

ESTEE LAUDER COMPANIES INC

Form 10-Q

February 05, 2016

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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549-1004

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**FORM 10-Q**

*(Mark One)-*

**Quarterly Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

For the quarterly period ended December 31, 2015

OR

**Transition Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

For the transition period from            to

Commission file number: 1-14064

**The Estée Lauder Companies Inc.**

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(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**11-2408943**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**767 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**10153**

(Zip Code)

**212-572-4200**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

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

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

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

At January 29, 2016, 221,917,421 shares of the registrant's Class A Common Stock, \$.01 par value, and 146,658,737 shares of the registrant's Class B Common Stock, \$.01 par value, were outstanding.

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Table of Contents**PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Item 1. Financial Statements.****THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EARNINGS**

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended December 31		Six Months Ended December 31	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	(In millions, except per share data)			
Net Sales	\$ 3,124.8	\$ 3,044.5	\$ 5,959.5	\$ 5,675.5
Cost of Sales	589.0	573.1	1,166.2	1,109.7
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>2,535.8</b>	<b>2,471.4</b>	<b>4,793.3</b>	<b>4,565.8</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Selling, general and administrative	1,887.9	1,838.6	3,692.2	3,585.0
Restructuring and other charges	18.5		18.5	
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>1,906.4</b>	<b>1,838.6</b>	<b>3,710.7</b>	<b>3,585.0</b>
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>629.4</b>	<b>632.8</b>	<b>1,082.6</b>	<b>980.8</b>
Interest expense	17.0	15.0	34.1	29.8
Interest income and investment income, net	3.2	3.8	6.2	5.4
<b>Earnings before Income Taxes</b>	<b>615.6</b>	<b>621.6</b>	<b>1,054.7</b>	<b>956.4</b>
Provision for income taxes	167.2	183.9	295.5	289.5
<b>Net Earnings</b>	<b>448.4</b>	<b>437.7</b>	<b>759.2</b>	<b>666.9</b>
Net earnings attributable to noncontrolling interests	(2.2)	(2.0)	(3.7)	(3.1)
<b>Net Earnings Attributable to The Estée Lauder Companies Inc.</b>	<b>\$ 446.2</b>	<b>\$ 435.7</b>	<b>\$ 755.5</b>	<b>\$ 663.8</b>
<b>Net earnings attributable to The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. per common share</b>				
Basic	\$ 1.21	\$ 1.15	\$ 2.04	\$ 1.74
Diluted	\$ 1.19	\$ 1.13	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.71
<b>Weighted-average common shares outstanding</b>				
Basic	369.6	380.0	371.1	380.9
Diluted	376.0	386.1	377.5	387.1

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Cash dividends declared per common share	\$	.30	\$	.24	\$	.54	\$	.44
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See notes to consolidated financial statements.

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## THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)

(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended December 31		Six Months Ended December 31	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	(In millions)			
<b>Net earnings</b>	\$ 448.4	\$ 437.7	\$ 759.2	\$ 666.9
<b>Other comprehensive income (loss):</b>				
Net unrealized investment gain (loss)	(3.9)	(2.9)	(3.4)	(2.8)
Net derivative instrument gain (loss)	(7.0)	21.5	4.2	55.3
Amounts included in net periodic benefit cost	6.4	6.3	12.8	12.9
Translation adjustments	(43.5)	(104.7)	(122.7)	(234.6)
Benefit (provision) for deferred income taxes on components of other comprehensive income	(0.8)	(10.3)	(7.5)	(26.3)
<b>Total other comprehensive income (loss)</b>	<b>(48.8)</b>	<b>(90.1)</b>	<b>(116.6)</b>	<b>(195.5)</b>
<b>Comprehensive income (loss)</b>	<b>399.6</b>	<b>347.6</b>	<b>642.6</b>	<b>471.4</b>
<b>Comprehensive (income) loss attributable to noncontrolling interests:</b>				
Net earnings	(2.2)	(2.0)	(3.7)	(3.1)
Translation adjustments	1.0	(1.1)	0.9	0.5
	(1.2)	(3.1)	(2.8)	(2.6)
<b>Comprehensive income attributable to The Estée Lauder Companies Inc.</b>	<b>\$ 398.4</b>	<b>\$ 344.5</b>	<b>\$ 639.8</b>	<b>\$ 468.8</b>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

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## THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.

## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	December 31 2015 (Unaudited)	June 30 2015
	(\$ in millions)	
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 868.1	\$ 1,021.4
Short-term investments	546.1	503.7
Accounts receivable, net	1,410.6	1,174.5
Inventory and promotional merchandise, net	1,077.4	1,215.8
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	573.6	553.1
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>4,475.8</b>	<b>4,468.5</b>
<b>Property, Plant and Equipment, net</b>	<b>1,496.8</b>	<b>1,490.2</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>		
Long-term investments	772.2	420.3
Goodwill	1,147.0	1,144.8
Other intangible assets, net	317.4	326.6
Other assets	372.9	388.8
<b>Total other assets</b>	<b>2,609.5</b>	<b>2,280.5</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 8,582.1</b>	<b>\$ 8,239.2</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Current debt	\$ 374.4	\$ 29.8
Accounts payable	527.4	635.4
Other accrued liabilities	1,577.6	1,470.4
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>2,479.4</b>	<b>2,135.6</b>
<b>Noncurrent Liabilities</b>		
Long-term debt	1,607.3	1,607.5
Other noncurrent liabilities	879.9	841.8
<b>Total noncurrent liabilities</b>	<b>2,487.2</b>	<b>2,449.3</b>
<b>Contingencies (Note 8)</b>		
<b>Equity</b>		
Common stock, \$.01 par value; Class A shares authorized: 1,300,000,000 at December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2015; shares issued: 420,966,841 at December 31, 2015 and 418,530,857 at June 30, 2015; Class B shares authorized: 304,000,000 at December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2015; shares issued and outstanding: 146,658,737 at December 31, 2015 and 147,046,137 at June 30, 2015	5.7	5.7
Paid-in capital	3,019.4	2,871.6
Retained earnings	7,557.9	7,004.1
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(497.2)	(381.5)
	10,085.8	9,499.9
Less: Treasury stock, at cost; 198,231,512 Class A shares at December 31, 2015 and 190,694,630 Class A shares at June 30, 2015	(6,482.0)	(5,856.7)
<b>Total stockholders' equity - The Estée Lauder Companies Inc.</b>	<b>3,603.8</b>	<b>3,643.2</b>
<b>Noncontrolling interests</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>11.1</b>
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>3,615.5</b>	<b>3,654.3</b>
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>	<b>\$ 8,582.1</b>	<b>\$ 8,239.2</b>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.



Table of Contents**THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

(Unaudited)

	2015	Six Months Ended December 31 (In millions)	2014
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			
Net earnings	\$	759.2	\$ 666.9
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash flows from operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization		201.6	198.6
Deferred income taxes		(32.0)	(32.8)
Non-cash stock-based compensation		111.2	100.9
Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation arrangements		(12.7)	(14.1)
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment		6.2	8.0
Non-cash restructuring and other charges		13.4	
Pension and post-retirement benefit expense		35.2	33.7
Pension and post-retirement benefit contributions		(12.0)	(11.9)
Change in fair value of contingent consideration		7.8	
Other non-cash items		(0.5)	(4.3)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Increase in accounts receivable, net		(276.8)	(109.8)
Decrease in inventory and promotional merchandise, net		101.8	107.1
Decrease (increase) in other assets, net		(32.5)	2.9
Decrease in accounts payable		(80.9)	(1.1)
Increase in other accrued and noncurrent liabilities		173.3	49.6
<b>Net cash flows provided by operating activities</b>		<b>962.3</b>	<b>993.7</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>			
Capital expenditures		(223.4)	(187.4)
Payments for acquired businesses, net of cash acquired		(19.3)	(104.2)
Proceeds from disposition of investments		558.5	61.2
Purchases of investments		(960.0)	(560.5)
<b>Net cash flows used for investing activities</b>		<b>(644.2)</b>	<b>(790.9)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>			
Proceeds (repayments) of current debt, net		347.0	50.5
Debt issuance costs		(0.1)	(1.0)
Repayments and redemptions of long-term debt		(4.1)	(4.9)
Net proceeds from stock-based compensation transactions		22.4	23.8
Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation arrangements		12.7	14.1
Payments to acquire treasury stock		(627.8)	(478.6)
Dividends paid to stockholders		(201.2)	(168.9)
Payments to noncontrolling interest holders for dividends		(2.2)	(3.1)
<b>Net cash flows used for financing activities</b>		<b>(453.3)</b>	<b>(568.1)</b>
Effect of Exchange Rate Changes on Cash and Cash Equivalents		(18.1)	(22.6)
<b>Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		<b>(153.3)</b>	<b>(387.9)</b>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Period</b>		<b>1,021.4</b>	<b>1,629.1</b>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Period</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>868.1</b>	<b>\$ 1,241.2</b>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

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**THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

*Basis of Presentation*

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. and its subsidiaries (collectively, the Company). All significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated.

The unaudited interim consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (U.S. GAAP) for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Rule 10-01 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by U.S. GAAP for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments of a normal recurring nature considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included. The results of operations of any interim period are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations to be expected for the full fiscal year. The interim consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and accompanying footnotes included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015.

*Management Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements and related disclosures in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses reported in those financial statements. Certain significant accounting policies that contain subjective management estimates and assumptions include those related to revenue recognition, inventory, pension and other post-retirement benefit costs, goodwill, other intangible assets and long-lived assets, and income taxes. Descriptions of these policies are discussed in the notes to consolidated financial statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. Management evaluates its estimates and assumptions on an ongoing basis using historical experience and other factors, including the current economic environment, and makes adjustments when facts and circumstances dictate. As future events and their effects cannot be determined with precision, actual results could differ significantly from those estimates and assumptions. Significant changes, if any, in those estimates and assumptions resulting from continuing changes in the economic environment will be reflected in the consolidated financial statements in future periods.

*Currency Translation and Transactions*

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All assets and liabilities of foreign subsidiaries and affiliates are translated at period-end rates of exchange, while revenue and expenses are translated at weighted-average rates of exchange for the period. Unrealized translation gains (losses) reported as cumulative translation adjustments through other comprehensive income (loss) ( OCI ) attributable to The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. amounted to \$(44.7) million and \$(111.4) million, net of tax, during the three months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and \$(128.3) million and \$(248.1) million, net of tax, during the six months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. For the Company's Venezuelan subsidiary operating in a highly inflationary economy, the U.S. dollar is the functional currency. Remeasurement adjustments in financial statements in a highly inflationary economy and other transactional gains and losses are reflected in earnings.

The Company enters into foreign currency forward contracts and may enter into option contracts to hedge foreign currency transactions for periods consistent with its identified exposures. Accordingly, the Company categorizes these instruments as entered into for purposes other than trading.

The accompanying consolidated statements of earnings include net exchange gains (losses) on foreign currency transactions of \$10.4 million and \$(6.5) million during the three months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and \$5.5 million and \$(16.3) million during the six months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

### *Accounts Receivable*

Accounts receivable is stated net of the allowance for doubtful accounts and customer deductions totaling \$20.8 million and \$20.6 million as of December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2015, respectively.

Table of Contents**THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS*****Concentration of Credit Risk***

The Company is a worldwide manufacturer, marketer and distributor of skin care, makeup, fragrance and hair care products. The Company's sales subject to credit risk are made primarily to department stores, perfumeries, specialty multi-brand retailers and retailers in its travel retail business. The Company grants credit to all qualified customers and does not believe it is exposed significantly to any undue concentration of credit risk.

The Company's largest customer sells products primarily within the United States and accounted for \$253.0 million, or 8%, and \$266.0 million, or 9%, of the Company's consolidated net sales for the three months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and \$591.7 million, or 10%, and \$558.8 million, or 10%, of the Company's consolidated net sales for the six months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. This customer accounted for \$137.2 million, or 10%, and \$139.1 million, or 12%, of the Company's accounts receivable at December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2015, respectively.

***Inventory and Promotional Merchandise***

Inventory and promotional merchandise, net consists of:

<b>(In millions)</b>	<b>December 31 2015</b>	<b>June 30 2015</b>
Raw materials	\$ 247.3	\$ 306.9
Work in process	122.7	168.7
Finished goods	551.5	581.3
Promotional merchandise	155.9	158.9
	<b>\$ 1,077.4</b>	<b>\$ 1,215.8</b>

***Property, Plant and Equipment***

<b>(In millions)</b>	<b>December 31 2015</b>	<b>June 30 2015</b>
<b>Assets (Useful Life)</b>		

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Land	\$	15.2	\$	15.4
Buildings and improvements (10 to 40 years)		181.6		184.9
Machinery and equipment (3 to 10 years)		672.9		671.3
Computer hardware and software (4 to 15 years)		1,051.4		1,012.4
Furniture and fixtures (5 to 10 years)		83.7		73.7
Leasehold improvements		1,697.5		1,621.9
		3,702.3		3,579.6
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization		2,205.5		2,089.4
	\$	1,496.8	\$	1,490.2

The cost of assets related to projects in progress of \$144.0 million and \$192.0 million as of December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2015, respectively, is included in their respective asset categories above. Depreciation and amortization of property, plant and equipment was \$100.2 million and \$96.2 million during the three months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and \$195.4 million and \$195.1 million during the six months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Depreciation and amortization related to the Company's manufacturing process is included in Cost of Sales, and all other depreciation and amortization is included in Selling, general and administrative expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of earnings.

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Other accrued liabilities consist of the following:

<b>(In millions)</b>	<b>December 31 2015</b>	<b>June 30 2015</b>
Advertising, merchandising and sampling	\$ 311.7	\$ 293.8
Employee compensation	354.0	463.3
Payroll and other taxes	196.0	142.0
Accrued income taxes	188.2	96.9
Other	527.7	474.4
	\$ 1,577.6	\$ 1,470.4

***Income Taxes***

The effective rate for income taxes was 27.2% and 29.6% for the three months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and 28.0% and 30.3% for the six months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The decrease in the effective tax rate for both periods was attributable to a lower effective tax rate on the Company's foreign operations, the retroactive reinstatement of the U.S. federal research and development tax credit that was signed into law on December 18, 2015 and the reduced impact of income tax reserves as compared to the prior-year period.

As of December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2015, the gross amount of unrecognized tax benefits, exclusive of interest and penalties, totaled \$73.8 million and \$77.8 million, respectively. The total amount of unrecognized tax benefits at December 31, 2015 that, if recognized, would affect the effective tax rate was \$48.8 million. During the three months ended December 31, 2015, the Company recognized a gross interest and penalty benefit of \$0.3 million in the accompanying consolidated statement of earnings. There was a gross accrued interest and penalty expense of \$0.7 million during the six months ended December 31, 2015. The total gross accrued interest and penalties in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets at December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2015 was \$16.3 million and \$16.5 million, respectively. On the basis of the information available as of December 31, 2015, the Company does not expect any significant changes to the total amount of unrecognized tax benefits within the next twelve months.

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As of December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2015, the Company had current net deferred tax assets of \$275.1 million and \$279.0 million, respectively, substantially all of which are included in Prepaid expenses and other current assets in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. In addition, the Company had noncurrent net deferred tax assets of \$64.3 million and \$72.1 million as of December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2015, respectively, substantially all of which are included in Other assets in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets.

### *Debt*

As of December 31, 2015, the Company had \$340.2 million of commercial paper outstanding, maturing through January 2016, which the Company is refinancing on a periodic basis as it matures at then-prevailing market interest rates.

