three years.

Stock Options

Under the Company's 2006 Incentive Plan, the Company's compensation committee may grant options to purchase shares of common stock. Stock options may either be incentive stock options ("ISOs") or non-qualified stock options. ISOs may only be granted to officers and employees. The compensation committee will, with regard to each stock option, determine the number of shares subject to the stock option, the manner and time of exercise, vesting, and the exercise price, which will not be less than 100% of the fair market value of the common stock on the date of the grant. The shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of options or other awards or upon grant of any other award may be either previously authorized but unissued shares or treasury shares.

On May 12, 2010, stock options exercisable for an aggregate of 629,105 shares of common stock were issued to certain employees of the Company. The stock options have an exercise price of \$8.28, which is equal to the closing price of the Company's common stock on the date of issuance. The options granted vested in three equal installments on each of the first three anniversaries of the May 12, 2010 grant date and have a seven-year life.

On November 1, 2010, stock options exercisable for an aggregate of 60,000 shares of common stock were issued to certain employees of the Company. The stock options have an exercise price of \$7.52, which is equal to the closing price of the Company's common stock on the date of issuance. The options granted vested in two equal installments on each of the first two anniversaries of the November 1, 2010 grant date and have a seven-year life.

On December 1, 2010, stock options exercisable for an aggregate of 50,000 shares of common stock were issued to certain employees of the Company. The stock options have an exercise price of \$8.74, which is equal to the closing price of the Company's common stock on the date of issuance. The options granted vested in two equal installments on each of the first two anniversaries of the December 1, 2010 grant date and have a seven-year life.

During 2011, stock options exercisable for an aggregate of 52,500 shares of common stock were issued to certain employees of the Company pursuant to the Company's 2006 Equity Incentive Plan, as amended and stock options exercisable for an aggregate of 55,000 shares were issued to certain members of its Board of Directors. The stock options have exercise prices between \$10.11 and \$10.59, representing the closing prices of the common stock on the respective dates of issuance. The options granted to employees vested in three equal installments on each of the first three anniversaries of the date of grant and have a seven-year life. The options granted to directors vested in full on the one-year anniversary of the date of grant and have a seven-year life.

Stock option activity for 2016 and 2015 was as follows:

| | Options | Weighted average remaining contractual exercise price | Weighted average life (in years) |
|--|-------------|--|---|
| Outstanding as of December 31, 2014 | 4,628,439 | 5.00 | 2 |
| Granted | — | — | 0 |
| Exercised | (2,092,092) | 3.22 | 0 |
| Forfeited | (22,815) | 14.02 | 1 |
| Outstanding as of December 31, 2015 | 2,513,532 | 5.75 | 1 |
| Granted | — | — | 0 |
| Exercised | (1,761,926) | 3.04 | 0 |
| Forfeited | (329,914) | 16.37 | 0 |
| Outstanding as of December 31, 2016 | 421,692 | 8.72 | 1 |
| Vested and exercisable as of December 31, 2016 | 421,692 | 8.72 | 1 |

The Company did not grant any options during 2016 or 2015. As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, the Company has recognized all compensation costs related to options granted. During 2014, the Company recognized compensation expense of \$0.1 million, respectively related to its stock options.

Note 13. Earnings Per Share

The Company utilizes the two-class method to calculate earnings per share. The two-class method allocates net income to each class of common stock and participating security. Unvested share-based payment awards granted to certain employees and board members entitle holders to the same rights as outstanding and vested common stock. These securities are considered to be participating securities and are included in the allocation for computing earnings per share under this method. Income is allocated to common shareholders and participating securities under the two-class method based upon the proportion of each to the total weighted average shares available.

