
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2016

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 000-19969

ARCBEST CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

71-0673405

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

3801 Old Greenwood Road

Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903

(479) 785-6000

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including
area code, of the registrant's principal executive offices)

Not Applicable

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definition 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 Smaller reporting company

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

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

| Class | Outstanding at November 3, 2016 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Common Stock, \$0.01 par value | 25,622,506 shares |

ARCBEST CORPORATION

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**PART I.
FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**ARCBEST CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

| | September 30 2016 | December 31 2015 |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| | (Unaudited) | |
| | (in thousands, except share data) | |
| ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 130,395 | \$ 164,973 |
| Short-term investments | 59,346 | 61,597 |
| Restricted cash | 962 | 1,384 |
| Accounts receivable, less allowances (2016 – \$5,118; 2015 – \$4,825) | 256,316 | 236,097 |
| Other accounts receivable, less allowances (2016 – \$830; 2015 – \$1,029) | 8,927 | 6,718 |
| Prepaid expenses | 19,622 | 20,801 |
| Deferred income taxes | 39,097 | 38,443 |
| Prepaid and refundable income taxes | 13,934 | 18,134 |
| Other | 4,275 | 3,936 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | 532,874 | 552,083 |
| PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT | | |
| Land and structures | 296,324 | 273,839 |
| Revenue equipment | 738,350 | 699,844 |
| Service, office, and other equipment | 156,536 | 145,286 |
| Software | 134,312 | 127,010 |
| Leasehold improvements | 27,040 | 25,419 |
| | 1,352,562 | 1,271,398 |
| Less allowances for depreciation and amortization | 822,623 | 788,351 |
| PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, net | 529,939 | 483,047 |
| GOODWILL | 110,487 | 96,465 |
| INTANGIBLE ASSETS, net | 82,068 | 76,787 |
| OTHER LONG-TERM ASSETS | 65,500 | 54,527 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$ 1,320,868 | \$ 1,262,909 |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 149,971 | \$ 130,869 |
| Income taxes payable | — | 91 |
| Accrued expenses | 187,822 | 188,727 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | 61,251 | 44,910 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | 399,044 | 364,597 |
| LONG-TERM DEBT, less current portion | 176,363 | 167,599 |
| PENSION AND POSTRETIREMENT LIABILITIES | 42,520 | 51,241 |
| OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES | 15,159 | 12,689 |
| DEFERRED INCOME TAXES | 92,629 | 78,055 |
| STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| Common stock, \$0.01 par value, authorized 70,000,000 shares; issued 2016: 28,122,385 shares; 2015: 27,938,319 shares | 281 | 279 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 313,794 | 309,653 |
| Retained earnings | 387,646 | 376,827 |
| Treasury stock, at cost, 2016: 2,499,879 shares; 2015: 2,080,187 shares | (78,129) | (70,535) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (28,439) | (27,496) |
| TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | 595,153 | 588,728 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | \$ 1,320,868 | \$ 1,262,909 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

ARCBEST CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

| | Three Months Ended September 30 | | Nine Months Ended September 30 | |
|---|---|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (Unaudited) | | | |
| | (in thousands, except share and per share data) | | | |
| REVENUES | \$ 713,923 | \$ 709,380 | \$ 2,012,005 | \$ 2,018,771 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | 693,553 | 675,942 | 1,984,246 | 1,950,588 |
| OPERATING INCOME | 20,370 | 33,438 | 27,759 | 68,183 |
| OTHER INCOME (COSTS) | | | | |
| Interest and dividend income | 390 | 378 | 1,178 | 882 |
| Interest and other related financing costs | (1,296) | (1,157) | (3,774) | (3,183) |
| Other, net | 1,091 | (613) | 2,028 | (15) |
| TOTAL OTHER INCOME (COSTS) | 185 | (1,392) | (568) | (2,316) |
| INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES | 20,555 | 32,046 | 27,191 | 65,867 |
| INCOME TAX PROVISION | 7,615 | 12,892 | 10,123 | 26,001 |
| NET INCOME | \$ 12,940 | \$ 19,154 | \$ 17,068 | \$ 39,866 |
| EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE | | | | |
| Basic | \$ 0.50 | \$ 0.73 | \$ 0.66 | \$ 1.52 |
| Diluted | \$ 0.49 | \$ 0.72 | \$ 0.64 | \$ 1.48 |
| AVERAGE COMMON SHARES OUTSTANDING | | | | |
| Basic | 25,724,550 | 26,009,344 | 25,779,166 | 26,033,467 |
| Diluted | 26,211,524 | 26,508,482 | 26,263,732 | 26,569,800 |
| CASH DIVIDENDS DECLARED PER COMMON SHARE | \$ 0.08 | \$ 0.06 | \$ 0.24 | \$ 0.18 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

ARCBEST CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

| | <u>Three Months Ended</u> <u>September 30</u> | | <u>Nine Months Ended</u> <u>September 30</u> | |
|---|--|------------------|---|------------------|
| | <u>2016</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>2015</u> |
| | (Unaudited) (in thousands) | | | |
| NET INCOME | \$ 12,940 | \$ 19,154 | \$ 17,068 | \$ 39,866 |
| OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS), net of tax | | | | |
| Pension and other postretirement benefit plans: | | | | |
| Net actuarial gain (loss), net of tax of: (2016 – Three-month period \$822, Nine-month period \$2,637; 2015 – Three-month period \$4,317, Nine-month period \$3,968) | 1,294 | (6,780) | (4,141) | (6,232) |
| Pension settlement expense, net of tax of: (2016 – Three-month period \$313, Nine-month period \$882; 2015 – Three-month period \$296, Nine-month period \$964) | 490 | 466 | 1,385 | 1,514 |
| Amortization of unrecognized net periodic benefit costs, net of tax of: (2016 – Three-month period \$496, Nine month period \$1,410 ; 2015 – Three-month period \$330, Nine-month period \$1,126) | | | | |
| Net actuarial loss | 807 | 545 | 2,301 | 1,854 |
| Prior service credit | (29) | (29) | (87) | (87) |
| Interest rate swap and foreign currency translation: | | | | |
| Change in unrealized income (loss) on interest rate swap, net of tax of: (2016 – Three-month period \$168, Nine month period \$278; 2015 – Three-month period \$312, Nine-month period \$389) | 262 | (483) | (430) | (603) |
| Change in foreign currency translation, net of tax of: (2016 – Three-month period \$127, Nine-month period \$158; 2015 – Three-month period \$225, Nine-month period \$351) | (420) | (354) | 29 | (552) |
| OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS), net of tax | 2,404 | (6,635) | (943) | (4,106) |
| TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME | \$ 15,344 | \$ 12,519 | \$ 16,125 | \$ 35,760 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

ARCBEST CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

| | <u>Common Stock</u> | | <u>Additional Paid-In Capital</u> | <u>Retained Earnings</u> | <u>Treasury Stock</u> | | <u>Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss</u> | <u>Total Equity</u> |
|---|---------------------|---------------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---|-------------------------|
| | <u>Shares</u> | <u>Amount</u> | | | <u>Shares</u> | <u>Amount</u> | | |
| | (Unaudited) | | | | | | | |
| | (in thousands) | | | | | | | |
| Balance at December 31, 2015 | 27,938 | \$ 279 | \$ 309,653 | \$ 376,827 | 2,080 | \$ (70,535) | \$ (27,496) | \$ 588,728 |
| Net income | | | | 17,068 | | | | 17,068 |
| Other comprehensive loss, net of tax | | | | | | | (943) | (943) |
| Issuance of common stock under share-based compensation plans | 184 | 2 | (2) | | | | | — |
| Tax effect of share-based compensation plans | | | (2,008) | | | | | (2,008) |
| Share-based compensation expense | | | 6,151 | | | | | 6,151 |
| Purchase of treasury stock | | | | | 420 | (7,594) | | (7,594) |
| Dividends declared on common stock | | | | (6,249) | | | | (6,249) |
| Balance at September 30, 2016 | 28,122 | \$ 281 | \$ 313,794 | \$ 387,646 | 2,500 | \$ (78,129) | \$ (28,439) | \$ 595,153 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

ARCBEST CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

| | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | September 30 | |
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (Unaudited) | |
| | (in thousands) | |
| OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Net income | \$ 17,068 | \$ 39,866 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 73,633 | 65,142 |
| Amortization of intangibles | 3,059 | 3,079 |
| Pension settlement expense | 2,267 | 2,478 |
| Share-based compensation expense | 6,151 | 6,343 |
| Provision for losses on accounts receivable | 787 | 941 |
| Deferred income tax provision (benefit) | 14,199 | (7,862) |
| Gain on sale of property and equipment | (2,581) | (1,691) |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | |
| Receivables | (18,906) | (14,881) |
| Prepaid expenses | 1,108 | 2,353 |
| Other assets | (3,655) | 505 |
| Income taxes | 2,583 | 14,295 |
| Accounts payable, accrued expenses, and other liabilities | (7,786) | 9,006 |
| NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES | 87,927 | 119,574 |
| INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Purchases of property, plant and equipment, net of financings | (45,774) | (53,644) |
| Proceeds from sale of property and equipment | 7,296 | 4,115 |
| Purchases of short-term investments | (51,760) | (48,868) |
| Proceeds from sale of short-term investments | 54,027 | 25,347 |
| Business acquisitions, net of cash acquired | (24,805) | (5,239) |
| Capitalization of internally developed software | (7,660) | (6,155) |
| NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES | (68,676) | (84,444) |
| FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Borrowings under credit facilities | — | 70,000 |
| Borrowings under accounts receivable securitization program | — | 35,000 |
| Payments on long-term debt | (36,579) | (92,136) |
| Net change in book overdrafts | (3,829) | 2,179 |
| Net change in restricted cash | 422 | (1) |
| Deferred financing costs | — | (824) |
| Payment of common stock dividends | (6,249) | (4,740) |
| Purchases of treasury stock | (7,594) | (10,004) |
| NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES | (53,829) | (526) |
| NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | (34,578) | 34,604 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | 164,973 | 157,042 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD | \$ 130,395 | \$ 191,646 |
| NONCASH INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Equipment financed | \$ 61,684 | \$ 51,009 |
| Accruals for equipment received | \$ 9,391 | \$ 7,150 |

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

ARCBEST CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

NOTE A – ORGANIZATION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION

ArcBest Corporation[®] (the “Company”) is the parent holding company of businesses providing freight transportation services and logistics solutions. The Company’s principal operations are conducted through its Freight Transportation (ABF Freight[®]) segment, which consists of ABF Freight System, Inc. and certain other subsidiaries. The Company’s other reportable operating segments are the following asset-light logistics businesses: Premium Logistics (Panther), Transportation Management (ABF Logistics[®]), Emergency & Preventative Maintenance (FleetNet), and Household Goods Moving Services (ABF Moving[®]). References to the Company in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are primarily to the Company and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis.

ABF Freight represented approximately 70% of the Company’s total revenues before other revenues and intercompany eliminations for the nine months ended September 30, 2016. As of September 2016, approximately 77% of ABF Freight’s employees were covered under a collective bargaining agreement, the ABF National Master Freight Agreement (the “ABF NMFA”), with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (the “IBT”), which extends through March 31, 2018. The ABF NMFA included a 7% wage rate reduction upon the November 3, 2013 implementation date, followed by wage rate increases of 2% on July 1 in each of the next three years, which began in 2014, and a 2.5% increase on July 1, 2017; a one-week reduction in annual compensated vacation effective for employee anniversary dates on or after April 1, 2013; the option to expand the use of purchased transportation; and increased flexibility in labor work rules. The ABF NMFA and the related supplemental agreements provide for continued contributions to various multiemployer health, welfare, and pension plans maintained for the benefit of ABF Freight’s employees who are members of the IBT. The estimated net effect of the November 3, 2013 wage rate reduction and the benefit rate increase which was applied retroactively to August 1, 2013 was an initial reduction of approximately 4% to the combined total contractual wage and benefit rate under the ABF NMFA. Following the initial reduction, the combined contractual wage and benefit contribution rate under the ABF NMFA is estimated to increase approximately 2.5% on a compounded annual basis throughout the contract period which extends through March 31, 2018.

On September 2, 2016, ABF Logistics acquired Logistics & Distribution Services, LLC (“LDS”), a private logistics and distribution company, in a transaction valued at \$25.0 million (subject to post-closing adjustments), reflecting net cash consideration of \$17.0 million paid at closing and an additional \$8.0 million of contingent consideration to be paid over the next two years upon the achievement of certain financial targets. On December 1, 2015, ABF Logistics acquired Bear Transportation Services, L.P. (“Bear”), a private, non-asset truckload brokerage firm, for net cash consideration of \$24.4 million (subject to post-closing adjustments). On January 2, 2015, ABF Logistics acquired Smart Lines Transportation Group, LLC, a privately-owned truckload brokerage firm, for net cash consideration of \$5.2 million. As these acquired businesses are not significant to the Company’s consolidated operating results and financial condition, pro forma financial information and the purchase price allocations of acquired assets and liabilities have not been presented. The results of the acquired operations subsequent to the acquisition dates have been included in the accompanying consolidated financial statements. The Company is in the process of making a final determination of the value of acquired assets and liabilities for the LDS and Bear transactions and the provisional measurements are subject to change during the measurement periods.

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States and applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) pertaining to interim financial information. Accordingly, these interim financial statements do not include all information or footnote disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for complete financial statements and, therefore, should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements and accompanying notes included in the Company’s 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K and other current filings with the Commission. In the opinion of management, all adjustments (which are of a normal and recurring nature) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included.

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

Accounting Policies

The Company's accounting policies are described in Note B to the audited financial statements included in the Company's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K. The following policy became effective for the Company during the three months ended September 30, 2016.

Contingent Consideration: The Company records the estimated fair value of contingent consideration at the acquisition date as part of the purchase price consideration for an acquisition. The fair value of the contingent consideration liability was determined by assessing Level 3 inputs with a discounted cash flow approach using various probability-weighted scenarios. As of September 30, 2016, the fair value of the outstanding contingent consideration of \$6.8 million related to the acquisition of LDS was recorded in accrued expenses and other long-term liabilities, based on when expected payouts become due, and the \$8.0 million held in escrow for the contingent consideration at the acquisition date was recorded in other long-term assets. The liability for contingent consideration is remeasured at each quarterly reporting period and any change in fair value as a result of the recurring assessments is recognized in operating income.

Adopted Accounting Pronouncements

In the first quarter of 2016, the Company adopted guidance issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the "FASB") which amended Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") Topic 835, *Interest – Imputation of Interest*, and addresses the presentation of debt issuance costs in the balance sheet. The Company's debt issuance costs related to its revolving credit agreements continue to be presented as an asset, as permitted, and amortized over the term of the agreements within interest expense. The new guidance did not result in retrospective adjustments to the consolidated financial statements or disclosures.

During first quarter 2016, the Company adopted amended ASC Topic 805, *Business Combinations*, issued by the FASB. The amendment eliminated the requirement that an acquirer in a business combination account for measurement-period adjustments retrospectively and instead recognize measurement-period adjustments during the period in which it determines the amount of the adjustments, including the effect on earnings of any amounts it would have recorded in previous periods if the accounting had been completed at the acquisition date. The amendment was prospectively adopted and did not result in significant adjustments to financial statements or disclosure presentation.

Accounting Pronouncements Not Yet Adopted

ASC Topic 740 was amended with the addition of *Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes*. The amendment is effective for the Company beginning January 1, 2017. The update will result in all deferred tax assets and liabilities being classified as noncurrent in the consolidated balance sheets.

An amendment to ASC Topic 718, *Compensation – Stock Compensation*, was issued to simplify the accounting for share-based compensation, which will require the income tax effects of awards to be recognized in the statement of operations when awards vest or are settled and will allow employers to make a policy election to account for forfeitures as they occur. The amendment is effective for the Company beginning January 1, 2017. The Company is currently assessing the impact this update will have on the consolidated financial statements or disclosures.

ASC Topic 606, which amends the guidance in former ASC Topic 605, *Revenue Recognition*, provides a single comprehensive revenue recognition model for all contracts with customers and contains principles to apply to determine the measurement of revenue and timing of when it is recognized. The standard is effective for the Company on January 1, 2018. The Company is evaluating the impact of the new standard on the consolidated financial statements.

An amendment to ASC Topic 230, *Statement of Cash Flows*, which provides classification guidance for certain cash payments and receipts presented in the statement of cash flows, is effective for the Company beginning January 1, 2018. The Company is currently assessing the impact this update will have on the consolidated financial statements.

ASC Topic 842, *Leases*, which is effective for the Company beginning January 1, 2019, will require leases with a term greater than twelve months to be reflected as liabilities with associated right-of-use assets in the Company's consolidated balance sheet. The Company is evaluating the impact of the new standard on the consolidated financial statements.

An amendment to ASC Topic 326, *Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments*, which changes the impairment model for most financial assets and certain other instruments, is effective for the Company beginning January 1, 2020. The Company is currently assessing the impact this update will have on the Company's financial statements or disclosures.

Management believes that there is no other new accounting guidance issued but not yet effective that is relevant to the Company's current financial statements. However, there are new proposals under development by the standard setting bodies which, if and when enacted, may have a significant impact on the Company's financial statement disclosures, including changes in disclosure requirements for income taxes and defined benefit plans.

NOTE B – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Financial Instruments

The following table presents the components of cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments, and restricted funds:

| | September 30 2016 | December 31 2015 |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|
| | (in thousands) | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | | |
| Cash deposits ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 102,598 | \$ 110,279 |
| Variable rate demand notes ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ | 19,994 | 29,790 |
| Money market funds ⁽³⁾ | 7,803 | 24,904 |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | <u>\$ 130,395</u> | <u>\$ 164,973</u> |
| Short-term investments | | |
| Certificates of deposit ⁽¹⁾ | <u>\$ 59,346</u> | <u>\$ 61,597</u> |
| Restricted cash ⁽⁴⁾ | | |
| Cash deposits ⁽¹⁾ | <u>\$ 962</u> | <u>\$ 1,384</u> |

⁽¹⁾ Recorded at cost plus accrued interest, which approximates fair value.