### *Recently Issued Accounting Standards*

In November 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued authoritative guidance that requires that all deferred tax assets and liabilities, along with any related valuation allowance, be classified as noncurrent on the balance sheet. Under current guidance, deferred taxes for each jurisdiction are presented as a net current asset or liability and net noncurrent asset or liability, requiring an in-depth analysis by jurisdiction to allocate between current and noncurrent. The updated guidance simplifies a company's analysis by eliminating the requirement to allocate between current and noncurrent deferred taxes by jurisdiction. This guidance becomes effective for the Company's fiscal 2018 first quarter, with early adoption permitted. The Company may apply the guidance prospectively or retrospectively, for all deferred tax assets and liabilities. The Company is currently evaluating the timing, impact and method of applying this guidance on its consolidated financial statements.



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In May 2014, the FASB issued authoritative guidance that defines how companies should report revenues from contracts with customers. The standard requires an entity to recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. It provides companies with a single comprehensive five-step principles-based model to use in accounting for revenue and supersedes current revenue recognition requirements, including most industry-specific and transaction-specific revenue guidance. In August 2015, the FASB deferred the effective date of the new revenue standard by one year. As a result, the new standard is not effective for the Company until fiscal 2019, with early adoption permitted. The guidance permits an entity to apply the standard retrospectively to all prior periods presented, with certain practical expedients, or apply the requirements in the year of adoption, through a cumulative adjustment. The Company will apply this new guidance when it becomes effective in fiscal 2019 and has not yet selected a transition method. The Company currently has an implementation team in place that is performing a comprehensive evaluation of the impact of adoption on its consolidated financial statements.

No other recently issued accounting pronouncements are expected to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

**NOTE 2 INVESTMENTS**

Gains and losses recorded in accumulated OCI ( AOCI ) related to the Company's available-for-sale investments as of December 31, 2015 were as follows:

(In millions)	Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
U.S. government and agency securities	\$ 402.2	\$	(1.8)	\$ 400.4
Foreign government and agency securities	34.4		(0.1)	34.3
Corporate notes and bonds	352.4	0.1	(1.6)	350.9
Time deposits	446.9			446.9
Other securities	22.9			22.9
Total	\$ 1,258.8	\$ 0.1	(3.5)	\$ 1,255.4

Gains and losses recorded in AOCI related to the Company's available-for-sale investments as of June 30, 2015 were as follows:

(In millions)	Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
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U.S. government and agency securities	\$	265.8	\$	0.1	\$	(0.1)	\$	265.8
Foreign government and agency securities		23.9						23.9
Corporate notes and bonds		182.7		0.1		(0.4)		182.4
Time deposits		410.8						410.8
Other securities		34.8		0.1				34.9
Total	\$	918.0	\$	0.3	\$	(0.5)	\$	917.8

The following table presents the Company's available-for-sale securities by contractual maturity as of December 31, 2015:

(In millions)		Cost		Fair Value
Due within one year	\$	546.2	\$	546.1
Due after one through five years		712.7		709.3
	\$	1,258.9	\$	1,255.4

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## THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following table presents the fair market value of the Company's investments with gross unrealized losses that are not deemed to be other-than temporarily impaired as of December 31, 2015:

(In millions)	In a Loss Position for Less Than 12 Months		In a Loss Position for More Than 12 Months	
	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses
Available-for-sale securities	\$ 713.3	\$ (3.3)	\$ 61.4	\$ (0.2)

Gross gains and losses realized on sales of investments included in the consolidated statements of earnings were as follows:

(In millions)	Three Months Ended December 31		Six Months Ended December 31	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Gross realized gains	\$ 0.2	\$ 1.5	\$ 0.4	\$ 1.5
Gross realized losses	(0.3)		(0.4)	
Total	\$ (0.1)	\$ 1.5	\$	\$ 1.5

The Company utilizes the first-in, first-out method to determine the cost of the security sold.

**NOTE 3 GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS**

The following table presents goodwill by product category and the related change in the carrying amount:

(In millions)	Skin Care	Makeup	Fragrance	Hair Care	Total
<b>Balance as of June 30, 2015</b>					
Goodwill	\$ 183.9	\$ 449.7	\$ 181.3	\$ 394.7	\$ 1,209.6
Accumulated impairments	(29.1)			(35.7)	(64.8)
	154.8	449.7	181.3	359.0	1,144.8

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Goodwill acquired during the period		5.5			5.5
Translation adjustments	0.1	(0.1)	(2.3)	(1.0)	(3.3)
	0.1	5.4	(2.3)	(1.0)	2.2

**Balance as of December 31, 2015**

Goodwill	183.6	455.1	179.0	390.9	1,208.6
Accumulated impairments	(28.7)			(32.9)	(61.6)
	\$ 154.9	\$ 455.1	\$ 179.0	\$ 358.0	\$ 1,147.0

Other intangible assets consist of the following:

(In millions)	December 31, 2015			June 30, 2015		
	Gross Carrying Value	Accumulated Amortization	Total Net Book Value	Gross Carrying Value	Accumulated Amortization	Total Net Book Value
<b>Amortizable intangible assets:</b>						
Customer lists and other	\$ 294.1	\$ 236.3	\$ 57.8	\$ 294.4	\$ 228.7	\$ 65.7
License agreements	43.0	43.0		43.0	43.0	
	\$ 337.1	\$ 279.3	57.8	\$ 337.4	\$ 271.7	65.7
<b>Non-amortizable intangible assets:</b>						
Trademarks and other			259.6			260.9
Total intangible assets			\$ 317.4			\$ 326.6

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The aggregate amortization expense related to amortizable intangible assets was \$4.0 million and \$3.1 million for the three months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and was \$7.7 million and \$6.1 million for the six months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The estimated aggregate amortization expense for the remainder of fiscal 2016 and for each of fiscal 2017 to 2020 is \$7.6 million, \$12.9 million, \$11.9 million, \$11.3 million and \$4.3 million, respectively.

**NOTE 4 CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH RESTRUCTURING ACTIVITIES**

In October 2015, officers authorized by the Company's Board of Directors approved plans to transform and modernize the Company's global technology infrastructure ( GTI ) to fundamentally change the way it delivers information technology services internally (such initiative, the GTI Restructuring ). As part of the GTI Restructuring, the Company is transitioning its GTI from Company-owned assets to a primarily vendor-owned model where it will pay for services as they are used. This model, with a different third-party provider, is expected to provide an enhanced scalable platform to better support current and future requirements, help the Company achieve key strategic opportunities and improve the Company's agility and flexibility to respond to the demands of the business by leveraging more advanced technologies. This transition is expected to result in operational efficiencies and reduce the Company's information technology service and infrastructure costs in the future. The Company anticipates the GTI Restructuring will result in related restructuring and other charges of approximately \$40 million to \$50 million, consisting of non-cash asset write-offs, as well as employee-related and other implementation costs, which will be funded by cash from operations. The Company expects the implementation of the GTI Restructuring, and the related charges, will continue through calendar year 2016.

The following table presents GTI Restructuring charges and the related activities under this initiative to date:

(In millions)	Employee- Related Costs	Asset Write-offs	Contract Terminations	Total
Charges	\$ 2.6	\$ 13.4	\$ 0.5	\$ 16.5
Cash payments			(0.3)	(0.3)
Non-cash asset write-offs		(13.4)		(13.4)
Accrued GTI Restructuring balance at December 31, 2015	\$ 2.6		\$ 0.2	\$ 2.8

Accrued GTI Restructuring charges at December 31, 2015 are expected to result in cash expenditures funded from cash provided by operations in fiscal 2016.

Other charges in connection with the implementation of this initiative were \$2.0 million for the three and six months ended December 31, 2015 and primarily relate to consulting services. These charges are included in Restructuring and other charges in the accompanying consolidated statements of earnings.

**NOTE 5 DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

The Company addresses certain financial exposures through a controlled program of risk management that includes the use of derivative financial instruments. The Company enters into foreign currency forward contracts and may enter into option contracts to reduce the effects of fluctuating foreign currency exchange rates. In addition, the Company enters into interest rate derivatives to manage the effects of interest rate movements on the Company's aggregate liability portfolio, including potential future debt issuances. The Company also enters into foreign currency forward contracts and may use option contracts, not designated as hedging instruments, to mitigate the change in fair value of specific assets and liabilities on the balance sheet. The Company does not utilize derivative financial instruments for trading or speculative purposes. Costs associated with entering into derivative financial instruments have not been material to the Company's consolidated financial results.

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For each derivative contract entered into where the Company looks to obtain hedge accounting treatment, the Company formally and contemporaneously documents all relationships between hedging instruments and hedged items, as well as its risk-management objective and strategy for undertaking the hedge transaction, the nature of the risk being hedged, how the hedging instruments' effectiveness in offsetting the hedged risk will be assessed prospectively and retrospectively, and a description of the method of measuring ineffectiveness. This process includes linking all derivatives to specific assets and liabilities on the balance sheet or to specific firm commitments or forecasted transactions. The Company also formally assesses, both at the inception of the hedges and on an ongoing basis, whether the derivatives that are used in hedging transactions are highly effective in offsetting changes in fair values or cash flows of hedged items. If it is determined that a derivative is not highly effective, or that it has ceased to be a highly effective hedge, the Company will be required to discontinue hedge accounting with respect to that derivative prospectively.

The fair values of the Company's derivative financial instruments included in the consolidated balance sheets are presented as follows:

(In millions)	Balance Sheet Location	Asset Derivatives		Liability Derivatives	
		Fair Value (1)		Fair Value (1)	
		December 31 2015	June 30 2015	December 31 2015	June 30 2015
<b>Derivatives Designated as Hedging Instruments:</b>					
Foreign currency forward contracts	Prepaid expenses and other current assets	\$ 45.8	\$ 41.1	Other accrued liabilities	\$ 2.9 \$ 4.2
Interest rate swap contracts	Prepaid expenses and other current assets	5.6		Other accrued liabilities	0.2
Total Derivatives Designated as Hedging Instruments		51.4	41.1	2.9	4.4
<b>Derivatives Not Designated as Hedging Instruments:</b>					
Foreign currency forward contracts	Prepaid expenses and other current assets	2.5	2.0	Other accrued liabilities	3.5 4.1
Total Derivatives		\$ 53.9	\$ 43.1	\$ 6.4	\$ 8.5

(1) See Note 6 Fair Value Measurements for further information about how the fair value of derivative assets and liabilities are determined.





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## THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The amounts of the gains and losses related to the Company's derivative financial instruments designated as hedging instruments are presented as follows:

(In millions)	Amount of Gain or (Loss) Recognized in OCI on Derivatives (Effective Portion) Three Months Ended December 31		Location of Gain or (Loss) Reclassified from AOCI into Earnings (Effective Portion)	Amount of Gain or (Loss) Reclassified from AOCI into Earnings (Effective Portion) (1) Three Months Ended December 31	
	2015	2014		2015	2014
	<b>Derivatives in Cash Flow Hedging Relationships:</b>				
Foreign currency forward contracts	\$ 10.7	\$ 30.4	Cost of sales	\$ 3.7	\$ 2.2
			Selling, general and administrative	13.9	6.6
Settled interest rate-related derivatives			Interest expense	0.1	
Total derivatives	\$ 10.7	\$ 30.4		\$ 17.7	\$ 8.8

(1) The amount of gain recognized in earnings related to the amount excluded from effectiveness testing was \$1.4 million and \$0.6 million for the three months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. There was no gain (loss) recognized in earnings related to the ineffective portion of the hedging relationships for the three months ended December 31, 2015. The amount of gain recognized in earnings related to the ineffective portion of the hedging relationships was \$0.6 million for the three months ended December 31, 2014.

(In millions)	Amount of Gain or (Loss) Recognized in OCI on Derivatives (Effective Portion) Six Months Ended December 31		Location of Gain or (Loss) Reclassified from AOCI into Earnings (Effective Portion)	Amount of Gain or (Loss) Reclassified from AOCI into Earnings (Effective Portion) (1) Six Months Ended December 31	
	2015	2014		2015	2014
	<b>Derivatives in Cash Flow Hedging Relationships:</b>				
Foreign currency forward contracts	\$ 35.9	\$ 64.1	Cost of sales	\$ 7.4	\$ 1.8
			Selling, general and administrative	24.0	6.8
Settled interest rate-related derivatives			Interest expense	0.3	0.1
Total derivatives	\$ 35.9	\$ 64.1		\$ 31.7	\$ 8.7

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(1) The amount of gain (loss) recognized in earnings related to the amount excluded from effectiveness testing was \$1.5 million and \$(0.8) million for the six months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The amount of gain recognized in earnings related to the ineffective portion of the hedging relationships was \$0.1 million and \$0.6 million for the six months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

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## THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In millions)	Location of Gain or (Loss) Recognized in Earnings on Derivatives	Amount of Gain or (Loss) Recognized in Earnings on Derivatives (1)			
		Three Months Ended December 31		Six Months Ended December 31	
		2015	2014	2015	2014
<b>Derivatives in Fair Value Hedging Relationships:</b>					
Interest rate swap contracts	Interest expense	\$ (2.4)	\$	\$ 5.8	\$

(1) Changes in the fair value of the interest rate swap agreements are exactly offset by the change in the fair value of the underlying long-term debt.

The amounts of the gains and losses related to the Company's derivative financial instruments not designated as hedging instruments are presented as follows:

(In millions)	Location of Gain or (Loss) Recognized in Earnings on Derivatives	Amount of Gain or (Loss) Recognized in Earnings on Derivatives			
		Three Months Ended December 31		Six Months Ended December 31	
		2015	2014	2015	2014
<b>Derivatives Not Designated as Hedging Instruments:</b>					
Foreign currency forward contracts	Selling, general and administrative	\$ (6.0)	\$ 2.8	\$ 1.0	\$ 0.1

**Cash-Flow Hedges**

The Company enters into foreign currency forward contracts to hedge anticipated transactions, as well as receivables and payables denominated in foreign currencies, for periods consistent with the Company's identified exposures. The purpose of the hedging activities is to minimize the effect of foreign exchange rate movements on costs and on the cash flows that the Company receives from foreign subsidiaries. The majority of foreign currency forward contracts are denominated in currencies of major industrial countries. The Company may also enter into foreign currency option contracts to hedge anticipated transactions where there is a high probability that anticipated exposures will materialize. The foreign currency forward contracts entered into to hedge anticipated transactions have been designated as cash-flow hedges and have varying maturities through the end of December 2017.

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The Company enters into interest rate forward contracts to hedge anticipated issuance of debt for periods consistent with the Company's identified exposures. The purpose of the hedging activities is to minimize the effect of interest rate movements on cost of debt issuance.

The ineffective portion of both foreign currency forward and interest rate derivatives is recorded in current-period earnings. For hedge contracts that are no longer deemed highly effective, hedge accounting is discontinued, and gains and losses in AOCI are reclassified to earnings when the underlying forecasted transaction occurs. If it is probable that the forecasted transaction will no longer occur, then any gains or losses in AOCI are reclassified to current-period earnings. As of December 31, 2015, the Company's foreign currency cash-flow hedges were highly effective.

At December 31, 2015, the Company had foreign currency forward contracts in the amount of \$2,489.1 million. The foreign currencies included in foreign currency forward contracts (notional value stated in U.S. dollars) are principally the British pound (\$498.5 million), Euro (\$384.3 million), Chinese yuan (\$283.3 million), Hong Kong dollar (\$186.0 million), Swiss franc (\$177.6 million), Canadian dollar (\$151.2 million) and Australian dollar (\$140.5 million).

The estimated net gain on foreign currency forward contracts and settled interest rate-related derivatives as of December 31, 2015 that is expected to be reclassified from AOCI into earnings, net of tax, within the next twelve months is \$26.7 million. The accumulated gain on these derivative instruments in AOCI was \$72.6 million and \$68.4 million as of December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2015, respectively.