The computations of basic and diluted earnings per share for the periods ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014 are as follows:

| | December 31, 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|----------------|----------------------|------|------|
| (In thousands) | | | |

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| | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| Numerator: | | | |
| Net income to common shareholders | \$28,224 | \$16,890 | \$10,594 |
| Net income allocated to participating securities - basic and | | | |
| diluted | 490 | 182 | 72 |
| Net income allocated to common shareholders - basic and | | | |
| diluted | \$27,734 | \$16,708 | \$10,522 |
| Denominator: | | | |
| Denominator for basic earnings per common share | 45,592 | 45,631 | 48,267 |
| Denominator for diluted earnings per common share: | | | |
| Potentially dilutive securities—options | 26 | 1,904 | 3,229 |
| Potentially dilutive securities—restricted stock | — | — | — |
| Potentially dilutive securities—warrants | — | — | 79 |
| Total weighted average diluted shares | 45,618 | 47,535 | 51,575 |
| Earnings per common share | | | |
| Basic | \$0.61 | \$0.37 | \$0.22 |
| Diluted | 0.61 | 0.35 | 0.21 |

Warrants to purchase common stock totaling 12,000,000 were not included in the computation of earnings per share for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 due to the fact that the results would be anti-dilutive.

Note 14. Variable Interest Entity

On October 1, 2015, the Company adopted ASU 2015-2, Consolidation – Amendments to the Consolidation Analysis which revised the existing consolidation guidance and required the Company to re-evaluate its consolidation conclusions under the new model. The new consolidation model revised the conditions required for consolidation, the criteria to be considered a variable interest entity and the determination of the primary beneficiary. The Company’s involvement in VIEs includes term debt securitizations and sponsored funds.

The Company sponsors the formation of various entities that are considered to be VIEs. The majority of these VIEs were formed to issue term debt securitizations. The assets of the VIEs are primarily comprised of senior secured loans and the liabilities are primarily comprised of debt. The Company's determination of whether it is the primary beneficiary of the VIE is based in part on an assessment of whether or not the Company is exposed to the majority of the risks and rewards of the entity. In instances where the Company retains a significant portion of the equity and remains the servicer of the loans, it was determined that the Company has the power to direct the activities that most significantly impact the economic performance of these VIEs. Additionally, the Company determined that the potential fees that it could receive directly or indirectly from these VIEs represent rights to returns that could potentially be significant to the VIEs. As a result, the Company was deemed the primary beneficiary and therefore has consolidated these entities. VIEs that have been consolidated are disclosed in Note 9.

Unconsolidated VIEs

In November 2016, NewStar closed a new managed credit fund, NewStar Berkeley Fund CLO LLC (the “Berkeley Fund”), a \$505 million term debt securitization. The Berkeley Fund is the fourth credit fund established by the Company to co-invest in directly originated middle market commercial loans. To comply with European Union (“EU”) risk retention rules, the Company holds 5% of each class of notes in the securitization (vertical strip), totaling \$25.3 million. The Berkeley Fund employs an independent investment professional who is responsible for investment decision making on behalf of the fund. The Company has determined that it is not the primary beneficiary of the Berkeley Fund and will not consolidate the Berkeley Fund’s operating results or statements of financial position; however, the Company has determined that it has a variable interest in the Berkeley Fund as it holds notes of the securitization.

In January 2015, NewStar closed a new managed credit fund, NewStar Clarendon Fund CLO LLC (the “Clarendon Fund”), a \$400.0 million term debt securitization. The Clarendon Fund is the third credit fund established by the Company to co-invest in directly originated middle market commercial loans. To comply with EU risk retention rules, the Company holds 5% of each class of notes in the securitization (vertical strip), totaling \$20.4 million. The Clarendon Fund employs an independent investment professional who is responsible for investment decision making on behalf of the fund. The Company has determined that it is not the primary beneficiary of the Clarendon Fund and will not consolidate the Clarendon Fund’s operating results or statements of financial position; however, the Company has determined it has a variable interest in the Clarendon Fund as it holds notes of the securitization.

In October 2015, NewStar acquired FOC Partners, which now operates as NewStar Capital. At acquisition, NewStar Capital was the investment manager for six collateralized loan obligations and two sponsored funds and provided discretionary services to a series of separately managed accounts. The Company determined that it was not the primary beneficiary of any of acquired CLOs, sponsored funds or separately managed accounts; however, the Company determined that it had a variable interest in a fund as it holds approximately one percent of the interest of the fund.

