

KRONOS WORLDWIDE INC
Form 10-K
March 12, 2018

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

Annual Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934:
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017

Commission file number 1-31763

KRONOS WORLDWIDE, INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation or organization)

76-0294959
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

5430 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1700

Dallas, Texas 75240-2620

(Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (972) 233-1700

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

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common stock (\$.01 par value)	New York Stock Exchange

No securities are registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act.

Indicate by check mark:

If the Registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

If the Registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

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 and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Whether the Registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

If disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of Registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. Yes No

Whether the Registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, smaller reporting company or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

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

Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

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

Whether the Registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes No

The aggregate market value of the 22.6 million shares of voting stock held by nonaffiliates of Kronos Worldwide, Inc. as of June 30, 2017 (the last business day of the Registrant's most recently-completed second fiscal quarter) approximated \$410.9 million.

As of February 28, 2018, 115,902,098 shares of the Registrant's common stock were outstanding.

Documents incorporated by reference

The information required by Part III is incorporated by reference from the Registrant's definitive proxy statement to be filed with the Commission pursuant to Regulation 14A not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this report.

Forward-Looking Information

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended. Statements in this Annual Report that are not historical facts are forward-looking in nature and represent management's beliefs and assumptions based on currently available information. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by the use of words such as "believes," "intends," "may," "should," "could," "anticipates," "expects" or comparable terminology, or by discussions of strategies or trends. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, we do not know if these expectations will be correct. Such statements by their nature involve substantial risks and uncertainties that could significantly impact expected results. Actual future results could differ materially from those predicted. The factors that could cause actual future results to differ materially from those described herein are the risks and uncertainties discussed in this Annual Report and those described from time to time in our other filings with the SEC include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Future supply and demand for our products
- The extent of the dependence of certain of our businesses on certain market sectors
- The cyclicity of our business
- Customer and producer inventory levels
- Unexpected or earlier-than-expected industry capacity expansion
- Changes in raw material and other operating costs (such as energy and ore costs)
- Changes in the availability of raw materials (such as ore)
- General global economic and political conditions (such as changes in the level of gross domestic product in various regions of the world and the impact of such changes on demand for TiO₂)
- Competitive products and substitute products
- Customer and competitor strategies
- Potential consolidation of our competitors
- Potential consolidation of our customers
- The impact of pricing and production decisions
- Competitive technology positions
- Potential difficulties in upgrading or implementing new accounting and manufacturing software systems (such as our new enterprise resource planning system)
- The introduction of trade barriers
- Possible disruption of our business, or increases in our cost of doing business, resulting from terrorist activities or global conflicts
- Fluctuations in currency exchange rates (such as changes in the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and each of the euro, the Norwegian krone and the Canadian dollar), or possible disruptions to our business resulting from potential instability resulting from uncertainties associated with the euro or other currencies
- Operating interruptions (including, but not limited to, labor disputes, leaks, natural disasters, fires, explosions, unscheduled or unplanned downtime, transportation interruptions and cyber attacks)
- Our ability to renew or refinance credit facilities
- Our ability to maintain sufficient liquidity
- The ultimate outcome of income tax audits, tax settlement initiatives or other tax matters, including future tax reform

• Our ability to utilize income tax attributes, the benefits of which may or may not have been recognized under the more-likely-than-not recognition criteria

• Environmental matters (such as those requiring compliance with emission and discharge standards for existing and new facilities)

• Government laws and regulations and possible changes therein

• The ultimate resolution of pending litigation

• Possible future litigation.

Should one or more of these risks materialize (or the consequences of such a development worsen), or should the underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results could differ materially from those forecasted or expected. We disclaim any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements whether as a result of changes in information, future events or otherwise.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

General

Kronos Worldwide, Inc. (NYSE: KRO) (Kronos), a Delaware corporation, is a leading global producer and marketer of value-added titanium dioxide pigments, or TiO_2 , a base industrial product used in a wide range of applications. We, along with our distributors and agents, sell and provide technical services for our products to approximately 4,000 customers in 100 countries with the majority of sales in Europe, North America and Asia Pacific. We believe we have developed considerable expertise and efficiency in the manufacture, sale, shipment and service of our products in domestic and international markets.

TiO_2 is a white inorganic pigment used in a wide range of products for its exceptional durability and its ability to impart whiteness, brightness and opacity. TiO_2 is a critical component of everyday applications, such as coatings, plastics and paper, as well as many specialty products such as inks, food and cosmetics. TiO_2 is widely considered to be superior to alternative white pigments in large part due to its hiding power (or opacity), which is the ability to cover or mask other materials effectively and efficiently. TiO_2 is designed, marketed and sold based on specific end-use applications.

TiO_2 is the largest commercially used whitening pigment because it has a high refractive rating, giving it more hiding power than any other commercially produced white pigment. In addition, TiO_2 has excellent resistance to interaction with other chemicals, good thermal stability and resistance to ultraviolet degradation. Although there are other white pigments on the market, we believe there are no effective substitutes for TiO_2 because no other white pigment has the physical properties for achieving comparable opacity and brightness or can be incorporated in as cost-effective a manner. Pigment extenders such as kaolin clays, calcium carbonate and polymeric opacifiers are used together with TiO_2 in a number of end-use markets. However, these products are not able to duplicate the opacity performance characteristics of TiO_2 and we believe these products are unlikely to have a significant impact on the use of TiO_2 .

TiO_2 is considered a “quality-of-life” product. Demand for TiO_2 has generally been driven by worldwide gross domestic product and has generally increased with rising standards of living in various regions of the world. According to industry estimates, TiO_2 consumption has grown at a compound annual growth rate of approximately 3% since 1990. Per capita consumption of TiO_2 in Western Europe and North America far exceeds that in other areas of the world, and these regions are expected to continue to be the largest consumers of TiO_2 on a per capita basis. We believe that Western Europe and North America currently account for approximately 20% and 17% of global TiO_2 consumption, respectively. Markets for TiO_2 are generally increasing in South America, Eastern Europe, the Asia Pacific region and China and we believe these are significant markets where we expect continued growth as economies in these regions continue to develop and quality-of-life products, including TiO_2 , experience greater demand.

At December 31, 2017, approximately 50% of our common stock was owned by Valhi, Inc. (NYSE: VHI) and approximately 30% was owned by a wholly-owned subsidiary of NL Industries, Inc. (NYSE: NL). Valhi also owns approximately 83% of NL Industries’ outstanding common stock. A wholly-owned subsidiary of Contran Corporation held approximately 93% of Valhi’s outstanding common stock. As discussed in Note 1 to our Consolidated Financial Statements, Lisa K. Simmons and Serena Simmons Connelly may be deemed to control Contran, Valhi, NL and us.

Products and end-use markets

Including our predecessors, we have produced and marketed TiO₂ in North America and Europe, our primary markets, for over 100 years. We believe we are the largest producer of TiO₂ in Europe with approximately one-half of our sales volumes attributable to markets in Europe. The table below shows our market share for our significant markets, Europe and North America, for the last three years.

	2015	2016	2017
Europe	18%	17%	17%
North America	15%	16%	18%

We believe we are the leading seller of TiO₂ in several countries, including Germany, with an estimated 10% share of worldwide TiO₂ sales volume in 2017. Overall, we are one of the top six producers of TiO₂ in the world.

We offer our customers a broad portfolio of products that include over 40 different TiO₂ pigment grades under the KRONOS® trademark, which provide a variety of performance properties to meet customers' specific requirements. Our major customers include domestic and international paint, plastics, decorative laminate and paper manufacturers. We ship TiO₂ to our customers in either a powder or slurry form via rail, truck and/or ocean carrier. Sales of our core TiO₂ pigments represented approximately 94% of our net sales in 2017. We and our agents and distributors primarily sell our products in three major end-use markets: coatings, plastics and paper.

The following tables show our approximate TiO₂ sales volume by geographic region and end use for the year ended December 31, 2017:

Sales volumes percentages	Sales volumes percentages	
	by geographic region	by end-use
Europe	50%	Coatings 58%
North America	31%	Plastics 30%
Asia Pacific	9%	Paper 5%
Rest of World	10%	Other 7%

Some of the principal applications for our products include the following:

TiO₂ for coatings – Our TiO₂ is used to provide opacity, durability, tinting strength and brightness in industrial coatings, as well as coatings for commercial and residential interiors and exteriors, automobiles, aircraft, machines, appliances, traffic paint and other special purpose coatings. The amount of TiO₂ used in coatings varies widely depending on the opacity, color and quality desired. In general, the higher the opacity requirement of the coating, the greater the TiO₂ content.

TiO₂ for plastics – We produce TiO₂ pigments that improve the optical and physical properties in plastics, including whiteness and opacity. TiO₂ is used to provide opacity in items such as containers and packaging materials, and vinyl

products such as windows, door profiles and siding. TiO_2 also generally provides hiding power, neutral undertone, brightness and surface durability for housewares, appliances, toys, computer cases and food packages. TiO_2 's high brightness along with its opacity, is used in some engineering plastics to help mask their undesirable natural color. TiO_2 is also used in masterbatch, which is a concentrate of TiO_2 and other additives and is one of the largest uses for TiO_2 in the plastics end-use market. In masterbatch, the TiO_2 is dispersed at high concentrations into a plastic resin and is then used by manufacturers of plastic containers, bottles, packaging and agricultural films.

TiO_2 for paper – Our TiO_2 is used in the production of several types of paper, including laminate (decorative) paper, filled paper and coated paper to provide whiteness, brightness, opacity and color stability. Although we sell our TiO_2 to all segments of the paper end-use market, our primary focus is on the TiO_2 grades used in paper laminates, where several layers of paper are laminated together using melamine resin under high temperature and pressure. The top layer of paper contains TiO_2 and plastic resin and is the layer that is printed with

decorative patterns. Paper laminates are used to replace materials such as wood and tile for such applications as counter tops, furniture and wallboard. TiO_2 is beneficial in these applications because it assists in preventing the material from fading or changing color after prolonged exposure to sunlight and other weathering agents.

TiO_2 for other applications – We produce TiO_2 to improve the opacity and hiding power of printing inks. TiO_2 allows inks to achieve very high print quality while not interfering with the technical requirements of printing machinery, including low abrasion, high printing speed and high temperatures. Our TiO_2 is also used in textile applications where TiO_2 functions as an opacifying and delustering agent. In man-made fibers such as rayon and polyester, TiO_2 corrects an otherwise undesirable glossy and translucent appearance. Without the presence of TiO_2 , these materials would be unsuitable for use in many textile applications.

We produce high purity sulfate process anatase TiO_2 used to provide opacity, whiteness and brightness in a variety of cosmetic and personal care products, such as skin cream, lipstick, eye shadow and toothpaste. Our TiO_2 is also found in food products, such as candy and confectionaries, and in pet foods where it is used to obtain uniformity of color and appearance. In pharmaceuticals, our TiO_2 is used commonly as a colorant in tablet and capsule coatings as well as in liquid medicines to provide uniformity of color and appearance. KRONOS® purified anatase grades meet the applicable requirements of the CTFA (Cosmetics, Toiletries and Fragrances Association), USP and BP (United States Pharmacopoeia and British Pharmacopoeia) and the FDA (United States Food and Drug Administration).

Our TiO_2 business is enhanced by the following three complementary businesses, which comprised approximately 6% of our net sales in 2017:

- We own and operate two ilmenite mines in Norway pursuant to a governmental concession with an unlimited term. Ilmenite is a raw material used directly as a feedstock by some sulfate-process TiO_2 plants. We also sell ilmenite ore to third parties, some of whom are our competitors, and we sell an ilmenite-based specialty product to the oil and gas industry. The mines have estimated ilmenite reserves that are expected to last at least 50 years.
- We manufacture and sell iron-based chemicals, which are co-products and processed co-products of the sulfate and chloride process TiO_2 pigment production. These co-product chemicals are marketed through our Ecochem division and are primarily used as treatment and conditioning agents for industrial effluents and municipal wastewater as well as in the manufacture of iron pigments, cement and agricultural products.
- We manufacture and sell titanium oxychloride and titanyl sulfate, which are side-stream specialty products from the production of TiO_2 . Titanium oxychloride is used in specialty applications in the formulation of pearlescent pigments, production of electroceramic capacitors for cell phones and other electronic devices. Titanyl sulfate productions are used in pearlescent pigments, natural gas pipe and other specialty applications.

Manufacturing, operations and properties

We produce TiO_2 in two crystalline forms: rutile and anatase. Rutile TiO_2 is manufactured using both a chloride production process and a sulfate production process, whereas anatase TiO_2 is only produced using a sulfate production process. Manufacturers of many end-use applications can use either form, especially during periods of tight supply for TiO_2 . The chloride process is the preferred form for use in coatings and plastics, the two largest end-use markets. Due to environmental factors and customer considerations, the proportion of TiO_2 industry sales represented by chloride process pigments has increased relative to sulfate process pigments, and in 2017, chloride process production facilities represented approximately 50% of industry capacity. The sulfate process is preferred for use in selected paper products, ceramics, rubber tires, man-made fibers, food products, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. Once an intermediate TiO_2 pigment has been produced by either the chloride or sulfate process, it is “finished” into products with specific performance characteristics for particular end-use applications through proprietary processes involving various chemical surface treatments and intensive micronizing (milling).

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Chloride process – The chloride process is a continuous process in which chlorine is used to extract rutile TiO_2 . The chloride process produces less waste than the sulfate process because much of the

6

chlorine is recycled and feedstock bearing higher titanium content is used. The chloride process also has lower energy requirements and is less labor-intensive than the sulfate process, although the chloride process requires a higher-skilled labor force. The chloride process produces an intermediate base pigment with a wide range of properties.

Sulfate process – The sulfate process is a batch process in which sulfuric acid is used to extract the TiO₂ from ilmenite or titanium slag. After separation from the impurities in the ore (mainly iron), the TiO₂ is precipitated and calcined to form an intermediate base pigment ready for sale or can be upgraded through finishing treatments.

We produced 576,000 metric tons of TiO₂ in 2017, up from the 546,000 metric tons we produced in 2016. Our production volumes in 2017 set a new overall record for a full-year period. Our production amounts include our share of the output produced by our TiO₂ manufacturing joint venture discussed below in “TiO₂ Manufacturing Joint Venture.” Our average production capacity utilization rates were approximately 95% and 98% of capacity in 2015 and 2016, respectively, and at full practical capacity in 2017. Our production rate in the first quarter of 2015 was impacted by the implementation of certain productivity-enhancing improvement projects at facilities, as well as necessary improvements to ensure continued compliance with our permit regulations, which resulted in longer-than-normal maintenance shutdowns in some instances.

We operate facilities throughout North America and Europe, including the only sulfate process plant in North America and four TiO₂ plants in Europe (one in each of Leverkusen, Germany; Nordenham, Germany; Langerbrugge, Belgium; and Fredrikstad, Norway). In North America, we have a TiO₂ plant in Varennes, Quebec, Canada and, through the manufacturing joint venture described below in “TiO₂ Manufacturing Joint Venture,” a 50% interest in a TiO₂ plant in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Our production capacity has increased by approximately 6% over the past ten years due to debottlenecking programs, with only moderate capital expenditures. We currently expect to operate our TiO₂ plants at full practical capacity levels in 2018.

The following table presents the division of our expected 2018 manufacturing capacity by plant location and type of manufacturing process:

Facility	Description	% of capacity by TiO ₂ manufacturing process	
		Chloride	Sulfate
Leverkusen, Germany (1)	TiO ₂ production, chloride and sulfate process, co-products	30 %	6 %
Nordenham, Germany	TiO ₂ production, sulfate process, co-products	-	10
Langerbrugge, Belgium	TiO ₂ production, chloride process, co-products, titanium chemicals products	16	-
Fredrikstad, Norway (2)	TiO ₂ production, sulfate process, co-products	-	7
Varennes, Canada	TiO ₂ production, chloride and sulfate process, slurry facility, titanium chemicals products	15	3
Lake Charles, LA, US (3)	TiO ₂ production, chloride process	13	-
Total		74 %	26 %

(1)

The Leverkusen facility is located within an extensive manufacturing complex owned by Bayer AG. We own the Leverkusen facility, which represents about one-third of our current TiO₂ production capacity, but we lease the land under the facility from Bayer under a long-term agreement which expires in 2050. Lease payments are periodically negotiated with Bayer for periods of at least two years at a time. A majority-owned subsidiary of Bayer provides some raw materials including chlorine, auxiliary and operating materials, utilities and services necessary to operate the Leverkusen facility under separate supplies and services agreements.

7

(2) The Fredrikstad facility is located on public land and is leased until 2063.

(3) We operate the Lake Charles facility in a joint venture with Huntsman P&A Investments LLC (HPA), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tioxide Group, of which Venator Materials PLC (Venator) owns 100% and the amount indicated in the table above represents the share of TiO₂ produced by the joint venture to which we are entitled. See Note 5 to our Consolidated Financial Statements and “TiO₂ Manufacturing Joint Venture.”

We own the land underlying all of our principal production facilities unless otherwise indicated in the table above.

We also operate two ilmenite mines in Norway pursuant to a governmental concession with an unlimited term. In addition, we operate a rutile slurry manufacturing plant in Lake Charles, Louisiana, which converts dry pigment manufactured for us at the Lake Charles TiO₂ facility into a slurry form that is then shipped to customers.

We have various corporate and administrative offices located in the U.S., Germany, Norway, Canada, Belgium, France and the United Kingdom and various sales offices located in North America.

TiO₂ Manufacturing Joint Venture

Kronos Louisiana, Inc., one of our subsidiaries, and HPA each own a 50% interest in a manufacturing joint venture, Louisiana Pigment Company, L.P., or LPC. LPC owns and operates a chloride-process TiO₂ plant located in Lake Charles, Louisiana. We and Venator share production from the plant equally pursuant to separate offtake agreements, unless we and Venator otherwise agree (such as in 2015, when we purchased approximately 52% of the production from the plant).

A supervisory committee directs the business and affairs of the joint venture, including production and output decisions. This committee is composed of four members, two of whom we appoint and two of whom Venator appoints. Two general managers manage the operations of the joint venture acting under the direction of the supervisory committee. We appoint one general manager and Venator appoints the other.