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**THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

***Fair-Value Hedges***

The Company enters into interest rate derivative contracts to manage the exposure to interest rate fluctuations on its funded indebtedness. The Company has interest rate swap agreements, with a notional amount totaling \$250.0 million, to effectively convert the fixed rate interest on its 2.35% Senior Notes due August 15, 2022 to variable interest rates based on three-month LIBOR plus a margin. These interest rate swap agreements are designated as fair-value hedges of the related long-term debt, and the changes in the fair value of the interest rate swap agreements are exactly offset by the change in the fair value of the underlying long-term debt.

***Credit Risk***

As a matter of policy, the Company enters into derivative contracts only with counterparties that have a long-term credit rating of at least A- or higher by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies. The counterparties to these contracts are major financial institutions. Exposure to credit risk in the event of nonperformance by any of the counterparties is limited to the gross fair value of contracts in asset positions, which totaled \$53.9 million at December 31, 2015. To manage this risk, the Company has established strict counterparty credit guidelines that are continually monitored. Accordingly, management believes risk of loss under these hedging contracts is remote.

**NOTE 6 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

The Company records certain of its financial assets and liabilities at fair value, which is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability, in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability, in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The accounting for fair value measurements must be applied to nonfinancial assets and nonfinancial liabilities that require initial measurement or remeasurement at fair value, which principally consist of assets and liabilities acquired through business combinations and goodwill, indefinite-lived intangible assets and long-lived assets for the purposes of calculating potential impairment. The Company is required to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value are as follows:

Level 1: Inputs based on quoted market prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets at the measurement date.

Level 2: Observable inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1, such as quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets and liabilities in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.

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Level 3: Inputs reflect management's best estimate of what market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date. The inputs are unobservable in the market and significant to the instrument's valuation.

The following table presents the Company's hierarchy for its financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2015:

(In millions)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
<b>Assets:</b>				
Foreign currency forward contracts	\$	\$	48.3	\$ 48.3
Interest rate swap contracts			5.6	5.6
Available-for-sale securities:				
U.S. government and agency securities			400.4	400.4
Foreign government and agency securities			34.3	34.3
Corporate notes and bonds			350.9	350.9
Time deposits			446.9	446.9
Other securities			22.9	22.9
Total	\$	\$	1,309.3	\$ 1,309.3
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Foreign currency forward contracts	\$	\$	6.4	\$ 6.4
Contingent consideration				167.1
Total	\$	\$	6.4	\$ 167.1

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The following table presents the Company's hierarchy for its financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of June 30, 2015:

<b>(In millions)</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Assets:</b>				
Foreign currency forward contracts	\$	\$ 43.1	\$	\$ 43.1
Available-for-sale securities:				
U.S. government and agency securities		265.8		265.8
Foreign government and agency securities		23.9		23.9
Corporate notes and bonds		182.4		182.4
Time deposits		410.8		410.8
Other securities		34.9		34.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 960.9</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 960.9</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Foreign currency forward contracts	\$	\$ 8.3	\$	\$ 8.3
Interest rate swap contracts		0.2		0.2
Contingent consideration			159.3	159.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 8.5</b>	<b>\$ 159.3</b>	<b>\$ 167.8</b>

The estimated fair values of the Company's financial instruments are as follows:

<b>(In millions)</b>	<b>December 31 2015</b>		<b>June 30 2015</b>	
	<b>Carrying Amount</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Carrying Amount</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>
<b>Nonderivatives</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 868.1	\$ 868.1	\$ 1,021.4	\$ 1,021.4
Available-for-sale securities	1,255.4	1,255.4	917.8	917.8
Current and long-term debt	1,981.7	2,060.8	1,637.3	1,697.5
Additional purchase price payable	37.2	37.2	37.0	37.0
Contingent consideration	167.1	167.1	159.3	159.3
<b>Derivatives</b>				
Foreign currency forward contracts – asset (liability)	41.9	41.9	34.8	34.8
Interest rate swap contracts – asset (liability)	5.6	5.6	(0.2)	(0.2)

The following methods and assumptions were used to estimate the fair value of the Company's financial instruments for which it is practicable to estimate that value:

*Cash and cash equivalents* Cash and all highly-liquid securities with original maturities of three months or less are classified as cash and cash equivalents, primarily consisting of cash deposits in interest bearing accounts, money market funds and time deposits. The carrying amount approximates fair value, primarily because of the short maturity of cash equivalent instruments.

*Available-for-sale securities* Available-for-sale securities are classified within Level 2 of the valuation hierarchy and are valued using third-party pricing services, and for time deposits, the carrying amount approximates fair value. To determine fair value, the pricing services use market prices or prices derived from other observable market inputs such as benchmark curves, credit spreads, broker/dealer quotes, and other industry and economic factors.

*Foreign currency forward contracts* The fair values of the Company's foreign currency forward contracts were determined using an industry-standard valuation model, which is based on an income approach. The significant observable inputs to the model, such as swap yield curves and currency spot and forward rates, were obtained from an independent pricing service. To determine the fair value of contracts under the model, the difference between the contract price and the current forward rate was discounted using LIBOR for contracts with maturities up to 12 months, and swap yield curves for contracts with maturities greater than 12 months.



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*Interest rate swap contracts* The fair values of the Company's interest rate swap contracts were determined using an industry-standard valuation model, which is based on the income approach. The significant observable inputs to the model, such as swap yield curves and LIBOR forward rates, were obtained from independent pricing services.

*Current and long-term debt* The fair value of the Company's debt was estimated based on the current rates offered to the Company for debt with the same remaining maturities. To a lesser extent, debt also includes capital lease obligations for which the carrying amount approximates the fair value. The Company's debt is classified within Level 2 of the valuation hierarchy.

*Additional purchase price payable* The Company's additional purchase price payable represents fixed minimum additional purchase price that was discounted using the Company's incremental borrowing rate, which was approximately 1%. The additional purchase price payable is classified within Level 2 of the valuation hierarchy.

*Contingent Consideration* The fair value of the Company's contingent consideration obligations is measured using Level 3 inputs which include a probability weighted-average cost of capital to discount estimated future cash flows based upon the likelihood of achieving certain future operating results. The fair value of the contingent consideration related to the acquisition earn-outs was determined by discounting the future cash flows using discount rates ranging from 9% to 14%. These rates reflect the relative risk and probability of achieving future operating results with the potential earn-outs on the individual acquisitions. These implied rates are deemed to be unobservable inputs and as such the Company's contingent consideration is classified within Level 3 of the valuation hierarchy. An increase or decrease in the risk premium of 100 basis points would result in a value that is approximately \$5 million higher or lower than the current liability recorded.

Changes in the fair value of the contingent consideration obligations for the six months ended December 31, 2015 are included in Selling, general and administrative expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of earnings and were as follows:

<b>(In millions)</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>	
Contingent consideration at June 30, 2015	\$	159.3
Change in fair value		7.8

Contingent consideration at December 31, 2015	\$	167.1
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**NOTE 7 PENSION AND POST-RETIREMENT BENEFIT PLANS**

The Company maintains pension plans covering substantially all of its full-time employees for its U.S. operations and a majority of its international operations. The Company also maintains post-retirement benefit plans which provide certain medical and dental benefits to eligible employees. Descriptions of these plans are discussed in the notes to consolidated financial statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015.

The components of net periodic benefit cost for the three months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 consisted of the following:

(In millions)	U.S.		Pension Plans		International		Other than Pension Plans Post-retirement	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
Service cost	\$ 8.1	\$ 7.9	\$ 6.2	\$ 6.1	\$ 0.7	\$ 0.8		
Interest cost	8.2	7.6	3.8	4.4	1.8	1.9		
Expected return on plan assets	(12.2)	(12.5)	(4.9)	(5.3)	(0.5)	(0.6)		
Amortization of:								
Prior service cost	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2		
Actuarial loss	2.8	2.4	2.5	2.6	0.1	0.4		
Settlement			0.1					
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 7.1	\$ 5.6	\$ 8.2	\$ 8.3	\$ 2.3	\$ 2.7		

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The components of net periodic benefit cost for the six months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 consisted of the following:

(In millions)	U.S.		Pension Plans		International		Other than Pension Plans Post-retirement	
	2015	2014	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	
Service cost	\$ 16.2	\$ 15.8	\$ 12.5	\$ 12.5	\$ 1.4	\$ 1.7		
Interest cost	16.4	15.2	7.6	9.0	3.7	3.8		
Expected return on plan assets	(24.4)	(25.0)	(9.9)	(11.0)	(1.1)	(1.2)		
Amortization of:								
Prior service cost	0.3	0.3	1.0	1.1	0.4	0.4		
Actuarial loss	5.6	4.9	5.2	5.4	0.2	0.8		
Settlement			0.1					
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 14.1	\$ 11.2	\$ 16.5	\$ 17.0	\$ 4.6	\$ 5.5		

During the six months ended December 31, 2015, the Company made contributions to its international pension plans totaling approximately \$6 million.

The amounts recognized in the consolidated balance sheets related to the Company's pension and post-retirement benefit plans consist of the following:

(In millions)	December 31 2015	June 30 2015
Other assets	\$ 107.9	\$ 113.1
Other accrued liabilities	(23.8)	(23.8)
Other noncurrent liabilities	(373.2)	(373.0)
Funded status	(289.1)	(283.7)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	326.9	346.2
Net amount recognized	\$ 37.8	\$ 62.5

**NOTE 8 CONTINGENCIES***Legal Proceedings*

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The Company is involved, from time to time, in litigation and other legal proceedings incidental to its business. Management believes that the outcome of current litigation and legal proceedings will not have a material adverse effect upon the Company's results of operations, financial condition or cash flows. However, management's assessment of the Company's current litigation and other legal proceedings could change in light of the discovery of facts with respect to legal actions or other proceedings pending against the Company not presently known to the Company or determinations by judges, juries or other finders of fact which are not in accord with management's evaluation of the possible liability or outcome of such litigation or proceedings. Reasonably possible losses in addition to the amounts accrued for litigation and other legal proceedings are not material to the Company's consolidated financial statements.

### **NOTE 9 STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION**

The Company has various stock-based compensation programs (the Plans) under which awards, including stock options, restricted stock units (RSUs), performance share units (PSUs), PSUs based on total stockholder return, long-term PSUs and share units, may be granted. During the second quarter of fiscal 2016, the amount of shares of the Company's Class A Common Stock that was reserved and available to be granted pursuant to these Plans was increased by 10,600,000 to approximately 17,169,000 shares as of December 31, 2015.

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Total net stock-based compensation expense is attributable to the granting of, and the remaining requisite service periods of, stock options, RSUs, PSUs, PSUs based on total stockholder return, long-term PSUs, and share units. Compensation expense attributable to net stock-based compensation is as follows:

(In millions)	Three Months Ended December 31		Six Months Ended December 31	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Compensation expense	\$ 42.5	\$ 38.8	\$ 111.2	\$ 100.9
Income tax benefit	14.0	12.6	36.5	33.0

As of December 31, 2015, the total unrecognized compensation cost related to unvested stock-based awards was \$207.8 million and the related weighted-average period over which it is expected to be recognized is approximately two years.

***Stock Options***

The following is a summary of the Company's stock option programs as of December 31, 2015 and changes during the six months then ended:

(Shares in thousands)	Shares	Weighted-Average Exercise Price Per Share	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (1) (in millions)	Weighted-Average Contractual Life Remaining in Years
Outstanding at June 30, 2015	13,437.1	\$ 47.73		
Granted at fair value	2,500.2	77.46		
Exercised	(570.0)	39.19		
Expired	(8.9)	47.00		
Forfeited	(91.7)	70.31		
Outstanding at December 31, 2015	15,266.7	52.78	\$ 538.6	6.4
Vested and expected to vest at December 31, 2015	15,125.7	52.56	\$ 537.0	6.2
Exercisable at December 31, 2015	8,746.3	37.81	\$ 439.5	4.8

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(1) The intrinsic value of a stock option is the amount by which the market value of the underlying stock exceeds the exercise price of the option.

The following is a summary of the per-share weighted-average grant date fair value of stock options granted and total intrinsic value of stock options exercised:

(In millions, except per share data)	Three Months Ended December 31		Six Months Ended December 31	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Per-share weighted-average grant date fair value of stock options granted	\$ 25.18	\$ 23.62	\$ 21.51	\$ 22.46
Intrinsic value of stock options exercised	\$ 17.6	\$ 15.1	\$ 25.6	\$ 31.9

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The fair value of each option grant was estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the following assumptions:

	Three Months Ended December 31		Six Months Ended December 31	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
Weighted-average expected stock-price volatility	27%	28%	27%	28%
Weighted-average expected option life	9 years	9 years	7 years	7 years
Average risk-free interest rate	2.0%	2.3%	1.9%	2.2%
Average dividend yield	1.2%	1.1%	1.2%	1.1%

The Company uses a weighted-average expected stock-price volatility assumption that is a combination of both current and historical implied volatilities of the underlying stock. The implied volatilities were obtained from publicly available data sources. For the weighted-average expected option life assumption, the Company considers the exercise behavior for past grants and models the pattern of aggregate exercises. The average risk-free interest rate is based on the U.S. Treasury strip rate for the expected term of the options, and the average dividend yield is based on historical experience.

***Restricted Stock Units***

The Company granted approximately 1,555,400 RSUs during the six months ended December 31, 2015 which, at the time of grant, were scheduled to vest as follows: 544,100 in fiscal 2017, 559,200 in fiscal 2018 and 452,100 in fiscal 2019. All RSUs are subject to the continued employment or retirement of the grantees. Beginning in fiscal 2015, the RSUs granted are accompanied by dividend equivalent rights, payable upon settlement either in cash or shares (based on the terms of the particular award) and, as such, were valued at the closing market price of the Company's Class A Common Stock on the date of grant.

The following is a summary of the status of the Company's RSUs as of December 31, 2015 and activity during the six months then ended:

(Shares in thousands)	Shares	Weighted-Average Grant Date Fair Value Per Share
Nonvested at June 30, 2015	2,592.1	\$ 70.31
Granted	1,555.4	77.35
Dividend equivalents	10.8	83.98

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Vested	(1,242.2)	67.76
Forfeited	(73.9)	73.25
Nonvested at December 31, 2015	2,842.2	75.25

*Performance Share Units*

During the six months ended December 31, 2015, the Company granted approximately 277,400 PSUs, which will be settled in stock subject to the achievement of the Company's net sales, diluted net earnings per common share and return on invested capital goals for the three fiscal years ending June 30, 2018, all subject to the continued employment or retirement of the grantees. PSUs are accompanied by dividend equivalent rights that will be payable in cash upon settlement. In September 2015, approximately 276,200 shares of the Company's Class A Common Stock were issued and related accrued dividends were paid, relative to the target goals set at the time of the issuance, in settlement of 249,900 PSUs which vested as of June 30, 2015.



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The following is a summary of the status of the Company's PSUs as of December 31, 2015 and activity during the six months then ended:

(Shares in thousands)	Shares	Weighted-Average Grant Date Fair Value Per Share
Nonvested at June 30, 2015	550.4	\$ 71.59
Granted	277.4	77.35
Vested		
Forfeited	(4.5)	67.31
Nonvested at December 31, 2015	823.3	73.55

***Performance Share Units Based on Total Stockholder Return***

During fiscal 2013, the Company granted PSUs to an executive of the Company with an aggregate target payout of 162,760 shares of the Company's Class A Common Stock, subject to continued employment through the end of the relative performance periods. The first performance period ended June 30, 2015, and the remaining performance periods end June 30, 2016 and 2017. The remaining PSUs will be settled based upon the Company's relative total stockholder return (TSR) over the relevant performance period as compared to companies in the S&P 500 on July 1, 2012. No settlement will occur if the Company's TSR falls below a minimum threshold, and up to an aggregate of 173,611 shares of the Company's Class A Common Stock will be issued depending on the extent to which the Company's TSR equals or exceeds the minimum threshold. The PSUs are accompanied by dividend equivalent rights that will be payable in cash upon settlement.