⁽²⁾ Amounts may be redeemed on a daily basis with the original issuer.

⁽³⁾ Recorded at fair value as determined by quoted market prices (see amounts presented in the table of financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value within this Note).

⁽⁴⁾ Amounts restricted for use are subject to change based on the requirements of the Company's collateralized facilities (see Note E).

The Company's long-term investment financial instruments are presented in the table of financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value within this Note.

Concentrations of Credit Risk of Financial Instruments

The Company is potentially subject to concentrations of credit risk related to its cash, cash equivalents, and short-term investments. The Company reduces credit risk by maintaining its cash deposits primarily in FDIC-insured accounts and placing its unrestricted short-term investments primarily in FDIC-insured certificates of deposit. However, certain cash deposits and certificates of deposit may exceed federally insured limits. Cash and cash equivalents totaling \$39.0 million and \$69.9 million were not FDIC insured at September 30, 2016 and December 31, 2015, respectively.

Fair Value Disclosure of Financial Instruments

Fair value disclosures are made in accordance with the following hierarchy of valuation techniques based on whether the inputs of market data and market assumptions used to measure fair value are observable or unobservable:

- Level 1 — Quoted prices for identical assets and liabilities in active markets.
- Level 2 — 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.
- Level 3 — Unobservable inputs (Company’s market assumptions) that are significant to the valuation model.

Fair value and carrying value disclosures of financial instruments are presented in the following table:

| | September 30 2016 | | December 31 2015 | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| | (in thousands) | | | |
| | Carrying Value | Fair Value | Carrying Value | Fair Value |
| Credit Facility ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 70,000 | \$ 70,000 | \$ 70,000 | \$ 70,000 |
| Accounts receivable securitization borrowings ⁽²⁾ | 35,000 | 35,000 | 35,000 | 35,000 |
| Notes payable ⁽³⁾ | 131,882 | 131,822 | 106,703 | 106,495 |
| | <u>\$ 236,882</u> | <u>\$ 236,822</u> | <u>\$ 211,703</u> | <u>\$ 211,495</u> |

⁽¹⁾ The revolving credit facility (the “Credit Facility”) under the Company’s Amended and Restated Credit Agreement carries a variable interest rate based on LIBOR, plus a margin. The Credit Facility is considered to be priced at market for debt instruments having similar terms and collateral requirements (Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy).

⁽²⁾ Borrowings under the Company’s accounts receivable securitization program carry a variable interest rate based on LIBOR, plus a margin. The borrowings are considered to be priced at market for debt instruments having similar terms and collateral requirements (Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy).

⁽³⁾ Fair value of the notes payable was determined using a present value income approach based on quoted interest rates from lending institutions with which the Company would enter into similar transactions (Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy).

Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on Recurring Basis

The following table presents the assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis.

| | September 30, 2016 | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|--|--|
| | Total | Fair Value Measurements Using | | |
| | | Quoted Prices In Active Markets (Level 1) | Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) |
| | (in thousands) | | | |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Money market funds ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾ | \$ 7,803 | \$ 7,803 | \$ — | \$ — |
| Equity, bond, and money market mutual funds held in trust related to the Voluntary Savings Plan ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ | 2,072 | 2,072 | — | — |
| | <u>\$ 9,875</u> | <u>\$ 9,875</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u> |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Contingent consideration ⁽⁴⁾ | \$ 6,775 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 6,775 |
| Interest rate swap ⁽⁵⁾ | 1,605 | — | 1,605 | — |
| | <u>\$ 8,380</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 1,605</u> | <u>\$ 6,775</u> |
| | | | | |
| | December 31, 2015 | | | |
| | Total | Fair Value Measurements Using | | |
| | | Quoted Prices In Active Markets (Level 1) | Significant Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) |
| | (in thousands) | | | |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Money market funds ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾ | \$ 24,904 | \$ 24,904 | \$ — | \$ — |
| Equity, bond, and money market mutual funds held in trust related to the Voluntary Savings Plan ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ | 2,127 | 2,127 | — | — |
| | <u>\$ 27,031</u> | <u>\$ 27,031</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u> |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Interest rate swap ⁽⁵⁾ | \$ 897 | \$ — | \$ 897 | \$ — |

(1) Included in cash and cash equivalents.

(2) Nonqualified deferred compensation plan investments consist of U.S. and international equity mutual funds, government and corporate bond mutual funds, and money market funds which are held in a trust with a third-party brokerage firm. Quoted market prices are used to determine fair values of the investments which are included in other long-term assets, with a corresponding liability reported in other long-term liabilities.

(3) Fair value measured using quoted prices of identical assets in active markets.

(4) Included in accrued expenses and other long-term liabilities, based on when expected payouts become due. The estimated fair value of contingent consideration for an earn-out agreement related to the September 2016 acquisition of LDS was determined by assessing Level 3 inputs with a discounted cash flow approach using various probability-weighted scenarios. The Level 3 inputs include scenarios of estimated revenues and gross margins to be achieved for the applicable performance periods, probability weightings assigned to the performance scenarios, and the discount rate applied, which was 11.5% as of September 30, 2016. Subsequent changes to the fair value as a result of recurring assessments will be recognized in operating income.

(5) Included in other long-term liabilities. The interest rate swap fair value was determined by discounting future cash flows and receipts based on expected interest rates observed in market interest rate curves adjusted for estimated credit valuation considerations reflecting nonperformance risk of the Company and the counterparty, which are considered to be in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. The Company assessed Level 3 inputs as insignificant to the valuation at September 30, 2016 and December 31, 2015 and considers the interest rate swap valuation in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

The following table provides the changes in fair value of the liabilities measured at fair value using inputs categorized in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy:

| | <u>Contingent Consideration</u> (in thousands) |
|--|---|
| Balance at December 31, 2015 | \$ — |
| Contingent consideration liability recorded at fair value for business acquisition | 6,711 |
| Change in fair value included in operating income | 64 |
| Balance at September 30, 2016 | <u>\$ 6,775</u> |

NOTE C – GOODWILL AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Goodwill represents the excess of cost over the fair value of net identifiable tangible and intangible assets acquired. Goodwill by reportable operating segment consisted of the following:

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Panther</u> | <u>ABF</u> <u>Logistics</u> | <u>FleetNet</u> | <u>ABF</u> <u>Moving</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| | (in thousands) | | | | |
| Balances at December 31, 2015 | \$ 96,465 | \$ 71,096 | \$ 19,387 | \$ 630 | \$ 5,352 |
| Goodwill acquired ⁽¹⁾ | 13,584 | — | 13,584 | — | — |
| Purchase accounting adjustments | 438 | — | 438 | — | — |
| Balances September 30, 2016 | <u>\$ 110,487</u> | <u>\$ 71,096</u> | <u>\$ 33,409</u> | <u>\$ 630</u> | <u>\$ 5,352</u> |

⁽¹⁾ Goodwill related to the September 2, 2016 acquisition of LDS is based on preliminary information as of September 30, 2016.

Intangible assets consisted of the following:

| | <u>Weighted-Average</u> <u>Amortization Period</u> (in years) | <u>September 30, 2016</u> | | | <u>December 31, 2015</u> | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| | | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Accumulated</u> <u>Amortization</u> (in thousands) | <u>Net</u> <u>Value</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Accumulated</u> <u>Amortization</u> (in thousands) | <u>Net</u> <u>Value</u> |
| Finite-lived intangible assets | | | | | | | |
| Customer relationships ⁽¹⁾ | 14 | \$ 60,021 | \$ 14,248 | \$ 45,773 | \$ 52,221 | \$ 11,331 | \$ 40,890 |
| Driver network | 3 | 3,200 | 3,200 | — | 3,200 | 3,200 | — |
| Other | 6 | 1,572 | 399 | 1,173 | 1,032 | 257 | 775 |
| | <u>13</u> | <u>64,793</u> | <u>17,847</u> | <u>46,946</u> | <u>56,453</u> | <u>14,788</u> | <u>41,665</u> |
| Indefinite-lived intangible assets | | | | | | | |
| Trade name | N/A | 32,300 | N/A | 32,300 | 32,300 | N/A | 32,300 |
| Other | N/A | 2,822 | N/A | 2,822 | 2,822 | N/A | 2,822 |
| | | <u>35,122</u> | | <u>35,122</u> | <u>35,122</u> | | <u>35,122</u> |
| Total intangible assets | <u>N/A</u> | <u>\$ 99,915</u> | <u>\$ 17,847</u> | <u>\$ 82,068</u> | <u>\$ 91,575</u> | <u>\$ 14,788</u> | <u>\$ 76,787</u> |

⁽¹⁾ Customer relationships of \$7.3 million related to the September 2, 2016 acquisition of LDS is based on preliminary information as of September 30, 2016.

Amortization expense on intangible assets totaled \$1.1 million and \$3.1 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, and \$0.9 million and \$3.1 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015. As of September 30, 2016, amortization expense on intangible assets (excluding acquired software which is reported within property, plant and equipment) is anticipated to range between \$4.3 million and \$4.9 million per year for the years ended December 31, 2016 through 2020.

NOTE D – INCOME TAXES

The Company's statutory federal tax rate is 35%. State tax rates vary among states and average approximately 6.0% to 6.5%, although some state rates are higher and a small number of states do not impose an income tax. The effective tax rate for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016 was 37.0% and 37.2%, respectively. The effective tax rate for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 was 40.2% and 39.5%, respectively.

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016 and 2015, the difference between the Company's effective tax rate and the federal statutory rate primarily results from state income taxes, nondeductible expenses, and changes in the cash surrender value of life insurance. The three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2016 were also impacted by the alternative fuel tax credit.

As of September 30, 2016, the Company's deferred tax liabilities, which will reverse in future years, exceeded the deferred tax assets. The Company evaluated the total deferred tax assets at September 30, 2016 and concluded that, other than for certain deferred tax assets related to foreign net operating loss carryforwards, the assets did not exceed the amount for which realization is more likely than not. In making this determination, the Company considered the future reversal of existing taxable temporary differences, taxable income in carryback years, future taxable income, and tax planning strategies.

The Company paid state and foreign income taxes of \$2.5 million and paid federal, state, and foreign income taxes of \$17.3 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2016 and 2015, respectively. The Company received refunds of \$10.8 million and \$0.1 million of federal and state income taxes that were paid in prior years during the nine months ended September 30, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

NOTE E – LONG-TERM DEBT AND FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS

Long-Term Debt Obligations

Long-term debt consisted of borrowings outstanding under the Company’s revolving credit facility and accounts receivable securitization program, both of which are further described in Financing Arrangements within this Note, and notes payable and capital lease obligations related to the financing of revenue equipment (tractors and trailers used primarily in ABF Freight’s operations), real estate, and certain other equipment as follows:

| | September 30 2016 | December 31 2015 |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| | (in thousands) | |
| Credit Facility (interest rate of 1.8% ⁽¹⁾ at September 30, 2016) | \$ 70,000 | \$ 70,000 |
| Accounts receivable securitization borrowings (interest rate of 1.3% at September 30, 2016) | 35,000 | 35,000 |
| Notes payable (weighted-average interest rate of 2.1% at September 30, 2016) | 131,882 | 106,703 |
| Capital lease obligations (weighted-average interest rate of 5.8% at September 30, 2016) | 732 | 806 |
| | <u>237,614</u> | <u>212,509</u> |
| Less current portion | 61,251 | 44,910 |
| Long-term debt, less current portion | <u>\$ 176,363</u> | <u>\$ 167,599</u> |

⁽¹⁾ The interest rate swap mitigates interest rate risk by effectively converting \$50.0 million of borrowings under the Credit Facility from variable-rate interest to fixed-rate interest with a per annum rate of 3.10% based on the margin of the Credit Facility as of September 30, 2016.

Scheduled maturities of long-term debt obligations as of September 30, 2016 were as follows:

| | Total | Credit Facility ⁽¹⁾ | Accounts Receivable Securitization Program ⁽¹⁾ | Notes Payable | Capital Lease Obligations ⁽²⁾ |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------|---|
| | (in thousands) | | | | |
| Due in one year or less | \$ 65,493 | \$ 1,514 | \$ 532 | \$ 63,177 | \$ 270 |
| Due after one year through two years | 82,514 | 1,683 | 35,149 | 45,457 | 225 |
| Due after two years through three years | 21,005 | 1,768 | — | 19,007 | 230 |
| Due after three years through four years | 74,909 | 70,466 | — | 4,365 | 78 |
| Due after four years through five years | 3,632 | — | — | 3,632 | — |
| Due after five years | 24 | — | — | 24 | — |
| Total payments | <u>247,577</u> | <u>75,431</u> | <u>35,681</u> | <u>135,662</u> | <u>803</u> |
| Less amounts representing interest | 9,963 | 5,431 | 681 | 3,780 | 71 |
| Long-term debt | <u>\$ 237,614</u> | <u>\$ 70,000</u> | <u>\$ 35,000</u> | <u>\$ 131,882</u> | <u>\$ 732</u> |

⁽¹⁾ The future interest payments included in the scheduled maturities due are calculated using variable interest rates based on the LIBOR swap curve, plus the anticipated applicable margin.

⁽²⁾ Minimum payments of capital lease obligations include maximum amounts due under rental adjustment clauses contained in the capital lease agreements.

Assets securing notes payable or held under capital leases were included in property, plant and equipment as follows:

| | September 30 2016 | December 31 2015 |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|
| | (in thousands) | |
| Revenue equipment | \$ 198,741 | \$ 136,698 |
| Land and structures (terminals) | 1,794 | 1,794 |
| Service, office, and other equipment | 7 | — |
| Total assets securing notes payable or held under capital leases | 200,542 | 138,492 |
| Less accumulated depreciation and amortization ⁽¹⁾ | 50,819 | 25,120 |
| Net assets securing notes payable or held under capital leases | <u>\$ 149,723</u> | <u>\$ 113,372</u> |

⁽¹⁾ Amortization of assets under capital leases and depreciation of assets securing notes payable are included in depreciation expense.

Financing Arrangements

Credit Facility

On January 2, 2015, the Company and its lenders entered into an agreement to amend and restate its credit agreement (the “Amended and Restated Credit Agreement”). The Amended and Restated Credit Agreement refinanced a \$70.0 million term loan, which was outstanding under the credit agreement at December 31, 2014, with a revolving credit facility (the “Credit Facility”). The Credit Facility, which matures on January 2, 2020, has an initial maximum credit amount of \$150.0 million, including a swing line facility and a letter of credit sub-facility providing for the issuance of letters of credit up to an aggregate amount of \$20.0 million. The Credit Facility allows the Company to request additional revolving commitments or incremental term loans thereunder up to an aggregate additional amount of \$75.0 million, subject to certain additional conditions as provided in the Amended and Restated Credit Agreement. Principal payments under the Credit Facility are due upon maturity; however, borrowings may be repaid, at the Company’s discretion, in whole or in part at any time, without penalty, subject to required notice periods and compliance with minimum prepayment amounts. Borrowings under the Amended and Restated Credit Agreement can either be, at the Company’s election: (i) at an alternate base rate (as defined in the Amended and Restated Credit Agreement) plus a spread; or (ii) at a Eurodollar rate (as defined in the Amended and Restated Credit Agreement) plus a spread. The applicable spread is dependent upon the Company’s adjusted leverage ratio (as defined in the Amended and Restated Credit Agreement). The Amended and Restated Credit Agreement contains conditions, representations and warranties, events of default, and indemnification provisions that are customary for financings of this type, including, but not limited to, a minimum interest coverage ratio, a maximum adjusted leverage ratio, and limitations on incurrence of debt, investments, liens on assets, certain sale and leaseback transactions, transactions with affiliates, mergers, consolidations, purchases and sales of assets, and certain restricted payments. The Company was in compliance with the covenants under the Amended and Restated Credit Agreement at September 30, 2016.

Interest Rate Swap

In November 2014, in contemplation of the Credit Facility, the Company entered into a five-year forward-starting interest rate swap agreement with a \$50.0 million notional amount maturing on January 2, 2020. Effective January 2, 2015, the Company began receiving floating-rate interest amounts based on one-month LIBOR in exchange for fixed-rate interest payments of 1.85% over the life of the interest rate swap agreement. The interest rate swap mitigates interest rate risk by effectively converting \$50.0 million of borrowings under the Credit Facility from variable-rate interest to fixed-rate interest with a per annum rate of 3.10% based on the margin of the Credit Facility as of September 30, 2016. The fair value of the interest rate swap of \$1.6 million and \$0.9 million was recorded in other long-term liabilities in the consolidated balance sheet at September 30, 2016 and December 31, 2015, respectively. At September 30, 2016, the unrealized loss on the interest rate swap instrument was reported as a component of accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of tax, in stockholders’ equity, and the change in the unrealized loss on the interest rate swap for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016 was reported in other comprehensive loss, net of tax, in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income. The interest rate swap is subject to certain customary provisions that could allow the counterparty to request immediate payment of the fair value liability upon violation of any or all of the provisions. The Company was in compliance with all provisions of the interest rate swap agreement at September 30, 2016.

Accounts Receivable Securitization Program

On January 2, 2015, the Company entered into an amendment to extend the maturity date of its accounts receivable securitization program until January 2, 2018. On February 1, 2015, the Company amended and restated the accounts receivable securitization program to increase the amount of cash proceeds provided under the facility from \$75.0 million to \$100.0 million, with an accordion feature allowing the Company to request additional borrowings up to \$25.0 million, subject to certain conditions. Under this program, certain subsidiaries of the Company continuously sell a designated pool of trade accounts receivables to a wholly owned subsidiary which, in turn, may borrow funds on a revolving basis. This wholly owned consolidated subsidiary is a separate bankruptcy-remote entity, and its assets would be available only to satisfy the claims related to the lender's interest in the trade accounts receivables. Borrowings under the accounts receivable securitization program bear interest based upon LIBOR, plus a margin, and an annual facility fee. The securitization agreement contains representations and warranties, affirmative and negative covenants, and events of default that are customary for financings of this type, including a maximum adjusted leverage ratio covenant. As of September 30, 2016, \$35.0 million was borrowed under the accounts receivable securitization program. The Company was in compliance with the covenants under the accounts receivable securitization program as of September 30, 2016.