The joint venture is not consolidated in our financial statements, because we do not control it. We account for our interest in the joint venture by the equity method. The joint venture operates on a break-even basis and therefore we do not have any equity in earnings of the joint venture. We are required to purchase one half of the TiO₂ produced by the joint venture. All costs and capital expenditures are shared equally with Venator with the exception of feedstock (purchased natural rutile ore or slag) and packaging costs for the pigment grades produced. Our share of net costs is reported as cost of sales as the TiO₂ is sold. See Notes 5 and 16 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Raw materials

The primary raw materials used in chloride process TiO₂ are titanium-containing feedstock (purchased natural rutile ore or slag), chlorine and coke. Chlorine is available from a number of suppliers, while petroleum coke is available from a limited number of suppliers. Titanium-containing feedstock suitable for use in the chloride process is available from a limited but increasing number of suppliers principally in Australia, South Africa, Canada, India and the United States. We purchase chloride process grade slag from Rio Tinto Iron and Titanium Limited under a long-term supply contract that automatically renews at the end of 2018 for successive two-year renewal periods, unless terminated before December 31, 2018. We also purchase upgraded slag from Rio Tinto Iron and Titanium Limited under a long-term supply contract that expires at the end of 2019. We purchase natural rutile ore primarily from Iluka Resources, Limited under a contract which expires in 2018. In the past we have been, and we expect that we will continue to be, successful in obtaining short-term and long-term extensions to these and other existing supply contracts prior to their expiration. We expect the raw materials purchased under these contracts, and contracts that we may enter into, will meet our chloride process feedstock requirements over the next several years.

The primary raw materials used in sulfate process TiO_2 are titanium-containing feedstock, primarily ilmenite or purchased sulfate grade slag and sulfuric acid. Sulfuric acid is available from a number of suppliers. Titanium-containing feedstock suitable for use in the sulfate process is available from a limited number of suppliers

8

principally in Norway, Canada, Australia, India and South Africa. As one of the few vertically-integrated producers of sulfate process TiO_2 , we operate two rock ilmenite mines in Norway, which provided all of the feedstock for our European sulfate process TiO_2 plants in 2017. We expect ilmenite production from our mines to meet our European sulfate process feedstock requirements for the foreseeable future. For our Canadian sulfate process plant, we purchase sulfate grade slag primarily from Rio Tinto Fer et Titane Inc. under a supply contract that renews annually, subject to termination upon twelve months written notice. We expect the raw materials purchased under these contracts, and contracts that we may enter into, to meet our sulfate process feedstock requirements over the next several years.

Many of our raw material contracts contain fixed quantities we are required to purchase, or specify a range of quantities within which we are required to purchase. The pricing under these agreements is generally negotiated quarterly.

The following table summarizes our raw materials purchased or mined in 2017.

Production process/raw material	Raw materials procured or mined (In thousands of metric tons)
Chloride process plants -	
Purchased slag or rutile ore	535
Sulfate process plants:	
Ilmenite ore mined and used internally	360
Purchased slag	27

Sales and marketing

Our marketing strategy is aimed at developing and maintaining strong customer relationships with new and existing accounts. Because TiO_2 represents a significant raw material cost for our customers, the purchasing decisions are often made by our customers' senior management. We work to maintain close relationships with the key decision makers, through in-depth and frequent in-person meetings. We endeavor to extend these commercial and technical relationships to multiple levels within our customers' organization using our direct sales force and technical service group to accomplish this objective. We believe this has helped build customer loyalty to Kronos and strengthened our competitive position. Close cooperation and strong customer relationships enable us to stay closely attuned to trends in our customers' businesses. Where appropriate, we work in conjunction with our customers to solve formulation or application problems by modifying specific product properties or developing new pigment grades. We also focus our sales and marketing efforts on those geographic and end-use market segments where we believe we can realize higher selling prices. This focus includes continuously reviewing and optimizing our customer and product portfolios.

Our marketing strategy is also aimed at working directly with customers to monitor the success of our products in their end-use applications, evaluate the need for improvements in product and process technology and identify opportunities to develop new product solutions for our customers. Our marketing staff closely coordinates with our sales force and technical specialists to ensure that the needs of our customers are met, and to help develop and commercialize new grades where appropriate.

We sell a majority of our products through our direct sales force operating in Europe and North America. We also utilize sales agents and distributors who are authorized to sell our products in specific geographic areas. In Europe, our sales efforts are conducted primarily through our direct sales force and our sales agents. Our agents do not sell any TiO₂ products other than KRONOS® brand products. In North America, our sales are made primarily through our direct sales force and supported by a network of distributors. In export markets, where we have increased our marketing efforts over the last several years, our sales are made through our direct sales force, sales agents and distributors. In addition to our direct sales force and sales agents, many of our sales agents also act as distributors to service our customers in all regions. We offer customer and technical service to the customers who purchase our products through distributors as well as to our larger customers serviced by our direct sales force.

We sell to a diverse customer base and no single customer comprised 10% or more of our sales in 2017. Our largest ten customers accounted for approximately 34% of sales in 2017.

Neither our business as a whole nor any of our principal product groups is seasonal to any significant extent. However, TiO₂ sales are generally higher in the second and third quarters of the year, due in part to the increase in paint production in the spring to meet demand during the spring and summer painting seasons. With certain exceptions, we have historically operated our production facilities at near full capacity rates throughout the entire year, which among other things helps to minimize our per-unit production costs. As a result, we normally will build inventories during the first and fourth quarters of each year, in order to maximize our product availability during the higher demand periods normally experienced in the second and third quarters.

Competition

The TiO₂ industry is highly competitive. We compete primarily on the basis of price, product quality, technical service and the availability of high performance pigment grades. Since TiO₂ is not a traded commodity, its pricing is largely a product of negotiation between suppliers and their respective customers. Price and availability are the most significant competitive factors along with quality and customer service for the majority of our product grades. Increasingly we are focused on providing pigments that are differentiated to meet specific customer requests and specialty grades that are differentiated from our competitors' products. During 2017, we had an estimated 10% share of worldwide TiO₂ sales volume, and based on sales volumes, we believe we are the leading seller of TiO₂ in several countries, including Germany.

Our principal competitors are The Chemours Company, or Chemours; Cristal Global; Venator Materials PLC (formerly a wholly-owned subsidiary, and now a majority-owned subsidiary, of Huntsman Corporation); Tronox Incorporated; and Lomon Billions. The top six TiO₂ producers (i.e. we and our five principal competitors) account for approximately 66% of the world's production capacity. Chemours added a new 200,000 metric ton capacity line at its plant in Mexico which commenced production in the second quarter of 2016. In 2016, Venator announced it was closing its sulfate process facility in South Africa, reducing its overall capacity by 25,000 metric tons. In 2017, one of Venator's European sulfate plants, which has a capacity of 130,000 metric tons, operated at significantly reduced rates due to a fire at the facility.

The following chart shows our estimate of worldwide production capacity in 2017:

Worldwide production capacity - 2017	
Chemours	18 %
Cristal	13 %
Venator	10 %
Lomon Billions	9 %
Kronos	9 %
Tronox	7 %
Other	34 %

Chemours has over one-half of total North American TiO₂ production capacity and is our principal North American competitor. In February 2017, Tronox announced a definitive agreement to acquire the TiO₂ assets of Cristal, but in December 2017 the U.S. Federal Trade Commission filed an administrative complaint challenging the merger. Tronox has indicated it intends to vigorously defend against such action.

Over the past ten years, we and our competitors increased industry capacity through debottlenecking projects, which in part compensated for the shut-down of various TiO₂ plants throughout the world. Although overall industry demand is expected to remain strong in 2018 as a result of improving worldwide economic conditions, we do not expect any other significant efforts will be undertaken by us or our principal competitors to further increase capacity for the foreseeable future, other than through debottlenecking projects. If actual developments differ from our expectations, the TiO₂ industry's performance and that of our own could be unfavorably affected.

The TiO₂ industry is characterized by high barriers to entry consisting of high capital costs, proprietary technology and significant lead times (typically three to five years in our experience) required to construct new facilities or to expand existing capacity. We believe it is unlikely any new TiO₂ plants will be constructed in Europe or North America in the foreseeable future.

Research and development

We employ scientists, chemists, process engineers and technicians who are engaged in research and development, process technology and quality assurance activities in Leverkusen, Germany. These individuals have the responsibility for improving our chloride and sulfate production processes, improving product quality and strengthening our competitive position by developing new applications. Our expenditures for these activities were approximately \$16 million in 2015, \$13 million in 2016 and \$20 million in 2017. We expect to spend approximately \$19 million on research and development in 2018.

We continually seek to improve the quality of our grades and have been successful at developing new grades for existing and new applications to meet the needs of our customers and increase product life cycles. Since the beginning of 2013, we have added five new grades for pigments and other applications.

Patents, trademarks, trade secrets and other intellectual property rights

We have a comprehensive intellectual property protection strategy that includes obtaining, maintaining and enforcing our patents, primarily in the United States, Canada and Europe. We also protect our trademark and trade secret rights and have entered into license agreements with third parties concerning various intellectual property matters. We have also from time to time been involved in disputes over intellectual property.

Patents – We have obtained patents and have numerous patent applications pending that cover our products and the technology used in the manufacture of our products. Our patent strategy is important to us and our continuing business activities. In addition to maintaining our patent portfolio, we seek patent protection for our technical developments, principally in the United States, Canada and Europe. U.S. Patents are generally in effect for 20 years from the date of filing. Our U.S. patent portfolio includes patents having remaining terms ranging from four years to 20 years.

Trademarks and trade secrets – Our trademarks, including KRONOS®, are covered by issued and/or pending registrations, including in Canada and the United States. We protect the trademarks that we use in connection with the products we manufacture and sell and have developed goodwill in connection with our long-term use of our trademarks. We conduct research activities in secret and we protect the confidentiality of our trade secrets through reasonable measures, including confidentiality agreements and security procedures, including data security. We rely upon unpatented proprietary knowledge and continuing technological innovation and other trade secrets to develop and maintain our competitive position. Our proprietary chloride production process is an important part of our technology and our business could be harmed if we fail to maintain confidentiality of our trade secrets used in this technology.

Employees

As of December 31, 2017, we employed the following number of people:

Europe	1,835
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Canada	360
United States (1)	50
Total	2,245

(1) Excludes employees of our Louisiana joint venture.

Certain employees at each of our production facilities are organized by labor unions. In Europe, our union employees are covered by master collective bargaining agreements for the chemical industry that are generally

11

renewed annually. In Canada, our union employees are covered by a collective bargaining agreement that expires in June 2018. We currently expect a new collective bargaining agreement with our Canadian union employees will be entered into before the expiration of the current agreement. At December 31, 2017, approximately 86% of our worldwide workforce is organized under collective bargaining agreements. It is possible that there could be future work stoppages or other labor disruptions that could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial position or liquidity.

Regulatory and environmental matters

Our operations and properties are governed by various environmental laws and regulations, which are complex, change frequently and have tended to become stricter over time. These environmental laws govern, among other things, the generation, storage, handling, use and transportation of hazardous materials; the emission and discharge of hazardous materials into the ground, air or water; and the health and safety of our employees. Certain of our operations are, or have been, engaged in the generation, storage, handling, manufacture or use of substances or compounds that may be considered toxic or hazardous within the meaning of applicable environmental laws and regulations. As with other companies engaged in similar businesses, certain of our past and current operations and products have the potential to cause environmental or other damage. We have implemented and continue to implement various policies and programs in an effort to minimize these risks. Our policy is to comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations at all our facilities and to strive to improve our environmental performance. It is possible that future developments, such as stricter requirements in environmental laws and enforcement policies, could adversely affect our operations, including production, handling, use, storage, transportation, sale or disposal of hazardous or toxic substances or require us to make capital and other expenditures to comply, and could adversely affect our consolidated financial position and results of operations or liquidity.

Our U.S. manufacturing operations are governed by federal, state and local environmental and worker health and safety laws and regulations. These include the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or RCRA, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, or CERCLA, as well as the state counterparts of these statutes. Some of these laws hold current or previous owners or operators of real property liable for the costs of cleaning up contamination, even if these owners or operators did not know of, and were not responsible for, such contamination. These laws also assess liability on any person who arranges for the disposal or treatment of hazardous substances, regardless of whether the affected site is owned or operated by such person. Although we have not incurred and do not currently anticipate any material liabilities in connection with such environmental laws, we may be required to make expenditures for environmental remediation in the future.

While the laws regulating operations of industrial facilities in Europe vary from country to country, a common regulatory framework is provided by the European Union, or the EU. Germany and Belgium are members of the EU and follow its initiatives. Norway is not a member but generally patterns its environmental regulatory actions after the EU.

At our sulfate plant facilities in Germany, we recycle spent sulfuric acid either through contracts with third parties or at our own facilities. In addition, at our German locations we have a contract with a third-party to treat certain sulfate-process effluents. At our Norwegian plant, we ship spent acid to a third-party location where it is used as a neutralization agent. These contracts may be terminated by either party after giving three or four years advance notice, depending on the contract.

From time to time, our facilities may be subject to environmental regulatory enforcement under U.S. and non-U.S. statutes. Typically we establish compliance programs to resolve these matters. Occasionally, we may pay

penalties. To date such penalties have not involved amounts having a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position, results of operations or liquidity. We believe that all of our facilities are in substantial compliance with applicable environmental laws.

Our capital expenditures related to ongoing environmental compliance, protection and improvement programs, including capital expenditures which are primarily focused on increasing operating efficiency but also

12

result in improved environmental protection such as lower emissions from our manufacturing facilities, were \$16.1 million in 2017 and are currently expected to be approximately \$26 million in 2018.

Website and other available information

Our fiscal year ends December 31. Our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and any amendments to those reports are available on our website at kronostio2.com. These reports are available on the website, without charge, as soon as is reasonably practicable after we file or furnish them electronically with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. Additional information regarding us, including our Audit Committee charter, Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and our Corporate Governance Guidelines, can also be found at this website. Information contained on our website is not part of this report. We will also provide free copies of such documents upon written request. Such requests should be directed to the Corporate Secretary at our address on the cover page of this Form 10-K.

The public may read and copy any materials we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. The public may obtain information about the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. We are an electronic filer and the SEC maintains an internet website that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC at www.sec.gov.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Below are certain risk factors associated with our business. See also certain risk factors discussed in Item 7-“Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates.” In addition to the potential effect of these risk factors, any risk factor which could result in reduced earnings or operating losses, or reduced liquidity, could in turn adversely affect our ability to service our liabilities or pay dividends on our common stock or adversely affect the quoted market prices for our securities.

Demand for, and prices of, certain of our products are influenced by changing market conditions for our products, which may result in reduced earnings or in operating losses.

Our sales and profitability is largely dependent on the TiO₂ industry. In 2017, 94% of our sales were attributable to sales of TiO₂. TiO₂ is used in many “quality of life” products for which demand historically has been linked to global, regional and local gross domestic product and discretionary spending, which can be negatively impacted by regional and world events or economic conditions. Such events are likely to cause a decrease in demand for our products and, as a result, may have an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Pricing within the global TiO₂ industry over the long term is cyclical and changes in economic conditions, especially in Western industrialized nations, can significantly impact our earnings and operating cash flows. Historically, the markets for many of our products have experienced alternating periods of increasing and decreasing demand. Relative changes in the selling prices for our products are one of the main factors that affect the level of our profitability. In periods of increasing demand, our selling prices and profit margins generally will tend to increase, while in periods of decreasing demand our selling prices and profit margins generally tend to decrease. In addition, pricing may affect customer inventory levels as customers may from time to time accelerate purchases of TiO₂ in advance of anticipated price increases or defer purchases of TiO₂ in advance of anticipated price decreases. Our ability to further increase capacity without additional investment in greenfield or brownfield capacity increases may be limited and as a result,

our profitability may become even more dependent upon the selling prices of our products.

The TiO₂ industry is concentrated and highly competitive and we face price pressures in the markets in which we operate, which may result in reduced earnings or operating losses.

The global market in which we operate our business is concentrated with the top six TiO₂ producers accounting for approximately two-thirds of the world's production capacity and is highly competitive. Competition is based on a number of factors, such as price, product quality and service. Some of our competitors may be able to

drive down prices for our products if their costs are lower than our costs. In addition, some of our competitors' financial, technological and other resources may be greater than our resources and such competitors may be better able to withstand changes in market conditions. Our competitors may be able to respond more quickly than we can to new or emerging technologies and changes in customer requirements. Further, consolidation of our competitors or customers may result in reduced demand for our products or make it more difficult for us to compete with our competitors. The occurrence of any of these events could result in reduced earnings or operating losses.

Higher costs or limited availability of our raw materials may reduce our earnings and decrease our liquidity. In addition, many of our raw material contracts contain fixed quantities we are required to purchase.

The number of sources for and availability of certain raw materials is specific to the particular geographical region in which a facility is located. For example, titanium-containing feedstocks suitable for use in our TiO₂ facilities are available from a limited number of suppliers around the world. Political and economic instability in the countries from which we purchase our raw material supplies could adversely affect their availability. If our worldwide vendors were unable to meet their contractual obligations and we were unable to obtain necessary raw materials, we could incur higher costs for raw materials or may be required to reduce production levels. We experienced significantly higher ore costs in 2012 which carried over into 2013. We have seen moderation in the purchase cost of third-party feedstock ore since 2013 through the first half of 2017; however, the cost of third-party feedstock ore we procured in the last half of 2017 is slightly higher as compared to the first half of 2017. We may also experience higher operating costs such as energy costs, which could affect our profitability. We may not always be able to increase our selling prices to offset the impact of any higher costs or reduced production levels, which could reduce our earnings and decrease our liquidity.

We have long-term supply contracts that provide for our TiO₂ feedstock requirements that currently expire through 2019. While we believe we will be able to renew these contracts, there can be no assurance we will be successful in renewing them or in obtaining long-term extensions to them prior to expiration. Our current agreements (including those entered into through January 2018) require us to purchase certain minimum quantities of feedstock with minimum purchase commitments aggregating approximately \$383 million in years subsequent to December 31, 2017. In addition, we have other long-term supply and service contracts that provide for various raw materials and services. These agreements require us to purchase certain minimum quantities or services with minimum purchase commitments aggregating approximately \$128 million at December 31, 2017. Our commitments under these contracts could adversely affect our financial results if we significantly reduce our production and were unable to modify the contractual commitments.

Our leverage may impair our financial condition or limit our ability to operate our businesses.

As of December 31, 2017, our total consolidated debt was approximately \$474.5 million, which relates primarily to Senior Notes issued in September 2017. Our level of debt could have important consequences to our stockholders and creditors, including:

- making it more difficult for us to satisfy our obligations with respect to our liabilities;
- increasing our vulnerability to adverse general economic and industry conditions;
- requiring that a portion of our cash flows from operations be used for the payment of interest on our debt, which reduces our ability to use our cash flow to fund working capital, capital expenditures, dividends on our common stock, acquisitions or general corporate requirements;
- limiting the ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends to us;
- limiting our ability to obtain additional financing to fund future working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions or general corporate requirements;

limiting our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and the industry in which we operate;
and
placing us at a competitive disadvantage relative to other less leveraged competitors.