The grant date fair value of the PSUs of \$11.0 million was estimated using a lattice model with a Monte Carlo simulation and the following assumptions for each performance period, respectively: contractual life of 33, 45 and 57 months, average risk-free interest rate of 0.3%, 0.5% and 0.7% and a dividend yield of 1.0%. Using the historical stock prices and dividends from public sources, the Company estimated the covariance structure of the returns on S&P 500 stocks. The volatility for the Company's stock produced by this estimation was 32%. The average risk-free interest rate is based on the U.S. Treasury strip rates over the contractual term of the grant, and the dividend yield is based on historical experience. In September 2015, 42,549 shares of the Company's Class A Common Stock were issued and related dividends were paid, in accordance with the terms of the grant, related to the performance period ended June 30, 2015. The remaining PSUs have an aggregate target payout of 108,507 shares as of December 31, 2015.

***Long-term Performance Share Units***

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During September 2015, the Company granted PSUs to an executive of the Company with an aggregate target payout of 387,848 shares (in three tranches of approximately 129,283 each) of the Company's Class A Common Stock, generally subject to continued employment through the end of relative performance periods, which end June 30, 2018, 2019 and 2020. No portion of the award will generally vest unless the Company has achieved positive Net Earnings, as defined in the PSU award agreement, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. If the Net Earnings goal is met, then performance and vesting of each tranche will be based on the Company achieving positive Cumulative Operating Income, as defined in the performance share unit award agreement, during the relative performance period. Payment with respect to a tranche will be made on the third anniversary of the last day of the respective performance period. The PSUs are accompanied by dividend equivalent rights that will be payable in cash at the same time as the payment of shares of Class A Common Stock. The grant date fair value of these PSUs of \$30.0 million was estimated using the closing stock price of the Company's Class A Common Stock as of September 4, 2015, the date of grant.

Table of Contents**THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS*****Share Units***

The Company grants share units to certain non-employee directors under the Non-Employee Director Share Incentive Plan. The following is a summary of the status of the Company's share units as of December 31, 2015 and activity during the six months then ended:

(Shares in thousands)	Shares	Weighted-Average Grant Date Fair Value Per Share
Outstanding at June 30, 2015	110.3	\$ 41.24
Granted	8.9	84.35
Dividend equivalents	0.7	82.89
Converted		
Outstanding at December 31, 2015	119.9	44.69

***Cash Units***

Certain non-employee directors defer cash compensation in the form of cash payout share units, which are not subject to the Plans. These share units are classified as liabilities and, as such, their fair value is adjusted to reflect the current market value of the Company's Class A Common Stock. The Company recorded \$1.9 million and \$0.6 million as compensation expense to reflect additional deferrals and the change in the market value for the three months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The Company recorded \$0.7 million and \$0.8 million as compensation expense to reflect additional deferrals and the change in the market value for the six months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

**NOTE 10 NET EARNINGS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC. PER COMMON SHARE**

Net earnings attributable to The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. per common share (basic EPS) is computed by dividing net earnings attributable to The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding and contingently issuable shares (which satisfy certain conditions). Net earnings attributable to The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. per common share assuming dilution (diluted EPS) is computed by reflecting potential dilution from stock-based awards.

A reconciliation between the numerator and denominator of the basic and diluted EPS computations is as follows:

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(In millions, except per share data)	Three Months Ended December 31		Six Months Ended December 31	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
<b>Numerator:</b>				
Net earnings attributable to The Estée Lauder Companies Inc.	\$ 446.2	\$ 435.7	\$ 755.5	\$ 663.8
<b>Denominator:</b>				
Weighted-average common shares outstanding Basic	369.6	380.0	371.1	380.9
Effect of dilutive stock options	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.6
Effect of RSUs	1.9	1.5	1.9	1.6
Effect of PSUs based on TSR	0.1		0.1	
Weighted-average common shares outstanding Diluted	376.0	386.1	377.5	387.1
<b>Net earnings attributable to The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. per common share:</b>				
Basic	\$ 1.21	\$ 1.15	\$ 2.04	\$ 1.74
Diluted	1.19	1.13	2.00	1.71

Table of Contents**THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, outstanding options to purchase 0.2 million and 2.2 million shares, respectively, of Class A Common Stock were not included in the computation of diluted EPS because their inclusion would be anti-dilutive. As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, 0.8 million shares of Class A Common Stock underlying PSUs have been excluded from the calculation of diluted EPS because the number of shares ultimately issued is contingent on the achievement of certain performance targets of the Company, as discussed in Note 9 Stock-Based Compensation.

**NOTE 11 EQUITY**

(In millions)	Total Stockholders Equity The Estée Lauder Companies Inc.						Non-controlling Interests	Total Equity
	Common Stock	Paid-in Capital	Retained Earnings	AOCI	Treasury Stock	Total		
Balance at June 30, 2015	\$ 5.7	\$ 2,871.6	\$ 7,004.1	\$ (381.5)	\$ (5,856.7)	\$ 3,643.2	\$ 11.1	\$ 3,654.3
Net earnings			755.5			755.5	3.7	759.2
Common stock dividends			(201.7)			(201.7)	(2.2)	(203.9)
Other comprehensive loss				(115.7)		(115.7)	(0.9)	(116.6)
Acquisition of treasury stock					(575.0)	(575.0)		(575.0)
Stock-based compensation		147.8			(50.3)	97.5		97.5
Balance at December 31, 2015	\$ 5.7	\$ 3,019.4	\$ 7,557.9	\$ (497.2)	\$ (6,482.0)	\$ 3,603.8	\$ 11.7	\$ 3,615.5

The following is a summary of quarterly cash dividends declared per share on the Company's Class A and Class B Common Stock during the six months ended December 31, 2015:

Date Declared	Record Date	Payable Date	Amount per Share
August 14, 2015	August 31, 2015	September 15, 2015	\$.24
October 30, 2015	November 30, 2015	December 15, 2015	\$.30

On February 4, 2016, a dividend was declared in the amount of \$.30 per share on the Company's Class A and Class B Common Stock. The dividend is payable in cash on March 15, 2016 to stockholders of record at the close of business on February 29, 2016.

**Common Stock**

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During the six months ended December 31, 2015, the Company purchased 7.6 million shares of its Class A Common Stock for \$627.8 million.

During the six months ended December 31, 2015, approximately 0.4 million shares of the Company's Class B Common Stock were converted into the same amount of shares of the Company's Class A Common Stock.

Subsequent to December 31, 2015 and through January 29, 2016, the Company repurchased approximately 0.9 million additional shares of its Class A Common Stock for \$75.0 million pursuant to its share repurchase program.

### *Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)*

The following table represents changes in AOCI, net of tax, by component for the six months ended December 31, 2015:

(In millions)	Net Unrealized Investment Gain (Loss)	Net Derivative Instrument Gain (Loss)	Amounts Included in Net Periodic Benefit Cost	Translation Adjustments	Total
Balance at June 30, 2015	\$ (0.1)	\$ 43.9	\$ (235.0)	\$ (190.3)	\$ (381.5)
OCI before reclassifications	(3.4)	23.3	4.1 <sup>(1)</sup>	(128.3)	(104.3)
Amounts reclassified from AOCI		(20.5)	9.1		(11.4)
Net current-period OCI	(3.4)	2.8	13.2	(128.3)	(115.7)
Balance at December 31, 2015	\$ (3.5)	\$ 46.7	\$ (221.8)	\$ (318.6)	\$ (497.2)

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes foreign currency translation gains of \$6.5 million.

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## THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following table represents the effects of reclassification adjustments from AOCI into net earnings for the three and six months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014:

(In millions)	Amount Reclassified from AOCI				Affected Line Item in Consolidated Statement of Earnings
	Three Months Ended December 31		Six Months Ended December 31		
	2015	2014	2015	2014	
<b>Gain (Loss) on Investments</b>					
Gain (loss) on investments	\$ (0.1)	\$ 1.5	\$	\$ 1.5	Interest income and investment income, net
Benefit (provision) for deferred taxes		(0.4)		(0.4)	Provision for income taxes
	\$ (0.1)	\$ 1.1	\$	\$ 1.1	Net earnings
<b>Gain (Loss) on Cash-Flow Hedges</b>					
Foreign currency forward contracts	\$ 3.7	\$ 2.2	\$ 7.4	\$ 1.8	Cost of sales
Foreign currency forward contracts	13.9	6.6	24.0	6.8	Selling, general and administrative
Settled interest rate-related derivatives	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	Interest expense
	17.7	8.9	31.7	8.8	Earnings before income taxes
Benefit (provision) for deferred taxes	(6.2)	(3.2)	(11.2)	(3.2)	Provision for income taxes
	\$ 11.5	\$ 5.7	\$ 20.5	\$ 5.6	Net earnings
<b>Amounts Included in Net Periodic Benefit Cost</b>					
Amortization of prior service cost	\$ (0.9)	\$ (0.9)	\$ (1.7)	\$ (1.8)	(1)
Amortization of actuarial loss	(5.4)	(5.4)	(11.0)	(11.1)	(1)
Settlement	(0.1)		(0.1)		(1)
	(6.4)	(6.3)	(12.8)	(12.9)	Earnings before income taxes
Benefit (provision) for deferred taxes	1.8	1.9	3.7	3.8	Provision for income taxes
	\$ (4.6)	\$ (4.4)	\$ (9.1)	\$ (9.1)	Net earnings
<b>Total reclassification adjustments, net</b>	\$ 6.8	\$ 2.4	\$ 11.4	\$ (2.4)	Net earnings

(1) See Note 7 Pension and Post-Retirement Benefit Plans for additional information.





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Supplemental cash flow information for the six months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 is as follows:

<b>(In millions)</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Cash:</b>		
Cash paid during the period for interest	\$ 39.9	\$ 32.8
Cash paid during the period for income taxes	\$ 188.8	\$ 200.0
<b>Non-cash investing and financing activities:</b>		
Incremental tax benefit from the exercise of stock options	\$ (2.1)	\$ (2.5)
Capital lease and asset retirement obligations incurred	\$ 22.4	\$ 8.2
Non-cash purchases (sales) of short- and long-term investments, net	\$ (1.8)	\$
Property, plant and equipment accrued but unpaid	\$ 33.5	\$ 30.3
Increase (decrease) in accrued dividend equivalents	\$ 0.5	\$ (0.8)
Accrued dividend distribution to noncontrolling interest	\$	\$ 2.6

**NOTE 13 SEGMENT DATA AND RELATED INFORMATION**

Reportable operating segments include components of an enterprise about which separate financial information is available that is evaluated regularly by the chief operating decision maker (the Chief Executive) in deciding how to allocate resources and in assessing performance. Although the Company operates in one business segment, beauty products, management also evaluates performance on a product category basis. Product category performance is measured based upon net sales and earnings before income taxes, interest expense and interest income and investment income, net. Charges associated with restructuring activities are not allocated to product categories because they resulted from activities that are part of a company-wide program to redesign the Company's GTI.

The accounting policies for the Company's reportable segments are substantially the same as those for the consolidated financial statements, as described in the notes to consolidated financial statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. The assets and liabilities of the Company are managed centrally and are reported internally in the same manner as the consolidated financial statements; thus, no additional information is produced for the Chief Executive or included herein. There has been no significant variance in the total or long-lived asset values associated with the Company's segment data since June 30, 2015.



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## THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(In millions)	Three Months Ended December 31		Six Months Ended December 31	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
<b>PRODUCT CATEGORY DATA</b>				
<b>Net Sales:</b>				
Skin Care	\$ 1,232.2	\$ 1,274.4	\$ 2,341.0	\$ 2,365.8
Makeup	1,251.2	1,176.2	2,413.0	2,197.5
Fragrance	470.6	439.7	883.5	817.1
Hair Care	149.0	137.1	283.3	265.2
Other	21.8	17.1	38.7	29.9
Net Sales	\$ 3,124.8	\$ 3,044.5	\$ 5,959.5	\$ 5,675.5
<b>Operating Income (Loss) before charges associated with restructuring activities:</b>				
Skin Care	\$ 309.2	\$ 317.1	\$ 498.9	\$ 493.5
Makeup	260.8	253.4	450.0	379.3
Fragrance	53.2	47.5	119.3	86.5
Hair Care	19.9	16.2	25.6	25.0
Other	4.8	(1.4)	7.3	(3.5)
	647.9	632.8	1,101.1	980.8
<b>Reconciliation:</b>				
Charges associated with restructuring activities	(18.5)		(18.5)	
Interest expense	(17.0)	(15.0)	(34.1)	(29.8)
Interest income and investment income, net	3.2	3.8	6.2	5.4
Earnings before income taxes	\$ 615.6	\$ 621.6	\$ 1,054.7	\$ 956.4
<b>GEOGRAPHIC DATA</b>				
<b>Net Sales:</b>				
The Americas	\$ 1,227.0	\$ 1,201.4	\$ 2,495.3	\$ 2,316.2
Europe, the Middle East & Africa	1,268.4	1,211.5	2,285.2	2,153.7
Asia/Pacific	629.4	631.6	1,179.0	1,205.6
Net Sales	\$ 3,124.8	\$ 3,044.5	\$ 5,959.5	\$ 5,675.5
<b>Operating Income (Loss):</b>				
The Americas	\$ 107.8	\$ 120.8	\$ 198.4	\$ 178.2
Europe, the Middle East & Africa	386.5	355.2	630.2	525.1
Asia/Pacific	153.6	156.8	272.5	277.5
	647.9	632.8	1,101.1	980.8
Charges associated with restructuring activities	(18.5)		(18.5)	
Operating Income	\$ 629.4	\$ 632.8	\$ 1,082.6	\$ 980.8

Table of Contents**THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.****Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.****RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

We manufacture, market and sell beauty products including those in the skin care, makeup, fragrance and hair care categories, which are distributed in over 150 countries and territories. The following table is a comparative summary of operating results for the three and six months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, and reflects the basis of presentation described in Note 1 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies* for all periods presented. Products and services that do not meet our definition of skin care, makeup, fragrance or hair care have been included in the other category.