The accounts receivable securitization program includes a provision under which the Company may request and the letter of credit issuer may issue standby letters of credit, primarily in support of workers' compensation and third-party casualty claims liabilities in various states in which the Company is self-insured. The outstanding standby letters of credit reduce the availability of borrowings under the program. As of September 30, 2016, standby letters of credit of \$18.3 million have been issued under the program, which reduced the available borrowing capacity to \$46.7 million.

Letter of Credit Agreements and Surety Bond Programs

As of September 30, 2016, the Company had letters of credit outstanding of \$19.8 million (including \$18.3 million issued under the accounts receivable securitization program), of which \$1.0 million were collateralized by restricted cash. The Company has programs in place with multiple surety companies for the issuance of surety bonds in support of its self-insurance program. As of September 30, 2016, surety bonds outstanding related to the self-insurance program totaled \$56.3 million.

Notes Payable and Capital Leases

ABF Freight has financed the purchase of certain revenue equipment through promissory note arrangements, including \$25.9 million and \$61.7 million of revenue equipment during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively. ABF Logistics acquired assets held under capital lease arrangements for certain revenue equipment and other equipment totaling less than \$0.1 million. The Company did not enter into any other capital lease agreements during the nine months ended September 30, 2016.

ABF Freight financed the purchase of an additional \$3.0 million of revenue equipment through promissory note arrangements as of November 1, 2016.

NOTE F – PENSION AND OTHER POSTRETIREMENT BENEFIT PLANS

Nonunion Defined Benefit Pension, Supplemental Benefit, and Postretirement Health Benefit Plans

The following is a summary of the components of net periodic benefit cost:

| | Three Months Ended September 30 | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| | Nonunion Defined Benefit Pension Plan | | Supplemental Benefit Plan | | Postretirement Health Benefit Plan | |
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (in thousands) | | | | | |
| Service cost | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 107 | \$ 101 |
| Interest cost | 1,057 | 1,356 | 32 | 31 | 254 | 228 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (2,242) | (2,297) | — | — | — | — |
| Amortization of prior service credit | — | — | — | — | (47) | (47) |
| Pension settlement expense | 803 | 762 | — | — | — | — |
| Amortization of net actuarial loss ⁽¹⁾ | 1,106 | 640 | 38 | 40 | 177 | 213 |
| Net periodic benefit cost | <u>\$ 724</u> | <u>\$ 461</u> | <u>\$ 70</u> | <u>\$ 71</u> | <u>\$ 491</u> | <u>\$ 495</u> |

| | Nine Months Ended September 30 | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| | Nonunion Defined Benefit Pension Plan | | Supplemental Benefit Plan | | Postretirement Health Benefit Plan | |
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (in thousands) | | | | | |
| Service cost | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 321 | \$ 304 |
| Interest cost | 3,520 | 3,899 | 97 | 92 | 763 | 685 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (6,346) | (7,058) | — | — | — | — |
| Amortization of prior service credit | — | — | — | — | (142) | (142) |
| Pension settlement expense | 2,267 | 2,478 | — | — | — | — |
| Amortization of net actuarial loss ⁽¹⁾ | 3,123 | 2,276 | 114 | 120 | 529 | 639 |
| Net periodic benefit cost | <u>\$ 2,564</u> | <u>\$ 1,595</u> | <u>\$ 211</u> | <u>\$ 212</u> | <u>\$ 1,471</u> | <u>\$ 1,486</u> |

⁽¹⁾ The Company amortizes actuarial losses over the average remaining active service period of the plan participants and does not use a corridor approach.

Nonunion Defined Benefit Pension Plan

The Company's nonunion defined benefit pension plan covers substantially all noncontractual employees hired before January 1, 2006. In June 2013, the Company amended the nonunion defined benefit pension plan to freeze the participants' final average compensation and years of credited service as of July 1, 2013. The plan amendment did not impact the vested benefits of retirees or former employees whose benefits have not yet been paid from the plan. Effective July 1, 2013, participants of the nonunion defined benefit pension plan who were active employees of the Company became eligible for the discretionary defined contribution feature of the Company's nonunion 401(k) and defined contribution plan in which all eligible noncontractual employees hired subsequent to December 31, 2005 also participate.

The Company recognized pension settlement expense as a component of net periodic benefit cost for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016 of \$0.8 million (pre-tax), or \$0.5 million (after-tax), and \$2.3 million (pre-tax), or \$1.4 million (after-tax), respectively, related to lump-sum distributions which amounted to \$4.3 million and \$11.6 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively. Upon recognition of pension settlement expense, a corresponding reduction in the unrecognized net actuarial loss of the plan is recorded. The remaining pre-tax unrecognized net actuarial loss will continue to be amortized over the average remaining future years of service of the active plan participants. The Company will incur additional quarterly settlement expense related to lump-sum distributions from the nonunion defined benefit pension plan during the remainder of 2016. The Company recognized pension settlement expense as a component of net periodic benefit cost for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 of \$0.8 million (pre-tax), or \$0.5 million (after-tax), and \$2.5 million (pre-tax), or \$1.5 million (after-tax), respectively, related to the lump-sum distributions which amounted to \$4.1 million and \$16.6 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, respectively.

The following table discloses the changes in the projected benefit obligation (the “PBO”) and plan assets of the nonunion defined benefit pension plan for the nine months ended September 30, 2016:

| | Nonunion Defined Benefit Pension Plan (in thousands) |
|--|--|
| Change in benefit obligations | |
| Benefit obligations at December 31, 2015 | \$ 159,607 |
| Interest cost | 3,520 |
| Actuarial loss ⁽¹⁾ | 10,068 |
| Benefits paid | (11,860) |
| Benefit obligations at September 30, 2016 | <u>161,335</u> |
| Change in plan assets | |
| Fair value of plan assets at December 31, 2015 | 136,917 |
| Actual return on plan assets | 9,637 |
| Employer contributions | 13,400 |
| Benefits paid | (11,860) |
| Fair value of plan assets at September 30, 2016 | <u>148,094</u> |
| Funded status at September 30, 2016⁽²⁾ | \$ (13,241) |
| Accumulated benefit obligation | <u>\$ 161,335</u> |

⁽¹⁾ Actuarial loss from remeasurement upon settlement was primarily impacted by the change in the discount rate since the previous remeasurement date. The discount rates used to remeasure the PBO upon settlement were 2.7%, 2.7%, 3.0%, and 3.5% at the September 30, 2016, June 30, 2016, March 31, 2016, and December 31, 2015 measurement date, respectively.

⁽²⁾ Noncurrent liability recognized within pension and postretirement liabilities in the accompanying consolidated balance sheet at September 30, 2016.

Based upon current actuarial information, the Company does not have a minimum cash contribution requirement to its nonunion defined benefit pension plan for 2016. However, the Company made a voluntary contribution to the plan during the second quarter of 2016. The contribution reduced the unfunded vested benefits of the plan and eliminated the variable-rate premiums which would have otherwise been due to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (the “PBGC”). The contribution and the lower PBGC premiums resulted in a decrease in net periodic benefit cost for the second and third quarters and will result in a net periodic pension credit, before settlement expense, to be recorded for the fourth quarter of 2016.

The plan’s actuary has certified the adjusted funding target attainment percentage (“AFTAP”) to be 107.8% as of the January 1, 2016 valuation date. The AFTAP is determined by measurements prescribed by the Internal Revenue Code, which differ from the funding measurements for financial statement reporting purposes.

Multiemployer Plans

ABF Freight contributes to multiemployer pension and health and welfare plans, which have been established pursuant to the Taft-Hartley Act, to provide benefits for its contractual employees. ABF Freight’s contributions generally are based on the time worked by its contractual employees, in accordance with the ABF NMFA and other related supplemental agreements. ABF Freight recognizes as expense the contractually required contributions for each period and recognizes as a liability any contributions due and unpaid.

The 25 multiemployer pension plans to which ABF Freight contributes vary greatly in size and in funded status. ABF Freight's contribution obligations to these plans are specified in the ABF NMFA, which was implemented on November 3, 2013 and will remain in effect through March 31, 2018. The funding obligations to the pension plans are intended to satisfy the requirements imposed by the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (the "PPA"), which was permanently extended by the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act (the "Reform Act") included in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015. Provisions of the Reform Act include, among others, providing qualifying plans the ability to self-correct funding issues, subject to various requirements and restrictions, including applying to the U.S. Department of the Treasury (the "Treasury") for the reduction of certain accrued benefits. Any actions taken by trustees of multiemployer pension plans under the Reform Act to improve funding will not reduce benefit rates ABF Freight is obligated to pay under the ABF NMFA. Through the term of its current collective bargaining agreement, ABF Freight's contribution obligations generally will be satisfied by making the specified contributions when due. However, the Company cannot determine with any certainty the contributions that will be required under future collective bargaining agreements for its contractual employees. If ABF Freight was to completely withdraw from certain multiemployer pension plans, under current law, the Company would have material liabilities for its share of the unfunded vested liabilities of each such plan.

Approximately one half of ABF Freight's total contributions to multiemployer pension plans are made to the Central States, Southeast and Southwest Areas Pension Plan (the "Central States Pension Plan"). ABF Freight received an Actuarial Certification of Plan Status for the Central States Pension Plan dated March 30, 2016, in which the plan's actuary certified that, as of January 1, 2016, the plan is in critical and declining status, as defined by the Reform Act, with the funded percentage projected to be 46.9% as of the January 1, 2016 valuation date. Critical and declining status is applicable to critical status plans that are projected to become insolvent anytime in the current plan year or during the next 14 plan years, or if the plan is projected to become insolvent within the next 19 plan years and either the plan's ratio of inactive participants to active participants exceeds two to one or the plan's funded percentage is less than 80%.

In September 2015, the Central States Pension Plan filed an application with the Treasury seeking approval under the Reform Act for a pension rescue plan, which included benefit reductions for participants of the Central States Pension Plan in an attempt to avoid the insolvency of the plan that otherwise is projected by the plan to occur. In May 2016, the Treasury denied the Central States Pension Plan's proposed rescue plan. The trustees of the Central States Pension Plan subsequently announced that a new rescue plan would not be submitted and stated that it is not possible to develop and implement a new rescue plan that complies with the final Reform Act regulations issued by the Treasury on April 26, 2016. Although the future of the Central States Pension Plan is impacted by a number of factors, without legislative action, the plan is currently projected to become insolvent within 10 years or less. ABF Freight's current collective bargaining agreement with the IBT provides for contributions to the Central States Pension Plan through March 31, 2018, and it is ABF Freight's understanding that its contribution rate is not expected to increase during this period. ABF Freight's contribution rates are made in accordance with its collective bargaining agreements with the IBT and other related supplemental agreements. In consideration of high multiemployer contribution rates, several of the plans in addition to the Central States Pension Plan have frozen contribution rates at current levels under ABF Freight's current collective bargaining agreement. Future contribution rates will be determined through the negotiation process for contract periods following the term of the current collective bargaining agreement. ABF Freight pays some of the highest benefit contribution rates in the industry and continues to address the effect of ABF Freight's wage and benefit cost structure on its operating results in discussions with the IBT.

As previously disclosed in the Company's 2015 Form 10-K, ABF Freight received a Notice of Insolvency from the Road Carriers Local 707 Pension Fund (the "707 Pension Fund") for the plan year beginning February 1, 2016. During the second quarter of 2016, the 707 Pension Fund received notice that the Treasury denied its proposal to reduce participant benefits in an effort to remain solvent. Approximately 1% of ABF Freight's total multiemployer pension contributions are made to the 707 Pension Fund. Based on currently available information, it is the Company's understanding that if the 707 Pension Fund becomes insolvent, ABF Freight's benefit contribution rates under the ABF NMFA will be frozen and ABF Freight will be required to continue making contributions at the frozen rate throughout and after the current ABF NMFA contract period, which extends to March 31, 2018; however, there can be no assurance in this regard.

The multiemployer plan administrators have provided to the Company no other significant changes in information related to multiemployer plans from the information disclosed in the Company's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

NOTE G – STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss

Components of accumulated other comprehensive loss were as follows:

| | September 30 2016 | December 31 2015 |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| | (in thousands) | |
| Pre-tax amounts: | | |
| Unrecognized net periodic benefit costs | \$ (36,118) | \$ (35,231) |
| Interest rate swap | (1,605) | (897) |
| Foreign currency translation | (2,192) | (2,379) |
| Total | \$ (39,915) | \$ (38,507) |
| After-tax amounts: | | |
| Unrecognized net periodic benefit costs | \$ (26,039) | \$ (25,497) |
| Interest rate swap | (975) | (545) |
| Foreign currency translation | (1,425) | (1,454) |
| Total | \$ (28,439) | \$ (27,496) |

The following is a summary of the changes in accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of tax, by component for the nine months ended September 30, 2016 and 2015:

| | Total | Unrecognized Net Periodic Benefit Costs | Interest Rate Swap | Foreign Currency Translation |
|--|--------------------|---|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | (in thousands) | | | |
| Balances at December 31, 2015 | \$ (27,496) | \$ (25,497) | \$ (545) | \$ (1,454) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications | (4,542) | (4,141) | (430) | 29 |
| Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss | 3,599 | 3,599 | — | — |
| Net current-period other comprehensive income (loss) | (943) | (542) | (430) | 29 |
| Balances at September 30, 2016 | \$ (28,439) | \$ (26,039) | \$ (975) | \$ (1,425) |
| Balances at December 31, 2014 | \$ (23,479) | \$ (22,387) | \$ (350) | \$ (742) |
| Other comprehensive loss before reclassifications | (7,387) | (6,232) | (603) | (552) |
| Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss | 3,281 | 3,281 | — | — |
| Net current-period other comprehensive loss | (4,106) | (2,951) | (603) | (552) |
| Balances at September 30, 2015 | \$ (27,585) | \$ (25,338) | \$ (953) | \$ (1,294) |

The following is a summary of the significant reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive loss by component:

| | Unrecognized Net Periodic Benefit Costs⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| | Nine Months Ended September 30 | |
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (in thousands) | |
| Amortization of net actuarial loss | \$ (3,766) | \$ (3,035) |
| Amortization of prior service credit | 142 | 142 |
| Pension settlement expense | (2,267) | (2,478) |
| Total, pre-tax | (5,891) | (5,371) |
| Tax benefit | 2,292 | 2,090 |
| Total, net of tax | <u>\$ (3,599)</u> | <u>\$ (3,281)</u> |

(1) Amounts in parentheses indicate increases in expense or loss.

(2) These components of accumulated other comprehensive loss are included in the computation of net periodic benefit cost (see Note F).

Dividends on Common Stock

The following table is a summary of dividends declared during the applicable quarter:

| | 2016 | | 2015 | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Per Share | Amount | Per Share | Amount |
| | (in thousands, except per share data) | | | |
| First quarter | \$ 0.08 | \$ 2,088 | \$ 0.06 | \$ 1,584 |
| Second quarter | \$ 0.08 | \$ 2,087 | \$ 0.06 | \$ 1,578 |
| Third quarter | \$ 0.08 | \$ 2,074 | \$ 0.06 | \$ 1,578 |

On November 1, 2016, the Company's Board of Directors declared a dividend of \$0.08 per share to stockholders of record as of November 15, 2016, payable on November 29, 2016.

Treasury Stock

The Company has a program to repurchase its common stock in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The program has no expiration date but may be terminated at any time at the Board of Directors' discretion. Repurchases may be made using the Company's cash reserves or other available sources. As of December 31, 2015, the Company had \$47.2 million remaining under the program for repurchases of its common stock. During the nine months ended September 30, 2016, the Company purchased 419,692 shares for an aggregate cost of \$7.6 million, leaving \$39.6 million available for repurchase of common stock under the program.

NOTE H – SHARE-BASED COMPENSATION

Stock Awards

As of September 30, 2016 and December 31, 2015, the Company had outstanding restricted stock units granted under the 2005 Ownership Incentive Plan ("the 2005 Plan"). The 2005 Plan, as amended, provides for the granting of 3.1 million shares, which may be awarded as incentive and nonqualified stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, or restricted stock units ("RSUs").

Restricted Stock Units

A summary of the Company's restricted stock unit award program is presented below:

| | <u>Units</u> |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Outstanding – January 1, 2016 | 1,313,550 |
| Granted | 529,240 |
| Vested | (256,780) |
| Forfeited | (26,563) |
| Outstanding – September 30, 2016 | <u>1,559,447</u> |

The RSUs granted during the period had a weighted-average grant date fair value of \$15.74 per share.