14

Indebtedness outstanding under our revolving North American credit facility and revolving European credit facility accrues interest at variable rates. To the extent market interest rates rise, the cost of our debt would increase, adversely affecting our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

In addition to our indebtedness, at December 31, 2017 we are party to various lease and other agreements (including feedstock ore purchase contracts and other long-term supply and service contracts, as discussed above) pursuant to which, along with our indebtedness, we are committed to pay approximately \$433 million in 2018. Our ability to make payments on and refinance our debt and to fund planned capital expenditures depends on our future ability to generate cash flow. To some extent, this is subject to general economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors that are beyond our control. In addition, our ability to borrow funds under our revolving credit facilities in the future will, in some instances, depend in part on our ability to maintain specified financial ratios and satisfy certain financial covenants contained in the applicable credit agreement.

Our business may not generate cash flows from operating activities sufficient to enable us to pay our debts when they become due and to fund our other liquidity needs. As a result, we may need to refinance all or a portion of our debt before maturity. We may not be able to refinance any of our debt in a timely manner on favorable terms, if at all, in the current credit markets. Any inability to generate sufficient cash flows or to refinance our debt on favorable terms could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition.

As a global business, we are subject to risks associated with doing business outside the United States.

We have global operations and derive a large portion of our sales from customers outside the United States. Accordingly, our international operations or those of our international customers could be substantially affected by a number of risks arising with operating an international business, including trade barriers, tariffs, exchange controls, economic and political conditions, compliance with a variety of non-United States laws and regulations (including income tax laws and regulations) or compliance with United States law and regulations in respect to doing business internationally, limitations on restrictions on the repatriation of non-United States earnings to the United States, and difficulty in enforcing agreements or other legal rights. Our operations are also subject to the effects of global competition. These risks, individually or in the aggregate, could have an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Changes in exchange rates and interest rates can adversely affect our net sales, profits and cash flows.

We operate our businesses in several different countries and sell our products worldwide. For example, during 2017, approximately one-half of our sales volumes were sold into European markets. The majority (but not all) of our sales from our operations outside the United States are denominated in currencies other than the United States dollar, primarily the euro, other major European currencies and the Canadian dollar. Therefore, we are exposed to risks related to the need to convert currencies we receive from the sale of our products into the currencies required to pay for certain of our operating costs and expenses and other liabilities (including indebtedness), all of which could result in future losses depending on fluctuations in currency exchange rates and affect the comparability of our results of operations between periods.

If our intellectual property were to be declared invalid, or copied by or become known to by competitors, or if our competitors were to develop similar or superior intellectual property or technology, our ability to compete could be adversely impacted.

Protection of our intellectual property rights, including patents, trade secrets, confidential information, trademarks and tradenames, is important to our business and our competitive position. We endeavor to protect our intellectual property rights in key jurisdictions in which our products are produced or used and in jurisdictions into which our

products are imported. However, we may be unable to obtain protection for our intellectual property in key jurisdictions. Although we own and have applied for numerous patents and trademarks throughout the world, we may have to rely on judicial enforcement of our patents and other proprietary rights. Our patents and other intellectual property rights may be challenged, invalidated, circumvented, and rendered unenforceable or otherwise compromised. A failure to protect, defend or enforce our intellectual property could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations. Similarly, third parties may assert claims against us and our customers and distributors alleging our products infringe upon third-party intellectual property rights.

Although it is our practice to enter into confidentiality agreements with our employees and third parties to protect our proprietary expertise and other trade secrets, these agreements may not provide sufficient protection for our trade secrets or proprietary know-how, or adequate remedies for breaches of such agreements may not be available in the event of an unauthorized use or disclosure of such trade secrets and know-how. We also may not be able to readily detect breaches of such agreements. The failure of our patents or confidentiality agreements to protect our proprietary technology, know-how or trade secrets could result in a material loss of our competitive position, which could lead to significantly lower revenues, reduced profit margins or loss of market share.

If we must take legal action to protect, defend or enforce our intellectual property rights, any suits or proceedings could result in significant costs and diversion of resources and management's attention, and we may not prevail in any such suits or proceedings. A failure to protect, defend or enforce our intellectual property rights could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We may be subject to litigation, the disposition of which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

The nature of our operations exposes us to possible litigation claims, including disputes with customers and suppliers and matters relating to, among other things, antitrust, product liability, intellectual property, employment and environmental claims. It is possible that judgments could be rendered against us in these or other types of cases for which we could be uninsured or not covered by indemnity, or which may be beyond the amounts that we currently have reserved or anticipate incurring for such matters. Some of the lawsuits may seek fines or penalties and damages in large amounts, or seek to restrict our business activities. Because of the uncertain nature of litigation and coverage decisions, we cannot predict the outcome of these matters or whether insurance claims may mitigate any damages ultimately determined to be owed by us. Any liability we might incur in the future could be material. In addition, litigation is very costly, and the costs associated with defending litigation matters could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

Global climate change legislation could negatively impact our financial results or limit our ability to operate our businesses.

We operate production facilities in several countries. In many of the countries in which we operate, legislation has been passed, or proposed legislation is being considered, to limit greenhouse gases through various means, including emissions permits and/or energy taxes. In several of our production facilities, we consume large amounts of energy, primarily electricity and natural gas. To date, the permit system in effect in the various countries in which we operate has not had a material adverse effect on our financial results. However, if further greenhouse gas legislation were to be enacted in one or more countries, it could negatively impact our future results from operations through increased costs of production, particularly as it relates to our energy requirements or our need to obtain emissions permits. If such increased costs of production were to materialize, we may be unable to pass price increases onto our customers to compensate for increased production costs, which may decrease our liquidity, operating income and results of operations.

Technology failures or cyber security breaches could have a material adverse effect on our operations.

We rely on information technology systems to manage, process and analyze data, as well as to facilitate the manufacture and distribution of our products to and from our plants. We receive, process and ship orders, manage the billing of and collections from our customers, and manage the accounting for and payment to our vendors. In this regard, in January 2017 we implemented a new enterprise resource planning system covering certain finance processes

(principally general ledger, accounts receivable and accounts payable), and in January 2018 we implemented the remaining portion of such enterprise resource planning system covering sales, procurement, manufacturing and plant maintenance. Although we have systems and procedures in place to protect our information technology systems, there can be no assurance that such systems and procedures would be sufficiently effective. Therefore, any of our information technology systems may be susceptible to outages, disruptions or destruction as well as cyber security breaches or attacks, resulting in a disruption of our business operations, injury to people, harm to the environment or our assets, and/or the inability to access our information technology

systems. If any of these events were to occur, our results of operations and financial condition could be adversely affected.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

Information on our properties is incorporated by reference to Item 1: Manufacturing, Operations and Properties above. Our corporate headquarters is located in Dallas, Texas. See Note 17 to our Consolidated Financial Statements for information on our leases.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We are involved in various environmental, contractual, intellectual property, product liability and other claims and disputes incidental to our business. Information called for by this Item is incorporated by reference to Note 17 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR COMMON EQUITY AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

Our common stock is listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange (symbol: KRO). As of February 28, 2018, there were approximately 2,000 holders of record of our common stock. The following table sets forth the high and low closing per share sales price for our common stock for the periods indicated according to Bloomberg and dividends paid during such periods. On February 28, 2018 the closing price of our common stock was \$21.45.

	High	Low	Cash dividends paid
Year ended December 31, 2016			
First Quarter	\$6.58	\$4.00	\$.15
Second Quarter	6.87	5.08	.15
Third Quarter	9.01	4.82	.15
Fourth Quarter	12.48	7.32	.15
Year ended December 31, 2017			
First Quarter	\$16.64	\$12.09	\$.15
Second Quarter	19.94	15.13	.15
Third Quarter	23.10	18.12	.15
Fourth Quarter	29.24	23.77	.15
January 1, 2018 through February 28, 2018	\$28.53	\$21.45	\$ -

In February 2018, our board of directors declared a first quarter 2018 regular quarterly dividend of \$.17 per share (an increase of \$.02 per share from the prior regular quarterly dividend of \$.15 per share), payable on March 15, 2018 to stockholders of record as of March 6, 2018. The declaration and payment of future dividends is discretionary, and the amount, if any, will be dependent upon our results of operations, financial condition, cash requirements for our business, the current long-term outlook for our business and other factors deemed relevant by our board. There are currently no restrictions on our ability to pay dividends, although provisions in certain credit agreements to which we are a party could in the future limit or restrict our ability to pay dividends.

In December 2010, our board of directors authorized the repurchase of up to 2.0 million shares of our common stock in open market transactions, including block purchases, or in privately-negotiated transactions at unspecified prices and over an unspecified period of time. We have 1,951,000 shares available for repurchase under the plan at December 31, 2017. See Note 15 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Performance graph

Set forth below is a table and line graph comparing the yearly change in our cumulative total stockholder return on our common stock against the cumulative total return of the S&P 500 Composite Stock Index and the S&P 500 Diversified Chemicals Index. The graph shows the value at December 31 of each year, assuming an original investment of \$100 at December 31, 2012 and reinvestment of cash dividends and other distributions to stockholders.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Kronos common stock	\$100	\$101	\$72	\$34	\$78	\$173
S&P 500 Composite Stock Index	100	132	151	153	171	208
S&P 500 Diversified Chemicals Index	100	143	154	160	182	230

The information contained in the performance graph shall not be deemed “soliciting material” or “filed” with the SEC, or subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act, except to the extent we specifically request that the material be treated as soliciting material or specifically incorporate this performance graph by reference into a document filed under the Securities Act or the Securities Exchange Act.

Equity compensation plan information

We have an equity compensation plan, which was approved by our stockholders, pursuant to which an aggregate of 200,000 shares of our common stock can be awarded to members of our board of directors. At December 31, 2017, 155,500 shares are available for award under this plan. See Note 15 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following selected financial data should be read in conjunction with our Consolidated Financial Statements and Item 7 - "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations."

	Years ended December 31,				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	(In millions, except per share data and TiO ₂ operating statistics)				
STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS DATA:					
Net sales	\$1,732.4	\$1,651.9	\$1,348.8	\$1,364.3	\$1,729.0
Gross margin	112.2	349.7	192.3	257.0	558.9
Income (loss) from operations	(132.6)	149.7	(1.1)	81.1	330.4
Net income (loss)	(102.0)	99.2	(173.6)	43.3	354.5
Net income (loss) per share	(.88)	.86	(1.50)	.37	3.06
Cash dividends per share	.60	.60	.60	.60	.60
BALANCE SHEET DATA (at year end):					
Total assets	\$1,610.0	\$1,633.1	\$1,242.7	\$1,179.6	\$1,824.4
Notes payable and long-term debt					
including current maturities	183.5	343.6	341.0	339.0	474.5
Common stockholders' equity	935.1	781.1	461.9	395.0	754.3
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOW DATA:					
Net cash provided by (used in):					
Operating activities	\$130.4	\$87.7	\$52.1	\$89.6	\$276.1
Investing activities	(67.7)	(61.2)	(47.1)	(53.0)	(77.9)
Financing activities	(292.3)	89.6	(72.1)	(73.3)	58.8
TiO₂ OPERATING STATISTICS:					
Sales volume (1)	498	496	525	559	586
Production volume (1)	474	511	528	546	576
Production capacity at beginning of year (1)	550	555	555	555	555
Production rate as a percentage of capacity	86	% 92	% 95	% 98	% 100

(1) Metric tons in thousands

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS
RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Business overview

We are a leading global producer and marketer of value-added TiO₂. TiO₂ is used for a variety of manufacturing applications, including plastics, paints, paper and other industrial products. During 2017, approximately one-half of our sales volumes were sold into European markets. We believe we are the largest producer of TiO₂ in Europe with an estimated 17% share of European TiO₂ sales volumes in 2017. In addition, we estimate we have an 18% share of North American TiO₂ sales volumes in 2017. Our production facilities are located in Europe and North America.

We consider TiO₂ to be a "quality of life" product, with demand affected by gross domestic product, or GDP, and overall economic conditions in our markets located in various regions of the world. Over the long-term, we expect demand for TiO₂ will grow by 2% to 3% per year, consistent with our expectations for the long-term growth in GDP. However, even if we and our competitors maintain consistent shares of the worldwide market, demand for TiO₂ in any interim or annual period may not change in the same proportion as the change in GDP, in part due to relative changes in the TiO₂ inventory levels of our customers. We believe that our customers' inventory levels are influenced in part by their expectation for future changes in market TiO₂ selling prices as well as their expectation for future availability of product. Although certain of our TiO₂ grades are considered specialty pigments, the majority of our grades and substantially all of our production are considered commodity pigment products with price and availability being the most significant competitive factors along with quality and customer service.

The factors having the most impact on our reported operating results are:

- TiO₂ selling prices,
- Our TiO₂ sales and production volumes,
- Manufacturing costs, particularly raw materials such as third-party feedstock ore, maintenance and energy-related expenses, and
- Currency exchange rates (particularly the exchange rate for the U.S. dollar relative to the euro, the Norwegian krone and the Canadian dollar).

Our key performance indicators are our TiO₂ average selling prices, our level of TiO₂ sales and production volumes and the cost of our third-party feedstock ore. TiO₂ selling prices generally follow industry trends and the selling prices will increase or decrease generally as a result of competitive market pressures.

In addition, our effective income tax rate in 2015, 2016 and 2017 was impacted by certain favorable and unfavorable developments discussed below.

Executive summary

We reported net income of \$354.5 million, or \$3.06 per share for 2017 compared to net income of \$43.3 million, or \$.37 per share for 2016. We reported higher net income in 2017 compared to 2016 in part due to higher income from operations in 2017. Our income from operations improved in 2017 primarily due to the net impact of higher average selling prices, higher sales and production volumes, higher raw materials and other production costs, the recognition of an insurance settlement gain totaling \$4.3 million in 2016 from two separate business interruption claims and the net effect of changes in currency exchange rates. In addition, we recognized an aggregate net income tax benefit of \$136.5 million in 2017 as a result of the net effect of reversing our deferred income tax asset valuation allowances associated with our German and Belgian operations (\$186.7 million income tax benefit) and our deferred income tax asset valuation allowance related to certain U.S. deferred income tax assets of one of our non-U.S. subsidiaries (\$18.7

million income tax benefit), the one-time repatriation tax imposed on the post-1986 undistributed earnings of our non-U.S. subsidiaries imposed as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (2017 Tax Act) enacted on

21

December 22, 2017 (\$76.2 million income tax expense), an income tax benefit related to the execution and finalization of an Advance Pricing Agreement between Canada and Germany (\$11.8 million income tax benefit), and an income tax expense related to a change in our conclusions regarding our permanent reinvestment assertion with respect to the post-1986 undistributed earnings of our European subsidiaries (\$4.5 million income tax expense).

We reported net income of \$43.3 million, or \$.37 per share for 2016 compared to a net loss of \$173.6 million, or \$1.50 per share for 2015. We reported net income in 2016 as compared to a net loss in 2015 due to higher income from operations in 2016, as well as an aggregate \$159.0 million non-cash deferred income tax expense as a result of a net increase in our deferred income tax asset valuation allowance related to our German and Belgian operations recognized in 2015, and an aggregate \$12.0 million pre-tax other-than-temporary impairment (OTTI) charge on our investment in a marketable equity security recognized in 2015. Our income from operations improved in 2016 primarily due to the net impact of higher sales and production volumes and lower average selling prices in 2016, a \$21.7 million charge associated with the implementation of certain workforce reductions in 2015, lower raw materials and other production costs in 2016 (including cost savings resulting from workforce reductions implemented in 2015), the recognition of an insurance settlement gain totaling \$4.3 million in 2016 from two separate business interruption claims and the net effect of changes in currency exchange rates. Of such \$21.7 million charge related to the workforce reductions, \$10.8 million was classified as part of cost of sales and \$10.9 million was classified in selling, general and administrative expense.

Our net income in 2017 includes:

- the recognition of an aggregate \$186.7 million (\$1.61 per share) non-cash deferred income tax benefit as a result of the reversal of our deferred income tax asset valuation allowances associated with our German and Belgian operations, mostly recognized in the second quarter,
- the fourth quarter recognition of an \$18.7 million (\$.16 per share) non-cash deferred income tax benefit as a result of the reversal of our deferred income tax asset valuation allowance related to certain U.S. deferred income tax assets of one of our non-U.S. subsidiaries (which subsidiary is treated as a dual resident for U.S. income tax purposes),
- the fourth quarter recognition of a \$76.2 million (\$.66 per share) provisional current income tax expense as a result of the 2017 Tax Act for the one-time repatriation tax imposed on the post-1986 undistributed earnings of our non-U.S. subsidiaries,

• the recognition of an \$11.8 million (\$.10 per share) aggregate income tax benefit related to the execution and finalization of an Advance Pricing Agreement between Canada and Germany, mostly recognized in the third quarter (which includes an \$8.6 million non-cash income tax benefit as a result of a net decrease in our reserve for uncertain tax positions),

• the fourth quarter recognition of a \$4.5 million (\$.04 per share) provisional non-cash deferred income tax expense related to a change in our conclusions regarding our permanent reinvestment assertion with respect to the post-1986 undistributed earnings of our European subsidiaries, and

- a pre-tax aggregate charge of \$7.1 million (\$4.6 million, or \$.04 per share, net of income tax benefit) recognized in the third quarter related to the loss on prepayment of debt.

Our net income in 2016 includes:

• a pre-tax insurance settlement gain of \$4.3 million (\$3.2 million, or \$.03 per share, net of income tax expense) recognized in the first, second and fourth quarters,

the recognition of a net \$3.4 million (\$.03 per share) current income tax benefit related to the execution and finalization of an Advance Pricing Agreement between the U.S. and Canada,
the recognition of an aggregate \$2.2 million (\$.02 per share) non-cash deferred income tax benefit as a result of a net decrease in our deferred income tax asset valuation allowance related to our German and Belgian operations, recognized in the second, third and fourth quarters, and

22

the recognition of a \$2.4 million (\$.02 per share) non-cash income tax expense related to an increase in our reserve for uncertain tax positions, mostly recognized in the fourth quarter.

Our net loss in 2015 includes:

the recognition of an aggregate \$159.0 million (\$1.37 per share) non-cash deferred income tax expense as a result of a net increase in our deferred income tax asset valuation allowance related to our German and Belgian operations, mostly recognized in the second quarter,

the third quarter recognition of an aggregate pre-tax OTTI loss on our investment in a marketable equity security of \$12.0 million (\$7.8 million, or \$.07 per share, net of income tax benefit), and

- a pre-tax charge of \$21.7 million (\$18.5 million, or \$.16 per share, net of income tax benefit) related to workforce reduction costs, mostly recognized in the second quarter.