(In millions)	Three Months Ended December 31		Six Months Ended December 31	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
<b>NET SALES</b>				
<b>By Region:</b>				
The Americas	\$ 1,227.0	\$ 1,201.4	\$ 2,495.3	\$ 2,316.2
Europe, the Middle East & Africa	1,268.4	1,211.5	2,285.2	2,153.7
Asia/Pacific	629.4	631.6	1,179.0	1,205.6
Net Sales	\$ 3,124.8	\$ 3,044.5	\$ 5,959.5	\$ 5,675.5
<b>By Product Category:</b>				
Skin Care	\$ 1,232.2	\$ 1,274.4	\$ 2,341.0	\$ 2,365.8
Makeup	1,251.2	1,176.2	2,413.0	2,197.5
Fragrance	470.6	439.7	883.5	817.1
Hair Care	149.0	137.1	283.3	265.2
Other	21.8	17.1	38.7	29.9
Net Sales	\$ 3,124.8	\$ 3,044.5	\$ 5,959.5	\$ 5,675.5
<b>OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)</b>				
<b>By Region:</b>				
The Americas	\$ 107.8	\$ 120.8	\$ 198.4	\$ 178.2
Europe, the Middle East & Africa	386.5	355.2	630.2	525.1
Asia/Pacific	153.6	156.8	272.5	277.5
	647.9	632.8	1,101.1	980.8
Charges associated with restructuring activities	(18.5)		(18.5)	
Operating Income	\$ 629.4	\$ 632.8	\$ 1,082.6	\$ 980.8
<b>By Product Category:</b>				
Skin Care	\$ 309.2	\$ 317.1	\$ 498.9	\$ 493.5
Makeup	260.8	253.4	450.0	379.3
Fragrance	53.2	47.5	119.3	86.5
Hair Care	19.9	16.2	25.6	25.0
Other	4.8	(1.4)	7.3	(3.5)
	647.9	632.8	1,101.1	980.8

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Charges associated with restructuring activities		(18.5)			(18.5)			
Operating Income	\$	629.4	\$	632.8	\$	1,082.6	\$	980.8

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The following table presents certain consolidated earnings data as a percentage of net sales:

	<b>Three Months Ended December 31</b>		<b>Six Months Ended December 31</b>	
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Net sales	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Cost of sales	18.8	18.8	19.6	19.6
Gross profit	81.2	81.2	80.4	80.4
<b>Operating expenses:</b>				
Selling, general and administrative	60.4	60.4	61.9	63.1
Restructuring and other charges	0.6		0.3	
Total operating expenses	61.0	60.4	62.2	63.1
Operating income	20.2	20.8	18.2	17.3
Interest expense	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
Interest income and investment income, net	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	
Earnings before income taxes	19.8	20.4	17.7	16.8
Provision for income taxes	5.4	6.0	5.0	5.1
Net earnings	14.4	14.4	12.7	11.7
Net earnings attributable to noncontrolling interests	(0.1)	(0.1)		
Net earnings attributable to The Estée Lauder Companies Inc.	14.3%	14.3%	12.7%	11.7%

In order to meet the demands of consumers, we continually introduce new products, support new and established products through advertising, merchandising and sampling, and phase out existing products that no longer meet the needs of our consumers or our objectives. The economics of developing, producing, launching, supporting and discontinuing products impact our sales and operating performance each period. The introduction of new products may have some cannibalizing effect on sales of existing products, which we take into account in our business planning.

We operate on a global basis, with the majority of our net sales generated outside the United States. Accordingly, fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates can affect our results of operations. Therefore, we present certain net sales, operating results and diluted net earnings per common share information excluding the effect of foreign currency rate fluctuations to provide a framework for assessing the performance of our underlying business outside the United States. Constant currency information compares results between periods as if exchange rates had remained constant period-over-period. We calculate constant currency information by translating current year results using prior year weighted-average foreign currency exchange rates.

**Overview**

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We believe the best way to continue to increase stockholder value is to provide our customers and consumers with superior products and services in the most efficient and profitable manner while recognizing consumers' changing behaviors and shopping preferences. To be the global leader in prestige beauty, we are guided by our long-term strategy through fiscal 2018, which has numerous initiatives across geographic regions, product categories, brands, channels of distribution and functions that are designed to grow our sales, leverage our strengths and make us more productive and profitable. We plan to continue to build upon and leverage our history of outstanding creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship in high quality products and services and engaging communications.

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**THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.**

Our diverse and highly desirable brand portfolio positions us well to capitalize on opportunities in fast growing and profitable areas in prestige beauty. We believe our range of prestige product offerings allows us to increase our share of a consumer's beauty routine and source consumers from brands sold in mass distribution. Skin care, our most profitable product category historically, remains a strategic priority for us and we continue to support our large, long-standing skin care product lines including Advanced Night Repair from Estée Lauder, Clinique's 3-Step Skin Care System and Crème de la Mer from La Mer. We are also developing and introducing new products, such as New Dimension and Re-Nutriv Ultimate Diamond eye crème from Estée Lauder, Clinique Smart moisturizers, Clinique smart treatment oil and Clinique Sculptwear serum, as well as The Renewal Oil and Genaissance serum from La Mer. We supplemented our skin care offerings through the fiscal 2015 acquisitions of GLAMGLOW and RODIN olio lusso. While global prestige skin care growth remained slow in the second quarter of fiscal 2016, global growth in prestige makeup continued to accelerate, in part due to increased makeup usage in Asia and the visual nature of the category which resonates in social media. This trend benefited our makeup sales, particularly in areas such as lipsticks and foundations. We also introduced new products, including new collections from our makeup artist brands, Double Wear Makeup to Go liquid compact and Pure Color Envy liquid lip potion from Estée Lauder, and Chubby Lash fattening mascara and Beyond Perfecting foundation and concealer from Clinique, and expanded our distribution. We believe that the makeup category represents one of our most compelling growth opportunities. Our fragrance category continues to benefit from increased sales of Jo Malone London and Tom Ford fragrances, new launches such as Tom Ford Noir Pour Femme, the Michael Kors Gold Fragrance Collection and Mimosa & Cardamom from Jo Malone London, and incremental net sales from our fiscal 2015 acquisitions of Le Labo and Editions de Parfums Frédéric Malle. In addition, we are expanding our hair care brands in salons and other retail channels. To complement the strategies in our existing business, we are continuously looking to acquire and incubate smaller brands that we believe have significant growth potential and may provide unique opportunities for profitable growth in the future.

Our global footprint provides many avenues of growth. We are leveraging our regional organizations and the talents and expertise of our people in an effort to be locally relevant with our products, services, channels, marketing and visual merchandising. We are seeking share growth in large, image-building core markets such as the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Japan and Korea by strengthening our presence in these countries. In addition, we are broadening our presence in emerging markets such as China, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Brazil, Russia, India, Mexico and South Africa. We continue to see slow department store traffic in some markets, which is particularly affecting Estée Lauder and Clinique; however, we are growing faster in other channels, such as e- and m-commerce. In January 2016, Macy's Inc., our largest customer, announced the closing of a certain number of its department store locations. These closings are not expected to have a material impact on our net sales.

In North America, we are hosting targeted in-store events to support key innovations in multiple channels, and we are increasing our presence in specialty multi-brand retailers and freestanding retail stores. Internationally, we are expanding our business in freestanding stores, in European perfumeries and pharmacies, and in department stores, particularly in the United Kingdom and certain markets in Asia. We are also expanding brands in our travel retail channel, which benefits from increasing international passenger traffic. Travel retail continues to be an important channel for brand building and profit margin expansion, although it is susceptible to a number of external factors, including fluctuations in currency exchange rates and consumers' willingness and ability to travel and spend. We have strategies focused on consumers who purchase in the travel retail channel, in stores at their travel destinations or when they return to their home market. We are broadening our online portfolio around the world by adding brands to existing markets and entering new markets, resulting in strong net sales growth in the online channel, and we are developing and testing omnichannel concepts to better serve consumers as they shop across channels. We are applying what we have learned from our digital strategy in the United States to other markets such as Brazil and Russia. To further drive our online sales, we are increasing our presence on key third-party platforms in China, where we are seeing promising results.

While our business is performing well overall, we are faced with strong competition globally and economic challenges in certain countries. We are cautious of the continued slow retail growth in Hong Kong and China, a decline in travel and spending by Russian and Brazilian travelers and unfavorable foreign exchange due to the continued strength of the U.S. dollar in relation to most currencies. Additionally, we are monitoring the effects of economic instability in Russia, Greece and Brazil.



We believe we can, to some extent, offset the impact of these challenges by accelerating areas of strength, utilizing the various growth drivers among our brands, channels and markets. However, if economic conditions or the degree of uncertainty or volatility worsen, or the adverse conditions previously discussed are further prolonged, then there could be a negative effect on ongoing consumer confidence, demand and spending and, as a result, on our business. We will continue to monitor these and other risks that may affect our business.

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We navigate through short-term volatility by focusing on our long-term strategy using our multiple growth engines that we believe will promote sustainable growth. These include strengthening our presence in emerging markets, continuing to revitalize and accelerate growth in our heritage brands, focusing on key demographics and seeking opportunities to add to our diverse brand portfolio. We will continue to drive product, packaging, and conceptual innovation and creativity that we believe will enable us to introduce products that resonate with consumers. Some will involve new sub-categories and others may expand key franchises. We expect to leverage our topline growth through greater productivity, due in part to cost savings and efficiencies from our Strategic Modernization Initiative ( SMI ). We plan to continue allocating our resources to growth drivers such as digital capabilities, including the development of omnichannel concepts, retail store expansion, in-store consumer engagement, and information technology enhancements. We also plan to continue to succeed in high growth product categories, sub-categories and channels of distribution, benefit from regional opportunities, focus on emerging market and luxury consumers and enhance our local relevance.

Investment in our global information systems is an ongoing process. We have implemented initiatives to leverage our SMI foundation that are focused on sustainment and global efficiencies. As we continue to modernize our key processes, related systems and infrastructure, we continue to develop upgraded capabilities to support our human resource operations and are making investments to upgrade our global technology infrastructure ( GTI ), as well as our retail systems and retail capabilities globally. These initiatives are expected to improve profitability by enhancing gross margin and supporting efficiencies in select operating expenses and working capital, freeing resources to strategically reinvest in activities to support our future growth.

In October 2015, officers authorized by our Board of Directors approved plans to transform and modernize our GTI to fundamentally change the way we deliver information technology services internally (such initiative, the GTI Restructuring ). As part of the GTI Restructuring, we are transitioning our GTI from Company-owned assets to a primarily vendor-owned model where we will pay for services as they are used. This model, with a different third-party provider, is expected to provide an enhanced scalable platform to better support current and future requirements, help us achieve key strategic opportunities and improve our agility and flexibility to respond to the demands of the business by leveraging more advanced technologies. This transition is expected to result in operational efficiencies and reduce our information technology service and infrastructure costs in the future. We anticipate the GTI Restructuring will result in related restructuring and other charges of approximately \$40 million to \$50 million, consisting of non-cash asset write-offs, as well as employee-related and other implementation costs, which will be funded by cash from operations. For the three and six months ended December 31, 2015, we recorded \$18.5 million of restructuring and other charges. We expect the implementation of the GTI Restructuring, and the related charges, will continue through calendar year 2016 and will generate a positive return on investment. Net savings from this initiative may be partially reinvested in other strategic areas of our business.

For additional information about the GTI Restructuring initiative, see Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Note 4 *Charges Associated with Restructuring Activities*.

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We rolled out the last major wave of SMI in July 2014, and most of our locations are now SAP-enabled. We plan to continue the implementation of SAP at our remaining locations throughout the next few fiscal years. In connection with the July 2014 implementation, some retailers accelerated their sales orders that would have occurred in our fiscal 2015 first quarter into our fiscal 2014 fourth quarter in advance of this implementation to provide adequate safety stock to mitigate any potential short-term business interruption associated with the SMI rollout. The negative impact on the net sales and operating results for the six months ended December 31, 2014 by product category and geographic region was as follows:

(In millions)	Six Months Ended December 31, 2014	
	Net Sales	Operating Results
<b>Product Category:</b>		
Skin Care	\$ 91	\$ 72
Makeup	65	41
Fragrance	21	14
Hair Care	1	
Other		
Total	\$ 178	\$ 127
<b>Region:</b>		
The Americas	\$ 84	\$ 53
Europe, the Middle East & Africa	68	53
Asia/Pacific	26	21
Total	\$ 178	\$ 127

The lower orders during the six months ended December 31, 2014 created a favorable comparison between the six months ended December 31, 2015 and the six months ended December 31, 2014 of approximately \$178 million in net sales and approximately \$127 million in operating results and impacted our operating margin comparisons. We believe the presentation of certain year-to-date comparative information in the following discussions that excludes the impact of the timing of these orders is useful in analyzing the net sales performance and operating results of our business.

See *Non-GAAP Financial Measures* below for reconciliations between non-GAAP financial measures and the most directly comparable U.S. GAAP measures.

As referenced in the discussion herein, our heritage brands are Estée Lauder, Clinique and Origins. M A C and Bobbi Brown are our makeup artist brands, and our luxury brands are La Mer, Jo Malone London, Tom Ford, RODIN olio lusso, Le Labo and Editions de Parfums Frédéric Malle.

*Second Quarter Fiscal 2016 as Compared with Second Quarter Fiscal 2015*

**NET SALES**

Net sales increased 3%, or \$80.3 million, to \$3,124.8 million. This increase included approximately \$168 million of unfavorable foreign currency translation due to the strength of the U.S. dollar against most currencies. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, net sales increased 8%.

Reported net sales grew in each product category, with the exception of skin care, and in each geographic region, with the exception of Asia/Pacific. Skin care continues to be the leading product category in China and Hong Kong, two markets where retail growth is more challenging. Solid net sales increases in product offerings by M A C, Smashbox and Tom Ford globally drove the growth in the makeup category. Our fragrance category benefited from net sales increases from our luxury brands and incremental sales from our fiscal 2015 acquisitions. While the overall decline in the skin care category was driven by the unfavorable impact of foreign currency translation, sales of La Mer products continued to increase, and we had incremental contributions from our fiscal 2015 acquisitions. Each of our product categories benefited from expanded global distribution, new product offerings and growth from emerging markets. During the current-year period, Estée Lauder showed improvements on a local currency basis in the makeup and skin care categories due to product launches. Net sales of Clinique products decreased in skin care, which was partially due to unfavorable foreign currency translation and reflected a difficult comparison to the prior-year period launch of Clinique Smart custom-repair serum and the Sonic System Purifying Cleansing Brush.

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***Product Categories***

***Skin Care***

Net sales of skin care products decreased 3%, or \$42.2 million, to \$1,232.2 million, reflecting the unfavorable impact of foreign currency translation of approximately \$67 million. The reported decrease was driven by lower net sales of Estée Lauder and Clinique products of approximately \$58 million, combined. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, Estée Lauder skin care net sales increased primarily due to new product launches such as New Dimension and Re-Nutriv Ultimate Diamond eye crème. Lower net sales of Clinique products were primarily due to a difficult comparison with the prior-year period that featured greater launch activity including Clinique Smart custom-repair serum and the Clinique Sonic System Purifying Cleansing Brush. Partially offsetting these decreases were higher net sales of La Mer products in all regions, including expanded distribution in the travel retail channel, as well as incremental sales from our fiscal 2015 acquisitions of GLAMGLOW and RODIN olio lusso of approximately \$22 million, combined. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, skin care net sales increased 2%.

***Makeup***

Net sales of makeup products increased 6%, or \$75.0 million, to \$1,251.2 million. This includes approximately \$72 million of unfavorable foreign currency translation. The reported net sales increase primarily reflected higher net sales from our makeup artist brands, Smashbox, and Tom Ford of approximately \$71 million, combined. Sales from our makeup artist brands benefited from new product offerings, as well as expanded distribution in a number of channels, including our freestanding retail stores, and for Bobbi Brown, also in travel retail and specialty-multi retailers. The higher net sales from Smashbox were primarily due to expanded distribution in department stores. The higher net sales from Tom Ford were driven by an increase in lipstick net sales, including the expansion of the Lips & Boys line of lipsticks. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, makeup net sales increased 13%.

***Fragrance***

Net sales of fragrance products increased 7%, or \$30.9 million, to \$470.6 million. This includes approximately \$22 million of unfavorable foreign currency translation. The reported net sales increase primarily reflected higher net sales of luxury fragrances from Jo Malone London and Tom Ford, and incremental sales from our fiscal 2015 acquisitions of Le Labo and Editions de Parfums Frédéric Malle of approximately \$40 million, combined. The higher net sales from Jo Malone London were due to expanded distribution related to department stores and the travel retail channel and the launch of Mimosa & Cardamom. Increased sales from Tom Ford were primarily due to new product launches such as Tom Ford Noir Extreme and Tom Ford Noir Pour Femme. Partially offsetting these increases were lower sales of certain Estée Lauder and Clinique fragrances of approximately \$2 million, combined. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, fragrance net sales increased 12%.

***Hair Care***

Hair care net sales increased 9%, or \$11.9 million, to \$149.0 million, reflecting new product launches from Aveda, such as Shampure dry shampoo and the Aveda Thickening Tonic as well as expanded global distribution of Aveda products in freestanding stores, salons and in the travel retail channel. To a lesser extent, net sales of Bumble and bumble products increased, reflecting expanded distribution in specialty-multi brand retailers. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, hair care net sales increased 14%.