The following table sets forth the information with respect to the unconsolidated VIEs for which the Company holds a variable interest in as of December 31, 2016 and 2015:

| | December 31, 2016 | December 31, 2015 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| | (\$ in thousands) | |
| Unconsolidated VIE assets | \$912,900 | \$ 483,581 |
| Unconsolidated VIE liabilities | 810,030 | 362,383 |
| Equity interest included on the Consolidated Balance Sheet | 50,386 | 23,910 |
| Maximum risk of loss (1) | 50,794 | 24,327 |

(1) Includes equity investment the Company has made, or is required to make, and any earned but uncollected management and incentive fees. The Company does not record performance and incentive allocations until the respective measurement period has ended.

Former Unconsolidated VIEs

In April 2013, the Company formed a new managed credit fund, NewStar Arlington Fund LLC (“Arlington Fund”) in partnership with an institutional investor to co-invest in middle market commercial loans originated by the Company’s Leveraged

Finance group. As the managing member of the Arlington Fund, the Company retained full discretion over Arlington Fund's investment decisions, subject to usual and customary limitations, and earned management fees as compensation for its services. For 2014, the management fee was \$0.5 million.

On April 4, 2013, Arlington Fund entered into an agreement establishing \$147.0 million of Class A variable funding notes (the "Class A Notes") and \$28.0 million of Class B variable funding notes (the "Class B Notes") to partially fund eligible middle market loan origination for Arlington Fund. Wells Fargo Bank, National Association funded the Class A Notes as the initial Class A lender and the Company funded the Class B Notes as the initial Class B lender. For 2014, interest expense on the Class B Notes totaled \$0.7 million. For 2014, the Fund distributed excess cash to its institutional investor totaling \$0.7 million.

From inception, the Company was deemed to be the primary beneficiary of Arlington Fund and, therefore, consolidated the financial results of Arlington Fund with the Company's results of operations and statements of financial position since April 2013.

On June 26, 2014, the NewStar Arlington Senior Loan Program LLC (the "Arlington Program") completed a \$409.4 million term debt securitization comprised of all of the Arlington Fund's loans as well as a portion of the Company's loans classified as held-for-sale. A portion of the proceeds from this term debt securitization were used to repay all advances under the Class A Notes and the Class B Notes. Following repayment, the Class A Notes and the Class B Notes were redeemed. As a result, the amortization of \$1.1 million of deferred financing fees was accelerated and recognized during the three months ended June 30, 2014. The Company's membership interests in Arlington Fund were also redeemed and new membership interests in the Arlington Program were issued to its equity investors. The Company did not recognize a gain or a loss on the redemption of its membership interests in the Arlington Fund. The Company acts as collateral manager for the Arlington Program. As a result of the repayment of the Company's advances as the Class B lender under the warehouse facility and the redemption of its membership interests in the Arlington Fund, the Company has no ownership or financial interests in the Arlington Fund or its successors except to the extent that it receives management fees as collateral manager of the Arlington Program. Additionally, the Arlington Program employs an independent investment professional who is responsible for investment decision making on behalf of the program. As a result, the Company deconsolidated the Arlington Fund from its statements of financial position beginning on June 26, 2014. The Company determined that it is not the primary beneficiary of the Arlington Program and will not consolidate the Arlington Program's operating results or statements of financial position as of that date.

Although the Company consolidated all of the assets and liabilities of Arlington Fund during the period from April 4, 2013 through June 26, 2014, its maximum exposure to loss was limited to its investments in membership interests in Arlington Fund, its Class B Note receivable, as well as the management fee receivable from Arlington Fund. These items defined the Company's economic relationship with Arlington Fund but were eliminated upon consolidation. The Company managed the assets of Arlington Fund solely for the benefit of its lenders and investors. If the Company were to have liquidated, the assets of Arlington Fund would not have been available to the Company's general creditors. Conversely, the investors in the debt of Arlington Fund had no recourse to the Company's general assets. Therefore, the Company did not consider this debt its obligation.

During the period from April 4, 2013 through June 26, 2014 when the Company consolidated the Arlington Fund as a VIE, the membership interests representing equity ownership of Arlington Fund were characterized as debt in the Company's consolidated statement of financial position. The Company applied an imputed interest rate to that debt and recorded the resulting interest expense in its consolidated statement of operations. In the consolidation, the Company eliminated the economic results of its related portion of the membership interests and the applied interest expense from its results of operations and statements of financial position. As a result of the re-evaluation of the Company's VIEs, the Arlington Program is no longer considered a VIE.