Critical accounting policies and estimates

The accompanying “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” is based upon our Consolidated Financial Statements, which we have prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, or GAAP. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reported period. On an ongoing basis we evaluate our estimates, including those related to the recoverability of long-lived assets, pension and other postretirement benefit obligations and the underlying actuarial assumptions related thereto, the realization of deferred income tax assets and accruals for litigation, income tax and other contingencies. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions which we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses. Actual results may differ significantly from previously-estimated amounts under different assumptions or conditions.

The following critical accounting policies affect our more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of our Consolidated Financial Statements:

Long-lived assets – We recognize an impairment charge associated with our long-lived assets, including property and equipment, whenever we determine that recovery of such long-lived asset is not probable. Such determination is made in accordance with the applicable GAAP requirements of Accounting Standard Codification, or ASC, Topic 360-10-35 Property, Plant and Equipment and is based upon, among other things, estimates of the amount of future net cash flows to be generated by the long-lived asset and estimates of the current fair value of the asset. Significant judgment is required in estimating such cash flows. Adverse changes in such estimates of future net cash flows or estimates of fair value could result in an inability to recover the carrying value of the long-lived asset, thereby possibly requiring an impairment charge to be recognized in the future. We do not assess our property and equipment for impairment unless certain impairment indicators specified in ASC Topic 360-10-35 are present. We did not evaluate any long-lived assets for impairment during 2017 because no such impairment indicators were present.

Benefit plans – We maintain various defined benefit pension plans and postretirement benefits other than pensions, or OPEB, plans. The amounts recognized as defined benefit pension and OPEB expenses and the reported amounts of pension asset and accrued pension and OPEB costs are actuarially determined based on several assumptions, including discount rates, expected rates of return on plan assets, expected health care trend rates and expected mortality. Variances from these actuarially assumed rates will result in increases or decreases, as applicable, in the recognized pension and OPEB obligations, pension and OPEB expenses and funding requirements. These assumptions are more fully described below under “Defined Benefit Pension Plans” and “OPEB Plans.”

- **Income taxes** – We recognize deferred taxes for future tax effects of temporary differences between financial and income tax reporting. Deferred income tax assets and liabilities for each tax-paying

jurisdiction in which we operate are netted and presented as either a noncurrent deferred income tax

asset or liability, as applicable. We record a valuation allowance to reduce our deferred income tax assets to the amount that is believed to be realized under the more-likely-than-not recognition criteria. While we have considered future taxable income and ongoing prudent and feasible tax planning strategies in assessing the need for a valuation allowance, it is possible that we may change our estimate of the amount of the deferred income tax assets that would more-likely-than-not be realized in the future, resulting in an adjustment to the deferred income tax asset valuation allowance that would either increase or decrease, as applicable, reported net income in the period such change in estimate was made.

For example, at December 31, 2017 we have substantial net operating loss (NOL) carryforwards in Germany (the equivalent of \$652 million for German corporate purposes and \$.5 million for German trade tax purposes) and in Belgium (the equivalent of \$50 million for Belgian corporate tax purposes), all of which have an indefinite carryforward period. As a result, we have net deferred income tax assets with respect to these two jurisdictions, primarily related to these NOL carryforwards. The German corporate tax is similar to the U.S. federal income tax, and the German trade tax is similar to the U.S. state income tax. As more fully described below under “Comparison of 2017 to 2016 Results of Operations – Income tax expense (benefit)” and “Comparison of 2016 to 2015 Results of Operations – Income tax expense,” we had a deferred income tax asset valuation allowance recognized with respect to such net deferred income tax assets of our Belgian and German operations beginning June 30, 2015. At June 30, 2017 we concluded we had sufficient positive evidence under the more-likely-than-not recognition criteria to support reversal of the entire valuation allowance related to our German and Belgian operations.

In addition, at the end of each reporting period we evaluate whether or not some or all of the undistributed earnings of our non-U.S. subsidiaries are permanently reinvested (as that term is defined in GAAP). While we may have concluded in the past that some of such undistributed earnings are permanently reinvested, facts and circumstances can change in the future and it is possible that a change in facts and circumstances, such as a change in the expectation regarding the capital needs of our non-U.S. subsidiaries or a change in tax law, could result in a conclusion that some or all of such undistributed earnings are no longer permanently reinvested. Prior to enactment of the new tax legislation in December 2017 referred to below, the undistributed earnings of our European subsidiaries were deemed to be permanently reinvested (we had not made a similar determination with respect to the undistributed earnings of our Canadian subsidiary). On December 22, 2017, the H.R.1 formally known as the “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act” (2017 Tax Act) was enacted into law. Among other things, this new tax legislation, as discussed more fully below under “Comparison of 2017 to 2016 Results of Operations – Income tax expense (benefit)”, implements a territorial tax system and imposes a one-time repatriation tax on the deemed repatriation of the post-1986 undistributed earnings of non-U.S. subsidiaries accumulated up through December 31, 2017, regardless of whether such earnings are repatriated, and eliminates any U.S. federal income tax on future non-U.S. earnings after such date (subject to certain exceptions). Our provision for income taxes in the fourth quarter of 2017 includes a provisional current income tax expense for the one-time repatriation tax imposed under the new tax law. In addition, and as a result of this significant change in tax law, effective December 31, 2017 we have now determined that all of the post-1986 undistributed earnings of our European subsidiaries are not permanently reinvested (we had previously concluded that all of the undistributed earnings of our Canadian subsidiary are not permanently reinvested), and accordingly our provision for income taxes in the fourth quarter of 2017 also includes a provisional deferred income tax expense for the estimated incremental U.S. state income tax, non-U.S. income tax and withholding tax liability attributable to all of such previously-considered permanently reinvested undistributed earnings.

We record a reserve for uncertain tax positions where we believe it is more-likely-than-not our tax positions will not prevail with the applicable tax authorities. It is possible that in the future we may change our assessment regarding the probability that our tax positions will prevail that would require an adjustment to the amount of our reserve for uncertain tax positions that could either increase or decrease, as applicable, reported net income in the period the change in assessment was made.

- Contingencies – We record accruals for legal and other contingencies when future expenditures associated with such contingencies and commitments become probable and the amounts can be reasonably estimated. However, new information may become available or circumstances (such as applicable laws and regulations) may change, thereby resulting in an increase or decrease in the amount required to be accrued for such matters (and therefore a decrease or increase in reported net income in the period of such change).

Results from operations is impacted by certain of these and other significant judgments and estimates, such as allowance for doubtful accounts, reserves for obsolete or unmarketable inventories, impairment of equity method investments and long-lived assets, defined benefit pension plans and loss accruals. In addition, net income is impacted by the significant judgments and estimates for deferred income tax asset valuation allowances and loss accruals.

Comparison of 2017 to 2016 Results of Operations

	Year ended December 31,			
	2016	2017		
	(Dollars in millions)			
Net sales	\$1,364.3	100 %	\$1,729.0	100 %
Cost of sales	1,107.3	81	1,170.1	68
Gross margin	257.0	19	558.9	32
Other operating income and expense, net	175.9	13	228.5	13
Income from operations	\$81.1	6 %	\$330.4	19 %
				%
				Change
TiO ₂ operating statistics:				
Sales volumes*	559		586	5 %
Production volumes*	546		576	5 %
Percentage change in net sales:				
TiO ₂ product pricing				22 %
TiO ₂ sales volumes				5
TiO ₂ product mix/other				(1)
Changes in currency exchange rates				1
Total				27 %

* Thousands of metric tons

Industry conditions and 2017 overview – Due to the successful implementation of previously-announced price increases, average selling prices began to rise in the second quarter of 2016 and have continued to rise through the full year of 2017. We started 2017 with average selling prices 11% higher than the beginning of 2016. Our average selling prices at the end of 2017 were 27% higher than at the end of 2016, with higher prices in all major markets. We experienced higher sales volumes in 2017 due to strength in the North American and European markets as compared to 2016.

The following table shows our capacity utilization rates during 2016 and 2017.

	2016	2017
First Quarter	97 %	100 %
Second Quarter	95 %	100 %
Third Quarter	100 %	100 %
Fourth Quarter	100 %	100 %
Overall	98 %	100 %

Throughout 2016, we experienced moderation in the cost of TiO₂ feedstock ore procured from third parties. Our cost of sales per metric ton of TiO₂ sold declined throughout 2016 and into the first six months of 2017 primarily due to the moderation in the cost of TiO₂ feedstock ore in 2016 and the first half of 2017. However, the cost of third-party feedstock ore we procured in 2017 was comparable to slightly higher as compared to 2016, and such higher cost feedstock began to be reflected in our results of operations in the third quarter of 2017 and continued through the fourth quarter of 2017. Overall, the cost of third-party feedstock ore we procured in the full year of 2017 was slightly higher as compared to 2016. Consequently, the cost of sales per metric ton of TiO₂ sold in 2017 was slightly higher than our cost of sales per metric ton of TiO₂ sold in 2016 (excluding the effect of changes in currency exchange rates).

Net sales – Our net sales increased 27% or \$364.7 million in 2017 compared to 2016, primarily due to the favorable effects of a 22% increase in average TiO₂ selling prices (which increased net sales by approximately \$300 million) and a 5% increase in sales volumes (which increased net sales by approximately \$68 million). TiO₂ selling prices will increase or decrease generally as a result of competitive market pressures, changes in the relative level of supply and demand as well as changes in raw material and other manufacturing costs.

Our sales volumes increased in 2017 primarily due to strength in the North American and European markets as compared to 2016. Our sales volumes in 2017 set a new overall record for a full-year period. We estimate that changes in currency exchange rates increased our net sales by approximately \$16 million, or 1%, as compared to 2016.

Cost of sales and gross margin – Cost of sales increased \$62.8 million or 6% in 2017 compared to 2016 due to the net impact of a 5% increase in sales volumes, efficiencies related to a 5% increase in TiO₂ production volumes, higher raw materials and other production costs of approximately \$13 million and currency fluctuations (primarily the euro). Our production volumes in 2017 set a new overall record for a full-year period.

Our cost of sales as a percentage of net sales decreased to 68% in 2017 compared to 81% in 2016 as the favorable effects of higher average selling prices and efficiencies related to higher production volumes more than offset the higher raw materials and other production costs, as discussed above.

Gross margin as a percentage of net sales increased to 32% in 2017 compared to 19% in 2016. As discussed and quantified above, our gross margin increased primarily due to the net effect of higher average selling prices, higher sales and production volumes and higher raw materials and other production costs.

Other operating income and expense, net – Other operating income and expense, net in 2017 was \$228.5 million, an increase of \$52.6 million compared to 2016. Other operating income and expense, net increased in 2017 in part due to higher shipping and handling costs of \$11 million, higher general and administrative costs related to the

implementation of a new accounting and manufacturing software system of \$8 million, higher research, development and certain sales technical support costs of \$7 million and currency fluctuations (primarily the euro). Other operating income and expense, net in 2016 includes income aggregating \$4.3 million related to insurance settlement gains from two separate business interruption claims. Selling, general and administrative expenses were approximately 12% of net sales in 2017 and 13% in 2016.

Income from operations – Income from operations increased by \$249.3 million, from \$81.1 million in 2016 to \$330.4 million in 2017. Income from operations as a percentage of net sales increased to 19% in 2017 from 6% in 2016. This increase was driven by the increase in gross margin, discussed above, partially offset by income

aggregating \$4.3 million related to insurance settlement gains from two separate business interruption claims in 2016. We estimate that changes in currency exchange rates decreased income from operations by approximately \$18 million in 2017 as compared to 2016.

Other non-operating income (expense) – We recognized a loss on prepayment of debt in the third quarter of 2017 aggregating \$7.1 million, associated with the prepayment and termination of our term loan indebtedness. See Note 8 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Interest expense decreased \$1.5 million from \$20.5 million in 2016 to \$19.0 million in 2017 primarily due to higher capitalized interest in 2017. See Notes 1 and 8 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Income tax expense (benefit) – We recognized an income tax benefit of \$48.8 million in 2017 compared to income tax expense of \$17.9 million in 2016. Our income tax expense in 2016 includes a \$3.4 million current income tax benefit related to the execution and finalization of an Advance Pricing Agreement between the U.S. and Canada, an aggregate \$2.2 million non-cash tax benefit as the result of a net decrease in our deferred income tax valuation allowance and a \$2.4 increase to our reserve for uncertain tax positions. As discussed below, our income tax benefit in 2017 includes the following:

- a \$186.7 million non-cash deferred income tax benefit as a result of the reversal of our deferred income tax asset valuation allowances associated with our German and Belgian operations, mostly recognized in the second quarter,
- an \$18.7 million non-cash deferred income tax benefit as a result of the reversal of our deferred income tax asset valuation allowance related to certain U.S. deferred income tax assets of one of our non-U.S. subsidiaries (which subsidiary is treated as a dual resident for U.S. income tax purposes),
 - a \$76.2 million provisional current income tax expense as a result of the 2017 Tax Act for the one-time repatriation tax imposed on the post-1986 undistributed earnings of our non-U.S. subsidiaries,
- a \$4.5 million provisional non-cash deferred income tax expense related to a change in our conclusions regarding our permanent reinvestment assertion with respect to the post-1986 undistributed earnings of our European subsidiaries, and
- an \$11.8 million aggregate income tax benefit related to the execution and finalization of an Advance Pricing Agreement between Canada and Germany, mostly recognized in the third quarter (which includes an \$8.6 million non-cash income tax benefit as a result of a net decrease in our reserve for uncertain tax positions).

Our earnings are subject to income tax in various U.S. and non-U.S. jurisdictions, and the income tax rates applicable to our pre-tax earnings (losses) of our non-U.S. operations are generally lower than the income tax rates applicable to our U.S. operations. Excluding the effect of any increase or decrease in our deferred income tax asset valuation allowance or changes in our reserve for uncertain tax positions, we would generally expect our overall effective tax rate to be lower than the U.S. federal statutory tax rate of 35% primarily because of our non-U.S. operations. Our effective income tax rate in 2016, excluding the impact of the reduction in our deferred income tax asset valuation allowances we recognized and the change to our reserve for uncertain tax positions, was lower than the U.S. federal statutory rate of 35% primarily due to the change to prior year tax discussed above. Our effective income tax rate in 2017, excluding the impact of the reversal of the deferred income tax asset valuation allowances, the one-time repatriation tax, the impact of the change in our permanent reinvestment assertion with respect to the undistributed earnings of our European subsidiaries and the change to our reserve for uncertain tax positions, was lower than the U.S. federal statutory rate of 35% primarily due to the impact of the earnings of our non-U.S. subsidiaries. See Note 14 to our Consolidated Financial Statements for a tabular reconciliation of our statutory income tax provision to our actual tax provision.

We have substantial net operating loss (NOL) carryforwards in Germany (the equivalent of \$652 million for German corporate purposes and \$.5 million for German trade tax purposes at December 31, 2017) and in

Belgium (the equivalent of \$50 million for Belgian corporate tax purposes at December 31, 2017), all of which have an indefinite carryforward period. As a result, we have net deferred income tax assets with respect to these two jurisdictions, primarily related to these NOL carryforwards. The German corporate tax is similar to the U.S. federal income tax, and the German trade tax is similar to the U.S. state income tax. Prior to June 30, 2015, and using all available evidence, we had concluded no deferred income tax asset valuation allowance was required to be recognized with respect to these net deferred income tax assets under the more-likely-than-not recognition criteria, primarily because (i) the carryforwards have an indefinite carryforward period, (ii) we utilized a portion of such carryforwards during the most recent three-year period, and (iii) we expected to utilize the remainder of the carryforwards over the long term. We had also previously indicated that facts and circumstances could change, which might in the future result in the recognition of a valuation allowance against some or all of such deferred income tax assets. However, as of June 30, 2015, and given our operating results during the second quarter of 2015 and our expectations at that time for our operating results for the remainder of 2015, which had been driven in large part by the trend in our average TiO₂ selling prices over such periods as well as the \$21.1 million pre-tax charge recognized in the second quarter of 2015 in connection with the implementation of certain workforce reductions, we did not have sufficient positive evidence to overcome the significant negative evidence of having cumulative losses in the most recent twelve consecutive quarters in both our German and Belgian jurisdictions at June 30, 2015 (even considering that the carryforward period of our German and Belgian NOL carryforwards is indefinite, one piece of positive evidence). Accordingly, at June 30, 2015, we concluded that we were required to recognize a non-cash deferred income tax asset valuation allowance under the more-likely-than-not recognition criteria with respect to our German and Belgian net deferred income tax assets at such date. We recognized an additional non-cash deferred income tax asset valuation allowance during the second half of 2015 due to losses recognized by our German and Belgian operations during such period. Such valuation allowance aggregated \$168.9 million at December 31, 2015. During 2016, we recognized an aggregate \$2.2 million non-cash tax benefit as the result of a net decrease in such deferred income tax asset valuation allowance, as the impact of utilizing a portion of our German NOLs during such period more than offset the impact of additional losses recognized by our Belgian operations during such period. Such valuation allowance aggregated approximately \$173 million at December 31, 2016 (\$153 million with respect to Germany and \$20 million with respect to Belgium). During the first six months of 2017, we recognized an aggregate non-cash income tax benefit of \$12.7 million as a result of a net decrease in such deferred income tax asset valuation allowance, due to the utilization of a portion of both the German and Belgian NOLs during such period. We continue to believe we will ultimately realize the full benefit of these German and Belgian NOL carryforwards, in part because of their indefinite carryforward period. As previously disclosed, our ability to reverse all or a portion of either the German or Belgian valuation allowance is dependent on the presence of sufficient positive evidence, such as the existence of cumulative profits in the most recent twelve consecutive quarters or profitability in recent quarters during which such profitability was trending upward throughout such period, and the ability to demonstrate future profitability for a sustainable period. As noted below, we determined such conditions were satisfied at June 30, 2017.