*Geographic Regions*

Net sales in the Americas increased 2%, or \$25.6 million, to \$1,227.0 million. Net sales in the United States and Canada increased approximately \$17 million, combined, reflecting growth in makeup net sales, driven by Smashbox and Clinique, incremental sales from our fiscal 2015 acquisitions and higher net sales of Aveda hair care products. These increases were partially offset by lower sales of fragrances, in particular, certain Estée Lauder and designer fragrances, which more than offset increases in sales of luxury fragrances. We continue to be challenged by a soft retail environment for Estée Lauder and Clinique products in certain department stores. Net sales in Latin America increased approximately \$1 million, primarily reflecting higher net sales in Argentina and Mexico, partially offset by lower sales in Brazil, as a result of unfavorable foreign currency translation of approximately \$12 million. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, Brazil had net sales increases, primarily due to expanded distribution of M A C products. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, net sales in the Americas increased 4%.

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In Europe, the Middle East & Africa, net sales increased 5%, or \$56.9 million, to \$1,268.4 million. This includes approximately \$100 million of unfavorable foreign currency translation due to the strength of the U.S. dollar in relation to all currencies in the region. Higher reported sales in the United Kingdom, our travel retail business and the Middle East totaled approximately \$53 million, combined. The higher sales in the United Kingdom were due to increased net sales from our makeup artist brands and certain of our luxury brands. The higher sales in our travel retail business were driven by expanded distribution of our luxury brands and Smashbox. Higher sales in the Middle East were primarily driven by our makeup artist brands and certain of our luxury brands as a result of expanded distribution and product launches such as Mimosa & Cardamom from Jo Malone London. These increases were partially offset by lower net sales in Russia and Iberia of approximately \$5 million, combined, reflecting the negative impact of foreign currency translation. Excluding this impact, net sales in Russia increased primarily due to higher net sales from certain of our makeup artist and luxury brands and net sales in Iberia were higher, in part, due to an increase in tourism. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, Europe, the Middle East & Africa net sales increased 13%.

Net sales in Asia/Pacific decreased less than 1%, or \$2.2 million, to \$629.4 million, driven by approximately \$40 million of unfavorable foreign currency translation due to the strength of the U.S. dollar in relation to most currencies in the region. Lower sales in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand and Taiwan totaled approximately \$15 million, combined. The lower net sales in Hong Kong were primarily driven by a decrease in traveling Chinese consumers as a result of the previous social instability there, which particularly impacted the Estée Lauder, Clinique and La Mer brands. The decrease in net sales in Malaysia, Thailand and Taiwan was primarily due to the negative impact of foreign currency translation; however, net sales in these countries benefited from expanded distribution. These decreases were partially offset by higher net sales in China and the Philippines of approximately \$11 million, combined. The higher net sales in China were driven by expanded distribution and increased Guanggun Jie (November 11th) promotional activity. For the Philippines, the higher net sales were driven by expanded distribution, including the introduction of Jo Malone London. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, Asia/Pacific net sales increased 6%.

We strategically stagger our new product launches by geographic market, which may account for differences in regional sales growth.

**COST OF SALES**

Cost of sales as a percentage of total net sales remained flat at 18.8%. This reflected a favorable impact of manufacturing variances of approximately 50 basis points, offset by an unfavorable impact of the mix of our business of approximately 40 basis points and an increase in shipments of promotional items and gifts of approximately 10 basis points.

Since certain promotional activities are components of sales or cost of sales and the timing and level of promotions vary with our promotional calendar, we have experienced, and expect to continue to experience, fluctuations in the cost of sales percentage. In addition, future cost of sales may be impacted by channels of distribution and their relative growth.

**OPERATING EXPENSES**

Operating expenses as a percentage of net sales increased to 61.0% as compared with 60.4% in the prior-year period. The increase primarily reflected the fiscal 2016 charges associated with restructuring activities of approximately 60 basis points and higher costs associated with store operations of approximately 40 basis points. Also contributing to the increase were higher general and administrative expenses of approximately 50 basis points, partially due to increased rent associated with a new larger office in London and higher stock-based compensation, and higher costs associated with research and development of approximately 20 basis points. Partially offsetting these increases were approximately 40 basis points of lower advertising, merchandising and sampling costs, as a percentage of net sales. This change reflected the favorable impact of foreign currency translation, as well as the brand and channel mix of our spend, as certain media formats carry different cost structures. Certain of our brands have lower costs associated with advertising as they focus on digital and social media strategies and rely less on print and television advertising, which carry a higher media cost. Also contributing to the improvement was a favorable change in foreign exchange transactions of approximately 40 basis points and a decrease in selling and shipping costs, as a percentage of net sales, of approximately 30 basis points.

Changes in advertising, merchandising and sampling spending result from the type, timing and level of activities related to product launches and rollouts, as well as the markets and brands being emphasized.



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**OPERATING RESULTS**

Operating income decreased 1%, or \$3.4 million, to \$629.4 million. Operating margin decreased to 20.2% of net sales as compared with 20.8% in the prior-year period. The overall operating results and operating margin were impacted by unfavorable foreign currency translation of approximately \$56 million. In addition, the operating results for the three months ended December 31, 2015 include the impact of charges associated with the GTI Restructuring of \$18.5 million, or less than 1% of net sales. Adjusting for the impact of these charges, operating income would have increased 2% and operating margin would have decreased 10 basis points.

*Product Categories*

Skin care operating income decreased 2%, or \$7.9 million, to \$309.2 million, reflecting lower results from Estée Lauder, partially offset by higher results from La Mer. Makeup operating income increased 3%, or \$7.4 million, to \$260.8 million, primarily reflecting improved results from M A C, partially offset by lower results from Bobbi Brown due to increased advertising and promotional spending behind new and existing products. Fragrance operating income increased 12%, or \$5.7 million, to \$53.2 million, reflecting higher results from our luxury fragrance brands, partially offset by lower results from Estée Lauder. Hair care operating results increased 23%, or \$3.7 million, to \$19.9 million, primarily reflecting higher net sales driven by new product launches and expanded global distribution.

*Geographic Regions*

Operating income in the Americas decreased 11%, or \$13.0 million, to \$107.8 million, driven by the impact of foreign currency translation and reflecting higher selling, advertising, merchandising and sampling spending behind product launches and in-store promotional activities, higher store operating costs related to expanded distribution, and an increase in product development and research and development expenses.

In Europe, the Middle East & Africa, operating income increased 9%, or \$31.3 million, to \$386.5 million. Higher results from our travel retail business, Germany, the United Kingdom and the Middle East totaled approximately \$30 million, primarily due to an increase in net sales. These higher results were partially offset by lower results in France and Russia of approximately \$5 million. The lower results in France were due to increased advertising, merchandising and sampling and store operating costs.

In Asia/Pacific, operating income decreased 2%, or \$3.2 million, to \$153.6 million, driven by the impact of foreign currency translation. As reported, lower results in Hong Kong and China, totaled approximately \$8 million, combined. The decrease in operating results in China was attributable to increased advertising, merchandising and sampling costs to support certain existing products. These lower results were partially offset by higher results in Japan, Australia and the Philippines of approximately \$6 million, combined. The improved results in Japan were due to lower advertising, merchandising and sampling costs. The higher results in Australia and the Philippines were due to increased sales.

### **INTEREST EXPENSE**

Interest expense increased to \$17.0 million as compared with \$15.0 million in the prior-year period, primarily due to the issuance of additional long-term debt in June 2015.

### **INTEREST INCOME AND INVESTMENT INCOME, NET**

Interest income and investment income, net decreased to \$3.2 million as compared with \$3.8 million in the prior-year period, due to a realized gain on investments in the prior-year period.

### **PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES**

The provision for income taxes represents U.S. federal, foreign, state and local income taxes. The effective rate differs from the federal statutory rate primarily due to the effect of state and local income taxes, the taxation of foreign income and income tax reserve adjustments, which represent changes in our net liability for unrecognized tax benefits including tax settlements and lapses of the applicable statutes of limitations. Our effective tax rate will change from quarter to quarter based on recurring and non-recurring factors including, but not limited to, the geographical mix of earnings, enacted tax legislation, state and local income taxes, tax reserve adjustments, the ultimate disposition of deferred tax assets relating to stock-based compensation and the interaction of various global tax strategies. In addition, changes in judgment from the evaluation of new information resulting in the recognition, derecognition or remeasurement of a tax position taken in a prior annual period are recognized separately in the quarter of change.

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The effective rate for income taxes was 27.2% and 29.6% for the three months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The decrease in the effective tax rate was attributable to a lower effective tax rate on the Company's foreign operations, the retroactive reinstatement of the U.S. federal research and development tax credit that was signed into law on December 18, 2015 and the reduced impact of income tax reserves as compared to the prior-year period.

**NET EARNINGS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.**

Net earnings attributable to The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. as compared with the prior-year period increased 2%, or \$10.5 million, to \$446.2 million, and diluted net earnings per common share increased 5% from \$1.13 to \$1.19.

*Six Months Fiscal 2016 as Compared with Six Months Fiscal 2015*

**NET SALES**

Net sales increased 5%, or \$284.0 million, to \$5,959.5 million. This increase included approximately \$366 million of unfavorable foreign currency translation due to the strength of the U.S. dollar against most currencies, partially offset by the favorable comparison to the prior-year period due to the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders of approximately \$178 million. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, net sales increased 11%. Excluding the impact of the accelerated orders, net sales increased 2%. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation and the impact of the accelerated orders, net sales increased 8%.

Reported net sales grew in each product category, with the exception of skin care, and in each geographic region, with the exception of Asia/Pacific. Skin care continues to be the leading product category in China and Hong Kong, two markets where retail growth is more challenging. Solid net sales increases in product offerings by M·A·C and Smashbox globally drove the growth in the makeup category, which also benefited from the improved sales of Estée Lauder and Clinique products in North America. Our fragrance category benefited from net sales increases from our luxury brands and incremental sales from our fiscal 2015 acquisitions. While the overall decline in the skin care category was driven by the unfavorable impact of foreign currency translation, sales of La Mer products continued to increase, and we had incremental contributions from our fiscal 2015 acquisitions. Each of our product categories benefited from expanded global distribution, new product offerings and growth from emerging markets, excluding China. During the current-year period, Estée Lauder net sales improved on a local currency basis in the makeup and skin care categories due to new product launches. Excluding the impact of the accelerated orders and the impact of foreign currency translation, net sales of Clinique products decreased in all product categories, except makeup, which benefited from new product launches such as Beyond Perfecting foundation and concealer.

*Product Categories*

*Skin Care*

Net sales of skin care products decreased 1%, or \$24.8 million, to \$2,341.0 million, reflecting approximately \$129 million of unfavorable foreign currency translation, partially offset by the favorable comparison due to the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders of approximately \$91 million. The reported decrease was primarily driven by lower net sales of Estée Lauder and Clinique products of approximately \$63 million, combined. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, Estée Lauder skin care net sales increased primarily due to new product launches such as New Dimension and Re-Nutriv Ultimate Diamond eye crème, partially offset by continued softness in China and Hong Kong, as a result of a difficult retail environment. Lower net sales of Clinique products were primarily due to a difficult comparison with the prior-year period that featured greater launch activity including the Clinique Sonic System Purifying Cleansing Brush and Clinique Smart custom-repair serum. Also contributing to the decrease were lower sales of skin care products from Bobbi Brown and Aveda of approximately \$9 million, combined. Partially offsetting these decreases were higher net sales of La Mer products in all regions, including expanded distribution in perfumeries and specialty-multi retailers, as well as incremental sales from our fiscal 2015 acquisitions of GLAMGLOW and RODIN olio lusso of approximately \$56 million, combined. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, skin care net sales increased 4%. Adjusting for the impact of the accelerated orders, reported and constant currency net sales in skin care would have decreased 5% and increased 1%, respectively.

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***Makeup***

Net sales of makeup products increased 10%, or \$215.5 million, to \$2,413.0 million. This includes approximately \$170 million of unfavorable foreign currency translation, which was partially offset by the favorable comparison due to the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders of approximately \$65 million. The reported net sales increase primarily reflected higher net sales from our makeup artist brands, Smashbox, Clinique and Estée Lauder of approximately \$196 million, combined. Sales from our makeup artist brands benefited from new product offerings, as well as expanded distribution in a number of channels, including our freestanding retail stores and travel retail. The higher net sales from Smashbox were primarily due to expanded distribution in specialty multi-brand retailers and department stores. Net sales of Estée Lauder products improved due to new launches such as Double Wear Makeup to Go liquid compact and Pure Color Envy liquid lip potion. The higher net sales from Clinique were driven by the favorable comparison due to the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders and also reflected incremental sales from new launches such as Beyond Perfecting foundation and concealer and Clinique Pop lip colour + primer. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, makeup net sales increased 18%. Adjusting for the impact of the accelerated orders, reported and constant currency net sales in makeup would have increased 7% and 14%, respectively.

***Fragrance***

Net sales of fragrance products increased 8%, or \$66.4 million, to \$883.5 million. This includes approximately \$54 million of unfavorable foreign currency translation, which was partially offset by the favorable comparison due to the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders of approximately \$21 million. The reported net sales increase primarily reflected higher net sales of luxury fragrances from Jo Malone London and Tom Ford and incremental sales from our fiscal 2015 acquisitions of Le Labo and Editions de Parfums Frédéric Malle of approximately \$82 million, combined. The higher net sales from Jo Malone London were partially due to expanded distribution related to department stores and the travel retail channel. The improvement in Tom Ford net sales reflected incremental sales from new product launches, including Tom Ford Noir Pour Femme. Partially offsetting these increases were lower sales of certain fragrances from our heritage brands of approximately \$22 million, combined. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, fragrance net sales increased 15%. Adjusting for the impact of the accelerated orders, reported and constant currency net sales in fragrance would have increased 5% and 12%, respectively.

***Hair Care***

Hair care net sales increased 7%, or \$18.1 million, to \$283.3 million. The increase in net sales reflected new product launches from Aveda such as Thickening Tonic and Shampure dry shampoo and, to a lesser extent, expanded global distribution of Aveda products in freestanding stores, salons and in the travel retail channel, and Bumble and bumble products in specialty-multi brand retailers. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, hair care net sales increased 10%. The impact of the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders on reported and constant currency net sales was de minimis.

***Geographic Regions***

Net sales in the Americas increased 8%, or \$179.1 million, to \$2,495.3 million. Net sales in the United States and Canada increased approximately \$177 million, combined, and reflected the favorable comparison due to the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders of approximately \$84 million. The increase in reported net sales was driven by higher makeup sales from certain of our heritage brands, our makeup artist brands and Smashbox and incremental sales from our fiscal 2015 acquisitions, partially offset by lower sales of certain Estée Lauder fragrances. We continue to be challenged by a soft retail environment for Estée Lauder and Clinique products in certain department stores. Net sales in Latin America increased approximately \$2 million, primarily reflecting higher net sales in Argentina and Chile, partially offset by lower sales in Brazil

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as a result of unfavorable foreign currency translation of approximately \$24 million. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, the emerging markets of Brazil and Mexico had net sales increases, primarily due to expanded distribution of M A C products. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, net sales in the Americas increased 11%. Adjusting for the impact of the accelerated orders, reported and constant currency net sales in the Americas would have increased 4% and 7%, respectively.