Note 15. Financial Instruments with Off-Balance Sheet Risk

The Company is party to financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk in the normal course of business to meet the financing needs of its borrowers. These financial instruments include unfunded commitments and standby letters of credit. The instruments involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit risk in excess of the amount recognized in the consolidated balance sheet. The contract or notional amounts of those instruments reflect the extent of involvement we have in particular classes of financial instruments.

The Company's exposure to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the other party to the financial instrument for standby letters of credit is represented by the contractual amount of those instruments. The Company uses the same credit policies in making commitments and conditional obligations as it does for on-balance sheet instruments.

Unused lines of credit are commitments to lend to a borrower if certain conditions have been met. These commitments generally have fixed expiration dates or other termination clauses and may require payment of a fee. Because certain commitments may expire without being drawn upon, the total commitment amounts do not necessarily represent future cash requirements. The Company evaluates each borrower's creditworthiness on a case-by-case basis. The amount of collateral required is based on factors that include

management’s credit evaluation of the borrower and the borrower’s compliance with financial covenants. Due to their fluctuating nature, the Company cannot know with certainty the aggregate amounts that will be required to fund its unfunded commitments. The aggregate amount of these unfunded commitments may exceed the Company’s available funds.

At December 31, 2016, the Company had \$326.1 million of unused lines of credit. Of these unused lines of credit, unfunded commitments related to revolving credit facilities were \$257.5 million and unfunded commitments related to delayed draw term loans were \$68.6 million. These commitments may expire without being drawn upon as such the total commitment does not necessarily represent future cash requirements.

The credit risk involved in issuing letters of credit is essentially the same as that involved in extending credit to our borrowers. Standby letters of credit are conditional commitments issued by us to guarantee the performance by a borrower to a third party.

Financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk are summarized as follows:

| | December 31, | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (\$ in thousands) | |
| Unused lines of credit | \$326,051 | \$601,805 |
| Standby letters of credit | 8,239 | 8,696 |

Note 16. Total Return Swap

The Company was a participant in a Total Return Swap (“TRS”), which matured on March 31, 2016. We acted as the manager of the TRS and selected the specific loans to be subject to the TRS. The TRS did not qualify for hedge accounting treatment as it did not offset the risks of another investment position.

The underlying referenced loan portfolio of the TRS was primarily large, liquid, broadly syndicated senior secure floating rate loans with Citibank, N.A. as the counterparty. The TRS effectively added leverage to the Company’s portfolio by providing economic benefits of the loans subject to the TRS, despite the fact that such loans were not directly owned the Company, in return for an interest-type payment to Citibank.

On December 4, 2014, NewStar TRS I LLC, a newly-formed subsidiary of the Company, entered into a total return swap of senior secured floating rate loans with Citibank, N.A. The initial maximum market value (determined at the time such loan became subject to the TRS) of the portfolio of loans subject to the TRS was \$75.0 million. On March 2, 2015, we entered into an amendment to the TRS that increased the maximum value to \$150.0 million, and on July 14, 2015, we entered into an additional amendment to the TRS that increased the maximum value to \$175.0 million.

Upon maturity of the TRS on March 31, 2016, the Company purchased \$138.9 million of the loans in the referenced portfolio. The majority of these loans were purchased to fund future CLOs of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiary NewStar Capital. The Company recorded these loans at fair value which was determined by using the midpoint of the bid-ask spread provided by an independent third-party pricing service.

The Company recorded interest income from the TRS portfolio of \$2.2 million, interest expense from the TRS portfolio of \$0.8 million, and a realized loss on the TRS of \$6.1 million in the consolidated statement of operations for

the year ended December 31, 2016.

At December 31, 2015, the receivable and realized loss on the total return swap on the consolidated balance sheet and consolidated statements of operations consisted of the following:

| | Net Receivable | Net Realized Gains/(Losses) |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| | (\$ in thousands) | |
| Interest income from TRS portfolio | \$— | \$ 8,667 |
| TRS interest expense | — | 2,652 |
| Realized loss on TRS | (5,816) | (4,822) |
| TRS receivable | 1,377 | — |

The fair value of the TRS was reflected as an unrealized gain or loss on the total return swap on the consolidated balance sheet, within other assets or liabilities. The change in value of the TRS was reflected in the consolidated statements of operations as loss on total return swap.