Although our Belgian operations were profitable in the first quarter of 2017 and we utilized a portion of the Belgian NOLs during such period, our Belgian operations continued to have cumulative losses in the most recent twelve quarters at March 31, 2017. Although the results of our German operations had improved during 2016 and the first quarter of 2017, indicating a change in the negative trend in earnings that existed at December 31, 2015, and we utilized a portion of our German NOLs during 2016 and the first quarter of 2017, and we had cumulative income with respect to our German operations for the most recent twelve consecutive quarters at March 31, 2017, the sustainability of such positive trend in earnings had not yet been demonstrated at such date. As previously disclosed, while neither our business as a whole nor any of our principal product groups is seasonal to any significant extent, TiO₂ sales are generally higher in the second and third quarters of the year, due in part to the increase in paint production in the spring to meet demand during the spring and summer painting seasons. While we have some insight into the overall demand expected to be generated by a particular year's paint season and TiO₂ pricing at the end of the first quarter (the start of the paint season), we have much greater insight and certainty regarding overall demand and TiO₂ pricing for a

particular year's paint season by the end of the second quarter of the year, in part because some factors, such as weather, can have an impact on both overall demand and pricing each year. Accordingly, at March 31, 2017 we did not have sufficient positive evidence to support a sustainable profit trend and consequently, we did not have sufficient positive evidence under the more-likely-than-not recognition criteria to support reversal of the entire valuation allowance related to our German or Belgian operations at such date. During the second quarter of 2017, our German and Belgian operations continued to be profitable, and both reported levels of profitability higher as compared to the first quarter of 2017. As previously disclosed, our

consolidated results of operations in general, and our German and Belgian operations in particular, were favorably impacted during the second quarter of 2017 by, among other things, continued higher average TiO₂ selling prices and higher sales volumes. Our German operations had cumulative income for the most recent twelve consecutive quarters at June 30, 2017. While our Belgian operations had cumulative losses in the most recent twelve consecutive quarters at June 30, 2017, such operations generated income in both the first and second quarters of 2017, with higher income in the second quarter as compared to the first quarter, the amount of cumulative losses of our Belgian operations for the most recent twelve consecutive quarters was lower as of June 30, 2017 as compared to both March 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016 and we expected to have cumulative profits in the third and fourth quarters. Our production facilities had been operating at near practical capacity utilization rates in the first six months of 2017. In addition, consistent with our previously-disclosed expectation regarding our consolidated results of operations for the second half of 2017, we believed it was likely our German and Belgian operations would continue to report improved operating results in 2017 as compared to 2016. Accordingly, at June 30, 2017 we concluded we had sufficient positive evidence under the more-likely-than-not recognition criteria to support reversal of the entire valuation allowance related to our German and Belgian operations. Such sufficient positive evidence included, among other things, the existence of cumulative profits in the most recent twelve consecutive quarters (Germany) or profitability in recent quarters during which such profitability was trending upward throughout such period (Belgium), the ability to demonstrate future profitability in Germany and Belgium for a sustainable period (as supported by, among other things, recent trends in profitability, driven in large part by increases in TiO₂ selling prices, and continued strong demand indicating that such profitability trends will continue in the future), and the indefinite carryforward period for the German and Belgian NOLs. As discussed below regarding accounting for income taxes at interim dates, a large portion (\$149.9 million) of the remaining valuation allowance as of June 30, 2017 was reversed in the second quarter, with the remainder reversed during the second half of 2017.

In accordance with the ASC 740-270 guidance regarding accounting for income taxes at interim dates, the amount of the valuation allowance reversed at June 30, 2017 (\$149.9 million, of which \$141.9 million related to Germany and \$8.0 million related to Belgium) relates to our change in judgment at that date regarding the realizability of the related deferred income tax asset as it relates to future years (i.e. 2018 and after). A change in judgment regarding the realizability of deferred tax assets as it relates to the current year is considered in determining the estimated annual effective tax rate for the year and is recognized throughout the year, including interim periods subsequent to the date of the change in judgment. Accordingly, our income tax benefit in 2017 includes an aggregate non-cash income tax benefit of \$186.7 million related to the reversal of the German and Belgian valuation allowance, comprised of \$12.7 million recognized in the first half of 2017 related to the utilization of a portion of both the German and Belgian NOLs during such period, \$149.9 million related to the portion of the valuation allowance reversed as of June 30, 2017 and \$24.1 million recognized in the second half of 2017 related to the utilization of a portion of both the German and Belgian NOLs during such period. In addition, our deferred income tax asset valuation allowance increased \$13.7 million in 2017 as a result of changes in currency exchange rates, which increase was recognized as part of other comprehensive income (loss).

On December 22, 2017, the 2017 Tax Act was enacted into law. This new tax legislation, among other changes, (i) reduces the U.S. Federal corporate income tax rate from 35% to 21% effective January 1, 2018; (ii) implements a territorial tax system and imposes a one-time repatriation tax (Transition Tax) on the deemed repatriation of the post-1986 undistributed earnings of non-U.S. subsidiaries accumulated up through December 31, 2017, regardless of whether such earnings are repatriated; (iii) eliminates U.S. tax on future non-U.S. earnings (subject to certain exceptions); (iv) eliminates the domestic production activities deduction beginning in 2018; (v) eliminates the net operating loss carryback and provides for an indefinite carryforward period subject to an 80% annual usage limitation; (vi) allows for the expensing of certain capital expenditures; (vii) imposes a tax on global intangible low-tax income; and (viii) imposes a base erosion anti-abuse tax. Following the enactment of the 2017 Tax Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission issued Staff Accounting Bulletin (SAB) 118 to provide guidance on the accounting and reporting impacts of the 2017 Tax Act. SAB 118 states that companies should account for changes related to the 2017

Tax Act in the period of enactment if all information is available and the accounting can be completed. In situations where companies do not have enough information to complete the accounting in the period of enactment, a company must either 1) record an estimated provisional amount if the impact of the change can be reasonably estimated; or 2) continue to apply the accounting guidance that was in effect immediately prior to the 2017 Tax Act if the impact of the change cannot be reasonably estimated. If estimated provisional amounts are recorded, SAB 118 provides a measurement period of no longer than one year during which companies should adjust those amounts as additional information becomes available.

Under GAAP, we are required to revalue our net deferred tax asset associated with our U.S. net deductible temporary differences in the period in which the new tax legislation is enacted based on deferred tax balances as of the enactment date, to reflect the effect of such reduction in the corporate income tax rate. Our temporary differences as of December 31, 2017 are not materially different from our temporary differences as of the enactment date, accordingly revaluation of our net deductible temporary differences is based on our net deferred tax assets as of December 31, 2017. Such revaluation is recognized in continuing operations and is not material to us.

Prior to the enactment of the 2017 Tax Act, the undistributed earnings of our European subsidiaries were deemed to be permanently reinvested (we had not made a similar determination with respect to the undistributed earnings of our Canadian subsidiary). Pursuant to the Transition Tax provisions imposing a one-time repatriation tax on post-1986 undistributed earnings, we recognized a provisional current income tax expense of \$76.2 million in the fourth quarter of 2017. We will elect to pay such tax over an eight year period beginning in 2018, including approximately \$6.1 million which will be paid in 2018 and is netted with our current receivables from affiliates (income taxes receivable from Valhi) classified as a current asset in our Consolidated Balance Sheet, and the remaining \$70.1 million is recorded as a noncurrent payable to affiliate (income taxes payable to Valhi) classified as a noncurrent liability in our Consolidated Balance Sheet and will be paid in increments over the remainder of the eight year period. The amounts recorded as of December 31, 2017 as a result of the 2017 Tax Act represent estimates based on information currently available and, in accordance with the guidance in SAB 118, these amounts are provisional and subject to adjustment as we obtain additional information and complete our analysis in 2018. If the underlying guidance or tax laws change and such change impacts the income tax effects of the new legislation recognized at December 31, 2017 or we determine we have additional tax liabilities under other provisions of the 2017 Tax Act, including the tax on global intangible low-tax income and the base erosion anti-abuse tax, we will recognize an adjustment in the reporting period within the measurement period in which such adjustment is determined. Such measurement period ends December 22, 2018 pursuant to the guidance under SAB 118.

Prior to the enactment of the 2017 Tax Act, the undistributed earnings of our European subsidiaries were deemed to be permanently reinvested (we had not made a similar determination with respect to the undistributed earnings of our Canadian subsidiary). As a result of the implementation of a territorial tax system under the 2017 Tax Act, effective January 1, 2018 and the Transition Tax which in effect taxes the post-1986 undistributed earnings of our non-U.S. subsidiaries accumulated up through December 31, 2017, we have now determined that all of the post-1986 undistributed earnings of our European subsidiaries are not permanently reinvested (we had previously concluded that all of the undistributed earnings of our Canadian subsidiary are not permanently reinvested). Accordingly, in the fourth quarter of 2017 we have recognized an aggregate provisional non-cash deferred income tax expense of \$4.5 million for the estimated U.S. state and non-U.S. income tax and withholding tax liability attributable to all of such previously-considered permanently reinvested undistributed earnings. We are currently reviewing certain other provisions under the 2017 Tax Act that would impact our determination of the aggregate temporary differences attributable to our investments in our non-U.S. subsidiaries. We continue to assert indefinite reinvestment as it relates to our outside basis differences attributable to our investments in our non-U.S. subsidiaries, other than post-1986 undistributed earnings of our European subsidiaries and all undistributed earnings of our Canadian subsidiary. It is possible that a change in facts and circumstances, such as a change in the expectation regarding future dispositions or acquisitions or a change in tax law, could result in a conclusion that some or all of such investments are no longer permanently reinvested. It is currently not practical for us to determine the amount of the unrecognized deferred income tax liability related to our investments in our non-U.S. subsidiaries due to the complexities associated with our organizational structure, changes in the 2017 Tax Act and the U.S. taxation of such investments in the states in which we operate.

Certain U.S. deferred tax attributes of one of our non-U.S. subsidiaries, which subsidiary is treated as a dual resident for U.S. income tax purposes, were subject to various limitations. As a result, we had previously concluded that a deferred income tax asset valuation allowance was required to be recognized with respect to such subsidiary's U.S. net

deferred income tax asset because such assets did not meet the more-likely-than-not recognition criteria primarily due to (i) the various limitations regarding use of such attributes due to the dual residency; (ii) the dual resident subsidiary had a history of losses and absent distributions from our non-U.S. subsidiaries, which were previously not determinable, such subsidiary was expected to continue to generate losses; and (iii) a limited NOL carryforward period for U.S. tax purposes. Because we had concluded the likelihood of realization of such subsidiary's net deferred income tax asset was remote, we had not previously disclosed such valuation allowance or the associated amount of the subsidiary's net deferred income tax assets (exclusive of such

valuation allowance). Primarily due to changes enacted under the 2017 Tax Act, we have concluded we now have sufficient positive evidence under the more-likely-than-not recognition criteria to support reversal of the entire valuation allowance related to such subsidiary's net deferred income tax asset, which evidence included, among other things, (i) the inclusion under Transition Tax provisions of significant earnings for U.S. income tax purposes which significantly and positively impacts the ability of such deferred tax attributes to be utilized by us; (ii) the indefinite carryforward period for U.S. net operating losses incurred after December 31, 2017; (iii) an expectation of continued future profitability for our U.S. operations; and (iv) a positive taxable income basket for U.S. tax purposes in excess of the U.S. deferred tax asset related to the U.S. attributes of such subsidiary. Accordingly, in the fourth quarter we recognized an \$18.7 million non-cash deferred income tax benefit as a result of the reversal of such valuation allowance.

Our consolidated effective income tax rate in 2018 is expected to be higher than the U.S. federal statutory rate of 21% because the income tax rates applicable to our earnings (losses) of our non-U.S. operations will be higher than the income tax rates applicable to our U.S. operations.

Comparison of 2016 to 2015 Results of Operations

	Year ended December 31,				
	2015		2016		
	(Dollars in millions)				
Net sales	\$1,348.8	100 %	\$1,364.3	100	%
Cost of sales	1,156.5	86	1,107.3	81	
Gross margin	192.3	14	257.0	19	
Other operating income and expense, net	193.4	14	175.9	13	
Income (loss) from operations	\$(1.1)	- %	\$81.1	6	%
					% Change
TiO ₂ operating statistics:					
Sales volumes*	525		559	7	%
Production volumes*	528		546	3	%
Percentage change in net sales:					
TiO ₂ product pricing				(3)	%
TiO ₂ sales volumes				7	
TiO ₂ product mix/other				(2)	
Changes in currency exchange rates				(1)	
Total				1	%

* Thousands of metric tons

Net sales – Our net sales increased 1% or \$15.5 million in 2016 compared to 2015, primarily due to the net effect of a 7% increase in sales volumes (which increased net sales by approximately \$94 million) and a 3% decrease in average TiO₂ selling prices (which decreased net sales by approximately \$40 million). TiO₂ selling prices will increase or decrease generally as a result of competitive market pressures, changes in the relative level of supply and demand as well as changes in raw material and other manufacturing costs.

Our sales volumes increased primarily due to higher sales in North American, European and export markets partially offset by lower sales in the Latin American market. Our sales volumes in 2016 set a new overall record for a full-year

period. We estimate that changes in currency exchange rates decreased our net sales by approximately \$9 million, or 1%, as compared to 2015.

Cost of sales and gross margin – Cost of sales decreased \$49.2 million or 4% in 2016 compared to 2015 due to the net impact of lower raw materials and other production costs of approximately \$76 million (primarily caused by the lower third-party feedstock ore costs, as discussed above), approximately \$4.6 million in savings resulting from workforce reductions implemented in 2015, a 3% increase in TiO₂ production volumes and currency

fluctuations (primarily the euro). In addition, cost of sales in 2015 includes approximately \$10.8 million of severance costs related to the workforce reduction plan.

Our cost of sales as a percentage of net sales decreased to 81% in 2016 compared to 86% in 2015, as the favorable effects of lower raw materials and other production costs, efficiencies related to higher production volumes, and the impact of the \$10.8 million workforce reduction charge classified in cost of sales in 2015 and associated cost savings from such workforce reduction realized in 2016 more than offset the unfavorable impact of lower average selling prices, as discussed above.

Gross margin as a percentage of net sales increased to 19% in 2016 compared to 14% in 2015. As discussed and quantified above, our gross margin increased primarily due to the net effect of lower selling prices, lower raw materials and other production costs (including 2015 workforce reduction charges of \$10.8 million classified as cost of sales and the associated \$4.6 million of cost savings from such workforce reduction realized in 2016), higher sales volumes and higher production volumes.

Other operating income and expense, net – Other operating income and expense, net in 2016 was \$175.9 million, a decrease of \$17.5 million compared to 2015. Other operating income and expense, net in 2015 included \$10.9 million of severance costs related to workforce reductions classified in selling, general and administrative expense. Other operating income and expense, net in 2016 includes the favorable impact of approximately \$5.6 million in cost savings realized from the workforce reductions implemented in 2015 along with income aggregating \$4.3 million related to insurance settlement gains from two separate business interruption claims. Selling, general and administrative expenses were approximately 13% of net sales in 2016 and 2015.

Income (loss) from operations – Income from operations increased by \$82.2 million, from a loss from operations of \$1.1 million in 2015 to income from operations of \$81.1 million in 2016. Income (loss) from operations as a percentage of net sales increased to 6% in 2016 from less than 1% in 2015. This increase was driven by the increase in gross margin, discussed above, as well as the impact of the \$10.9 million 2015 workforce reduction charge classified in selling, general and administrative expense and the associated cost savings from such workforce reductions realized in 2016 of \$5.6 million, and the income aggregating \$4.3 million related to insurance settlement gains from two separate business interruption claims. We estimate that changes in currency exchange rates increased income from operations by approximately \$14 million in 2016 as compared to 2015.

Other non-operating income (expense) – We recognized a \$12.0 million pre-tax impairment charge in the third quarter of 2015 due to other-than-temporary impairment on our investment in a marketable equity security available for sale. See Note 6 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Interest expense increased \$2.0 million from \$18.5 million in 2015 to \$20.5 million in 2016 primarily due to the interest rate swap contract which was effective September 30, 2015 and higher average debt levels in 2016. See Note 8 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Income tax expense – We recognized income tax expense of \$17.9 million in 2016 compared to income tax expense of \$142.8 million in 2015. As discussed above, our income tax expense in 2015 includes an aggregate non-cash deferred income tax expense of \$159.0 million related to the recognition of a deferred income tax asset valuation for our German and Belgian operations (mostly recognized in the second quarter), while our income tax expense in 2016 includes an aggregate \$2.2 million non-cash tax benefit as the result of a net decrease in such deferred income tax valuation allowance. Our earnings are subject to income tax in various U.S. and non-U.S. jurisdictions, and the income tax rates applicable to our pre-tax earnings (losses) of our non-U.S. operations is generally lower than the

income tax rates applicable to our U.S. operations. Our income tax expense in 2016 includes a \$3.4 million current income tax benefit related to the execution and finalization of an Advance Pricing Agreement between the U.S. and Canada. Excluding the effect of any increase or decrease in our deferred income tax asset valuation allowance, we would generally expect our overall effective tax rate to be lower than the U.S. federal statutory rate of 35% primarily because of our non-U.S. operations. Our effective income tax rate in 2015, excluding the impact of the deferred income tax asset valuation allowances we recognized, was higher than the U.S. federal statutory tax rate of 35%, primarily due to a current U.S. income tax benefit attributable to current year losses of one of our non-U.S. subsidiaries. Our effective income tax rate in 2016, excluding the impact of the reduction in our deferred income tax asset valuation allowances we recognized and the change to our reserve for

uncertain tax positions, was lower than the U.S. federal statutory rate of 35% primarily due to the change to prior year tax disclosed above. Excluding the effect of any increase or decrease in our deferred income tax asset valuation allowance or changes in our reserve for uncertain tax positions, we would generally expect our overall effective tax rate to be lower than the U.S. federal statutory rate of 35% primarily because of our non-U.S. operations. See Note 14 to our Consolidated Financial Statements for a tabular reconciliation of our statutory income tax provision to our actual tax provision.

Effects of currency exchange rates

We have substantial operations and assets located outside the United States (primarily in Germany, Belgium, Norway and Canada). The majority of our sales from non-U.S. operations are denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, principally the euro, other major European currencies and the Canadian dollar. A portion of our sales generated from our non-U.S. operations is denominated in the U.S. dollar (and consequently our non-U.S. operations will generally hold U.S. dollars from time to time). Certain raw materials used worldwide, primarily titanium-containing feedstocks, are purchased primarily in U.S. dollars, while labor and other production costs are purchased primarily in local currencies. Consequently, the translated U.S. dollar value of our non-U.S. sales and operating results are subject to currency exchange rate fluctuations which may favorably or unfavorably impact reported earnings and may affect the comparability of period-to-period operating results. In addition to the impact of the translation of sales and expenses over time, our non-U.S. operations also generate currency transaction gains and losses which primarily relate to (i) the difference between the currency exchange rates in effect when non-local currency sales or operating costs (primarily U.S. dollar denominated) are initially accrued and when such amounts are settled with the non-local currency, (ii) changes in currency exchange rates during time periods when our non-U.S. operations are holding non-local currency (primarily U.S. dollars), and (iii) relative changes in the aggregate fair value of currency forward contracts held from time to time. As discussed in Note 18 to our Consolidated Financial Statements, we periodically use currency forward contracts to manage a portion of our currency exchange risk, and relative changes in the aggregate fair value of any currency forward contracts we hold from time to time serves in part to mitigate the currency transaction gains or losses we would otherwise recognize from the first two items described above.