NOTE I – EARNINGS PER SHARE

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings per share:

| | <u>Three Months Ended</u> <u>September 30</u> | | <u>Nine Months Ended</u> <u>September 30</u> | |
|--|--|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| | <u>2016</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>2015</u> |
| | (in thousands, except share and per share data) | | | |
| Basic | | | | |
| Numerator: | | | | |
| Net income | \$ 12,940 | \$ 19,154 | \$ 17,068 | \$ 39,866 |
| Effect of unvested restricted stock awards | (89) | (175) | (132) | (418) |
| Adjusted net income | <u>\$ 12,851</u> | <u>\$ 18,979</u> | <u>\$ 16,936</u> | <u>\$ 39,448</u> |
| Denominator: | | | | |
| Weighted-average shares | <u>25,724,550</u> | 26,009,344 | <u>25,779,166</u> | 26,033,467 |
| Earnings per common share | <u>\$ 0.50</u> | <u>\$ 0.73</u> | <u>\$ 0.66</u> | <u>\$ 1.52</u> |
| Diluted | | | | |
| Numerator: | | | | |
| Net income | \$ 12,940 | \$ 19,154 | \$ 17,068 | \$ 39,866 |
| Effect of unvested restricted stock awards | (87) | (172) | (131) | (410) |
| Adjusted net income | <u>\$ 12,853</u> | <u>\$ 18,982</u> | <u>\$ 16,937</u> | <u>\$ 39,456</u> |
| Denominator: | | | | |
| Weighted-average shares | 25,724,550 | 26,009,344 | 25,779,166 | 26,033,467 |
| Effect of dilutive securities | <u>486,974</u> | 499,138 | <u>484,566</u> | 536,333 |
| Adjusted weighted-average shares and assumed conversions | <u>26,211,524</u> | <u>26,508,482</u> | <u>26,263,732</u> | <u>26,569,800</u> |
| Earnings per common share | <u>\$ 0.49</u> | <u>\$ 0.72</u> | <u>\$ 0.64</u> | <u>\$ 1.48</u> |

Under the two-class method of calculating earnings per share, dividends paid and a portion of undistributed net income, but not losses, are allocated to unvested RSUs that receive dividends, which are considered participating securities. Beginning with 2015 grants, the RSU agreements were modified to remove dividend rights; therefore, the RSUs granted in 2015 and 2016 are not participating securities. Outstanding stock awards of 0.3 million and 0.4 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, and outstanding stock awards of 0.4 million and 0.2 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, respectively, were not included in the diluted earnings per share calculation because their inclusion would have the effect of increasing earnings per share.

NOTE J – OPERATING SEGMENT DATA

The Company uses the “management approach” to determine its reportable operating segments, as well as to determine the basis of reporting the operating segment information. The management approach focuses on financial information that the Company’s management uses to make operating decisions. Management uses revenues, operating expense categories, operating ratios, operating income, and key operating statistics to evaluate performance and allocate resources to the Company’s operations.

The Company’s reportable operating segments are impacted by seasonal fluctuations, as described below; therefore, operating results for the interim periods presented may not necessarily be indicative of the results for the fiscal year.

The Company’s reportable operating segments are as follows:

- Freight Transportation (ABF Freight), the Company’s principal operating segment, includes the results of operations of ABF Freight System, Inc. and certain other subsidiaries. The operations of ABF Freight include national, inter-regional, and regional transportation of general commodities through standard, expedited, and guaranteed LTL services. Revenue and expense for freight transportation related to consumer household goods self-move services provided by ABF Freight are reported in the ABF Freight segment and certain support costs related to these services are allocated to ABF Freight from the ABF Moving segment.

ABF Freight is impacted by seasonal fluctuations which affect tonnage, shipment levels, and demand for its services, and, consequently, revenues and operating results of the segment. Freight shipments and operating costs of ABF Freight are adversely affected by inclement weather conditions. The second and third calendar quarters of each year usually have the highest tonnage levels while the first quarter generally has the lowest, although other factors, including the state of the U.S. and global economies, may influence quarterly freight tonnage levels.

- Premium Logistics (Panther) provides expedited freight transportation services to commercial and government customers and offers premium logistics services that involve the rapid deployment of highly specialized equipment to meet extremely specific linehaul requirements, such as temperature control, hazardous materials, geofencing, specialized government cargo, security services, and life sciences. Through its premium logistics and global freight forwarding businesses, Panther offers domestic and international freight transportation with air, ocean, and ground service offerings. The segment provides services to the ABF Freight and ABF Logistics segments.

Panther’s operations are influenced by seasonal fluctuations that impact customers’ supply chains and the resulting demand for expedited services. Expedited shipments may decline during winter months because of post-holiday slowdowns but can be subject to short-term increases, depending on the impact of weather disruptions to customers’ supply chains. Plant shutdowns during summer months may affect shipments for Panther’s automotive and manufacturing customers, but severe weather events can result in higher demand for expedited services.

- Transportation Management (ABF Logistics) includes the results of operations of the Company’s businesses which provide freight brokerage and intermodal transportation services, worldwide ocean shipping solutions, and transportation and warehouse management services.

The industries and markets served by ABF Logistics are impacted by seasonal fluctuations which affect shipment levels and, consequently, revenues and operating results of the segment. The second and third calendar quarters of each year usually have the highest shipment levels while the first quarter generally has the lowest, although other factors, including the state of the U.S. and global economies, may impact quarterly business levels. However, seasonal fluctuations are less apparent in the operating results of ABF Logistics than in the industry as a whole because of business growth in the segment, including acquisitions.

- Emergency & Preventative Maintenance (FleetNet) includes the results of operations of FleetNet America, Inc., the subsidiary of the Company that provides roadside assistance and maintenance-related services for commercial vehicles through a network of third-party service providers. FleetNet provides services to the ABF Freight and Panther segments.

Emergency roadside service events of the FleetNet segment are favorably impacted by adverse weather conditions that affect commercial vehicle operations and the segment's results of operations will be influenced by seasonal variations in service event volume.

- Household Goods Moving Services (ABF Moving) includes the results of operations of the Company's subsidiaries that provide transportation, warehousing, and delivery services to the consumer, corporate, and military household goods moving markets. ABF Freight provides transportation services to ABF Moving. Certain costs incurred by ABF Moving in support of consumer self-move services provided by ABF Freight are allocated to the ABF Freight segment.

Operating results for ABF Moving are impacted by the state of the national economy, including housing, unemployment, and mobility of U.S. residents, as well as decisions made by the U.S. military which affect personnel moves. Operations of the segment are also impacted by seasonal fluctuations, generally resulting in higher business levels in the second and third quarters as the demand for moving services is typically stronger in the summer months.

The Company's other business activities and operating segments that are not reportable include ArcBest Corporation and certain other subsidiaries. Certain costs incurred by the parent holding company are allocated to the reporting segments. The Company eliminates intercompany transactions in consolidation. However, the information used by the Company's management with respect to its reportable segments is before intersegment eliminations of revenues and expenses.

Further classifications of operations or revenues by geographic location are impracticable and, therefore, are not provided. The Company's foreign operations are not significant.

The following tables reflect reportable operating segment information:

| | Three Months Ended September 30 | | Nine Months Ended September 30 | |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (in thousands) | | | |
| REVENUES | | | | |
| Freight Transportation (ABF Freight) | \$ 509,452 | \$ 511,346 | \$ 1,435,691 | \$ 1,456,924 |
| Premium Logistics (Panther) | 75,365 | 73,583 | 211,148 | 229,146 |
| Transportation Management (ABF Logistics) ⁽¹⁾ | 72,442 | 49,270 | 207,344 | 147,061 |
| Emergency & Preventative Maintenance (FleetNet) | 39,073 | 45,181 | 124,417 | 129,685 |
| Household Goods Moving Services (ABF Moving) | 31,040 | 43,076 | 74,926 | 93,870 |
| Other and eliminations | (13,449) | (13,076) | (41,521) | (37,915) |
| Total consolidated revenues | <u>\$ 713,923</u> | <u>\$ 709,380</u> | <u>\$ 2,012,005</u> | <u>\$ 2,018,771</u> |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | | | | |
| Freight Transportation (ABF Freight) | | | | |
| Salaries, wages, and benefits | \$ 312,458 | \$ 304,865 | \$ 912,758 | \$ 884,875 |
| Fuel, supplies, and expenses | 71,774 | 77,708 | 210,742 | 236,381 |
| Operating taxes and licenses | 12,312 | 12,444 | 36,446 | 36,762 |
| Insurance | 8,487 | 8,288 | 22,613 | 20,340 |
| Communications and utilities | 4,608 | 3,808 | 13,259 | 11,559 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 20,753 | 18,841 | 62,056 | 54,528 |
| Rents and purchased transportation | 58,350 | 56,920 | 145,846 | 151,144 |
| Gain on sale of property and equipment | (81) | (565) | (2,450) | (1,403) |
| Pension settlement expense ⁽¹⁾ | 604 | 572 | 1,705 | 1,860 |
| Other | 2,137 | 1,888 | 6,293 | 6,167 |
| Total Freight Transportation (ABF Freight) | <u>491,402</u> | <u>484,769</u> | <u>1,409,268</u> | <u>1,402,213</u> |
| Premium Logistics (Panther) | | | | |
| Purchased transportation | 54,586 | 54,015 | 155,444 | 168,569 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 2,860 | 2,773 | 8,565 | 8,636 |
| Salaries, benefits, insurance, and other | 13,946 | 14,062 | 41,808 | 43,174 |
| Total Premium Logistics (Panther) | <u>71,392</u> | <u>70,850</u> | <u>205,817</u> | <u>220,379</u> |
| Transportation Management (ABF Logistics) ⁽¹⁾ | | | | |
| Emergency & Preventative Maintenance (FleetNet) | 38,952 | 44,225 | 122,716 | 126,542 |
| Household Goods Moving Services (ABF Moving) | 29,054 | 40,048 | 72,819 | 89,207 |
| Other and eliminations ⁽²⁾ | (9,279) | (11,428) | (32,146) | (30,439) |
| Total consolidated operating expenses ⁽²⁾ | <u>\$ 693,553</u> | <u>\$ 675,942</u> | <u>\$ 1,984,246</u> | <u>\$ 1,950,588</u> |

⁽¹⁾ The 2016 periods include the operations of LDS since the September 2, 2016 acquisition date and the operations of Bear, which was acquired in December 2015.

⁽²⁾ Pre-tax pension settlement expense totaled \$0.8 million on a consolidated basis for the three months ended September 30, 2016 and 2015, of which \$0.6 million was reported by ABF Freight, \$0.2 million was reported in Other and eliminations, and less than \$0.1 million was reported by the asset-light logistics operating segments. For the nine months ended September 30, 2016 and 2015, pre-tax pension settlement expense totaled \$2.3 million and \$2.5 million, respectively, of which \$1.7 million and \$1.9 million, respectively, was reported by ABF Freight, \$0.5 million was reported in Other and eliminations, and \$0.1 million was reported by the asset-light logistics operating segments.

| | Three Months Ended September 30 | | Nine Months Ended September 30 | |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 |
| (in thousands) | | | | |
| OPERATING INCOME | | | | |
| Freight Transportation (ABF Freight) | \$ 18,050 | \$ 26,577 | \$ 26,423 | \$ 54,711 |
| Premium Logistics (Panther) | 3,973 | 2,733 | 5,331 | 8,767 |
| Transportation Management (ABF Logistics) ⁽¹⁾ | 410 | 1,792 | 1,572 | 4,375 |
| Emergency & Preventative Maintenance (FleetNet) | 121 | 956 | 1,701 | 3,143 |
| Household Goods Moving Services (ABF Moving) | 1,986 | 3,028 | 2,107 | 4,663 |
| Other and eliminations | (4,170) | (1,648) | (9,375) | (7,476) |
| Total consolidated operating income | \$ 20,370 | \$ 33,438 | \$ 27,759 | \$ 68,183 |
| OTHER INCOME (COSTS) | | | | |
| Interest and dividend income | \$ 390 | \$ 378 | \$ 1,178 | \$ 882 |
| Interest and other related financing costs | (1,296) | (1,157) | (3,774) | (3,183) |
| Other, net ⁽²⁾ | 1,091 | (613) | 2,028 | (15) |
| Total other costs | 185 | (1,392) | (568) | (2,316) |
| INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES | \$ 20,555 | \$ 32,046 | \$ 27,191 | \$ 65,867 |

⁽¹⁾ The 2016 periods include the operations of LDS since the September 2, 2016 acquisition date and the operations of Bear, which was acquired in December 2015.

⁽²⁾ Includes changes in cash surrender value of life insurance policies.

The following table presents operating expenses by category on a consolidated basis:

| | Three Months Ended September 30 | | Nine Months Ended September 30 | |
|--|------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 |
| (in thousands) | | | | |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | | | | |
| Salaries, wages, and benefits | \$ 345,091 | \$ 334,144 | \$ 1,009,654 | \$ 973,570 |
| Rents, purchased transportation, and other costs of services | 218,906 | 209,744 | 601,345 | 588,329 |
| Fuel, supplies, and expenses | 69,508 | 77,067 | 204,134 | 231,097 |
| Depreciation and amortization ⁽¹⁾ | 25,793 | 23,373 | 76,692 | 68,221 |
| Other | 34,255 | 31,614 | 92,421 | 89,371 |
| | \$ 693,553 | \$ 675,942 | \$ 1,984,246 | \$ 1,950,588 |

⁽¹⁾ Includes amortization of intangible assets.

The following table provides asset information by reportable segment:

| | <u>September 30</u> | <u>December 31</u> |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| | <u>2016</u> | <u>2015</u> |
| | (in thousands) | |
| ASSETS | | |
| Freight Transportation (ABF Freight) | \$ 763,385 | \$ 694,059 |
| Premium Logistics (Panther) | 215,659 | 216,075 |
| Transportation Management (ABF Logistics) | 113,079 | 75,023 |
| Emergency & Preventative Maintenance (FleetNet) | 23,563 | 21,958 |
| Household Goods Moving Services (ABF Moving) | 26,988 | 28,547 |
| Other and eliminations ⁽¹⁾ | 178,194 | 227,247 |
| | <u>\$ 1,320,868</u> | <u>\$ 1,262,909</u> |

⁽¹⁾ Other and eliminations includes certain assets held by the parent holding company for strategic reasons, including unrestricted and restricted cash, cash equivalents, and short-term investments, as well as certain assets held for the benefit of multiple segments, including land and structures of the Company's corporate headquarters and information systems equipment. Depreciation and amortization associated with these assets is allocated to the reporting segments.

NOTE K – LEGAL PROCEEDINGS, ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS, AND OTHER EVENTS

The Company is involved in various legal actions arising in the ordinary course of business. The Company maintains liability insurance against certain risks arising out of the normal course of its business, subject to certain self-insured retention limits. The Company routinely establishes and reviews the adequacy of reserves for estimated legal, environmental, and self-insurance exposures. While management believes that amounts accrued in the consolidated financial statements are adequate, estimates of these liabilities may change as circumstances develop. Considering amounts recorded, routine legal matters are not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

Environmental Matters

The Company's subsidiaries store fuel for use in tractors and trucks in 62 underground tanks located in 18 states. Maintenance of such tanks is regulated at the federal and, in most cases, state levels. The Company believes it is in substantial compliance with all such regulations. The Company's underground storage tanks are required to have leak detection systems. The Company is not aware of any leaks from such tanks that could reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company.

The Company has received notices from the Environmental Protection Agency and others that it has been identified as a potentially responsible party under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, or other federal or state environmental statutes, at several hazardous waste sites. After investigating the Company's involvement in waste disposal or waste generation at such sites, the Company has either agreed to de minimis settlements or determined that its obligations, other than those specifically accrued with respect to such sites, would involve immaterial monetary liability, although there can be no assurances in this regard.

At September 30, 2016 and December 31, 2015, the Company's reserve, which was reported in accrued expenses, for estimated environmental cleanup costs of properties currently or previously operated by the Company totaled \$0.6 million and \$0.8 million, respectively. Amounts accrued reflect management's best estimate of the future undiscounted exposure related to identified properties based on current environmental regulations, management's experience with similar environmental matters, and testing performed at certain sites.

NOTE L – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

On November 3, 2016, the Company announced its plan to implement a new corporate structure to better serve its customers. The new corporate structure will unify the Company's sales, pricing, customer service, marketing, and capacity sourcing functions. ABF Logistics, ABF Moving, and Panther will be consolidated as a single asset-light logistics operation under ArcBest. Based on the financial information that management is anticipated to use to make operating decisions and allocate resources, the Company expects to report the following operating segments for the fourth quarter of 2016: Asset-Based Operations, which consists of ABF Freight; the ArcBest segment; the FleetNet segment; and Other and eliminations. The ArcBest and FleetNet reportable segments combined will represent the company's Asset-Light Operations.

As a result of the restructuring, the Company expects to record restructuring charges in operating expenses, the majority of which are non-cash, for impairment of software, contract and lease terminations, severance, and relocation expenses totaling approximately \$9 million in the fourth quarter of 2016 and an estimated \$1 million in the first quarter of 2017.

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

General

ArcBest Corporation[®] (the "Company," "we," "us," and "our") provides a comprehensive suite of freight transportation services and logistics solutions. Our principal operations are conducted through our Freight Transportation (ABF Freight[®]) segment, which consists of ABF Freight System, Inc. and certain other subsidiaries. Our other reportable operating segments are the following asset-light logistics businesses: Premium Logistics (Panther); Transportation Management (ABF Logistics[®]); Emergency & Preventative Maintenance (FleetNet); and Household Goods Moving Services (ABF Moving[®]). (See additional segment description in Note J to our consolidated financial statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.) References to the Company, including "we," "us," and "our," in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q are primarily to the Company and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis.

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

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations ("MD&A") describes the principal factors affecting our results of operations, liquidity and capital resources, and critical accounting policies. This discussion should be read in conjunction with the accompanying quarterly unaudited consolidated financial statements and the related notes thereto included in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and with our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015. Our 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K includes additional information about significant accounting policies, practices, and the transactions that underlie our financial results, as well as a detailed discussion of the most significant risks and uncertainties to which our financial and operating results are subject.

On November 3, 2016, we announced our plan to implement a new corporate structure to better serve our customers. The new corporate structure will unify our sales, pricing, customer service, marketing, and capacity sourcing functions, and will allow us to operate as one logistics company under the ArcBest brand. This structure will also enable us to grow revenue and eliminate duplicative costs and inefficiencies in order to improve margins and overall profitability. While most of our logistics services will be branded simply as ArcBest starting January 1, 2017, we will continue to offer a full array of asset-based less-than-truckload services under the ABF Freight brand and best-in-class ground expedited services under the Panther brand.