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As of December 31, 2015, the fair value of the underlying referenced portfolio was \$155.6 million.

The Company's obligations under the TRS were non-recourse to it, and its exposure was limited to the value of the cash collateral which fluctuated from time to time depending on the market value of the underlying loans. The Company was required to cash collateralize a specified percentage of each loan included under the TRS in accordance with margin requirements. As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, the Company had cash collateral on deposit with Citibank of \$0 and \$56.5 million, respectively.

The Company paid interest to Citibank for each loan at a rate equal to one-month LIBOR plus 1.60% per annum. Upon the termination or repayment of any loan under the TRS Agreement, the Company would deduct the appreciation of such loan's value from any interest owed to Citibank or pay the depreciation amount to Citibank in addition to remaining interest payments.

Note 17. Income Taxes

The components of income tax expense are as follows:

| | December 31, | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------|---------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | |
| Current tax expense: | | | |
| Federal | \$25,300 | \$8,613 | \$3,245 |
| State | 4,475 | 4,006 | 1,667 |
| Total current | 29,775 | 12,619 | 4,912 |
| Deferred tax expense (benefit): | | | |
| Federal | (9,883) | 426 | 2,440 |
| State | 535 | (1,094) | 133 |
| Total deferred | (9,348) | (668) | 2,573 |
| Income tax expense | \$20,427 | \$11,951 | \$7,485 |

The Company's effective tax rate for 2016 and 2015 reflects the impact of tax filing in additional states and changes in the tax rate on cumulative temporary differences.

The effective tax rate differed from the statutory federal corporate rate of 35% as follows:

| | December 31, | | |
|--|-------------------|----------|---------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
| | (\$ in thousands) | | |
| Federal statutory rate | \$17,028 | \$10,094 | \$6,328 |
| State income taxes, net of federal tax benefit | 3,256 | 1,893 | 1,170 |
| Other | 143 | (36) | (13) |
| | \$20,427 | \$11,951 | \$7,485 |

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Deferred income taxes are recorded when revenues and expenses are recognized in different periods for financial statement and income tax purposes. As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, components of deferred tax assets and liabilities are as follows:

| | December 31, | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (\$ in thousands) | |
| Deferred tax asset: | | |
| Allowance for credit losses | \$23,353 | \$29,105 |
| Capitalized startup costs | — | 103 |
| Other | 4,243 | 1,483 |
| Securities fair value adjustments | 2,491 | 4,166 |
| Equity compensation | 2,505 | 6,950 |
| Accrued bonus and severance | 6,886 | 6,728 |
| Income from non-performing assets | 4,329 | 4,325 |
| Equity positions | 1,272 | — |
| Other real estate owned | 73 | — |
| Intangible Assets | 293 | 196 |
| Gross deferred tax asset | 45,445 | 53,056 |
| Deferred tax liability: | | |
| Prepaid expenses | 1,091 | 1,226 |
| Mark-to-market loans | 294 | 420 |
| Deferred loan costs | 1,488 | 1,971 |
| Cancellation of term debt income | 1,185 | 1,778 |
| Equity positions | — | 2,498 |
| Equipment leasing | — | 11,113 |
| Goodwill | 580 | 917 |
| Gross deferred tax liability | 4,638 | 19,923 |
| Net deferred tax asset | \$40,807 | \$33,133 |

As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, we had net deferred tax assets of \$40.8 million and \$33.1 million, respectively. In assessing the realizability of deferred tax assets, management considers whether it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. The Company's management considered all available evidence, both positive and negative, in determining the realizability of deferred tax assets at December 31, 2016. Management considered carryback availability, the scheduled reversals of deferred tax liabilities, projected future taxable income during the reversal periods, and tax planning strategies in making this assessment. Management also considered our recent history of taxable income, trends in our earnings, positive financial ratios, and the impact of the downturn in the current economic environment (including the impact of credit on allowance and provision for loan losses) on the Company. Based upon its assessment, management believes that a valuation allowance was not necessary as of December 31, 2016.