Overall, we estimate that fluctuations in currency exchange rates had the following effects on our sales and income from operations for the periods indicated.

Impact of changes in currency exchange rates - 2017 vs. 2016						
Translation						
				gain/loss-	Total	
				impact of	impact	
				rate	2017 vs.	
				changes	2016	
Transaction		Change				
gains/(losses)		(In				
recognized		millions)				
2016	2017					
Impact on:						
Net sales	\$-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16	\$ 16	
Income from operations	6	(8)	(14)	(4)	(18)	

The \$16 million increase in net sales (translation gain) was caused primarily by a weakening of the U.S. dollar relative to the euro (mostly in the fourth quarter), as our euro-denominated sales were translated into more U.S. dollars in 2017 as compared to 2016. The weakening of the U.S. dollar relative to the Canadian dollar and the Norwegian krone in 2017 did not have a significant effect on the reported amount of our net sales, as a substantial portion of the sales generated by our Canadian and Norwegian operations are denominated in the U.S. dollar.

The \$18 million decrease in income from operations was comprised of the following:

- Approximately \$14 million from net currency transaction losses caused by relative changes in currency exchange rates at each applicable balance sheet date between the U.S. dollar and the euro, Canadian dollar and the Norwegian krone, which causes increases or decreases, as applicable, in U.S. dollar-denominated receivables and payables and U.S. dollar currency held by our non-U.S. operations, and

33

Approximately \$4 million from net currency translation losses primarily caused by a weakening of the U.S. dollar relative to the Canadian dollar, as its local currency-denominated operating costs were translated into more U.S. dollars in 2017 as compared to 2016, and such translation, as it related to the U.S. dollar relative to the euro, had a nominal effect on income from operations in 2017 as compared to 2016.

Impact of changes in currency exchange rates - 2016 vs. 2015

	Transaction gains/(losses) recognized			Translation gain/loss-	Total
	2015	2016	Change (In millions)	impact of rate changes	impact 2016 vs. 2015
Impact on:					
Net sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (9)	\$ (9)
Income from operations	-	6	6	8	14

The \$9 million reduction in net sales (translation loss) was caused primarily by a strengthening of the U.S. dollar relative to the euro, as our euro-denominated sales were translated into fewer U.S. dollars in 2016 as compared to 2015. The strengthening of the U.S. dollar relative to the Canadian dollar and the Norwegian krone in 2016 did not have a significant effect on the reported amount of our net sales, as a substantial portion of the sales generated by our Canadian and Norwegian operations are denominated in the U.S. dollar.

The \$14 million increase in income from operations was comprised of the following:

Approximately \$6 million from net currency transaction gains caused primarily by a strengthening of the U.S. dollar relative to the euro, Norwegian krone and Canadian dollar, as U.S. dollar-denominated receivables and U.S. dollar currency held by our non-U.S. operations became equivalent to a greater amount of local currency in 2016 as compared to 2015, and

Approximately \$8 million from net currency translation gains caused primarily by a strengthening of the U.S. dollar relative to the Canadian dollar and the Norwegian krone, as their local currency-denominated operating costs were translated into fewer U.S. dollars in 2016 as compared to 2015, (and such translation, as it related to the U.S. dollar relative to the euro, had a negative effect on income from operations in 2016 as compared to 2015, as the negative impact of the stronger U.S. dollar on euro-denominated sales more than offset the favorable effect of euro-denominated operating costs being translated into fewer U.S. dollars in 2016 compared to 2015).

Outlook

During 2017 we operated our production facilities at full practical capacity compared to 98% of practical capacity in 2016. We expect our production volumes in 2018 to be slightly lower as compared to the record 2017 production volumes. Assuming current global economic conditions continue and based on anticipated production levels, we expect our 2018 sales volumes to be slightly lower as compared to record 2017 sales volumes. We will continue to monitor current and anticipated near-term customer demand levels and align our production and inventories accordingly.

The cost of third-party feedstock ore we purchased in 2017 was slightly higher as compared to 2016, and such higher cost feedstock ore began to be reflected in our results of operations in the third quarter of 2017 and continued through

the fourth quarter of 2017. Consequently, our cost of sales per metric ton of TiO₂ sold in 2017 was slightly higher as compared to our cost of sales per metric ton of TiO₂ sold in 2016 (excluding the effect of changes in currency exchange rates). We expect our cost of sales per metric ton of TiO₂ sold in 2018 will be higher than our per-metric ton cost in 2017 primarily due to higher feedstock costs.

We started 2017 with average selling prices 11% higher than the beginning of 2016, and average selling prices increased by an additional 27% during the full year of 2017. Industry data indicates that overall TiO₂ inventory held by producers declined significantly during 2016 and remained at low levels throughout 2017. With

the strong sales volumes experienced in 2017, we continue to see evidence of strong demand for our TiO₂ products across nearly all segments.

Overall, we expect our sales in 2018 will be higher as compared to 2017, principally as a result of expected higher average selling prices, and we expect our income from operations in 2018 will be higher as compared to 2017, principally as a result of expected higher average selling prices in 2018 as compared to 2017, partially offset by higher raw material costs (principally feedstock ore). However, we expect our net income in 2018 will be lower as compared to 2017, as the favorable impact of higher expected income from operations in 2018 would be more than offset by the favorable impact of the aggregate net income tax benefit of \$136.5 million we recognized in 2017.

Due to the constraints of high capital costs and extended lead time associated with adding significant new TiO₂ production capacity, especially for premium grades of TiO₂ products produced from the chloride process, we believe increased and sustained profit margins will be necessary to financially justify major expansions of TiO₂ production capacity required to meet expected future growth in demand. Any major expansion of TiO₂ production capacity, if announced, would take several years before such production would become available to meet future growth in demand.

Our expectations for our future operating results are based upon a number of factors beyond our control, including worldwide growth of gross domestic product, competition in the marketplace, continued operation of competitors, unexpected or earlier-than-expected capacity additions or reductions and technological advances. If actual developments differ from our expectations, our results of operations could be unfavorably affected.

Assumptions on Defined Benefit Plans and OPEB Plans

Defined benefit pension plans

We maintain various defined benefit pension plans in the U.S., Europe and Canada. See Note 10 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Under defined benefit pension plan accounting, defined benefit pension plan expense, pension assets and accrued pension costs are each recognized based on certain actuarial assumptions. These assumptions are principally the assumed discount rate, the assumed long-term rate of return on plan assets and the assumed increase in future compensation levels. We recognize the full funded status of our defined benefit pension plans as either an asset (for overfunded plans) or a liability (for underfunded plans) in our Consolidated Balance Sheet.

We recognized consolidated defined benefit pension plan expense of \$23.4 million in 2015, \$22.0 million in 2016 and \$28.9 million in 2017. Certain non-U.S. employees are covered by plans in their respective countries, principally in Germany, Canada and Norway. Participation in the defined benefit pension plan in Germany was closed to new participants effective in 2005. German employees hired beginning in 2005 participate in a new plan in which the retirement benefit is based upon the amount of employee and employer contributions to the plan, but for which in accordance with German law the employer guarantees a minimum rate of return on invested assets and a guaranteed indexed lifetime benefit payment after retirement based on the participant's account balance at the time of retirement. In accordance with GAAP, the new pension plan is accounted for as a defined benefit plan, principally because of such guaranteed minimum rate of return and guaranteed lifetime benefit payment. Participation in the defined benefit plan in Canada with respect to hourly and salaried workers was closed to new participants in December 2013 and 2014, respectively, and existing hourly and salaried plan participants will no longer accrue additional defined pension benefits after December 2013 and 2014, respectively. Our U.S. plan was closed to new participants in 1996, and existing participants no longer accrued any additional benefits after that date. The amount of funding requirements for these defined benefit pension plans is generally based upon applicable regulations (such as ERISA in the U.S.) and

will generally differ from pension expense for financial reporting purposes. We made contributions to all of our plans which aggregated \$17.2 million in 2015, \$15.5 million in 2016 and \$16.2 million in 2017.

The discount rates we use for determining defined benefit pension expense and the related pension obligations are based on current interest rates earned on long-term bonds that receive one of the two highest ratings

35

given by recognized rating agencies in the applicable country where the defined benefit pension benefits are being paid. In addition, we receive third-party advice about appropriate discount rates and these advisors may in some cases use their own market indices. We adjust these discount rates as of each December 31 valuation date to reflect then-current interest rates on such long-term bonds. We use these discount rates to determine the actuarial present value of the pension obligations as of December 31 of that year. We also use these discount rates to determine the interest component of defined benefit pension expense for the following year.

At December 31, 2017, approximately 70%, 17%, 8% and 3% of the projected benefit obligations related to our plans in Germany, Canada, Norway and the U.S., respectively. We use several different discount rate assumptions in determining our consolidated defined benefit pension plan obligation and expense. This is because we maintain defined benefit pension plans in several different countries in Europe and North America and the interest rate environment differs from country to country.

We used the following discount rates for our defined benefit pension plans:

	Discount rates used for: Obligations	Obligations	Obligations
	at December 31, 2015	at December 31, 2016	at December 31, 2017
	and expense in 2016	and expense in 2017	and expense in 2018
Germany	2.3%	1.8%	1.8%
Canada	3.9%	3.7%	3.3%
Norway	2.8%	2.5%	2.5%
U.S.	4.1%	3.9%	3.5%

The assumed long-term rate of return on plan assets represents the estimated average rate of earnings expected to be earned on the funds invested or to be invested in the plans' assets provided to fund the benefit payments inherent in the projected benefit obligations. Unlike the discount rate, which is adjusted each year based on changes in current long-term interest rates, the assumed long-term rate of return on plan assets will not necessarily change based upon the actual short-term performance of the plan assets in any given year. Defined benefit pension expense each year is based upon the assumed long-term rate of return on plan assets for each plan, the actual fair value of the plan assets as of the beginning of the year and an estimate of the amount of contributions to and distributions from the plan during the year. Differences between the expected return on plan assets for a given year and the actual return are deferred and amortized over future periods based either upon the expected average remaining service life of the active plan participants (for plans for which benefits are still being earned by active employees) or the average remaining life expectancy of the inactive participants (for plans for which benefits are not still being earned by active employees).

At December 31, 2017, approximately 58%, 24%, 12% and 3% of the plan assets related to our plans in Germany, Canada, Norway and the U.S., respectively. We use several different long-term rates of return on plan asset assumptions in determining our consolidated defined benefit pension plan expense. This is because the plan assets in different countries are invested in a different mix of investments and the long-term rates of return for different investments differ from country to country.

In determining the expected long-term rate of return on plan asset assumptions, we consider the long-term asset mix (e.g. equity vs. fixed income) for the assets for each of our plans and the expected long-term rates of return for such asset components. In addition, we receive third-party advice about appropriate long-term rates of return. All of the assets of our U.S. plan are invested in the Combined Master Retirement Trust (CMRT), a collective investment trust

sponsored by Contran to permit the collective investment by certain master trusts which fund certain employee benefits sponsored by Contran and certain of its affiliates, including us. Such assumed asset mixes are discussed in Note 10 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Our pension plan weighted average asset allocations by asset category were as follows:

	December 31, 2017			
	Germany	Canada	Norway	CMRT
Equity securities and limited partnerships	20 %	23 %	12 %	62 %
Fixed income securities	69	77	51	31
Real estate	9	-	9	-
Other	2	-	28	7
Total	100%	100 %	100 %	100 %

	December 31, 2016			
	Germany	Canada	Norway	CMRT
Equity securities and limited partnerships	20 %	37 %	12 %	58 %
Fixed income securities	71	63	59	36
Real estate	8	-	9	-
Other	1	-	20	6
Total	100%	100 %	100 %	100 %

We regularly review our actual asset allocation for each non-US plan and will periodically rebalance the investments in each plan to more accurately reflect the targeted allocation when considered appropriate. The CMRT trustee and investment committee do not maintain a specific target asset allocation in order to achieve their objectives, but instead they periodically change the asset mix of the CMRT based upon, among other things, advice they receive from third-party advisors and their expectations regarding potential returns for various investment alternatives and what asset mix will generate the greatest overall return.

Our assumed long-term rates of return on plan assets for 2015, 2016 and 2017 were as follows:

	2015	2016	2017
Germany	4.3%	3.5%	1.3%
Canada	5.8%	5.2%	4.3%
Norway	3.8%	3.3%	3.5%
U.S.	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%

Our long-term rate of return on plan asset assumptions in 2018 used for purposes of determining our 2018 defined benefit pension plan expense for Germany, Canada, Norway and the U.S. are 2.0%, 4.2%, 4.0% and 7.5%, respectively.

To the extent that a plan's particular pension benefit formula calculates the pension benefit in whole or in part based upon future compensation levels, the projected benefit obligations and the pension expense will be based in part upon expected increases in future compensation levels. For all of our plans for which the benefit formula is so calculated, we generally base the assumed expected increase in future compensation levels upon average long-term inflation rates for the applicable country.

In addition to the actuarial assumptions discussed above, the amount of recognized defined benefit pension expense and the amount of net pension asset and net pension liability will vary based upon relative changes in currency exchange rates.

A reduction in the assumed discount rate generally results in an actuarial loss, as the actuarially-determined present value of estimated future benefit payments will increase. Conversely, an increase in the assumed discount rate generally results in an actuarial gain. In addition, an actual return on plan assets for a given year that is greater than the assumed return on plan assets results in an actuarial gain, while an actual return on plan assets that is less than the assumed return results in an actuarial loss. Other actual outcomes that differ from previous assumptions, such as individuals living longer or shorter than assumed in mortality tables, which are also used to determine the actuarially-determined present value of estimated future benefit payments, changes in such mortality table themselves or plan amendments, will also result in actuarial losses or gains. These amounts are recognized in other comprehensive income. In addition, any actuarial gains generated in future periods would reduce the negative amortization effect of any cumulative unrecognized actuarial losses, while any actuarial losses generated in future periods would reduce the favorable amortization effect of any cumulative unrecognized actuarial gains.

During 2017, all of our defined benefit pension plans generated a combined net actuarial gain of approximately \$3.5 million. This actuarial gain resulted primarily from an actual return on plan assets during 2017 greater than the expected return, partially offset by a decrease in discount rates from December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2017.

Based on the actuarial assumptions described above and our current expectation for what actual average currency exchange rates will be during 2018, we expect our defined benefit pension expense will approximate \$26.2 million in 2018. In comparison, we expect to be required to contribute approximately \$17.0 million to such plans during 2018.

As noted above, defined benefit pension expense and the amounts recognized as accrued pension costs are based upon the actuarial assumptions discussed above. We believe all of the actuarial assumptions used are reasonable and appropriate. However, if we had lowered the assumed discount rate by 25 basis points for all plans as of December 31, 2017, our aggregate projected benefit obligations would have increased by approximately \$30.0 million at that date and our defined benefit pension expense would be expected to increase by approximately \$1.8 million during 2018. Similarly, if we lowered the assumed long-term rate of return on plan assets by 25 basis points for all of our plans, our defined benefit pension expense would be expected to increase by approximately \$.9 million during 2018.

OPEB plans

Certain of our subsidiaries in the U.S. and Canada currently provide certain health care and life insurance benefits for eligible retired employees. Under other postretirement employee benefits (OPEB) accounting, OPEB expense and accrued OPEB costs are based on certain actuarial assumptions, principally the assumed discount rate and the assumed rate of increases in future health care costs. We recognize the full unfunded status of our OPEB plans as a liability. See Note 10 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for a discussion of the consolidated OPEB cost we recognized during the last three years, the amount of our accrued OPEB costs, and the associated actuarial assumptions utilized.

Based on such actuarial assumptions and our current expectation for what actual average currency exchange rates will be during 2018, we expect our consolidated OPEB expense will be nil in 2018. In comparison, we expect to be required to make approximately \$.4 million of contributions to such plans during 2018.

We believe that all of the actuarial assumptions used are reasonable and appropriate. However, if we had lowered the assumed discount rate by 25 basis points for all plans as of December 31, 2017, our aggregate projected benefit obligations would have increased approximately \$.2 million at that date and our OPEB cost during 2017 would not be materially impacted. Similarly, a one percent assumed change in health care trend rates for all plans would not materially impact our OPEB costs.

Operations outside the United States

As discussed above, we have substantial operations located outside the United States for which the functional currency is not the U.S. dollar. As a result, the reported amount of our assets and liabilities related to our non-U.S. operations, and therefore our consolidated net assets, will fluctuate based upon changes in currency exchange rates. At December 31, 2017, we had substantial net assets denominated in the euro, Canadian dollar and Norwegian krone.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Consolidated cash flows

Operating activities

Trends in cash flows as a result of our operating activities (excluding the impact of significant asset dispositions and relative changes in assets and liabilities) are generally similar to trends in our earnings. In addition to the impact of the operating, investing and financing cash flows discussed below, changes in the amount of cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash we report from year to year can be impacted by changes in currency exchange rates, since a portion of our cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash is held by our non-U.S. subsidiaries. For example, during 2017, relative changes in currency exchange rates resulted in a \$14.4 million increase in the reported amount of our cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash compared to a \$5.3 million decrease in 2016 and an \$8.5 million decrease in 2015.

Cash provided by operating activities was \$276.1 million in 2017 compared to \$89.6 million in 2016. This \$186.5 million increase in the amount of cash provided was primarily due to the net effect of the following:

- higher income from operations in 2017 of \$249.3 million,
- lower amount of net cash used associated with relative changes in our inventories, receivables, payables and accruals in 2017 of \$18.7 million as compared to 2016,
- higher cash paid for taxes of \$30.5 million due to our increased profitability, and
- higher contributions to our TiO₂ manufacturing joint venture in 2017 of \$9.6 million, primarily due to the timing of the joint venture's working capital needs.

Cash provided by operating activities was \$89.6 million in 2016 compared to \$52.1 million in 2015. This \$37.5 million increase in the amount of cash provided was primarily due to the net effect of the following:

- higher income from operations in 2016 of \$82.2 million,
- a higher amount of net cash used associated with relative changes in our inventories, receivables, payables and accruals in 2016 of \$34.0 million as compared to 2015,
- lower net distributions from our TiO₂ manufacturing joint venture in 2016 of \$2.9 million, primarily due to the timing of the joint venture's working capital needs, and
- higher cash paid for income taxes in 2016 of \$5.2 million due to our increased profitability.

Changes in working capital are affected by accounts receivable and inventory changes. As shown below:

- Our average days sales outstanding, or DSO, decreased slightly from December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2017, primarily as a result of relative changes in the timing of collections, and
- Our average days sales in inventory, or DSI, decreased from December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2017 primarily due to lower inventory volumes.

For comparative purposes, we have provided prior year numbers below.