Under the new organizational structure, ABF Logistics, ABF Moving, and Panther will be consolidated as a single asset-light logistics operation under ArcBest. Based on the financial information that management is anticipated to use to make operating decisions and allocate resources, we expect to report the following operating segments for the fourth quarter of 2016: Asset-Based Operations, which consists of ABF Freight; the ArcBest segment; the FleetNet segment; and Other and eliminations. The ArcBest and FleetNet reportable segments combined will represent the company's Asset-Light Operations.

As a result of the restructuring, we expect to record restructuring charges in operating expenses, the majority of which are non-cash, for impairment of software, contract and lease terminations, severance, and relocation expenses totaling approximately \$9 million (pre-tax), or \$0.22 per diluted share, in the fourth quarter of 2016 and an estimated \$1 million (pre-tax), or \$0.03 per diluted share after-tax, in the first quarter of 2017. The improved organizational structure, along with the consolidation of certain systems and facilities and other cost saving actions, are estimated to produce an annualized operating expense savings of approximately \$15 million, generally split evenly between our asset-based and our asset-light operations.

Results of Operations

Consolidated Results

| | Three Months Ended September 30 | | Nine Months Ended September 30 | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 |
| (in thousands, except per share data) | | | | |
| REVENUES | | | | |
| Freight Transportation (ABF Freight) | \$ 509,452 | \$ 511,346 | \$ 1,435,691 | \$ 1,456,924 |
| Premium Logistics (Panther) | 75,365 | 73,583 | 211,148 | 229,146 |
| Transportation Management (ABF Logistics) | 72,442 | 49,270 | 207,344 | 147,061 |
| Emergency & Preventative Maintenance (FleetNet) | 39,073 | 45,181 | 124,417 | 129,685 |
| Household Goods Moving Services (ABF Moving) | 31,040 | 43,076 | 74,926 | 93,870 |
| Other and eliminations | (13,449) | (13,076) | (41,521) | (37,915) |
| Total consolidated operating revenues | <u>\$ 713,923</u> | <u>\$ 709,380</u> | <u>\$ 2,012,005</u> | <u>\$ 2,018,771</u> |
| OPERATING INCOME | | | | |
| Freight Transportation (ABF Freight) | \$ 18,050 | \$ 26,577 | \$ 26,423 | \$ 54,711 |
| Premium Logistics (Panther) | 3,973 | 2,733 | 5,331 | 8,767 |
| Transportation Management (ABF Logistics) | 410 | 1,792 | 1,572 | 4,375 |
| Emergency & Preventative Maintenance (FleetNet) | 121 | 956 | 1,701 | 3,143 |
| Household Goods Moving Services (ABF Moving) | 1,986 | 3,028 | 2,107 | 4,663 |
| Other and eliminations | (4,170) | (1,648) | (9,375) | (7,476) |
| Total consolidated operating income | <u>\$ 20,370</u> | <u>\$ 33,438</u> | <u>\$ 27,759</u> | <u>\$ 68,183</u> |
| NET INCOME | <u>\$ 12,940</u> | <u>\$ 19,154</u> | <u>\$ 17,068</u> | <u>\$ 39,866</u> |
| DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE | <u>\$ 0.49</u> | <u>\$ 0.72</u> | <u>\$ 0.64</u> | <u>\$ 1.48</u> |

Our consolidated revenues, which totaled \$713.9 million and \$2,012.0 million for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2016, respectively, increased 0.6% and decreased 0.3% compared to the same respective prior-year periods. The year-over-year changes in consolidated revenues reflect 0.4% and 1.5% decreases in ABF Freight's revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, and revenues of our asset-light logistics operating segments which, on a combined basis, increased 3.2% and 3.0% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively. Asset-light logistics revenue growth was primarily due to incremental revenues from the acquisitions by ABF Logistics of Bear Transportation, L.P. ("Bear") on December 1, 2015 and Logistics & Distribution Services, LLC ("LDS") on September 2, 2016. Total asset-light logistics operating segments generated approximately 30% of total revenues before other revenues and intercompany eliminations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016.

Consolidated operating income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016 declined compared to the same prior-year periods. With the exception of Panther's operating income improvement in third quarter 2016, which reflected increased revenues and higher gross profit margins, each reportable operating segment experienced year-over-year declines in operating income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016. The soft economic operating environment combined with a surplus of transportation capacity has impacted available business levels and operating margins at ABF Freight and at our asset-light logistics companies during 2016. The consolidated operating income, net income, and per share amounts for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016 and 2015 primarily reflect the operating results of ABF Freight which are discussed in further detail within the ABF Freight sections of Results of Operations.

Consolidated operating income was impacted by increases in nonunion healthcare costs and third-party casualty and workers' compensation claims costs for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016. Due to unfavorable per claim costs, consolidated nonunion healthcare costs for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016 increased \$3.2 million and \$6.0 million, or 38.0% and 20.3%, respectively, compared to the same prior-year periods. For the nine months ended September 30, 2016, unfavorable experience in ABF Freight's third-party casualty and workers' compensation claims resulted in costs which were higher by \$5.2 million, or 16.9%, on a combined basis, compared to the same period of 2015. These increases in nonunion healthcare, third-party casualty, and workers' compensation claims costs

were partially offset by a decrease of \$2.0 million in other nonunion benefit costs for the nine months ended September 30, 2016, compared to the same prior-year period.

The consolidated pre-tax pension settlement charge related to the nonunion defined benefit pension plan was \$0.8 million for the three months ended September 30, 2016 and 2015, and \$2.3 million and \$2.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2016 and 2015, respectively. We expect to continue to recognize pre-tax pension settlement expense related to the nonunion defined benefit pension plan estimated to approximate \$1.0 million per quarter; however, the amount of quarterly pension settlement expense will fluctuate based on the amount of lump-sum benefit distributions paid to participants, actual returns on plan assets, and changes in the discount rate used to remeasure the projected benefit obligation of the plan upon settlement.

Consolidated operating income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016 was impacted by transaction costs associated with the LDS acquisition of \$0.6 million which were included in the “Other and eliminations” line of consolidated operating income. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, “Other and eliminations” also includes personnel and technology investments associated with improving the ArcBest experience for our customers and additional investments in enterprise solutions to provide an improved platform for revenue growth and to enhance our ability to offer our comprehensive transportation and logistics services across multiple operating segments. This initiative involves developing and implementing integrated solutions for shippers with wide-ranging transportation needs and facilitating access to our services through a single point of contact. As a result of these initiatives and other corporate costs, we expect the loss reported in “Other and eliminations” to be approximately \$4.0 million for fourth quarter 2016.

In addition to the above items, the comparisons of consolidated net income and earnings per share were impacted by higher income from changes in the cash surrender value of variable life insurance policies, as a portion of these policies have investments, through separate accounts, in equity and fixed income securities and, therefore, are subject to market volatility. As a result of changes in cash surrender value of life insurance, diluted earnings per share was higher by \$0.06 per share and \$0.08 per share for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, compared to the same periods of 2015.

Net income and earnings per share were also impacted by the effective tax rate, as further described in the Income Taxes section of MD&A.

Consolidated Adjusted Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization (“Adjusted EBITDA”)

We report our financial results in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”). However, management believes that certain non-GAAP performance measures and ratios, such as Adjusted EBITDA, utilized for internal analysis provide analysts, investors, and others the same information that we use internally for purposes of assessing our core operating performance and provides meaningful comparisons between current and prior period results, as well as important information regarding performance trends. Accordingly, using these measures improves comparability in analyzing our performance because it removes the impact of items from operating results that, in management's opinion, do not reflect our core operating performance. Management uses Adjusted EBITDA as a key measure of performance and for business planning. The measure is particularly meaningful for analysis, because it excludes amortization of acquired intangibles and software of the asset-light logistics businesses, which are significant expenses resulting from strategic decisions rather than core daily operations. Additionally, Adjusted EBITDA is a primary component of the financial covenants contained in our Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (see Financing Arrangements within the Liquidity and Capital Resources section of MD&A). Other companies may calculate Adjusted EBITDA differently; therefore, our calculation of Adjusted EBITDA may not be comparable to similarly titled measures of other companies. Non-GAAP financial measures should be viewed in addition to, and not as an alternative for, our reported results. Adjusted EBITDA should not be construed as a better measurement than operating income, operating cash flow, net income, or earnings per share, as determined under GAAP.

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | September 30 | | September 30 | |
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (\$ thousands) | | | |
| Net income | \$ 12,940 | \$ 19,154 | \$ 17,068 | \$ 39,866 |
| Interest and other related financing costs | 1,296 | 1,157 | 3,774 | 3,183 |
| Income tax provision | 7,615 | 12,892 | 10,123 | 26,001 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 25,793 | 23,373 | 76,692 | 68,221 |
| Amortization of share-based compensation | 1,951 | 2,110 | 6,151 | 6,343 |
| Amortization of net actuarial losses of benefit plans and pension settlement expense | 2,124 | 1,655 | 6,033 | 5,513 |
| Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA | \$ 51,719 | \$ 60,341 | \$ 119,841 | \$ 149,127 |

ABF Freight Segment Overview

ABF Freight’s operations are affected by general economic conditions, as well as a number of other competitive factors that are more fully described in “Business” in Item 1 and “Risk Factors” in Item 1A of our 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

The key indicators necessary to understand ABF Freight’s operating results include:

- the overall customer demand for ABF Freight’s freight transportation services;
- the volume of transportation services provided by ABF Freight, primarily measured by average daily shipment weight (“tonnage”), which influences operating leverage as tonnage levels vary;
- the prices ABF Freight obtains for its services, primarily measured by yield (“revenue per hundredweight”), including fuel surcharges; and
- ABF Freight’s ability to manage its cost structure, primarily in the area of salaries, wages, and benefits (“labor”), with the total cost structure measured by the percent of operating expenses to revenue levels (“operating ratio”).

ABF Freight represented approximately 70% of our total revenues before other revenues and intercompany eliminations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016. As of September 2016, approximately 77% of ABF Freight's employees were covered under a collective bargaining agreement, the ABF National Master Freight Agreement (the "ABF NMFA"), with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (the "IBT"), which extends through March 31, 2018. The ABF NMFA included a 7% wage rate reduction upon the November 3, 2013 implementation date, followed by wage rate increases of 2.0% on July 1 in each of the next three years, which began in 2014, and a 2.5% increase on July 1, 2017; a one-week reduction in annual compensated vacation effective for employee anniversary dates on or after April 1, 2013; the option to expand the use of purchased transportation; and increased flexibility in labor work rules. The ABF NMFA and the related supplemental agreements provide for continued contributions to various multiemployer health, welfare, and pension plans maintained for the benefit of ABF Freight's employees who are members of the IBT. The estimated net effect of the November 3, 2013 wage rate reduction and the benefit rate increase which was applied retroactively to August 1, 2013 was an initial reduction of approximately 4% to the combined total contractual wage and benefit rate under the ABF NMFA. Following the initial reduction, the combined contractual wage and benefit contribution rate under the ABF NMFA is estimated to increase approximately 2.5% on a compounded annual basis throughout the contract period which extends through March 31, 2018.

ABF Freight's operating performance is generally evaluated by comparison to the same prior-year periods due to seasonal fluctuations which affect tonnage and shipment levels. The following paragraphs discuss ABF Freight's operating results and key performance factors.

Tonnage

The level of tonnage managed by ABF Freight is directly affected by industrial production and manufacturing, distribution, residential and commercial construction, consumer spending, primarily in the North American economy, and capacity in the trucking industry. ABF Freight's operating results are affected by economic cycles, customers' business cycles, and changes in customers' business practices. ABF Freight actively competes for freight business based primarily on price, service, and availability of flexible shipping options to customers. ABF Freight seeks to offer value through identifying specific customer needs, then providing operational flexibility and seamless access to its services and those of our asset-light logistics operating segments in order to respond with customized solutions.

Pricing

Another key to ABF Freight's operating performance is the industry pricing environment which influences ABF Freight's ability to obtain appropriate margins and price increases on customer accounts. Externally, ABF Freight's pricing is typically measured by billed revenue per hundredweight, which is a reasonable, although approximate, measure of price change. Generally, freight is rated by a class system, which is established by the National Motor Freight Traffic Association, Inc. Light, bulky freight typically has a higher class and is priced at a higher revenue per hundredweight than dense, heavy freight. Changes in the rated class and packaging of the freight, along with changes in other freight profile factors such as average shipment size, average length of haul, freight density, and customer and geographic mix, can affect the average billed revenue per hundredweight measure.

Approximately 35% of ABF Freight's business is subject to ABF Freight's base LTL tariffs, which are affected by general rate increases, combined with individually negotiated discounts. Rates on the other 65% of ABF Freight's business, including business priced in the spot market, are subject to individual pricing arrangements that are negotiated at various times throughout the year. The majority of the business that is subject to negotiated pricing arrangements is associated with larger customer accounts with annually negotiated pricing arrangements, and the remaining business is priced on an individual shipment basis considering each shipment's unique profile, value provided by ABF Freight to the customer, and current market conditions. Since pricing is established individually by account, ABF Freight focuses on individual account profitability rather than a single measure of billed revenue per hundredweight when considering customer account or market evaluations. This is due to the difficulty of quantifying, with sufficient accuracy, the impact of changes in freight profile characteristics, which is necessary in estimating true price changes.

Fuel

The transportation industry is dependent upon the availability of adequate fuel supplies. ABF Freight charges a fuel surcharge which is based on the index of national on-highway average diesel fuel prices published weekly by the U.S. Department of Energy. Although revenues from fuel surcharges generally more than offset direct diesel fuel costs, other

operating costs have been, and may continue to be, impacted by fluctuating fuel prices. The total impact of energy prices on other nonfuel-related expenses is difficult to ascertain. ABF Freight cannot predict, with reasonable certainty, future fuel price fluctuations, the impact of energy prices on other cost elements, recoverability of fuel costs through fuel surcharges, and the effect of fuel surcharges on ABF Freight's overall rate structure or the total price that ABF Freight will receive from its customers. While the fuel surcharge is one of several components in ABF Freight's overall rate structure, the actual rate paid by customers is governed by market forces and the overall value of services provided to the customer.

During periods of changing diesel fuel prices, the fuel surcharge and associated direct diesel fuel costs also vary by different degrees. Depending upon the rates of these changes and the impact on costs in other fuel- and energy-related areas, operating margins could be impacted. Fuel prices have fluctuated significantly in recent years. Whether fuel prices fluctuate or remain constant, ABF Freight's operating results may be adversely affected if competitive pressures limit its ability to recover fuel surcharges. Throughout the first nine months of 2016, the fuel surcharge mechanism generally continued to have market acceptance among ABF Freight customers; however, certain nonstandard pricing arrangements have limited the amount of fuel surcharge recovered. The negative impact on operating margins of capped fuel surcharge revenue during periods of increasing fuel costs is more evident when fuel prices remain above the maximum levels recovered through the fuel surcharge mechanism on certain accounts.

In periods of declining fuel prices, ABF Freight's fuel surcharge percentages also decrease, which negatively impacts the total billed revenue per hundredweight measure and, consequently, revenues, and the revenue decline may be disproportionate to our fuel costs. To better align fuel surcharges to fuel- and energy-related expenses and provide more stability to account profitability as fuel prices change, ABF Freight may, from time to time, revise its standard fuel surcharge program which impacts approximately 40% of ABF Freight's shipments and primarily affects noncontractual customers. ABF Freight made such revisions to its fuel surcharge scale effective February 4, 2015, and again effective February 1, 2016, to establish surcharge rates for fuel prices at the lower end of the scale and to better align with expected fuel costs. Despite the revisions to the fuel surcharge program and the transition of certain nonstandard pricing arrangements to base LTL freight rates in recent years, ABF Freight's year-over-year revenue comparisons for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016 were negatively impacted by lower fuel surcharge revenue due to a decline in the nominal fuel surcharge rate, while total fuel costs were also lower. ABF Freight's operating results will continue to be impacted by further changes in fuel prices and the related fuel surcharges.

Labor Costs

Labor costs, including retirement and healthcare benefits for ABF Freight's contractual employees that are provided by a number of multiemployer plans, are impacted by contractual obligations under ABF Freight's collective bargaining agreement primarily with the IBT and other related supplemental agreements. ABF Freight's total salaries, wages, and benefits, amounted to 61.3% and 63.6% of ABF Freight's revenue for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, compared to 59.6% and 60.7% for the same respective periods of 2015. In addition to higher salaries, wages, and benefits expense, the year-over-year increases as a percentage of revenue were influenced by the effect of lower fuel surcharges on ABF Freight's revenues.

ABF Freight operates in a highly competitive industry which consists predominantly of nonunion motor carriers. ABF Freight's nonunion competitors have a lower fringe benefit cost structure and less stringent labor work rules, and certain carriers also have lower wage rates for their freight-handling and driving personnel. Wage and benefit concessions granted to certain union competitors also allow for a lower cost structure than that of ABF Freight. ABF Freight has continued to address with the IBT the effect of ABF Freight's wage and benefit cost structure on its operating results.

The combined effect of cost reductions under the ABF NMFA, lower cost increases throughout the contract period, and increased flexibility in labor work rules are important factors in bringing ABF Freight's labor cost structure closer in line with that of its competitors; however, under its collective bargaining agreement, ABF Freight continues to pay some of the highest benefit contribution rates in the industry. These rates include contributions to multiemployer plans, a portion of which are used to fund benefits for individuals who were never employed by ABF Freight. Information provided by a large multiemployer pension plan to which ABF Freight contributes indicates that approximately 50% of the plan's benefit payments are made to retirees of companies that are no longer contributing employers. In consideration of the impact of high multiemployer pension contribution rates, certain funds have not increased ABF Freight's pension contribution rate for the annual contribution period which began August 1, 2015. Rate freezes for the annual contribution period which

began August 1, 2015 impacted multiemployer pension plans to which ABF Freight made approximately 70% of its total multiemployer pension contributions for the year ended December 31, 2015. Based on currently available information, we expect rate freezes for the annual contribution period which began August 1, 2016 to impact approximately 70% of our multiemployer pension contributions for the year ended December 31, 2016. Including the effect of these rate freezes, ABF Freight currently estimates the average health, welfare, and pension benefit contribution rate increase effective primarily on August 1, 2016, will be approximately 3.0%. Effective July 1, 2016, the ABF NMFA contractual wage rate increased 2.0%.

The Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 (the “Reform Act”), which was included in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015 that was signed into law on December 16, 2014, includes provisions to address the funding of multiemployer pension plans in critical and declining status, including certain of those in which ABF Freight participates. Provisions of the Reform Act include, among others, providing qualifying plans the ability to self-correct funding issues, subject to various requirements and restrictions, including applying to the U.S. Department of the Treasury (the “Treasury”) for the suspension of certain benefits. Any actions taken by multiemployer pension plan trustees under the Reform Act to improve funding will not reduce the benefit contribution rates ABF Freight is obligated to pay under its current contract with the IBT, and we cannot determine with any certainty the contributions that will be required under future collective bargaining agreements for ABF Freight’s contractual employees.

In September 2015, the Central States, Southeast and Southwest Areas Pension Plan (the “Central States Pension Plan”) filed an application with the Treasury seeking approval under the Reform Act for a pension rescue plan, which included benefit reductions for participants of the Central States Pension Plan in an attempt to avoid the insolvency of the plan that otherwise is projected by the plan to occur. In May 2016, the Treasury denied the Central States Pension Plan’s proposed rescue plan. The trustees of the Central States Pension Plan subsequently announced that a new rescue plan would not be submitted and stated that it is not possible to develop and implement a new rescue plan that complies with the final Reform Act regulations issued by the Treasury on April 26, 2016. Although the future of the Central States Pension Plan is impacted by a number of factors, without legislative action, the plan is currently projected to become insolvent within 10 years or less. ABF Freight’s current collective bargaining agreement with the IBT provides for contributions to the Central States Pension Plan through March 31, 2018, and it is ABF Freight’s understanding that its contribution rate is not expected to increase during this period. ABF Freight’s contribution rates are made in accordance with its collective bargaining agreements with the IBT and other related supplemental agreements. In consideration of high multiemployer contribution rates, several of the plans in addition to Central States Pension Plan have frozen contribution rates at current levels under ABF Freight’s current collective bargaining agreement. Future contribution rates will be determined through the negotiation process for contract periods following the term of the current collective bargaining agreement. ABF Freight pays some of the highest benefit contribution rates in the industry and continues to address the effect of ABF Freight’s wage and benefit cost structure on its operating results in discussions with the IBT.

As previously disclosed in our 2015 Form 10-K, ABF Freight received a Notice of Insolvency from the Road Carriers Local 707 Pension Fund (the “707 Pension Fund”) for the plan year beginning February 1, 2016. During the second quarter of 2016, the 707 Pension Fund received notice that the Treasury denied its proposal to reduce participant benefits in an effort to remain solvent. Approximately 1% of ABF Freight’s total multiemployer pension contributions are made to the 707 Pension Fund. Based on currently available information, it is our understanding that if the 707 Pension Fund becomes insolvent, ABF Freight’s benefit contribution rates under the ABF NMFA will be frozen and ABF Freight will be required to continue making contributions at the frozen rate throughout and after the current ABF NMFA contract period, which extends to March 31, 2018; however, there can be no assurance in this regard.

Some employer companies that participate in multiemployer plans, in which ABF Freight also participates, have received proposals from, and entered into transition agreements with, certain multiemployer plans to restructure future plan contributions to be more in line with benefit levels. These transition agreements, which require mutual agreement of numerous elements between the multiemployer plan and the contributing employer, may also result in recognition of withdrawal liabilities. We monitor and evaluate any such proposals we receive, including the potential economic impact to our business. At the current time, there are no proposals provided to ABF Freight that are acceptable.

ABF Freight Segment Results

The following table sets forth a summary of operating expenses and operating income as a percentage of revenue for ABF Freight:

| | Three Months Ended September 30 | | Nine Months Ended September 30 | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 |
| ABF Freight Operating Expenses (Operating Ratio) | | | | |
| Salaries, wages, and benefits | 61.3 % | 59.6 % | 63.6 % | 60.7 % |
| Fuel, supplies, and expenses | 14.1 | 15.2 | 14.7 | 16.2 |
| Operating taxes and licenses | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.5 |
| Insurance | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.4 |
| Communications and utilities | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 4.1 | 3.7 | 4.3 | 3.8 |
| Rents and purchased transportation | 11.5 | 11.1 | 10.2 | 10.4 |
| Gain on sale of property and equipment | — | (0.1) | (0.2) | (0.1) |
| Pension settlement expense | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Other | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| | <u>96.5 %</u> | <u>94.8 %</u> | <u>98.2 %</u> | <u>96.2 %</u> |
| ABF Freight Operating Income | <u>3.5 %</u> | <u>5.2 %</u> | <u>1.8 %</u> | <u>3.8 %</u> |

The following table provides a comparison of key operating statistics for ABF Freight:

| | Three Months Ended September 30 | | | Nine Months Ended September 30 | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------|----------|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | 2016 | 2015 | % Change | 2016 | 2015 | % Change |
| Workdays | 64.0 | 64.0 | | 191.5 | 190.0 | |
| Billed revenue ⁽¹⁾ per hundredweight, including fuel surcharges | \$ 30.52 | \$ 29.68 | 2.8 % | \$ 29.12 | \$ 28.95 | 0.6 % |
| Pounds | 1,663,630,054 | 1,711,904,743 | (2.8)% | 4,944,980,423 | 5,039,227,064 | (1.9)% |
| Pounds per day | 25,994,220 | 26,748,512 | (2.8)% | 25,822,352 | 26,522,248 | (2.6)% |
| Shipments per day | 21,345 | 21,001 | 1.6 % | 20,501 | 20,271 | 1.1 % |
| Shipments per DSY ⁽²⁾ hour | 0.452 | 0.449 | 0.7 % | 0.450 | 0.453 | (0.7)% |
| Pounds per DSY ⁽²⁾ hour | 550.28 | 572.47 | (3.9)% | 567.15 | 592.46 | (4.3)% |
| Pounds per shipment | 1,218 | 1,274 | (4.4)% | 1,260 | 1,308 | (3.7)% |
| Pounds per mile ⁽³⁾ | 18.90 | 19.28 | (2.0)% | 19.53 | 19.62 | (0.5)% |

(1) Revenue for undelivered freight is deferred for financial statement purposes in accordance with ABF Freight's revenue recognition policy. Billed revenue used for calculating revenue per hundredweight measurements has not been adjusted for the portion of revenue deferred for financial statement purposes. Billed revenue has been adjusted to exclude intercompany revenue that is not related to freight transportation services.

(2) Dock, street, and yard ("DSY") measures are further discussed in ABF Freight's Operating Expenses within this section of ABF Freight Segment Results. ABF Freight uses shipments per DSY hour to measure labor efficiency in ABF Freight's local operations, although total pounds per DSY hour is also a relevant measure when the average shipment size is changing.

(3) Total pounds per mile is used by ABF Freight to measure labor efficiency of its linehaul operations, although this metric is influenced by other factors including freight density, loading efficiency, average length of haul, and the degree to which purchased transportation, including rail service, is used.

ABF Freight Revenues

ABF Freight's revenues for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016 totaled \$509.5 million and \$1,435.7 million, respectively, compared to \$511.3 million and \$1,456.9 million for the same periods of 2015. ABF Freight's billed revenue (as described in footnote (1) to the key operating statistics table above) decreased 0.1% and 2.1% on a per-day basis for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, compared to the same prior-year periods, reflecting a decrease in tonnage per day of 2.8% and 2.6%, respectively, partially offset by an increase in total billed revenue per hundredweight, including fuel surcharges, of 2.8% and 0.6%, respectively. The increases in total billed revenue per hundredweight occurred despite lower fuel surcharge revenues associated with decreased fuel prices.

Current freight market conditions, which are being impacted by lower industrial-related manufacturing production and higher customer inventory levels that result in lower demand for retail shipments, have contributed to ABF Freight's 2016 tonnage declines. With the softer freight environment, spot truckload capacity has been more available in the market compared to the prior year, which has provided alternative carriers for some of our customers' large-sized shipments. As a result, ABF Freight's average weight per shipment declined 4.4% and 3.7% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, while daily shipment counts increased 1.6% and 1.1%, respectively, compared to the same prior-year periods. The shift in freight profile results in lower revenue without corresponding cost reductions due to the labor required to handle the higher shipment levels, as further discussed in the following paragraphs.

ABF Freight implemented nominal general rate increases on its LTL base rate tariffs of 5.25% effective August 29, 2016 and 4.95% effective October 5, 2015, although the rate changes vary by lane and shipment characteristics. Softness in the market due to available truckload capacity, as previously mentioned, applied downward pressure on average price increases as customers submitted bids for contract renewals. Despite the impact of lower fuel surcharges and excess capacity, prices on accounts subject to annually negotiated contracts which were renewed during the period increased approximately 2.8% and 3.1% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, compared to the same prior-year periods.

The increases in total billed revenue per hundredweight for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, compared to the same periods of 2015, benefited from the general rate increases, contract renewals, and profile changes which increased the revenue per hundredweight measure, offset by lower fuel surcharge revenue, as discussed further in the Fuel section of the ABF Freight Segment Overview, and increased rate pressure on spot truckload shipments driven by increased truckload capacity in the market. Compared to the same prior-year period, ABF Freight's average nominal fuel surcharge rate for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016 dropped approximately 160 and 290 basis points, respectively, from the levels of the same periods of 2015. Excluding changes in fuel surcharges, average pricing on ABF Freight's traditional LTL business had a mid-single-digit percentage increase during third quarter 2016 and a low-single digit percentage increase for the nine months ended September 30, 2016, when compared to the same prior-year periods.

ABF Freight Revenues — October 2016

ABF Freight's billed revenues for the month of October 2016 increased 2% to 3% from October 2015 on a per-day basis, reflecting an increase in total billed revenue per hundredweight of 2% to 3%, which includes slightly lower fuel surcharges. Average daily total tonnage for October 2016 remained consistent with October 2015 levels. ABF Freight continued to experience soft freight markets and handled fewer spot volume shipments during October 2016 versus the same prior-year period, which resulted in a lower weight per shipment, offset by a year-over-year increase in total shipments per day of 3% to 4% in October 2016. There can be no assurances that the current pricing trend will continue. The competitive environment could limit ABF Freight from securing adequate increases in base LTL freight rates and could limit the amount of fuel surcharge revenue recovered.

ABF Freight Operating Income

ABF Freight's operating ratio for the three- and nine- month periods of 2016 increased by 1.7 and 2.0 percentage points, respectively, over the same prior-year periods. ABF Freight's ability to improve its operating ratio is impacted by: managing its cost structure (as discussed in Labor Costs of the ABF Freight Overview section) and securing price increases to cover contractual wage and benefit rate increases, costs of maintaining customer service levels, and other inflationary increases in cost elements.

ABF Freight generated operating income of \$18.1 million and \$26.4 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, compared to \$26.6 million and \$54.7 million for the same periods of 2015. ABF Freight's operating income was impacted by increases in nonunion healthcare costs and third-party casualty and workers' compensation claims costs for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, compared to the same periods of 2015, due to unfavorable claims experience. Nonunion healthcare costs increased \$1.7 million and \$3.3 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, compared to the same periods of 2015. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, third-party casualty claims costs increased \$0.3 million and \$3.4 million, respectively, which for the nine-month period was above ABF Freight's ten-year historical average as a percentage of revenue. Workers' compensation costs increased \$0.2 million and \$1.7 million, respectively, compared to the same prior-year periods. For the nine months ended September 30, 2016, these cost increases were partially offset by an increase in gain on sale of property and equipment of \$1.0 million, versus the same period of 2015, primarily related to the sale of certain real estate in second quarter 2016. ABF Freight's operating ratio was also impacted by changes in the operating expenses discussed in the following paragraphs.

ABF Freight Operating Expenses

Labor costs, which are reported in operating expenses of the ABF Freight operating segment as salaries, wages, and benefits, amounted to 61.3% and 63.6% of ABF Freight's revenue for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2016, respectively, compared to 59.6% and 60.7% for the same respective periods of 2015. The increases as a percentage of revenue were influenced by the effect of lower fuel surcharges on ABF Freight's revenues associated with a decline in the nominal fuel surcharge rate due to decreased fuel prices. Salaries, wages, and benefits costs increased \$7.6 million and \$27.9 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, compared to the same prior-year periods. The year-over-year increases in labor costs were impacted by increases in contractual wage and benefit contribution rates under the ABF NMFA. The contractual wage rate increased 2.0% effective July 1, 2016, and the average health, welfare, and pension benefit contribution rate increased approximately 3.4% effective primarily on August 1, 2016, which includes the effect of the multiemployer pension plan rate freezes previously discussed in the ABF Freight Segment Overview section of Results of Operations. The increase in labor costs were impacted by increases in nonunion healthcare and workers' compensation costs, as previously discussed. Furthermore, productivity challenges negatively impacted labor costs, as strength in shipments relative to tonnage levels resulted in DSY labor costs disproportionate to revenue in the 2016 periods compared to the same prior-year periods.

Although ABF Freight manages costs with shipment levels, portions of salaries, wages, and benefits are fixed in nature and the adjustments which would otherwise be necessary to align the labor cost structure throughout the ABF Freight system to corresponding shipment levels are limited as ABF Freight strives to maintain customer service. ABF Freight believes that this service emphasis provides for the opportunity to generate improved yields and business levels. Returning productivity to historical levels is an important priority for the management team at ABF Freight in order to reduce costs. Shipments per DSY hour increased 0.7% in third quarter 2016 versus the same prior year period, which is an improvement from declines in the first six months of 2016, compared to the same prior-year periods. The improvement in shipments per DSY hour for third quarter 2016, compared to third quarter 2015, was influenced by higher utilization of purchased transportation as further discussed below in the explanation of changes in rents and purchased transportation within this ABF Freight Operating Expenses section. Pounds per DSY hour decreased 3.9% and 4.3%, respectively, reflecting reduced efficiency primarily in street operations as ABF Freight strives to maintain customer service during a period of lower tonnage. In the softer freight environment, spot truckload capacity has been more available in the market compared to the prior year, which has provided alternative carriers for some of our customers' large-sized shipments, resulting in lower weight per shipment for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, which also contributed to lower pounds per DSY hour.

Fuel, supplies, and expenses as a percentage of revenue decreased 1.1 and 1.5 percentage points for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, compared to the same prior-year periods, primarily due to a decrease in ABF Freight's average fuel price per gallon (excluding taxes) of approximately 11% and 25%, respectively. The decrease in fuel, supplies, and expenses was also impacted by fewer road miles driven during the 2016 periods, improved fuel efficiency, and lower maintenance costs reflecting tractor replacement during recent periods.

Depreciation and amortization as a percentage of revenue increased 0.4 and 0.5 percentage points for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, compared to the same prior-year periods due primarily to the timing of replacing road tractors and trailers and higher per unit costs. The 2016 capital expenditure plan reflects continuation of the accelerated replacement of revenue equipment and alignment with our long-term strategy to advance operational efficiencies. We expect that new equipment added in 2015 and 2016 will increase the dependability and consistency of service, improve fuel economy, and lower maintenance costs.

Rents and purchased transportation as a percentage of revenue increased 0.4 percentage points during third quarter 2016 and decreased 0.2 percentage points for the nine-month period ended September 30, 2016, compared to the same prior-year periods. The increase for third quarter 2016 was primarily related to higher utilization of local purchased transportation agents and an increase in rail miles of approximately 5%, partially offset by lower fuel surcharges associated with these purchased transportation services, compared to the same period of 2015. For the nine months ended September 30, 2016, the decrease in rents and purchased transportation was primarily attributable to lower fuel surcharges associated with rail and other purchased transportation services.

Asset-Light Logistics Reportable Operating Segments

The operations of the Company's asset-light logistics reportable operating segments are affected by general economic conditions, as well as a number of other competitive factors that are more fully described in the Business and Risk Factors sections of the Company's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K. The key indicators necessary to understand the operating results of these reportable operating segments are primarily customer demand for logistics and premium transportation services combined with economic factors which influence the number of shipments or events used to measure changes in business levels, as well as the management of operating costs. See descriptions of the asset-light logistics operating segments in Note J to our consolidated financial statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

We continue to focus on strategic investments in the development of our asset-light logistics operating segments, including the acquisition of Logistics & Distribution Services, LLC ("LDS") by ABF Logistics on September 2, 2016, and the integration of Smart Lines Transportation Group, LLC ("Smart Lines") and Bear Transportation Services, L.P. ("Bear"), which were acquired by ABF Logistics in January 2015 and December 2015, respectively. Our enterprise solutions group, which is a key component of our strategy to offer customers a single source of end-to-end logistics solutions, continues providing solutions designed to satisfy the daily complex supply chain and unique shipping requirements encountered by our customers. The investments we are making to grow our asset-light logistics businesses are part of management's long-term strategy to ensure we are well equipped to serve our customers within the changing marketplace by providing a comprehensive suite of transportation and logistics services.

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, the combined revenues of our asset-light logistics operating segments totaled \$217.9 million and \$617.8 million, respectively, accounting for approximately 30% of total revenues before other revenues and intercompany eliminations, compared to combined revenues of \$211.1 million and \$599.8 million, or approximately 29% of total revenues before other revenues and intercompany eliminations, for the same respective periods of 2015. Revenue growth at our asset-light logistics businesses was the result of truckload brokerage acquisitions made since third quarter 2015 and, for third quarter 2016, stronger market demand at Panther.