As of December 31, 2016 and 2015, the Company did not have any material accrued interest, penalties or uncertain tax positions.

The Company files U.S. federal and various state income tax returns. As of December 31, 2016, the Company is subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service and most state tax authorities for tax years after December 31, 2012. A few states remain subject to examination for the year ended December 31, 2011. During 2016, the Company received an examination notification from the Internal Revenue Service for the 2014 tax year. There have been no

significant issues identified and the examination is still in process at December 31, 2016.

Note 18. Fair Value

ASC 820, Fair Value Measurements and disclosures, establishes a three-level valuation hierarchy for disclosure of fair value measurements. The valuation hierarchy is based upon the transparency of inputs to the valuation of an asset or liability as of the measurement date. The three levels are defined as follows:

Level 1—inputs to the valuation methodology are quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.

Level 2—inputs to the valuation methodology include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, and inputs that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the financial instrument.

Level 3—inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

A financial instrument's categorization within the valuation hierarchy is based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for instruments measured at fair value, including the general classification of such instruments pursuant to the valuation hierarchy.

Items Recorded at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

Investments in debt securities, available-for-sale

Investments in debt securities available-for-sale are recorded at fair value on a recurring basis. The fair value measurement of investments in debt securities is based on third party pricing services or by using internally developed financial models. For securities in less liquid markets where there is limited activity and little transparency around broker quotes used to value such securities, the Company classifies securities valued using broker quotes as Level 3. If quoted prices are not available, then fair value is estimated by using internally developed financial models. These securities are not actively traded and require a private sale, and the valuation involves application of significant management judgment. Inputs into the model-based valuations can include changes in market indexes, selling prices of similar securities, management's assumptions related to the credit rating of the security, prepayment assumptions and other factors such as credit loss assumptions and management's assessment of the current market conditions. Such securities are classified as Level 3, as the valuation models are based on significant inputs that are unobservable in the market.

Loans

Loans designated to Credit Funds managed by NewStar Capital are recorded at fair value on a recurring basis. The Company has elected to apply fair value option accounting to these loans which is consistent with the manner in which the Credit Funds are managed. The fair value of these loans are based on third party pricing services. These loans are classified as Level 2. During the twelve months ended December 31, 2016, the Company recorded a \$5.5 million gain from the change in fair value which was recorded in other miscellaneous income, net.

Total return swap

The fair value of the total return swap was based on third party pricing services who collect prices through a variety of methods including dealer runs, indicative sheets and online posts. The Company recorded the total return swap with Citibank as Level 2. At December 31, 2016, the Company no longer participated in the TRS. At December 31, 2015, the TRS was included within Other liabilities on the consolidated balance sheet. The TRS had a maximum notional amount of \$175.0 million and was carried at an estimated fair value of \$(4.4) million, comprised of \$1.4 million of interest receivable and an unrealized loss of \$5.8 million on the underlying loan portfolio.

Contingent Liability

The contingent liability relating to potential credit indemnification obligations in connection with the Equipment Finance sale is recorded at fair value on a recurring basis. The measurement of the contingent liability is based on the Company's periodic portfolio review of the then outstanding loans and leases sold. The Company has an agreement with the third party buyer to provide a review of the portfolio on a periodic basis. The Company uses the portfolio review, historical knowledge of the portfolio, changes in market indexes, management's assumptions related to the credit rating, prepayment and collateral value assumptions and other factors such as current market conditions to calculate management's best estimate of expected losses. This contingent liability is classified as a Level 3.

Items Measured at Fair Value on a Nonrecurring Basis

Collateral dependent impaired loans

Collateral dependent loans that are deemed to be impaired are valued based upon the fair value of the underlying collateral. For collateral dependent loans for which repayment is dependent on the sale of the collateral, management adjusts the fair value for estimated costs to sell. For collateral dependent loans for which repayment is dependent on the operation of the collateral, management may also adjust values to reflect estimated market value declines or apply other discounts to appraised values. Collateral dependent impaired loans are categorized as Level 3. During the twelve months ended December 31, 2016, the Company recorded \$4.3 million of specific allowance for credit losses related to "Collateral dependent impaired loans" measured at fair value at December 31, 2016, of which \$4.2 million was subsequently charged off when the impaired loans were transferred to the held-for-sale portfolio. During 2015, the Company recorded \$0.3 million of specific allowance for credit losses related to "Collateral dependent impaired loans" measured at fair value.