	December 31,	December 31,	December 31,
	2015	2016	2017
Days sales outstanding	66 days	65 days	63 days
Days sales in inventory	80 days	71 days	62 days

Investing activities

Our capital expenditures were \$47.1 million in 2015, \$53.0 million in 2016 and \$64.3 million in 2017. Capital expenditures are primarily incurred to maintain and improve the cost effectiveness of our manufacturing facilities. In addition, approximately \$37.5 million (including \$19.4 million in 2017) of our capital expenditures during the past three years relates to the implementation of a new accounting and manufacturing software system. Our capital expenditures during the past three years include an aggregate of approximately \$34.7 million (including \$16.1 million in 2017) for our ongoing environmental protection and compliance programs.

In addition, during 2017 we loaned \$18.2 million and subsequently collected \$4.6 million under our unsecured revolving demand promissory note with Valhi.

Financing activities

During 2017, we:

- issued €400 million (\$477.6 million) aggregate principal amount of 3.75% Senior Secured Notes on September 13, 2017,
- repaid the remaining balance of \$340.4 million on our term loan,
- borrowed \$253.9 million under our North American revolving credit facility and subsequently repaid \$253.9 million, and
- paid quarterly dividends to stockholders aggregating \$.60 per share (\$69.5 million).

During 2016, we:

- borrowed \$266.2 million under our revolving North American credit facility and subsequently repaid \$266.2 million,
 - repaid \$3.5 million on our term loan,
 - and
 - paid quarterly dividends to stockholders aggregating \$.60 per share (\$69.5 million).
- During 2015, we paid quarterly dividends aggregating \$.60 per share (\$69.5 million).

In February 2018, our board of directors declared a first quarter 2018 regular quarterly dividend of \$.17 per share, payable March 15, 2018 to stockholders of record as of March 6, 2018.

Outstanding debt obligations and borrowing availability

At December 31, 2017, our consolidated debt comprised:

- €400 million aggregate outstanding on our KII 3.75% Senior Secured Notes (\$471.1 million carrying amount, net of unamortized debt issuance costs) due in September 2025, and
- approximately \$3.4 million of other indebtedness.

Our North American and European revolvers and our Senior Notes contain a number of covenants and restrictions which, among other things, restrict our ability to incur or guarantee additional debt, incur liens, pay dividends or make

other restricted payments, or merge or consolidate with, or sell or transfer substantially all of our

40

assets to, another entity, and contain other provisions and restrictive covenants customary in lending transactions of this type. Certain of our credit agreements contain provisions which could result in the acceleration of indebtedness prior to their stated maturity for reasons other than defaults for failure to comply with typical financial or payment covenants. For example, certain credit agreements allow the lender to accelerate the maturity of the indebtedness upon a change of control (as defined in the agreement) of the borrower. In addition, certain credit agreements could result in the acceleration of all or a portion of the indebtedness following a sale of assets outside the ordinary course of business. Our European revolving credit facility also requires the maintenance of certain financial ratios, and one of such requirements is based on the ratio of net debt to the last twelve months EBITDA of the borrowers. The terms of all of our debt instruments (including revolving lines of credit for which we have no outstanding borrowings at December 31, 2017) are discussed in Note 8 to our Consolidated Financial Statements. We are in compliance with all of our debt covenants at December 31, 2017. We believe that we will be able to continue to comply with the financial covenants contained in our credit facilities through their maturity.

In January 2017, we extended the maturity date of our North American revolving credit facility to the earlier of (i) January 2022 or (ii) 90 days prior to the maturity date of our then-existing term loan indebtedness (or 90 days prior to the maturity date of any indebtedness incurred in a permitted refinancing of such existing term loan indebtedness). The issuance of the Senior Notes was a permitted refinancing of our term loan, and accordingly, the maturity date of the North American revolving credit facility is January 30, 2022.

In September 2017, we extended the maturity date of our European revolving credit facility from September 2017 to September 2022 and reduced the maximum amount of this credit facility from €120 million to €90 million.

In addition to the outstanding indebtedness indicated above, at December 31, 2017 we had \$98.2 million available for borrowing under our North American revolving credit facility. At December 31, 2017, based upon the last twelve months EBITDA and the net debt to EBITDA financial test for our European revolving credit facility, the full €90 million amount of the credit facility (\$107.7 million) was available for borrowing. We could borrow all available amounts under each of our credit facilities without violating our existing debt covenants.

Our assets consist primarily of investments in operating subsidiaries, and our ability to service our obligations, including the Senior Notes, depends in part upon the distribution of earnings of our subsidiaries, whether in the form of dividends, advances or payments on account of intercompany obligations or otherwise. Our Senior Notes are collateralized by, among other things, a first priority lien on (i) 100% of the common stock or other ownership interests of each existing and future direct domestic subsidiary of KII and the guarantors, and (ii) 65% of the voting common stock or other ownership interests and 100% of the non-voting common stock or other ownership interests of each non-U.S. subsidiary that is directly owned by KII or any guarantor. Our North American revolving credit facility is collateralized by, among other things, a first priority lien on the borrower's trade receivables and inventories. Our European revolving credit facility is collateralized by, among other things, the accounts receivable and inventories of the borrowers plus a limited pledge of all the other assets of the Belgian borrower. See Note 8 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Future cash requirements

Liquidity

Our primary source of liquidity on an ongoing basis is cash flows from operating activities which is generally used to (i) fund capital expenditures, (ii) repay any short-term indebtedness incurred for working capital purposes and (iii) provide for the payment of dividends. From time-to-time we will incur indebtedness, generally to (i) fund short-term working capital needs, (ii) refinance existing indebtedness or (iii) fund major capital expenditures or the acquisition of other assets outside the ordinary course of business. We will also from time-to-time sell assets outside

the ordinary course of business and use the proceeds to (i) repay existing indebtedness, (ii) make investments in marketable and other securities, (iii) fund major capital expenditures or the acquisition of other assets outside the ordinary course of business or (iv) pay dividends.

The TiO₂ industry is cyclical, and changes in industry economic conditions significantly impact earnings and operating cash flows. Changes in TiO₂ pricing, production volumes and customer demand, among other things, could significantly affect our liquidity.

We routinely evaluate our liquidity requirements, alternative uses of capital, capital needs and availability of resources in view of, among other things, our dividend policy, our debt service, our capital expenditure requirements and estimated future operating cash flows. As a result of this process, we have in the past and may in the future seek to reduce, refinance, repurchase or restructure indebtedness, raise additional capital, repurchase shares of our common stock, modify our dividend policy, restructure ownership interests, sell interests in our subsidiaries or other assets, or take a combination of these steps or other steps to manage our liquidity and capital resources. Such activities have in the past and may in the future involve related companies. In the normal course of our business, we may investigate, evaluate, discuss and engage in acquisition, joint venture, strategic relationship and other business combination opportunities in the TiO₂ industry. In the event of any future acquisition or joint venture opportunity, we may consider using then-available liquidity, issuing our equity securities or incurring additional indebtedness.

Based upon our expectation for the TiO₂ industry and anticipated demands on cash resources, we expect to have sufficient liquidity to meet our short term obligations (defined as the twelve-month period ending December 31, 2018) and our long-term obligations (defined as the five-year period ending December 31, 2022, our time period for long-term budgeting). If actual developments differ from our expectations, our liquidity could be adversely affected.

Cash, cash equivalents, restricted cash and marketable securities

At December 31, 2017 we had:

	Held by		
	U.S.	Non-U.S.	
	entities	entities	Total
	(In millions)		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 155.0	\$ 167.0	\$ 322.0
Restricted cash	-	1.7	1.7
Noncurrent marketable securities	10.7	-	10.7

Following implementation of a territorial tax system under the 2017 Tax Act, repatriation of any cash and cash equivalents held by our non-U.S. subsidiaries would not be expected to result in any material income tax liability as a result of such repatriation.

Stock repurchase program

At December 31, 2017, we have 1,951,000 shares available for repurchase under a stock repurchase program authorized by our board of directors. See Note 15 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Capital expenditures

We intend to spend approximately \$67 million primarily to maintain and improve our existing facilities during 2018, including approximately \$26 million in the area of environmental compliance, protection and improvement programs which are primarily focused on increasing operating efficiency but also result in improved environmental protection, such as lower emissions from our manufacturing plants. Capital spending for 2018 is expected to be funded through cash on hand or borrowing under existing credit facilities.

Off-balance sheet financing

Other than operating lease commitments disclosed in Note 17 to our Consolidated Financial Statements, we are not party to any material off-balance sheet financing arrangements.

42

Commitments and contingencies

See Notes 14 and 17 to our Consolidated Financial Statements for a description of certain income tax contingencies, certain legal proceedings and other commitments.

As more fully described in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements, we are a party to various debt, lease and other agreements which contractually and unconditionally commit us to pay certain amounts in the future. See Notes 8, 16 and 17 to our Consolidated Financial Statements. The timing and amount shown for our commitments in the table below are based upon the contractual payment amount and the contractual payment date for such commitments. The following table summarizes such contractual commitments of ours and our consolidated subsidiaries as of December 31, 2017.

Contractual commitment	Payment due date				Total
	2018	2019/ 2020	2021/ 2022	2023 and after	
(In millions)					
Indebtedness:					
Principal (1)	\$.7	\$ 1.4	\$ 1.4	\$ 478.8	\$ 482.3
Interest payments (2)	17.9	35.9	35.9	48.8	138.5
Operating leases	8.0	12.6	8.1	24.3	53.0
Long-term supply contracts for the purchase					
of TiO ₂ feedstock (3)	308.2	75.2	-	-	383.4
Long-term service and other supply contracts (4)	57.0	59.0	11.7	.2	127.9
Fixed asset acquisitions	15.7	-	-	-	15.7
Estimated tax obligations (5)	25.0	12.2	12.2	45.7	95.1
	\$ 432.5	\$ 196.3	\$ 69.3	\$ 597.8	\$ 1,295.9

- (1) At December 31, 2017, a significant portion of the amount shown for indebtedness relates to our 3.75% Senior Notes due 2025 (\$478.6 million at December 31, 2017 exclusive of \$7.5 million unamortized debt issuance costs). Such indebtedness is denominated in the euro. See Item 7A - "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk" and Note 8 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.
- (2) The amounts shown for interest payments relate to outstanding fixed-rate indebtedness. Interest payments assume that fixed-rate indebtedness remains outstanding until maturity.
- (3) Our contracts for the purchase of TiO₂ feedstock contain fixed quantities that we are required to purchase, or specify a range of quantities within which we are required to purchase based on our feedstock requirements. The pricing under these agreements is generally negotiated quarterly or semi-annually. The timing and amount shown for our commitments related to the supply contracts for TiO₂ feedstock are based upon our current estimate of the quantity of material that will be purchased in each time period shown, the payment that would be due based upon such estimated purchased quantity and an estimate of the prices for the various suppliers which is primarily based on first half 2018 pricing. The actual amount of material purchased and the actual amount that would be payable by us, may vary from such estimated amounts. Our obligation for the purchase of TiO₂ feedstock is more fully described in Note 17 to our Consolidated Financial Statements and above in "Business – raw materials." The amounts shown in the table above include the feedstock ore requirements from contracts we entered into through January 2018.
- (4) The amounts shown for the long-term service and other supply contracts primarily pertain to agreements we have entered into with various providers of products or services which help to run our plant facilities (electricity, natural gas, etc.), utilizing December 31, 2017 exchange rates. See Note 17 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

(5) The amount shown for estimated tax obligations in 2018 is the consolidated amount of income taxes payable at December 31, 2017, which is assumed to be paid during 2018. The amounts shown for estimated tax obligations in 2019 and thereafter relate to the Transition Tax which will be paid in the years indicated above. See Note 14 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

43

The above table does not reflect:

•Any amounts we might pay to fund our defined benefit pension plans and OPEB plans, as the timing and amount of any such future fundings are unknown and dependent on, among other things, the future performance of defined benefit pension plan assets, interest rate assumptions and actual future retiree medical costs. We expect to be required to contribute an aggregate of approximately \$17 million to our defined benefit pension plans and OPEB plans during 2018. Such defined benefit pension plans and OPEB plans are discussed above in greater detail and in Note 10 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

•Any amounts we might pay to settle any of our uncertain tax positions classified as a noncurrent liability, as the timing and amount of any such future settlements are unknown and dependent on, among other things, the timing of tax audits. See Note 14 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

•Any amounts we might pay to acquire TiO₂ from our TiO₂ manufacturing joint venture, as the timing and amount of such purchases are unknown and dependent on, among other things, the amount of TiO₂ produced by the joint venture in the future and the joint venture's future cost of producing such TiO₂. However, the table does include amounts related to our share of the joint venture's ore requirements necessary to produce TiO₂ for us. See Item 1, "Business" and Note 5 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

We occasionally enter into raw material supply arrangements to mitigate the short-term impact of future increases in raw material costs. While these arrangements do not necessarily commit us to a minimum volume of purchase, they generally provide for stated unit prices based upon achievement of specified volume purchase levels. This allows us to stabilize raw material purchase prices to a certain extent, provided the specified minimum monthly purchase quantities are met.

Recent accounting pronouncements

See Note 19 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

General

We are exposed to market risk from changes in interest rates, currency exchange rates, equity security and raw materials prices.

Interest rates

At December 31, 2016, our variable-rate term loan comprised the majority of our aggregate indebtedness, and at December 31, 2017, our fixed-rate, euro-denominated Senior Notes comprised the majority of our aggregate indebtedness. The fixed-rate debt instrument minimizes earnings volatility that would result from changes in interest rates. The following table presents principal amounts and weighted average interest rates for our aggregate outstanding indebtedness at December 31, 2016 and 2017. Information shown below for our euro-denominated Senior Notes is presented in its U.S. dollar equivalent at December 31, 2017 (net of unamortized debt issuance costs of \$7.5 million) using an exchange rate of U.S. \$1.197 per euro. See Note 8 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

	Indebtedness		Year-end interest rate	Maturity date
	Amount Carrying Fair	amount value		
	(In millions)			
December 31, 2017				
Fixed-rate Senior Notes	\$471.1	\$495.1	3.75	%2025
December 31, 2016				
Variable-rate indebtedness – term loan	\$335.9	\$334.6	4.00	%2020

In September 2017, we voluntarily prepaid in full the then-outstanding \$338.6 million principal balance of our term loan (and such term loan facility was terminated), and so we are no longer subject to variable-rate interest rate risk. In connection with the voluntary prepayment and termination of our term loan, we voluntarily terminated the related interest rate swap contract. See Note 18 to our Consolidated Financial Statements for a discussion of this interest rate swap.

Currency exchange rates

We are exposed to market risk arising from changes in currency exchange rates as a result of manufacturing and selling our products worldwide. Earnings are primarily affected by fluctuations in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to the euro, the Canadian dollar, the Norwegian krone and the United Kingdom pound sterling.

The majority of our sales from non-U.S. operations are denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, principally the euro, other major European currencies and the Canadian dollar. A portion of our sales generated from our non-U.S. operations is denominated in the U.S. dollar (and consequently our non-U.S. operations will generally hold U.S. dollars from time to time). Certain raw materials used worldwide, primarily titanium-containing feedstocks, are purchased primarily in U.S. dollars, while labor and other production costs are purchased primarily in local currencies. Consequently, the translated U.S. dollar value of our non-U.S. sales and operating results are subject to currency exchange rate fluctuations which may favorably or unfavorably impact reported earnings. In addition to the impact of the translation of sales and expenses over time, our non-U.S. operations also generate currency transaction gains and losses which primarily relate to (i) the difference between the currency exchange rates in effect when non-local currency sales or operating costs (primarily U.S. dollar denominated) are initially accrued and when such amounts are settled with the non-local currency, (ii) changes in currency exchange rates during time periods when our non-U.S. operations are holding non-local currency (primarily U.S. dollars), and (iii) relative changes in the aggregate fair value of currency forward contracts held from time to time.

We periodically use currency forward contracts to manage a very nominal portion of currency exchange rate risk associated with trade receivables denominated in a currency other than the holder's functional currency or similar exchange rate risk associated with future sales. We have not entered into these contracts for trading or speculative purposes in the past, nor do we currently anticipate entering into such contracts for trading or speculative purposes in the future. We are not party to any currency forward contracts at December 31, 2017. See Note 18 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Also, we are subject to currency exchange rate risk associated with our new Senior Notes, as such indebtedness is denominated in the euro. At December 31, 2017, we had the equivalent of \$478.6 million outstanding under our euro-denominated Senior Notes (exclusive of unamortized debt issuance costs.) The potential

increase in the U.S. dollar equivalent of such indebtedness resulting from a hypothetical 10% adverse change in exchange rates at such date would be approximately \$48 million.

Marketable security prices

We are exposed to market risk due to changes in prices of the marketable securities which we own. In this regard, during 2015, we recorded a \$12.0 million pre-tax impairment charge due to other-than-temporary impairment on our investment in a marketable security available for sale. See Note 6 to our Consolidated Financial Statements. The fair value of securities which includes investments in publicly-traded shares of related parties was \$6.0 million and \$10.7 million, respectively, at December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2017. The potential change in the aggregate fair value of these investments, assuming a 10% change in prices, would be approximately \$.6 million and \$1.1 million, respectively, at December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2017.

Raw materials

We are exposed to market risk from changes in commodity prices relating to our raw materials. As discussed in Item 1 we generally enter into long-term supply agreements for certain of our raw material requirements. Many of our raw material contracts contain fixed quantities we are required to purchase, or specify a range of quantities within which we are required to purchase. Raw material pricing under these agreements is generally negotiated quarterly or semi-annually depending upon the suppliers. For certain raw material requirements we do not have long-term supply agreements either because we have assessed the risk of the unavailability of those raw materials and/or the risk of a significant change in the cost of those raw materials to be low, or because long-term supply agreements for those raw materials are generally not available.

Other

We believe there may be a certain amount of incompleteness in the sensitivity analyses presented above. For example, the hypothetical effect of changes in exchange rates discussed above ignores the potential effect on other variables which affect our results of operations and cash flows, such as demand for our products, sales volumes and selling prices and operating expenses. Accordingly, the amounts presented above are not necessarily an accurate reflection of the potential losses we would incur assuming the hypothetical changes in exchange rates were actually to occur.

The above discussion and estimated sensitivity analysis amounts include forward-looking statements of market risk which assume hypothetical changes in currency exchange rates. Actual future market conditions will likely differ materially from such assumptions. Accordingly, such forward-looking statements should not be considered to be projections by us of future events, gains or losses.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

The information called for by this Item is contained in a separate section of this Annual Report. See "Index of Financial Statements" (page F-1).