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**THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC**

In Europe, the Middle East & Africa, net sales increased 6%, or \$131.5 million, to \$2,285.2 million. This includes approximately \$204 million of unfavorable foreign currency translation due to the strength of the U.S. dollar in relation to all currencies in the region, which was partially offset by the favorable comparison due to the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders of approximately \$68 million. Higher sales in our travel retail business, the United Kingdom and the Middle East totaled approximately \$129 million, combined. The higher sales in our travel retail business were driven by the favorable comparison due to the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders. Excluding this impact, net sales in our travel retail business declined due to the change in travel and shopping patterns and level of spending of certain travelers, particularly in Asia, resulting from the strength of the U.S. dollar in relation to most currencies. This decrease was partially offset by new launch initiatives, an increase in global airline passenger traffic and expanded distribution. The higher sales in the United Kingdom were due to increased net sales from our makeup artist brands and certain of our luxury brands. Higher sales in the Middle East were primarily driven by our makeup artist brands and certain of our luxury brands as a result of expanded distribution and product launches such as Tom Ford Noir Pour Femme. These increases were partially offset by lower net sales in Russia and South Africa of approximately \$14 million, combined, driven by the negative impact of foreign currency translation. Excluding this impact, net sales in Russia increased primarily due to higher net sales from certain of our heritage and luxury brands, and the higher net sales in South Africa were primarily driven by our makeup artist and certain of our luxury brands. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, Europe, the Middle East & Africa net sales increased 16%. Adjusting for the impact of the accelerated orders, reported and constant currency net sales in Europe, the Middle East & Africa would have increased 3% and 12%, respectively.

Net sales in Asia/Pacific decreased 2%, or \$26.6 million, to \$1,179.0 million, driven by approximately \$92 million of unfavorable foreign currency translation due to the strength of the U.S. dollar in relation to most currencies in the region, partially offset by the favorable comparison due to the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders of approximately \$26 million. Lower sales in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Korea, Thailand, Taiwan and Australia totaled approximately \$43 million, combined. The lower net sales in Hong Kong were primarily driven by a decrease in traveling Chinese consumers due, in part, to the previous social instability there, which particularly impacted the Estée Lauder, Clinique and La Mer brands. The decrease in net sales in Malaysia, Korea, Thailand, Taiwan and Australia was primarily due to the negative impact of foreign currency translation; however, these countries benefited from expanded distribution. These decreases were partially offset by higher net sales in Japan and, to a lesser extent, the Philippines of approximately \$23 million, combined. The higher net sales in Japan, excluding the impact of the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders and foreign currency translation, were attributable to an increase in tourism, particularly from Chinese travelers. For the Philippines, the higher net sales were driven by expanded distribution. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, Asia/Pacific net sales increased 5%. Adjusting for the impact of the accelerated orders, reported and constant currency net sales in Asia/Pacific would have decreased 4% and increased 3%, respectively.

We strategically stagger our new product launches by geographic market, which may account for differences in regional sales growth.

**COST OF SALES**

Cost of sales as a percentage of total net sales remained flat at 19.6%. This reflected a favorable impact of manufacturing variances of approximately 30 basis points, offset by an unfavorable change in the mix of our business of approximately 20 basis points and an increase in shipments of promotional items and gifts of approximately 10 basis points.

Since certain promotional activities are components of sales or cost of sales and the timing, and level of promotions vary with our promotional calendar, we have experienced, and expect to continue to experience, fluctuations in the cost of sales percentage. In addition, future cost of sales may be impacted by channels of distribution and their relative growth.





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**THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.**

**OPERATING EXPENSES**

Operating expenses as a percentage of net sales decreased to 62.2% as compared with 63.1% in the prior-year period, but would have increased approximately 80 basis points if not for the impact of the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders. The reported decrease primarily reflected lower advertising, merchandising and sampling costs, as a percentage of net sales, of approximately 100 basis points, reflecting the favorable impact of foreign currency translation, as well as the brand and channel mix of our spend as certain media formats carry different cost structures. Certain of our brands have lower costs associated with advertising as they focus on digital and social media strategies and rely less on print and television advertising, which carry a higher media cost. Also contributing to the improvement, as a percentage of net sales, was a decrease in selling and shipping costs of approximately 70 basis points and a favorable change in foreign exchange transactions of approximately 30 basis points. Partially offsetting these decreases were the fiscal 2016 charges associated with restructuring activities of approximately 30 basis points. Also offsetting these decreases were higher costs associated with store operations of approximately 30 basis points, and general and administrative expenses of approximately 20 basis points, as well as research and development, product development and stock compensation of approximately 10 basis points each. Adjusting for the impact of the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders, the increase of approximately 80 basis points primarily reflected an increase in general and administrative expenses, including stock-based compensation, higher store operating costs and the fiscal 2016 charges associated with restructuring activities, partially offset by lower spending on advertising, merchandising and sampling.

Changes in advertising, merchandising and sampling spending result from the type, timing and level of activities related to product launches and rollouts, as well as the markets and brands being emphasized.

**OPERATING RESULTS**

Operating income increased 10%, or \$101.8 million, to \$1,082.6 million. Operating margin increased to 18.2% of net sales as compared with 17.3% in the prior-year period. The overall operating results and operating margin were impacted by a favorable comparison of approximately \$127 million related to the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders, substantially offset by unfavorable foreign currency translation of approximately \$116 million. In addition, the operating results for the six months ended December 31, 2015 include the impact of charges associated with the GTI Restructuring of \$18.5 million, or less than 1% of net sales. Adjusting for the impact of the accelerated orders and charges associated with the GTI Restructuring, operating income would have decreased 1% and operating margin would have decreased 40 basis points.

***Product Categories***

The overall change in operating results in each product category reflected a favorable comparison to the prior-year period due to the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders from certain of our retailers due to our implementation of SMI as follows: skin care, approximately \$72 million; makeup, approximately \$41 million; fragrance, approximately \$14 million; and the impact on hair care was de minimis.

Skin care operating income increased 1%, or \$5.4 million, to \$498.9 million, reflecting the favorable comparison due to the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders. Excluding the impact from accelerated orders, skin care operating income declined, reflecting lower results from Estée Lauder, partially offset by higher results from La Mer. Makeup operating income increased 19%, or \$70.7 million, to \$450.0 million, primarily

reflecting improved results from M A C and Estée Lauder. Fragrance operating income increased 38%, or \$32.8 million, to \$119.3 million, reflecting higher results from certain of our luxury fragrance brands and certain designer fragrances, partially offset by lower results from Estée Lauder. Hair care operating results increased 2%, or \$0.6 million, to \$25.6 million, primarily reflecting improved results from Aveda. Adjusting for the impact of the accelerated orders, skin care, makeup, fragrance and hair care operating results would have increased (decreased) (12)%, 7%, 19% and 2%, respectively.

***Geographic Regions***

The overall change in operating results in each geographic region reflected a favorable comparison to the prior-year period due to the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders from certain of our retailers due to our implementation of SMI as follows: Americas, approximately \$53 million; Europe, the Middle East & Africa, approximately \$53 million; and Asia/Pacific, approximately \$21 million.

Operating income in the Americas increased 11%, or \$20.2 million, to \$198.4 million, reflecting the favorable comparison due to the fiscal 2015 accelerated orders. Excluding the impact of the accelerated orders, operating income decreased, primarily reflecting higher selling, advertising, merchandising and sampling spending behind product launches and in-store promotional activities, higher store operating costs related to expanded distribution, and an increase in product development and research and development expenses. Adjusting for the impact of the accelerated orders, operating income in the Americas would have decreased 14%.

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**THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.**

In Europe, the Middle East & Africa, operating income increased 20%, or \$105.1 million, to \$630.2 million. Higher results from our travel retail business, driven by the accelerated orders, and in the Middle East and Germany totaled approximately \$77 million. The higher results in Germany were due to increased sales from certain of our luxury brands and our makeup artist brands primarily due to expanded distribution. Adjusting for the impact of the accelerated orders, operating income in Europe, the Middle East & Africa would have increased 9%.

In Asia/Pacific, operating income decreased 2%, or \$5.0 million, to \$272.5 million. Lower results in China, Hong Kong and Thailand totaled approximately \$35 million, combined. In addition to the lower sales in China, the decline in operating results was also attributable to increased advertising, merchandising and sampling costs to support certain existing products. These lower results were mostly offset by higher results in Japan and, to a lesser extent, Taiwan, the Philippines and Singapore of approximately \$30 million, combined. The higher results in Taiwan and Singapore were primarily due to lower selling, advertising, merchandising and sampling spending. Adjusting for the impact of the accelerated orders, operating income in Asia/Pacific would have decreased 9%.

**INTEREST EXPENSE**

Interest expense increased to \$34.1 million as compared with \$29.8 million in the prior-year period, primarily due to the issuance of additional long-term debt in June 2015.

**INTEREST INCOME AND INVESTMENT INCOME, NET**

Interest income and investment income, net increased to \$6.2 million as compared with \$5.4 million in the prior-year period, primarily due to higher interest income as a result of an increase in short- and long-term investment balances and rates in connection with our cash investment strategy.

**PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES**

The provision for income taxes represents U.S. federal, foreign, state and local income taxes. The effective rate differs from the federal statutory rate primarily due to the effect of state and local income taxes, the taxation of foreign income and income tax reserve adjustments, which represent changes in our net liability for unrecognized tax benefits including tax settlements and lapses of the applicable statutes of limitations. Our effective tax rate will change from quarter to quarter based on recurring and non-recurring factors including, but not limited to, the geographical mix of earnings, enacted tax legislation, state and local income taxes, tax reserve adjustments, the ultimate disposition of deferred tax assets relating to stock-based compensation and the interaction of various global tax strategies. In addition, changes in judgment from the evaluation of new information resulting in the recognition, derecognition or remeasurement of a tax position taken in a prior annual period are recognized separately in the quarter of change.

The effective rate for income taxes was 28.0% and 30.3% for the six months ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The decrease in the effective tax rate was attributable to a lower effective tax rate on the Company's foreign operations, the retroactive reinstatement of the U.S. federal research and development tax credit that was signed into law on December 18, 2015 and the reduced impact of income tax reserves as compared to the prior-year period.

**NET EARNINGS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.**

Net earnings attributable to The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. as compared with the prior-year period increased 14%, or \$91.7 million, to \$755.5 million, and diluted net earnings per common share increased 17% from \$1.71 to \$2.00.

Table of Contents**THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.****NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES**

We use certain non-GAAP financial measures, among other financial measures, to evaluate our operating performance, which represent the manner in which we conduct and view our business. Management believes that excluding certain items that are not comparable from period to period helps investors and others compare operating performance between two periods. While we consider the non-GAAP measures useful in analyzing our results, they are not intended to replace, or act as a substitute for, any presentation included in the consolidated financial statements prepared in conformity with U.S. GAAP. The following tables present Net Sales, Operating Income and Diluted net earnings per common share adjusted to exclude the impact of accelerated orders associated with the July 2014 SMI rollout, charges associated with restructuring activities and the effects of foreign currency translation. The tables provide reconciliations between these non-GAAP financial measures and the most directly comparable U.S. GAAP measures.

(\$ in millions)	Six Months Ended December 31		Variance	% Change	% Change in Constant Currency
	2015	2014			
Net Sales, as reported	\$ 5,959.5	\$ 5,675.5	\$ 284.0	5%	11%
Accelerated orders associated with SMI rollout		178.3	(178.3)		
Net Sales, as adjusted	\$ 5,959.5	\$ 5,853.8	\$ 105.7	2%	8%

(\$ in millions)	Six Months Ended December 31		Variance	% Change	% Change in Constant Currency
	2015	2014			
Operating Income, as reported	\$ 1,082.6	\$ 980.8	\$ 101.8	10%	22%
Accelerated orders associated with SMI rollout		127.2	(127.2)		
Charges associated with restructuring activities	18.5		18.5		
Operating Income, as adjusted	\$ 1,101.1	\$ 1,108.0	\$ (6.9)	(1)%	10%

(\$ in millions)	Six Months Ended December 31		Variance	% Change	% Change in Constant Currency
	2015	2014			
Diluted net earnings per common share, as reported	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.71	\$ .29	17%	30%
Accelerated orders associated with SMI rollout		.21	(.21)		
Charges associated with restructuring activities	.03		.03		
Diluted net earnings per common share, as adjusted (1)	\$ 2.03	\$ 1.93	\$ .11	6%	17%

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(1) Not adjusted for differences caused by rounding

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The following table reconciles the change in net sales by product category and geographic region, as reported, to the change in net sales excluding the effects of foreign currency translation and the impact of the accelerated orders:

(In millions)	As Reported			Add: Impact of foreign currency translation	Add: Impact of accelerated orders	Variance, as adjusted	% Change, as reported	% Change, as adjusted
	Six Months Ended December 31, 2015	Six Months Ended December 31, 2014	Variance					
<b>Product Category:</b>								
Skin Care	\$ 2,341.0	\$ 2,365.8	\$ (24.8)	\$ 129.1	\$ (91.4)	\$ 12.9	(1)%	1%
Makeup	2,413.0	2,197.5	215.5	170.2	(65.4)	320.3	10	14
Fragrance	883.5	817.1	66.4	54.0	(21.0)	99.4	8	12
Hair Care	283.3	265.2	18.1	8.6	(0.5)	26.2	7	10
Other	38.7	29.9	8.8	3.7		12.5	29	42
Total	\$ 5,959.5	\$ 5,675.5	\$ 284.0	\$ 365.6	\$ (178.3)	\$ 471.3	5%	8%
<b>Region:</b>								
The Americas	\$ 2,495.3	\$ 2,316.2	\$ 179.1	\$ 69.4	\$ (84.3)	\$ 164.2	8%	7%
Europe, the Middle East & Africa	2,285.2	2,153.7	131.5	204.4	(67.9)	268.0	6	12
Asia/Pacific	1,179.0	1,205.6	(26.6)	91.8	(26.1)	39.1	(2)	3
Total	\$ 5,959.5	\$ 5,675.5	\$ 284.0	\$ 365.6	\$ (178.3)	\$ 471.3	5%	8%

**FINANCIAL CONDITION****LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES*****Overview***

Our principal sources of funds historically have been cash flows from operations, borrowings pursuant to our commercial paper program, borrowings from the issuance of long-term debt and committed and uncommitted credit lines provided by banks and other lenders in the United States and abroad. At December 31, 2015, we had cash and cash equivalents of \$868.1 million compared with \$1,021.4 million at June 30, 2015. The decrease primarily reflects cash used to purchase short- and long-term investments pursuant to our cash investment strategy. Our cash and cash equivalents are maintained at a number of financial institutions. To mitigate the risk of uninsured balances, we select financial institutions based on their credit ratings and financial strength, and we perform ongoing evaluations of these institutions to limit our concentration risk exposure.

Our business is seasonal in nature and, accordingly, our working capital needs vary. From time to time, we may enter into investing and financing transactions that require additional funding. To the extent that these needs exceed cash from operations, we could, subject to market conditions, issue commercial paper, issue long-term debt securities or borrow under our revolving credit facilities.

Based on past performance and current expectations, we believe that cash on hand, cash generated from operations, available credit lines and access to credit markets will be adequate to support currently planned business operations, information systems enhancements, capital expenditures, potential stock repurchases, commitments and other contractual obligations on both a near-term and long-term basis. Our cash and cash equivalents and short- and long-term investment balances at December 31, 2015 include cash and short- and long-term investments in offshore jurisdictions associated with our permanent reinvestment strategy. We do not believe that the indefinite reinvestment of these funds offshore impairs our ability to meet our domestic debt or working capital obligations. If these indefinitely reinvested earnings were repatriated into the United States as dividends, we would be subject to additional taxes.

The effects of inflation have not been significant to our overall operating results in recent years. Generally, we have been able to introduce new products at higher prices, increase prices and implement other operating efficiencies to sufficiently offset cost increases, which have been moderate.