Loans held-for-sale

Loans held-for-sale are carried at the lower of cost or fair value. Loans held-for-sale measured at fair value may consist of loans that have had credit downgrades and/or have remained in the loans held-for-sale portfolio for a significant period of time. When fair value is determined to be the carrying value, the fair values of these loans are obtained through a third party pricing service or by using internally developed financial models. Inputs into the model-based valuations can include changes in market indexes, selling prices of similar loans, management's assumption related to the credit rating of the loan, prepayment assumptions and other factors, such as credit loss assumptions. Where quoted market prices are obtained through dealer quotes, broker indicative prices or online posts, loans held-for-sale are classified as Level 2. Loans held-for-sale are classified as Level 3 in instances where valuation models are based on significant inputs that are unobservable in the market. During the twelve months ended December 31, 2016, the Company recorded a \$2.4 million gain related to "Loans, held-for-sale" measured at fair value. During 2015, the Company recorded a \$2.6 million loss related to "Loans, held-for-sale" measured at fair value.

Other real estate owned or repossessed assets

The fair value of other real estate owned or repossessed assets is estimated using one of several methods, including collateral value, market value of similar properties, liquidation value and discounted cash flows. Management may adjust the fair value for estimated costs to sell or adjust values to reflect estimated market value declines or apply other discounts to values. The Company records the other real estate owned and repossessed assets as Level 3. During the twelve months ended December 31, 2016, the Company recorded a \$0.3 million expense to write down other real estate owned to fair value.

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The following table presents recorded amounts of assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring and nonrecurring basis as of December 31, 2016, by caption in the consolidated balance sheet and by ASC 820 valuation hierarchy (as described above).

| | Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Other Identifiable Assets (Level 1) (\$ in thousands) | Significant Markets for Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) | Total Carrying Value in Consolidated Balance Sheet |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| Recurring Basis: | | | | |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Investments in debt securities, available-for-sale | \$— | \$— | \$ 119,307 | \$ 119,307 |
| Loans | — | 403,745 | — | 403,745 |
| Total assets recorded at fair value on a recurring basis | \$— | \$ 403,745 | \$ 119,307 | \$ 523,052 |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Contingent liability | \$— | \$— | \$ 1,350 | \$ 1,350 |
| Total liabilities recorded at fair value on a recurring basis | \$— | \$— | \$ 1,350 | \$ 1,350 |
| Nonrecurring Basis: | | | | |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Loans, held-for-sale | \$— | \$ 69,875 | \$ 75,531 | \$ 145,406 |
| Other real estate owned/repossessed assets | — | — | 15,750 | 15,750 |
| Total assets recorded at fair value on a nonrecurring basis | \$— | \$ 69,875 | \$ 91,281 | \$ 161,156 |

The following table presents recorded amounts of assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring and nonrecurring basis as of December 31, 2015, by caption in the consolidated balance sheet and by ASC 820 valuation hierarchy (as described above).

| Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Other Identifiable Assets (Level 1) (\$ in thousands) | Significant Markets for Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) | Total Carrying Value in Consolidated Balance Sheet |
|--|---|--|---|
|--|---|--|---|

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| | in Observable Active Inputs Markets for (Level 2) | Inputs (Level 3) | Value in Consolidated Balance Sheet |
|---|---|---------------------|--|
| | Identical Assets (Level 1) (\$ in thousands) | | |
| Recurring Basis: | | | |
| Assets: | | | |
| Investments in debt securities, available-for-sale | \$— | \$ — | \$ 94,177 |
| Total assets recorded at fair value on a recurring | | | \$ 94,177 |
| basis | \$— | \$ — | \$ 94,177 |
| Liabilities: | | | |
| TRS | \$— | \$ 4,439 | \$ — |
| Total liabilities recorded at fair value on a recurring basis | \$— | \$ 4,439 | \$ — |
| Nonrecurring Basis: | | | |
| Assets: | | | |
| Collateral dependent impaired loans | \$— | \$ — | |