Premium Logistics (Panther)

Panther's revenues totaled \$75.4 million and \$211.1 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, compared to \$73.6 million and \$229.1 million for the same prior-year periods. Panther's 2.4% third quarter 2016 revenue improvement primarily reflects increased loads from customer demand for Panther's service, despite the available truckload capacity in the market. Revenue per load also improved during third quarter 2016, compared to the same period of 2015, due to changes in account mix. Panther's 7.9% revenue decline for the nine months ended September 30, 2016, compared to the same prior-year period, reflects lower revenue per shipment, primarily due to increased truckload capacity in the spot market and changes in account mix which resulted in smaller sized-shipments and a shorter average length of haul, partially offset by an increase in shipment levels versus the same period of 2015.

Panther generated operating income of \$4.0 million and \$5.3 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, compared to \$2.7 million and \$8.8 million for the respective prior-year periods. The increase in operating income for third quarter 2016 primarily reflects higher revenue levels and improved gross profit margins due to favorable changes in account mix. The operating income decline for the nine months ended September 30, 2016, compared to the same period of 2015, primarily reflects lower revenue levels and lower gross profit margins resulting from the impact of available market capacity on shipment pricing in the first six months of 2016. The decrease in operating income for the nine months ended September 30, 2016 was also impacted by costs to manage increased shipments.

Transportation Management (ABF Logistics)

ABF Logistics reported revenues of \$72.4 million and \$207.3 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, compared to \$49.3 million and \$147.1 million for the same prior-year periods. The 47.0% and 41.0% increases in revenues during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, primarily reflect revenues contributed by Bear, which was acquired in December 2015, and one month of revenues from LDS, which was acquired in September 2016. Continued expansion of the segment's customer base led to growth in organic brokerage shipment levels in the three and nine month periods ended September 30, 2016, over the same periods of 2015. However, organic revenues did not increase in proportion to the growth in shipment levels, due to the impact on revenue per shipment of lower fuel prices and the effect of excess capacity in the spot truckload market.

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, operating income totaled \$0.4 million and \$1.6 million, respectively, compared to \$1.8 million and \$4.4 million for the same prior-year periods. Third quarter 2016 margins on ocean shipments were adversely affected by carrier rate increases as a result of market capacity disruptions. During the three and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2016, operating income was also impacted by higher operating costs related to resources being utilized to manage organic shipment growth; lower gross margins on overall brokerage business; and higher costs associated with the acquired operations of Bear, including systems integration, training, and alignment of positions that negatively impacted productivity. Integration efforts continue towards improving productivity and profitability.

Emergency & Preventative Maintenance (FleetNet)

FleetNet's revenues totaled \$39.1 million and \$124.4 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, compared to \$45.2 million and \$129.7 million for the same prior-year periods. The 13.5% and 4.1% decreases in revenues for the three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2016, respectively, were primarily due to lower event activity in both roadside services and preventative maintenance.

FleetNet's operating income declined to \$0.1 million and \$1.7 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, from \$1.0 million and \$3.1 million in the same prior-year periods. The year-over-year declines in operating income for the 2016 periods were impacted by labor inefficiencies resulting from the effects of reduced events and certain adjustments to improve customer service levels.

Household Goods Moving Services (ABF Moving)

ABF Moving revenues totaled \$31.0 million and \$74.9 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, compared to \$43.1 million and \$93.9 million in the same prior-year periods. The 27.9% and 20.2% revenue declines during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, were primarily due to a decreased number of government shipments. A decline in consumer and corporate shipments also contributed to the revenue decline for third quarter 2016.

ABF Moving's operating income declined to \$2.0 million and \$2.1 million for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, from \$3.0 million and \$4.7 million in the same periods of 2015, primarily due to lower revenues from government business while maintaining customer service levels.

Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization (“EBITDA”)

We report our financial results in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”). However, management believes that certain non-GAAP performance measures and ratios, such as EBITDA, utilized for internal analysis provide analysts, investors, and others the same information that we use internally for purposes of assessing our core operating performance and provides meaningful comparisons between current and prior period results, as well as important information regarding performance trends. Accordingly, using these measures improves comparability in analyzing our performance because it removes the impact of items from operating results that, in management's opinion, do not reflect our core operating performance. Management uses EBITDA as a key measure of performance and for business planning. The measure is particularly meaningful for analysis, because it excludes amortization of acquired intangibles and software of the asset-light logistics businesses, which are significant expenses resulting from strategic decisions rather than core daily operations. Management also believes EBITDA to be relevant and useful information, as EBITDA is a standard measure commonly reported and widely used by analysts, investors, and others to measure financial performance of asset-light logistics businesses and the ability to service debt obligations. Other companies may calculate EBITDA differently; therefore, our calculation of EBITDA may not be comparable to similarly titled measures of other companies. Non-GAAP financial measures should be viewed in addition to, and not as an alternative for, our reported results. EBITDA should not be construed as a better measurement than operating income, operating cash flow, net income, or earnings per share, as determined under GAAP.

| | Three Months Ended September 30 | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2016 | | | 2015 | | |
| | Operating Income ⁽¹⁾ | Depreciation and Amortization | EBITDA | Operating Income ⁽¹⁾ | Depreciation and Amortization | EBITDA |
| | (in thousands) | | | | | |
| Premium Logistics (Panther) | \$ 3,973 | \$ 2,860 | \$ 6,833 | \$ 2,733 | \$ 2,773 | \$ 5,506 |
| Transportation Management (ABF Logistics) | 410 | 633 | 1,043 | 1,792 | 259 | 2,051 |
| Emergency & Preventative Maintenance (FleetNet) | 121 | 312 | 433 | 956 | 279 | 1,235 |
| Household Goods Moving Services (ABF Moving) | 1,986 | 186 | 2,172 | 3,028 | 287 | 3,315 |
| Total asset-light logistics operating segments | \$ 6,490 | \$ 3,991 | \$ 10,481 | \$ 8,509 | \$ 3,598 | \$ 12,107 |

| | Nine Months Ended September 30 | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2016 | | | 2015 | | |
| | Operating Income ⁽¹⁾ | Depreciation and Amortization | EBITDA | Operating Income ⁽¹⁾ | Depreciation and Amortization | EBITDA |
| | (in thousands) | | | | | |
| Premium Logistics (Panther) | \$ 5,331 | \$ 8,565 | \$ 13,896 | \$ 8,767 | \$ 8,636 | \$ 17,403 |
| Transportation Management (ABF Logistics) | 1,572 | 1,467 | 3,039 | 4,375 | 789 | 5,164 |
| Emergency & Preventative Maintenance (FleetNet) | 1,701 | 900 | 2,601 | 3,143 | 838 | 3,981 |
| Household Goods Moving Services (ABF Moving) | 2,107 | 569 | 2,676 | 4,663 | 975 | 5,638 |
| Total asset-light logistics operating segments | \$ 10,711 | \$ 11,501 | \$ 22,212 | \$ 20,948 | \$ 11,238 | \$ 32,186 |

⁽¹⁾ The calculation of EBITDA as presented in this table begins with operating income, as other income (costs), income taxes, and net income are reported at the consolidated level and not included in the operating segment financial information evaluated by management to make operating decisions. Consolidated Adjusted EBITDA is reconciled to consolidated net income in the Consolidated Results section of Results of Operations.

Seasonality

Our operations are impacted by seasonal fluctuations which affect tonnage, shipment levels, and demand for our services and, consequently, revenues and operating results. Freight shipments and operating costs of the ABF Freight and ABF Logistics segments can be adversely affected by inclement weather conditions. The second and third calendar quarters of each year usually have the highest tonnage levels, while the first quarter generally has the lowest, although other factors, including the state of the U.S. and global economies, may influence quarterly freight tonnage levels. Seasonal fluctuations are less apparent in the operating results of ABF Logistics than in the industry as a whole because of business growth in the segment, including acquisitions.

Expedited shipments of the Panther segment may decline during winter months because of post-holiday slowdowns but can be subject to short-term increases depending on the impact of weather disruptions to customers' supply chains. Plant shutdowns during summer months may affect shipments for Panther's automotive and manufacturing customers, but severe weather events can result in higher demand for expedited services.

Emergency roadside service events of the FleetNet segment are favorably impacted by severe weather conditions that disrupt commercial vehicle operations, and the segment's results of operations will be influenced by seasonal variations in service event volume.

Business levels of the ABF Moving segment are generally higher in the second and third quarters as the demand for moving services is typically stronger in the summer months.

Effects of Inflation

Generally, inflationary increases in labor and fuel costs as they relate to ABF Freight's operations have historically been mostly offset through price increases and fuel surcharges. In periods of increasing fuel prices, the effect of higher associated fuel surcharges on the overall price to the customer influences ABF Freight's ability to obtain increases in base freight rates. In addition, certain nonstandard arrangements with some of ABF Freight's customers have limited the amount of fuel surcharge recovered. The timing and extent of base price increases on ABF Freight's revenues may not correspond with contractual increases in wage rates and other inflationary increases in cost elements and, as a result, could adversely impact our operating results.

In addition, partly as a result of inflationary pressures, ABF Freight's revenue equipment (tractors and trailers) has been, and will very likely continue to be, replaced at higher per unit costs, which could result in higher depreciation charges on a per-unit basis; however, in recent periods, improved mileage and lower maintenance costs on newer equipment have partially offset increases in depreciation expense. ABF Freight considers these costs in setting its pricing policies, although the overall freight rate structure is governed by market forces based on value provided to the customer. ABF Freight's ability to fully offset inflationary and contractual cost increases can be challenging during periods of recessionary and uncertain economic conditions.

Generally, inflationary increases in labor and operating costs for our asset-light logistics operating segments have historically been offset through price increases. The pricing environment, however, generally becomes more competitive during economic downturns, which may, as it has in the past, affect the ability to obtain price increases from customers.

In addition to general effects of inflation, the motor carrier freight transportation industry faces rising costs related to compliance with government regulations on safety, equipment design and maintenance, driver utilization, emissions, and fuel economy.

Current Economic Conditions

Given the economic conditions of recent years and the uncertainties regarding the potential impact on our business, there can be no assurance that our estimates and assumptions regarding the pricing environment and economic conditions, primarily for the ABF Freight and Panther operating segments, which are made for purposes of impairment tests related to operating assets and deferred tax assets, will prove to be accurate. Panther and ABF Logistics are evaluated as a separate reporting units for the impairment assessment of goodwill and intangible assets. If our assumptions regarding forecasted cash flows and revenue and operating income growth rates are revised, it is possible that a goodwill impairment test may result in a material non-cash write-off of a significant portion of Panther's goodwill and intangible assets or of goodwill attributable to ABF Logistics, which would have an adverse effect on our financial condition and operating results.

Environmental and Legal Matters

We are subject to federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations relating to, among other things: emissions control, transportation or handling of hazardous materials, underground and aboveground storage tanks, stormwater pollution prevention, contingency planning for spills of petroleum products, and disposal of waste oil. We may transport

or arrange for the transportation of hazardous materials and explosives, and we operate in industrial areas where truck terminals and other industrial activities are located and where groundwater or other forms of environmental contamination could occur. See Note K to our consolidated financial statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for further discussion of the environmental matters to which we are subject and the reserves we currently have recorded in our consolidated financial statements for amounts related to such matters.

We are involved in various legal actions, the majority of which arise in the ordinary course of business. We maintain liability insurance against certain risks arising out of the normal course of our business, subject to certain self-insured retention limits. We routinely establish and review the adequacy of reserves for estimated legal, environmental, and self-insurance exposures. While management believes that amounts accrued in the consolidated financial statements are adequate, estimates of these liabilities may change as circumstances develop. Considering amounts recorded, routine legal matters are not expected to have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

Information Technology and Cybersecurity

We depend on the proper functioning and availability of our information systems, including communications and data processing systems, and proprietary software programs, that are integral to the efficient operation of our business. Cybersecurity attacks and cyber incidents that impact the availability, reliability, speed, accuracy, or other proper functioning of these systems or that result in confidential data being compromised could have a significant impact on our operations. We utilize certain software applications provided by third parties, or provide underlying data which is utilized by third parties who provide certain outsourced administrative functions, either of which may increase the risk of a cybersecurity incident. Our information systems are protected through physical and software safeguards as well as backup systems considered appropriate by management. However, it is not practicable to protect against the possibility of power loss, telecommunications failures, cybersecurity attacks, and other cyber events in every potential circumstance that may arise. To mitigate the potential for such occurrences at our corporate headquarters, we have implemented various systems, including redundant telecommunication facilities; replication of critical data to an offsite location; a fire suppression system to protect our on-site data center; and electrical power protection and generation facilities. We also have a catastrophic disaster recovery plan and alternate processing capability available for our critical data processes in the event of a catastrophe that renders our corporate headquarters unusable.

Our business interruption and cyber insurance would offset losses up to certain coverage limits in the event of a catastrophe or certain cyber incidents; however, losses arising from a catastrophe or significant cyber incident would likely exceed our insurance coverage and could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations and financial condition. Furthermore, a significant cyber incident, including denial of service, system failure, security breach, intentional or inadvertent acts by employees, disruption by malware, or other damage, could interrupt or delay our operations, damage our reputation, cause a loss of customers, cause errors or delays in financial reporting, expose us to a risk of loss or litigation, and/or cause us to incur significant time and expense to remedy such event. We have experienced incidents involving attempted denial of service attacks, malware attacks, and other events intended to disrupt information systems, wrongfully obtain valuable information, or cause other types of malicious events that could have resulted in harm to our business. To date, the systems employed have been effective in identifying these types of events at a point when the impact on our business could be minimized. We have made and continue to make significant financial investments in technologies and processes to mitigate these risks. Management is not aware of any cybersecurity incident that has had a material effect on our operations, although there can be no assurances that a cyber incident that could have a material impact to our operations could not occur.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our primary sources of liquidity are unrestricted cash, cash equivalents, and short-term investments, cash generated by operations, and borrowing capacity under our revolving credit facility or accounts receivable securitization program.

Cash Flow and Short-Term Investments

Components of cash and cash equivalents, short-term investments, and restricted cash were as follows:

| | September 30 | December 31 |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|
| | 2016 | 2015 |
| | (in thousands) | |
| Cash and cash equivalents ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 130,395 | \$ 164,973 |
| Short-term investments, primarily FDIC-insured certificates of deposit | 59,346 | 61,597 |
| Total unrestricted | 189,741 | 226,570 |
| Restricted cash ⁽²⁾ | 962 | 1,384 |
| Total ⁽³⁾ | \$ 190,703 | \$ 227,954 |

(1) Cash equivalents consist of money market funds and variable rate demand notes.

(2) Restricted cash represents cash deposits pledged as collateral for outstanding letters of credit in support of workers' compensation and third-party casualty claims liabilities (see the Financing Arrangements in this section of MD&A).

(3) Cash, variable rate demand notes, and certificates of deposit are recorded at cost plus accrued interest, which approximates fair value. Money market funds are recorded at fair value based on quoted prices. Cash and cash equivalents totaling \$39.0 million and \$69.9 million were not FDIC insured at September 30, 2016 and December 31, 2015, respectively.

Unrestricted cash, cash equivalents, and short-term investments decreased \$36.8 million from December 31, 2015 to September 30, 2016. During the nine-month period ended September 30, 2016, cash provided by operations of \$87.9 million and cash on hand was used to fund \$38.5 million of capital expenditures net of proceeds from asset sales (and an additional \$61.7 million of certain ABF Freight revenue equipment purchases were financed with notes payable); repay \$36.6 million of notes payable; fund the acquisition of LDS with net cash consideration of \$25.0 million, of which \$8.0 million is held in escrow relating to the contingent consideration to be paid over the next two years upon the achievement of certain financial targets; purchase \$7.6 million of treasury stock; pay dividends of \$6.2 million on common stock; and pay \$3.8 million of book overdrafts (representing checks issued that are later funded when cleared through banks).

Cash provided by operating activities during the nine months ended September 30, 2016 was \$31.6 million below the same prior-year period, primarily due to lower operating results. A contribution of \$13.4 million was made to the nonunion defined benefit pension plan during the nine months ended September 30, 2016, compared to a contribution of less than \$0.1 million in the same period of 2015. Cash provided by operating activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2016 included refunds of federal and state income taxes of \$8.3 million, net of income tax payments, compared to federal, state, and foreign income tax payments of \$17.2 million, net of income tax refunds, for the same period of 2015.

Unrestricted cash, cash equivalents, and short-term investments increased \$58.3 million from December 31, 2014 to September 30, 2015. The increase in unrestricted funds includes \$35.0 million borrowed under the accounts receivable securitization program (further described in the following Financing Arrangements section). During the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015, cash provided by operations of \$119.6 million was used to fund \$49.5 million of capital expenditures net of proceeds from asset sales (and an additional \$51.0 million of certain ABF Freight revenue equipment purchases were financed with notes payable); repay \$22.1 million of notes payable and capital leases; purchase \$10.0 million of treasury stock; fund the acquisition of Smart Lines for net cash consideration of \$5.2 million; and pay dividends of \$4.7 million on common stock.

Financing Arrangements

Our financing arrangements are discussed further in Note E to our consolidated financial statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

Credit Facility

Under our amended and restated credit agreement (the “Amended and Restated Credit Agreement”), we have a revolving credit facility (the “Credit Facility”) which had an initial maximum credit amount of \$150.0 million, including a swing line facility and a letter of credit sub-facility providing for the issuance of letters of credit up to an aggregate amount of \$20.0 million. The Credit Facility allows us to request additional revolving commitments or incremental term loans thereunder up to an aggregate additional amount of \$75.0 million, subject to certain additional conditions as provided in the Amended and Restated Credit Agreement. Principal payments under the Credit Facility are due upon maturity of the facility on January 2, 2020; however, borrowings may be repaid at our discretion in whole or in part at any time, without penalty, subject to required notice periods and compliance with minimum prepayment amounts.