Table of Contents**THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.*****Credit Ratings***

Changes in our credit ratings will likely result in changes in our borrowing costs. Our credit ratings also impact the cost of our revolving credit facility as discussed below. Downgrades in our credit ratings may reduce our ability to issue commercial paper and/or long-term debt and would likely increase the relative costs of borrowing. A credit rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold securities, is subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating organization, and should be evaluated independently of any other rating. As of January 29, 2016, our commercial paper is rated A-1 by Standard & Poor's and P-1 by Moody's, and our long-term debt is rated A+ with a stable outlook by Standard & Poor's and A2 with a stable outlook by Moody's.

***Debt***

At December 31, 2015, our outstanding borrowings were as follows:

(\$ in millions)	Long-term Debt	Current Debt	Total Debt
4.375% Senior Notes, due June 15, 2045 ( 2045 Senior Notes ) (1), (7)	\$ 294.1	\$	\$ 294.1
3.70% Senior Notes, due August 15, 2042 ( 2042 Senior Notes(2), (7)	249.0		249.0
6.00% Senior Notes, due May 15, 2037 ( 2037 Senior Notes ) (3), (7)	296.6		296.6
5.75% Senior Notes, due October 15, 2033 ( 2033 Senior Notes(4)	197.9		197.9
2.35% Senior Notes, due August 15, 2022 ( 2022 Senior Notes ) (5), (7)	255.5		255.5
5.55% Senior Notes, due May 15, 2017 ( 2017 Senior Notes(6), (7)	310.2		310.2
Commercial paper that matured through January 2016 (0.40% average interest rate)		340.2	340.2
Other borrowings	4.0	34.2	38.2
	\$ 1,607.3	\$ 374.4	\$ 1,981.7

(1) Consists of \$300.0 million principal and unamortized debt discount of \$5.9 million.

(2) Consists of \$250.0 million principal and unamortized debt discount of \$1.0 million.

(3) Consists of \$300.0 million principal and unamortized debt discount of \$3.4 million.

(4) Consists of \$200.0 million principal and unamortized debt discount of \$2.1 million.

(5) Consists of \$250.0 million principal, unamortized debt discount of \$0.1 million and a \$5.6 million adjustment to reflect the fair value of interest rate swaps.

(6) Consists of \$300.0 million principal, unamortized debt discount of \$0.1 million and a \$10.3 million adjustment to reflect the termination value of interest rate swaps.

(7) The Senior Notes contain certain customary incurrence based covenants, including limitations on indebtedness secured by liens.

We have a \$1.0 billion commercial paper program under which we may issue commercial paper in the United States. At January 29, 2016, we had \$354.1 million of commercial paper outstanding, which we may refinance on a periodic basis as it matures at then-prevailing market interest rates.

We have a \$1.0 billion senior unsecured revolving credit facility (the Facility ) that is currently set to expire on July 15, 2020. We have a remaining option to extend the Facility one more year. At December 31, 2015, no borrowings were outstanding under the Facility. The Facility may be used for general corporate purposes. Up to the equivalent of \$350 million of the Facility is available for multi-currency loans. The interest rate on borrowings under the Facility is based on LIBOR or on the higher of prime, which is the rate of interest publicly announced by the administrative agent, or ½% plus the Federal funds rate. We incurred costs of approximately \$1.0 million to establish the Facility, which costs are being amortized over the term of the Facility. The Facility has an annual fee of \$0.6 million, payable quarterly, based on our current credit ratings. The Facility also contains a cross-default provision whereby a failure to pay other material financial obligations in excess of \$150.0 million (after grace periods and absent a waiver from the lenders) would result in an event of default and the acceleration of the maturity of any outstanding debt under the Facility.

Total debt as a percent of total capitalization (excluding noncontrolling interests) increased to 36% at December 31, 2015 from 31% at June 30, 2015, primarily due to the issuance of commercial paper.

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***Cash Flows***

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$962.3 million during the six months ended December 31, 2015 as compared with \$993.7 million in the prior-year period. The decrease was driven, in part, by the accelerated orders in connection with our July 2014 SMI implementation, which contributed to unfavorable changes in working capital components. The decrease in cash flows provided by operating activities also reflected an unfavorable change in accounts receivable, reflecting the timing of shipments and collections, and an unfavorable change in accounts payable, primarily due to the timing of payments. These decreases were partially offset by higher net earnings and an increase in other accrued liabilities, due, in part, to higher accrued employee incentive compensation and an increase in accrued income taxes as a result of the level and timing of tax payments.

Net cash used for investing activities was \$644.2 million during the six months ended December 31, 2015 as compared with \$790.9 million in the prior-year period. The decrease primarily reflected lower net purchases of investments in connection with our cash investment strategy, as compared with the initial implementation of this program in the prior-year period. Also contributing to the decrease from the prior-year period was cash paid in connection with the fiscal 2015 acquisitions of Le Labo and RODIN olio lusso. These decreases were partially offset by cash paid in the second quarter of fiscal 2016 for the long-term investment in Have & Be Co. Ltd., the company behind skin care brands Dr. Jart + and Do The Right Thing, and higher capital expenditure activity, primarily related to leasehold improvements.

Net cash used for financing activities was \$453.3 million during the six months ended December 31, 2015 as compared with \$568.1 million in the prior-year period. The decrease primarily reflected the proceeds from the issuance of short-term commercial paper, partially offset by an increase in treasury stock repurchases and higher dividend payments.

***Dividends***

For a summary of quarterly cash dividends declared per share on our Class A and Class B Common Stock during the six months ended December 31, 2015, see Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Note 11 *Equity*.

***Pension and Post-retirement Plan Funding***

There have been no significant changes to our pension and post-retirement funding as discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015.

***Commitments, Contractual Obligations and Contingencies***

There have been no significant changes to our commitments and contractual obligations as discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. For a discussion of contingencies, see Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Note 8 *Contingencies*.

***Derivative Financial Instruments and Hedging Activities***

For a discussion of our derivative financial instruments and hedging activities, see Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Note 5 *Derivative Financial Instruments*.

***Foreign Exchange Risk Management***

For a discussion of foreign exchange risk management, see Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Note 5 *Derivative Financial Instruments (Cash-Flow Hedges)*.

***Credit Risk***

For a discussion of credit risk, see Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Note 5 *Derivative Financial Instruments (Credit Risk)*.

***Market Risk***

Using the value-at-risk model, as discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, the high, low and average measured value-at-risk for the twelve months ended December 31, 2015 and June 30, 2015 related to our derivative financial instruments are as follows:

(In millions)	December 31, 2015			June 30, 2015		
	High	Low	Average	High	Low	Average
Foreign exchange contracts	\$ 28.6	\$ 15.4	\$ 22.1	\$ 28.6	\$ 7.4	\$ 17.8
Interest rate contracts	16.1	9.2	12.4	16.1	16.1	16.1

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The change in the value-at-risk measures from June 30, 2015 related to our derivative financial instruments reflected an increase in volatilities and portfolio mix. We believe that any resulting loss incurred would be offset by the effects of market rate movements on the respective underlying transactions for which the derivative financial instrument was intended.

**OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS**

We do not maintain any off-balance sheet arrangements, transactions, obligations or other relationships with unconsolidated entities, other than operating leases, that would be expected to have a material current or future effect upon our financial condition or results of operations.

**CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

As disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, the discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations are based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses reported in those financial statements. These judgments can be subjective and complex, and consequently, actual results could differ from those estimates and assumptions. Our most critical accounting policies relate to revenue recognition, inventory, pension and other post-retirement benefit costs, goodwill, other intangible assets and long-lived assets, and income taxes. Since June 30, 2015, there have been no significant changes to the assumptions and estimates related to our critical accounting policies.

**RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS**

For a discussion regarding the impact of accounting standards that were recently issued but not yet effective, on the Company's consolidated financial statements, see Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Note 1 *Summary of Significant Accounting Policies*.

**CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION**

We and our representatives from time to time make written or oral forward-looking statements, including statements contained in this and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, in our press releases and in our reports to stockholders. The words and phrases "will likely result," "expect," "believe," "planned," "may," "should," "could," "anticipate," "estimate," "project," "intend," "forecast" or similar expressions are used in our forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements include, without limitation, our expectations regarding sales, earnings or other future financial performance and liquidity, product introductions, entry into new

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geographic regions, information systems initiatives, new methods of sale, our long-term strategy, restructuring and other charges and resulting cost savings, and future operations or operating results. Although we believe that our expectations are based on reasonable assumptions within the bounds of our knowledge of our business and operations, actual results may differ materially from our expectations. Factors that could cause actual results to differ from expectations include, without limitation:

(1) increased competitive activity from companies in the skin care, makeup, fragrance and hair care businesses, some of which have greater resources than we do;

(2) our ability to develop, produce and market new products on which future operating results may depend and to successfully address challenges in our business;

(3) consolidations, restructurings, bankruptcies and reorganizations in the retail industry and other factors causing a decrease in the number of stores that sell our products, an increase in the ownership concentration within the retail industry, ownership of retailers by our competitors or ownership of competitors by our customers that are retailers and our inability to collect receivables;

(4) destocking and tighter working capital management by retailers;

(5) the success, or changes in timing or scope, of new product launches and the success, or changes in the timing or the scope, of advertising, sampling and merchandising programs;

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**THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.**

(6) shifts in the preferences of consumers as to where and how they shop for the types of products and services we sell;

(7) social, political and economic risks to our foreign or domestic manufacturing, distribution and retail operations, including changes in foreign investment and trade policies and regulations of the host countries and of the United States;

(8) changes in the laws, regulations and policies (including the interpretations and enforcement thereof) that affect, or will affect, our business, including those relating to our products or distribution networks, changes in accounting standards, tax laws and regulations, environmental or climate change laws, regulations or accords, trade rules and customs regulations, and the outcome and expense of legal or regulatory proceedings, and any action we may take as a result;

(9) foreign currency fluctuations affecting our results of operations and the value of our foreign assets, the relative prices at which we and our foreign competitors sell products in the same markets and our operating and manufacturing costs outside of the United States;

(10) changes in global or local conditions, including those due to the volatility in the global credit and equity markets, natural or man-made disasters, real or perceived epidemics, or energy costs, that could affect consumer purchasing, the willingness or ability of consumers to travel and/or purchase our products while traveling, the financial strength of our customers, suppliers or other contract counterparties, our operations, the cost and availability of capital which we may need for new equipment, facilities or acquisitions, the returns that we are able to generate on our pension assets and the resulting impact on funding obligations, the cost and availability of raw materials and the assumptions underlying our critical accounting estimates;

(11) shipment delays, commodity pricing, depletion of inventory and increased production costs resulting from disruptions of operations at any of the facilities that manufacture nearly all of our supply of a particular type of product (i.e. focus factories) or at our distribution or inventory centers, including disruptions that may be caused by the implementation of information technology initiatives, or by restructurings;

(12) real estate rates and availability, which may affect our ability to increase or maintain the number of retail locations at which we sell our products and the costs associated with our other facilities;

(13) changes in product mix to products which are less profitable;

(14) our ability to acquire, develop or implement new information and distribution technologies and initiatives on a timely basis and within our cost estimates and our ability to maintain continuous operations of such systems and the security of data and other information that may be stored in such systems or other systems or media;

(15) our ability to capitalize on opportunities for improved efficiency, such as publicly-announced strategies and restructuring and cost-savings initiatives, and to integrate acquired businesses and realize value therefrom;

(16) consequences attributable to local or international conflicts around the world, as well as from any terrorist action, retaliation and the threat of further action or retaliation;

(17) the timing and impact of acquisitions, investments and divestitures; and

(18) additional factors as described in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015.

We assume no responsibility to update forward-looking statements made herein or otherwise.

**Item 3. *Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.***

The information required by this item is set forth in Item 2 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q under the caption "Liquidity and Capital Resources - Market Risk" and is incorporated herein by reference.



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**THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.**

**Item 4. Controls and Procedures.**

Our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act)) are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the Securities and Exchange Commission and to ensure that information required to be disclosed is accumulated and communicated to management, including our principal executive and financial officers, to allow timely decisions regarding disclosure. The Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, with assistance from other members of management, have reviewed the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2015 and, based on their evaluation, have concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of such date.

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) of the Exchange Act) that occurred during the second quarter of fiscal 2016 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

**PART II. OTHER INFORMATION**

**Item 1. Legal Proceedings.**

For a discussion of legal proceedings, see Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements, Note 8 *Contingencies*.

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

**Sales of Unregistered Securities**

Shares of Class B Common Stock may be converted immediately into Class A Common Stock on a one-for-one basis by the holder and are automatically converted into Class A Common Stock on a one-for-one basis upon transfer to a person or entity that is not a Permitted Transferee or soon after a record date for a meeting of stockholders where the outstanding Class B Common Stock constitutes less than 10% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock of the Company. There is no cash or other consideration paid by the holder converting the shares and, accordingly, there is no cash or other consideration received by the Company. The shares of Class A Common Stock issued by the Company in such conversions are exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, pursuant to Section 3(a)(9) thereof.

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During the six months ended December 31, 2015, the stockholders set forth in the table below converted shares of Class B Common Stock into Class A Common Stock on the dates set forth below:

<b>Stockholder That Converted Class B Common Stock to Class A Common Stock</b>	<b>Date of Conversion</b>	<b>Number of Shares Converted/ Received</b>
The 4202 Corporation	August 27, 2015	200,000
Ronald S. Lauder	August 27, 2015	35,000
The 4202 Corporation	September 2, 2015	152,400

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We are authorized by the Board of Directors to repurchase up to 216.0 million shares of our Class A Common Stock in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions, depending on market conditions and other factors. As of December 31, 2015, the cumulative total of acquired shares pursuant to the authorization was 194.6 million, reducing the remaining authorized share repurchase balance to 21.4 million. During the six months ended December 31, 2015, we purchased approximately 7.0 million shares pursuant to the authorization for \$575.0 million as outlined in the following table:

<b>Period</b>	<b>Total Number of Shares Purchased</b>	<b>Average Price Paid Per Share</b>	<b>Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Program</b>	<b>Maximum Number of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Program(1)</b>
July 2015	1,990,780	\$87.91	1,990,780	26,385,805
August 2015	1,719,181(2)	78.20	1,695,400	24,690,405
September 2015	986,471(2)	78.63	854,597	23,835,808
October 2015	1,463,501	80.08	1,463,501	22,372,307
November 2015	1,284,801(2)	84.63	813,441	21,558,866
December 2015	174,297(2)	85.20	174,528	21,384,338
	7,619,031	82.40	6,992,247	

(1) The initial program covering the repurchase of 16.0 million shares was announced in September 1998 and increased by 40.0 million shares each in November 2012, November 2007, February 2007 and May 2005 and 20.0 million shares in both May 2004 and October 2002.

(2) Includes shares that were repurchased by the Company in connection with shares withheld to satisfy tax obligations upon the vesting of stock-based compensation.

Subsequent to December 31, 2015 and through January 29, 2016, we repurchased approximately 0.9 million additional shares of our Class A Common Stock for \$75.0 million pursuant to our share repurchase program.

**Item 6. Exhibits.**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
31.1	Certification pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) (CEO).
31.2	Certification pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) (CFO).

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- 32.1 Certification pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) and 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (CEO). (furnished)
- 32.2 Certification pursuant to Rule 13a-14(b) and 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (CFO). (furnished)
- 101.INS XBRL Instance Document
- 101.SCH XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
- 101.CAL XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
- 101.LAB XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
- 101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document
- 101.DEF XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document

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**SIGNATURES**

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

**THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.**

Date: February 5, 2016

By: */s/TRACEY T. TRAVIS*  
Tracey T. Travis  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial and  
Accounting Officer)

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**THE ESTÉE LAUDER COMPANIES INC.**

**INDEX TO EXHIBITS**

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