Interest Rate Swap

We have a five-year forward-starting interest rate swap agreement with a \$50.0 million notional amount maturing on January 2, 2020. Under the interest rate swap agreement, we receive floating-rate interest amounts based on one-month LIBOR in exchange for fixed-rate interest payments of 1.85% over the life of the agreement. The interest rate swap mitigates interest rate risk by effectively converting \$50.0 million of borrowings under our Credit Facility from variable-rate interest to fixed-rate interest with a per annum rate of 3.10% based on the margin of the Credit Facility as of September 30, 2016. The fair value of the interest rate swap liability of \$1.6 million and \$0.9 million was recorded in other long-term liabilities in the consolidated balance sheet at September 30, 2016 and December 31, 2015, respectively.

Accounts Receivable Securitization Program

Our accounts receivable securitization program, which extends until January 2, 2018, provides cash proceeds of \$100.0 million and has an accordion feature allowing us to request additional borrowings up to \$25.0 million, subject to certain conditions. Under this program, certain of our subsidiaries continuously sell a designated pool of trade accounts receivables to a wholly owned subsidiary which, in turn, may borrow funds on a revolving basis. During 2015, we borrowed \$35.0 million under the accounts receivable securitization program to provide additional funds for investing in our subsidiaries’ capital needs and to maintain flexibility for our growth initiatives.

The accounts receivable securitization program includes a provision under which we may request and the letter of credit issuer may issue standby letters of credit, primarily in support of workers’ compensation and third-party casualty claims liabilities in various states in which we are self-insured. The outstanding standby letters of credit reduce the availability of borrowings under the program. As of September 30, 2016, we have available borrowing capacity of \$46.7 million under the accounts receivable securitization program.

Our Credit Facility and accounts receivable securitization program provide available sources of liquidity with flexible borrowing and payment options under extended maturity dates. We believe these agreements provide borrowing capacity options necessary for growth of our businesses.

Letter of Credit Agreements and Surety Bond Programs

As of September 30, 2016, we had letters of credit outstanding of \$19.8 million (including \$18.3 million issued under the accounts receivable securitization program), of which \$1.0 million were collateralized by restricted cash. We have programs in place with multiple surety companies for the issuance of surety bonds in support of our self-insurance program. As of September 30, 2016, surety bonds outstanding related to our self-insurance program totaled \$56.3 million.

Notes Payable and Capital Leases

ABF Freight has financed the purchase of certain revenue equipment through promissory note arrangements, including \$25.9 million and \$61.7 million of revenue equipment during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively. ABF Logistics acquired assets held under capital lease arrangements for certain revenue equipment and other equipment totaling less than \$0.1 million. The Company did not enter into any other capital lease agreements during the nine months ended September 30, 2016.

As of November 1, 2016, ABF Freight financed the purchase of an additional \$3.0 million of revenue equipment through promissory note arrangements. We intend to utilize promissory note arrangements and will consider utilizing capital lease agreements to finance future purchases of certain revenue equipment, provided such financing is available and the terms are acceptable to us.

Contractual Obligations

We have purchase obligations, consisting of authorizations to purchase and binding agreements with vendors, relating to revenue equipment used in ABF Freight's operations, other equipment, certain construction costs associated with our new office and call center facility, software, certain service contracts, and other items for which amounts were not accrued in the consolidated balance sheet as of September 30, 2016. These purchase obligations totaled \$83.2 million as of September 30, 2016, with \$73.4 million estimated to be paid within the next year, \$9.4 million estimated to be paid in the following two-year period, and \$0.4 million to be paid within five years, provided that vendors complete their commitments to us. Purchase obligations for revenue equipment, other equipment, and costs associated with our new office and call center facility are included in our 2016 capital expenditure plan.

Our contractual obligations related to our notes payable, which provide financing for revenue equipment purchases, totaled \$135.7 million, including interest, as of September 30, 2016, an increase of \$26.3 million from December 31, 2015. The scheduled maturities of our long-term debt obligations as of September 30, 2016, including our contractual obligation to repay the \$35.0 million borrowed on our accounts receivable securitization program in January 2018, are disclosed in Note E to our consolidated financial statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. We also have a contractual obligation for the fixed-rate interest payments on our interest rate swap agreement which are estimated to exceed the variable-rate interest payments under our Credit Facility by \$1.6 million as of September 30, 2016.

There have been no other material changes in the contractual obligations disclosed in our 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K during the nine months ended September 30, 2016.

For 2016, our total net capital expenditures are estimated to range from \$140.0 million to \$150.0 million. The 2016 estimated net capital expenditures include revenue equipment purchases of \$95.0 million, primarily related to road tractors and trailers for ABF Freight's road and city operations to replace both existing equipment and local rentals. Expected real estate expenditures totaling approximately \$35.0 million are included in the estimate for our previously disclosed growth initiatives, including construction of a new office and call center facility in Fort Smith, Arkansas, a portion of which will replace leased space. The remainder of 2016 expected capital expenditures includes costs of other facility and handling equipment at ABF Freight and technology investments across our businesses. We have the flexibility to adjust planned 2016 capital expenditures as business levels dictate. Depreciation and amortization expense is estimated to be in a range of \$100.0 million to \$105.0 million in 2016.

Based upon current actuarial information, we do not have a minimum cash contribution requirement to our nonunion defined benefit pension plan for 2016; however, we made a voluntary contribution of \$13.4 million to the plan during the second quarter of 2016 (see Note F to our consolidated financial statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q).

ABF Freight contributes to multiemployer health, welfare, and pension plans based generally on the time worked by its contractual employees, as specified in the collective bargaining agreement and other supporting supplemental agreements (see Note F to the Company's consolidated financial statements included in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q).

Other Liquidity Information

Cash, cash equivalents, and short-term investments, including amounts restricted, totaled \$190.7 million at September 30, 2016. General economic conditions, along with competitive market factors and the related impact on our business, primarily the tonnage and pricing levels that ABF Freight receives for its services, could affect our ability to generate cash from operations and maintain cash, cash equivalents, and short-term investments on hand as operating costs increase.

Our Credit Facility and accounts receivable securitization program provide available sources of liquidity with flexible borrowing and payment options under extended maturity dates. We believe these agreements will continue to provide borrowing capacity options necessary for growth of our businesses. We believe existing cash, cash equivalents, short-term investments, cash generated by operations, and amounts available under our Amended and Restated Credit Agreement or accounts receivable securitization program will be sufficient to meet our liquidity needs, including financing potential acquisitions and the repayment of amounts due under our financing arrangements, for the foreseeable future. Notes payable, capital leases, and other secured financing may also be used to fund capital expenditures, provided that such arrangements are available and the terms are acceptable to us.

We expect to continue to pay quarterly dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future, although there can be no assurances in this regard since future dividends will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors and are dependent upon our future earnings, capital requirements, and financial condition; contractual restrictions applying to the payment of dividends under our Amended and Restated Credit Agreement; and other factors. On November 1, 2016, the Company's Board of Directors declared a dividend of \$0.08 per share to stockholders of record as of November 15, 2016, payable on November 29, 2016.

We have a program in place to repurchase our common stock in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The program has no expiration date but may be terminated at any time at the Board of Directors' discretion. Repurchases may be made using cash reserves or other available sources. During the nine months ended September 30, 2016, we used cash on hand to purchase 419,692 shares of our common stock for an aggregate cost of \$7.6 million, leaving \$39.6 million available for repurchase under the current buyback program.

Financial Instruments

We have not historically entered into financial instruments for trading purposes, nor have we historically engaged in a program for fuel price hedging. No such instruments were outstanding as of September 30, 2016. We have an interest rate swap agreement in place which is discussed in the Financing Arrangements section of Liquidity and Capital Resources.

Balance Sheet Changes

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable increased \$20.2 million from December 31, 2015 to September 30, 2016, primarily due to higher business levels in September 2016 compared to December 2015.

Accounts Payable

Accounts payable increased \$19.1 million from December 31, 2015 to September 30, 2016, primarily due to accruals for revenue equipment received by ABF Freight and increased business levels in September 2016 compared to December 2015.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

At September 30, 2016, our off-balance sheet arrangements of \$151.2 million included purchase obligations, as previously discussed in the Contractual Obligations section of Liquidity and Capital Resources, and future minimum rental commitments, net of noncancelable subleases, under operating lease agreements primarily for ABF Freight's terminal facilities. We have no investments, loans, or any other known contractual arrangements with unconsolidated special-purpose entities, variable interest entities, or financial partnerships and have no outstanding loans with executive officers or directors.

Income Taxes

Our effective tax rate was 37.0% and 37.2% for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, compared to an effective tax rate of 40.2% and 39.5%, respectively, for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015. Our U.S. statutory tax rate is 35% and the average state tax rate, net of the associated federal deduction, is approximately 3%. However, various factors may cause the full year 2016 tax rate to vary significantly from the statutory rate.

The difference between our effective tax rate and the federal statutory rate for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2016, primarily results from state income taxes, nondeductible expenses, and changes in the cash surrender value of life insurance. The three- and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2016 were also impacted by the alternative fuel tax credit.

At September 30, 2016, we had net deferred tax liabilities after valuation allowances of \$53.5 million. Valuation allowances for deferred tax assets totaled \$0.4 million at September 30, 2016 and \$0.3 million at December 31, 2015. We evaluated the need for a valuation allowance for deferred tax assets at September 30, 2016 by considering the future reversal of existing taxable temporary differences, future taxable income, taxable income in carryback years, and available tax planning strategies. As of September 30, 2016, deferred tax liabilities which will reverse in future years exceeded deferred tax assets.

Financial reporting income differs significantly from taxable income because of such items as accelerated depreciation for tax purposes, pension accounting rules, and a significant number of liabilities such as vacation pay, workers' compensation, and other liabilities, which, for tax purposes, are generally deductible only when paid. For the nine months ended September 30, 2016, we had financial reporting income compared to a loss determined under income tax law. For the nine months ended September 30, 2015, the income determined under income tax law exceeded financial reporting income.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2016, we made \$2.5 million of state and foreign tax payments, and received refunds of \$10.8 million of federal and state income taxes that were paid in prior years. Management does not expect the cash outlays for income taxes will materially exceed reported income tax expense for the foreseeable future.

Critical Accounting Policies

The accounting policies that are "critical," or the most important, to understand our financial condition and results of operations and that require management to make the most difficult judgments are described in our 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K. There have been no material changes in our critical accounting policies during the nine months ended September 30, 2016. New accounting rules and disclosure requirements can significantly impact our reported results and the comparability of financial statements. Accounting pronouncements which have been issued but are not yet effective for our financial statements are disclosed in Note A to our consolidated financial statements in Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

The Financial Accounting Standards Board (the "FASB") issued an accounting pronouncement related to revenue recognition (ASC Topic 606), which amends the guidance in former ASC Topic 605, *Revenue Recognition*. The new standard provides a single comprehensive revenue recognition model for all contracts with customers and contains principles to apply to determine the measurement of revenue and timing of when it is recognized. The standard is effective for us on January 1, 2018. We are evaluating the impact of the new standard on our consolidated financial statements.

The FASB issued ASC Topic 842, *Leases*, which will be effective for us on January 1, 2019. The updated accounting guidance will require leases with a term greater than twelve months to be reflected as liabilities with associated right-of-use assets in our consolidated balance sheet. We are evaluating the impact of the new standard on our consolidated financial statements.

Management believes that there is no other new accounting guidance issued but not yet effective that will impact our critical accounting policies. However, there are new proposals under development by the standard setting bodies which, if and when enacted, may have a significant impact on our financial statements, including changes in disclosure requirements for defined benefit plans.

Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements and information in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q may constitute “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Terms such as “anticipate,” “believe,” “could,” “estimate,” “expect,” “forecast,” “foresee,” “intend,” “may,” “plan,” “predict,” “project,” “scheduled,” “should,” “would” and similar expressions and the negatives of such terms are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based on management’s beliefs, assumptions, and expectations based on currently available information, are not guarantees of future performance, and involve certain risks and uncertainties (some of which are beyond our control). Although we believe that the expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable as and when made, we cannot provide assurance that our expectations will prove to be correct. Actual outcomes and results could materially differ from what is expressed, implied, or forecasted in these statements due to a number of factors, including, but not limited to: a failure of our information systems, including disruptions or failures of services essential to our operations or upon which our information technology platforms rely, data breach, and/or cybersecurity incidents; union and nonunion employee wages and benefits, including changes in required contributions to multiemployer plans; competitive initiatives and pricing pressures; governmental regulations; environmental laws and regulations, including emissions-control regulations; the cost, integration, and performance of any future acquisitions; relationships with employees, including unions, and our ability to attract and retain employees and/or independent owner operators; unfavorable terms of, or the inability to reach agreement on, future collective bargaining agreements or a workforce stoppage by our employees covered under ABF Freight’s collective bargaining agreement; general economic conditions and related shifts in market demand that impact the performance and needs of industries we serve and/or limit our customers’ access to adequate financial resources; potential impairment of goodwill and intangible assets; availability and cost of reliable third-party services; litigation or claims asserted against us; self-insurance claims and insurance premium costs; availability of fuel, the effect of volatility in fuel prices and the associated changes in fuel surcharges on securing increases in base freight rates, and the inability to collect fuel surcharges; increased prices for and decreased availability of new revenue equipment, decreases in value of used revenue equipment, and higher costs of equipment-related operating expenses such as maintenance and fuel and related taxes; the loss of key employees or the inability to execute succession planning strategies; the impact of our brands and corporate reputation; the cost, timing, and performance of growth initiatives; default on covenants of financing arrangements and the availability and terms of future financing arrangements; timing and amount of capital expenditures; seasonal fluctuations and adverse weather conditions; regulatory, economic, and other risks arising from our international business; and other financial, operational, and legal risks and uncertainties detailed from time to time in our Securities and Exchange Commission public filings.

For additional information regarding known material factors that could cause our actual results to differ from our projected results, refer to “Risk Factors” in Part I, Item 1A in our 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements after the date they are made, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION
ARCBEST CORPORATION**

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Since December 31, 2015, there have been no other significant changes in the Company's market risks as reported in the Company's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

As of the end of the period covered by this report, an evaluation was performed with the participation of the Company's management, including the Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures. Based on that evaluation, the Company's management, including the Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of September 30, 2016.

There were no changes in the Company's internal controls over financial reporting that occurred during the most recent fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal controls over financial reporting.

PART II.

OTHER INFORMATION ARCBEST CORPORATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

For information related to the Company's legal proceedings, see Note K, Legal Proceedings, Environmental Matters, and Other Events under Part I, Item 1 of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

The Company's risk factors are fully described in the Company's 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K. No material changes to the Company's risk factors have occurred since the Company filed its 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

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

(a) **Recent sales of unregistered securities.**

None.

(b) **Use of proceeds from registered securities.**

None.

(c) **Purchases of equity securities by the issuer and affiliated purchasers.**

The Company has a program to repurchase its common stock in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions. The program has no expiration date but may be terminated at any time at the Board of Directors' discretion. Repurchases may be made either from the Company's cash reserves or from other available sources. As of September 30, 2016 and December 31, 2015, treasury shares totaled 2,499,879 and 2,080,187, respectively. Under the repurchase program, the Company purchased 136,346 shares of its common stock during the three months ended September 30, 2016, leaving \$39.6 million available for repurchase.

| | <u>Total Number of Shares Purchased</u> | <u>Average Price Paid Per Share⁽¹⁾</u> | <u>Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Program</u> | <u>Maximum Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Program⁽²⁾</u> |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| | | (in thousands, except share and per share data) | | |
| 7/1/2016-7/30/2016 | — | \$ — | — | \$ 42,123 |
| 8/1/2016-8/31/2016 | 103,846 | 17.97 | 103,846 | \$ 40,257 |
| 9/1/2016-9/30/2016 | 32,500 | 18.84 | 32,500 | \$ 39,645 |
| Total | <u>136,346</u> | <u>\$ 18.18</u> | <u>136,346</u> | |

⁽¹⁾ Represents the weighted average price paid per common share including commission.

⁽²⁾ In January 2003, the Company's Board of Directors authorized a \$25.0 million common stock repurchase program. The Board of Directors authorized an additional \$50.0 million to the current program in July 2005. In October 2015, the Board of Directors extended the share repurchase program, making a total of \$50.0 million available for purchases.

ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

The following exhibits are filed or furnished with this report or are incorporated by reference to previously filed material:

**Exhibit
No.**

- 3.1 Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company (previously filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1 under the Securities Act of 1933 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") on March 17, 1992, Commission File No. 33-46483, and incorporated herein by reference).
- 3.2 Certificate of Designations of \$2.875 Series A Cumulative Convertible Exchangeable Preferred Stock of the Company (previously filed as Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, filed with the Commission on May 5, 2009, Commission File No. 000-19969, and incorporated herein by reference).
- 3.3 Certificate of Amendment to the Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company (previously filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on April 24, 2009, Commission File No. 000-19969, and incorporated herein by reference).
- 3.4 Fifth Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company dated as of October 31, 2016 (previously filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on November 4, 2016, Commission File No. 000-19969, and incorporated herein by reference).
- 3.5 Certificate of Ownership and Merger, effective May 1, 2014, as filed on April 29, 2014 with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware (previously filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the Commission on April 30, 2014, Commission File No. 000-19969, and incorporated herein by reference).
- 31.1* Certification of Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2* Certification of Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32** Certifications Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 101.INS* XBRL Instance Document
- 101.SCH* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
- 101.CAL* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
- 101.DEF* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
- 101.LAB* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Labels Linkbase Document
- 101.PRE* XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

* Filed herewith.

** Furnished herewith.

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 hereunto duly authorized.

ARCBEST CORPORATION

(Registrant)

Date: November 8, 2016

/s/ Judy R. McReynolds

Judy R. McReynolds

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
and Principal Executive Officer

Date: November 8, 2016

/s/ David R. Cobb

David R. Cobb

Vice President — Chief Financial Officer
and Principal Financial Officer