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures which, as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(e), means controls and other procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that we file or submit to the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Act), is recorded,

46

processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information we are required to disclose in the reports we file or submit to the SEC under the Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our principal executive officer and our principal financial officer, or persons performing similar functions, as appropriate to allow timely decisions to be made regarding required disclosure. Each of Robert D. Graham, our Vice Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer and Gregory M. Swalwell, our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, have evaluated the design and effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2017. Based upon their evaluation, these executive officers have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective as of the date of such evaluation.

Management's report on internal control over financial reporting

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting which, as defined by Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f) means a process designed by, or under the supervision of, our principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the board of directors, management and other personnel, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and includes those policies and procedures that:

- Pertain to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of our assets,
- Provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and that receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors and
- Provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of an unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of assets that could have a material effect on our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Our evaluation of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting is based upon the criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission in 2013 (commonly referred to as the “2013 COSO” framework). Based on our evaluation under that framework, we have concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2017.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, the independent registered public accounting firm that has audited our consolidated financial statements included in this Annual Report, has audited the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017, as stated in their report, which is included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Other

As permitted by the SEC, our assessment of internal control over financial reporting excludes (i) internal control over financial reporting of equity method investees and (ii) internal control over the preparation of any financial statement schedules which would be required by Article 12 of Regulation S-X. However, our assessment of internal control over financial reporting with respect to equity method investees did include controls over the recording of amounts related to our investment that are recorded in the consolidated financial statements, including controls over the selection of accounting methods for our investments, the recognition of equity method earnings and losses and the determination, valuation and recording of our investment account balances.

Changes in internal control over financial reporting

There has been no change to our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended December 31, 2017 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Certifications

Our chief executive officer is required to annually file a certification with the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, certifying our compliance with the corporate governance listing standards of the NYSE. During 2017, our chief executive officer filed such annual certification with the NYSE. The 2017 certification was unqualified.

Our chief executive officer and chief financial officer are also required to, among other things, file quarterly certifications with the SEC regarding the quality of our public disclosures, as required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The certifications for the quarter ended December 31, 2017 have been filed as Exhibits 31.1 and 31.2 to this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

Not applicable

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The information required by this Item is incorporated by reference to our 2018 definitive proxy statement to be filed with the SEC pursuant to Regulation 14A within 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this report.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information required by this Item is incorporated by reference to our 2018 proxy statement.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The information required by this Item is incorporated by reference to our 2018 proxy statement.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

The information required by this Item is incorporated by reference to our 2018 proxy statement. See also Note 16 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

The information required by the Item is incorporated by reference to our 2018 proxy statement.

48

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) and (c) Financial Statements

The Registrant

The consolidated financial statements of the Registrant listed on the accompanying Index of Financial Statements (see page F-1) are filed as part of this Annual Report.

50%-or-less owned persons

We are not required to provide any consolidated financial statements pursuant to Rule 3-09 of Regulation S-X.

(b) Exhibits

Included as exhibits are the items listed in the Exhibit Index. We will furnish a copy of any of the exhibits listed below upon payment of \$4.00 per exhibit to cover our costs to furnish the exhibits. Pursuant to Item 601(b)(4)(iii) of Regulation S-K, any instrument defining the rights of holders of long-term debt issues and other agreements related to indebtedness which do not exceed 10% of consolidated total assets as of December 31, 2017 will be furnished to the Commission upon request.

Item
No. Exhibit Index

3.1+ Restated First Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Kronos Worldwide, Inc., as amended on May 12, 2011 – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-31763) filed on May 12, 2011.

3.2 Amended and Restated Bylaws of Kronos Worldwide, Inc. as of October 25, 2007 – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Registrant’s Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-31763) filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on October 31, 2007.

10.1

Amended and Restated Tax Agreement between Valhi, Inc. and Kronos Worldwide, Inc. dated as of December 1, 2012 – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Registrant’s Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-31763) for the year ended December 31, 2012.

- 10.2 Intercorporate Services Agreement by and between Contran Corporation and Kronos Worldwide, Inc., effective as of January 1, 2004 – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q of the Registrant (File No. 001-31763) for the quarter ended March 31, 2004.
- 10.3* Kronos Worldwide, Inc. 2012 Director Stock Plan – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 of the Registration statement on Form S-8 of the Registrant (File No. 333-113425).
- 10.4 Credit Agreement, dated June 18, 2012, by and among Kronos Worldwide, Inc., certain of Kronos’ subsidiaries and Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-31763) dated January 30, 2017 and filed by the registrant on January 30, 2017.
- 10.5 Third Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated January 30, 2017, by and among Kronos Worldwide, Inc., certain of Kronos’ subsidiaries and Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-31763) dated January 30, 2017 and filed by the registrant on January 30, 2017.
- 10.6 Lease Contract, dated June 21, 1952, between Farbenfabriken Bayer Aktiengesellschaft and Titangesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung (German language version and English translation thereof)- incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-00640) of NL Industries, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 1985. (P)

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Item No.	Exhibit Index
10.7	Master Technology Exchange Agreement, dated as of October 18, 1993, among Kronos Worldwide, Inc. (f/k/a Kronos, Inc.), Kronos Louisiana, Inc., Kronos International, Inc., Tioxide Group Limited and Tioxide Group Services Limited – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.8 to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-00640) of NL Industries, Inc. for the quarter ended September 30, 1993. (P)
10.8	Form of Assignment and Assumption Agreement, dated as of January 1, 1999, between Kronos Inc. (formerly known as Kronos (USA), Inc.) and Kronos International, Inc. – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to Kronos International, Inc.’s Registration Statement on Form S-4 (File No. 333-100047). (P)
10.9	Form of Cross License Agreement, effective as of January 1, 1999, between Kronos Inc. (formerly known as Kronos (USA), Inc.) and Kronos International, Inc. – incorporated by reference to Exhibit to Kronos International, Inc.’s Registration Statement on Form S-4 (File No. 333-100047). (P)
10.10	Formation Agreement dated as of October 18, 1993 among Tioxide Americas Inc., Kronos Louisiana, Inc. and Louisiana Pigment Company, L.P. – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to NL Industries, Inc.’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-00640) for the quarter ended September 30, 1993. (P)
10.11	Joint Venture Agreement dated as of October 18, 1993 between Tioxide Americas Inc. and Kronos Louisiana, Inc. – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to NL Industries, Inc.’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-00640) for the quarter ended September 30, 1993. (P)
10.12	Kronos Offtake Agreement dated as of October 18, 1993 between Kronos Louisiana, Inc. and Louisiana Pigment Company, L.P. – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to NL Industries, Inc.’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-00640) for the quarter ended September 30, 1993. (P)
10.13	Amendment No. 1 to Kronos Offtake Agreement dated as of December 20, 1995 between Kronos Louisiana, Inc. and Louisiana Pigment Company, L.P. – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.22 to NL Industries, Inc.’s Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-00640) for the year ended December 31, 1995. (P)
10.14	Tioxide Americas Offtake Agreement dated as of October 18, 1993 between Tioxide Americas Inc. and Louisiana Pigment Company, L.P. – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to NL Industries, Inc.’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-00640) for the quarter ended September 30, 1993. (P)
10.15	Amendment No. 1 to Tioxide Americas Offtake Agreement dated as of December 20, 1995 between Tioxide Americas Inc. and Louisiana Pigment Company, L.P. – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.24 to NL Industries, Inc.’s Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-00640) for the year ended December 31, 1995. (P)

- 10.16 Parents' Undertaking dated as of October 18, 1993 between ICI American Holdings Inc. and Kronos Worldwide, Inc. (f/k/a Kronos, Inc.) – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to NL Industries, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-00640) for the quarter ended September 30, 1993. (P)
- 10.17 Allocation Agreement dated as of October 18, 1993 between Tioxide Americas Inc., ICI American Holdings, Inc., Kronos Worldwide, Inc. (f/k/a Kronos, Inc.) and Kronos Louisiana, Inc. – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to NL Industries, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-00640) for the quarter ended September 30, 1993. (P)
- 10.18 First amended and Restated Agreement Regarding Shared Insurance among CompX International Inc., Contran Corporation, Keystone Consolidated Industries, Inc., Kronos Worldwide, Inc., NL Industries, Inc., and Valhi, Inc. dated October 15, 2015 – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.24 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-31763) for the year ended December 31, 2015.
- 10.19** Eleventh Amended and Restated Unsecured Revolving Demand Promissory Note dated December 31, 2017 in the principal amount of \$60.0 million executed by Valhi, Inc. and payable to the order of Kronos Worldwide, Inc.

Item No.	Exhibit Index
10.20	<u>Restated and Amended Agreement by and between Richards Bay Titanium (Proprietary) Limited (acting through its sales agent Rio Tinto Iron & Titanium Limited) and Kronos (US), Inc. effective January 1, 2016 – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26 to the Registrant’s Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-31763) for the year ended December 31, 2015.</u>
10.21	<u>Credit Agreement, dated February 18, 2014, by and among Kronos Worldwide, Inc. and Deutsche Bank AG New York Branch – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-31763) dated February 18, 2014 and filed by the registrant on February 18, 2014.</u>
10.22	<u>First Amendment to Credit Agreement dated May 21, 2015 among the registrant, Deutsche Bank AG New York Branch, as Administrative Agent, and the lenders a party thereto – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the current report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-31763) dated May 21, 2015 and filed by the registrant on May 21, 2015.</u>
10.23	<u>Guaranty and Security Agreement, dated February 18, 2014, among Kronos Worldwide, Inc., Kronos Louisiana, Inc., Kronos (US), Inc., Kronos International, Inc. and Deutsche Bank AG New York Branch – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-31763) dated February 18, 2014 and filed by the registrant on February 18, 2014.</u>
10.24	<u>Intercreditor Agreement dated as of February 18, 2014, by and between Wells Fargo Capital Finance and Deutsche Bank AG New York Branch, and acknowledged by Kronos Worldwide, Inc., Kronos Louisiana, Inc. and Kronos (US), Inc. – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-31763) dated February 18, 2014 and filed by the registrant on February 18, 2014.</u>
10.25	<u>Indenture, dated as of September 13, 2017, among Kronos International, Inc., the guarantors named therein, and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee, collateral agent, paying agent, transfer agent and registrar – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-31763) dated September 13, 2017 and filed by the registrant on September 13, 2017.</u>
10.26	<u>Pledge Agreement, dated as of September 13, 2017, among Kronos International, Inc., the guarantors named therein and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as collateral agent – incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-31763) dated September 13, 2017 and filed by the registrant on September 13, 2017.</u>
10.27	<u>Seventh Amendment Agreement Relating to a Facility Agreement dated June 25, 2002, executed as of September 26, 2017, by and among Deutsche Bank AG, as mandated lead arranger, Deutsche Bank Luxembourg S.A., as agent, the participating lenders, Kronos Titan GmbH, Kronos Europe S.A./N.V., Kronos Titan AS, Titania AS, Kronos Norge AS, and Kronos Denmark ApS – incorporated by reference to</u>

Exhibit 10.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-31763) dated September 26, 2017 and filed by the registrant on September 28, 2017.

21.1** Subsidiaries.

23.1** Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

31.1** Certification.

31.2** Certification.

32.1** Certification.

101.INS** XBRL Instance Document

101.SCH** XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema

101.CAL** XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase

101.DEF** XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase

101.LAB** XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase

51

Item No. Exhibit Index

101.PRE** XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase

+Exhibit 3.1 is restated for the purposes of the disclosure requirements of Item 601 of Regulation S-K promulgated by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and does not represent a restated certificate of incorporation that has been filed with the Delaware Secretary of State.

*Management contract, compensatory plan or arrangement

** Filed herewith

(P) Paper exhibits

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Kronos Worldwide, Inc.
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Robert D. Graham
Robert D. Graham, March 12, 2018
(Vice Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer)

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated:

/s/ Loretta J. Feehan
Loretta J. Feehan, March 12, 2018
(Chair of the Board (non-executive))

/s/ Robert D. Graham
Robert D. Graham, March 12, 2018
(Vice Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer)

/s/ C. H. Moore, Jr.
C. H. Moore, Jr., March 12, 2018
(Director)

/s/ Thomas P. Stafford
Thomas P. Stafford, March 12, 2018
(Director)

/s/ C. Kern Wildenthal
C. Kern Wildenthal, March 12, 2018
(Director)

/s/ Keith R. Coogan
Keith R. Coogan, March 12, 2018
(Director)

/s/ John E. Harper
John E. Harper, March 12, 2018
(Director)

/s/ R. Gerald Turner
R. Gerald Turner, March 12, 2018
(Director)
/s/ Gregory M. Swalwell

/s/ Tim C. Hafer

Tim C. Hafer, March 12, 2018
(Vice President, Controller,
Principal Accounting Officer)

Gregory M. Swalwell, March 12, 2018
(Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer, Principal Financial Officer)

KRONOS WORLDWIDE, INC.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

Items 8, 15(a) and 15(c)

Index of Financial Statements

Financial Statements	Page
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	F-2
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets – December 31, 2016 and 2017</u>	F-4
<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations – Years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017</u>	F-6
<u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) – Years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017</u>	F-7
<u>Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity – Years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017</u>	F-8
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows – Years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017</u>	F-9
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	F-11

All financial statement schedules have been omitted either because they are not applicable or required, or the information that would be required to be included is disclosed in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of Kronos Worldwide, Inc.

Opinions on the Financial Statements and Internal Control over Financial Reporting

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Kronos Worldwide, Inc. and its subsidiaries as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income (loss), stockholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2017, including the related notes (collectively referred to as the "consolidated financial statements"). We also have audited the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2017 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2017, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the COSO.

Basis for Opinions

The Company's management is responsible for these consolidated financial statements, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting appearing under Item 9A. Our responsibility is to express opinions on the Company's consolidated financial statements and on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud, and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects.

Our audits of the consolidated financial statements included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

Definition and Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

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

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

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Dallas, Texas

March 12, 2018

We have served as the Company's auditor since 1997.

KRONOS WORLDWIDE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(In millions, except per share data)

ASSETS	December 31,	
	2016	2017
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$50.7	\$322.0
Restricted cash	1.6	1.7
Accounts and other receivables	241.1	319.1
Receivables from affiliates	3.5	27.4
Inventories, net	343.5	382.3
Prepaid expenses and other	10.0	10.0
Total current assets	650.4	1,062.5
Other assets:		
Investment in TiO ₂ manufacturing joint venture	78.9	86.5
Note receivable from Valhi	-	13.6
Marketable securities	6.0	10.7
Deferred income taxes	8.1	139.2
Other	2.2	5.5
Total other assets	95.2	255.5
Property and equipment:		
Land	37.3	42.0
Buildings	195.8	221.6
Equipment	947.4	1,103.2
Mining properties	108.1	115.7
Construction in progress	38.7	52.6
	1,327.3	1,535.1
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	893.3	1,028.7
Net property and equipment	434.0	506.4
Total assets	\$1,179.6	\$1,824.4

KRONOS WORLDWIDE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (CONTINUED)

(In millions, except per share data)

LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	December 31,	
	2016	2017
Current liabilities:		
Current maturities of long-term debt	\$3.6	\$.7
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	158.8	189.6
Payable to affiliate	14.7	16.2
Income taxes	5.0	25.0
Total current liabilities	182.1	231.5
Noncurrent liabilities:		
Long-term debt	335.4	473.8
Accrued pension costs	227.3	254.2
Accrued postretirement benefits costs	6.9	7.7
Payable to affiliate	-	70.1
Deferred income taxes	10.5	11.3
Other	22.4	21.5
Total noncurrent liabilities	602.5	838.6
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, \$.01 par value; 240.0 shares authorized;		
115.9 shares issued	1.2	1.2
Additional paid-in capital	1,398.8	1,399.0
Retained deficit	(552.2)	(267.2)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(452.8)	(378.7)
Total stockholders' equity	395.0	754.3
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$1,179.6	\$1,824.4

Commitments and contingencies (Notes 14 and 17)

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

F-5

KRONOS WORLDWIDE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(In millions, except per share data)

	Years ended December 31,		
	2015	2016	2017
Net sales	\$1,348.8	\$1,364.3	\$1,729.0
Cost of sales	1,156.5	1,107.3	1,170.1
Gross margin	192.3	257.0	558.9
Selling, general and administrative expense	178.0	172.6	207.2
Other operating income (expense):			
Currency transaction gains (losses), net	(.1)	5.5	(7.5)
Disposition of property and equipment	(.8)	(.3)	(.4)
Other income (expense), net	(.9)	4.2	.5
Corporate expense	(13.6)	(12.7)	(13.9)
Income (loss) from operations	(1.1)	81.1	330.4
Other income (expense):			
Interest and dividend income	.8	.6	1.4
Loss on prepayment of debt, net	-	-	(7.1)
Securities transactions, net	(12.0)	-	-
Interest expense	(18.5)	(20.5)	(19.0)
Income (loss) before income taxes	(30.8)	61.2	305.7
Income tax expense (benefit)	142.8	17.9	(48.8)
Net income (loss)	\$(173.6)	\$43.3	\$354.5
Net income (loss) per basic and diluted share	\$(1.50)	\$.37	\$3.06
Cash dividends per share	\$.60	\$.60	\$.60
Weighted average shares used in the calculation of net			
income (loss) per share	115.9	115.9	115.9

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

F-6

KRONOS WORLDWIDE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)

(In millions)

	Years ended December		
	31,		
	2015	2016	2017
Net income (loss)	\$(173.6)	\$43.3	\$354.5
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax:			
Currency translation	(92.2)	(17.6)	57.7
Marketable securities	2.3	2.4	3.0
Defined benefit pension plans	16.2	(25.6)	12.0
Other postretirement benefit plans	(.2)	(.3)	(.6)
Interest rate swap	(2.3)	.3	2.0
Total other comprehensive income (loss), net	(76.2)	(40.8)	74.1
Comprehensive income (loss)	\$(249.8)	\$2.5	\$428.6

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

KRONOS WORLDWIDE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Years ended December 31, 2015, 2016 and 2017

(In millions)

	Common stock	Additional paid-in capital	Retained earnings (deficit)	Accumulated other comprehensive loss	Total
Balance at December 31, 2014	\$ 1.2	\$ 1,398.6	\$ (282.9)	\$ (335.8)	\$ 781.1
Net loss	-	-	(173.6)	-	(173.6)
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax	-	-	-	(76.2)	(76.2)
Issuance of common stock	-	.1	-	-	.1
Dividends paid - \$.60 per share	-	-	(69.5)	-	(69.5)
Balance at December 31, 2015	1.2	1,398.7	(526.0)	(412.0)	461.9
Net income	-	-	43.3	-	43.3
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax	-	-	-	(40.8)	(40.8)
Issuance of common stock	-	.1	-	-	.1
Dividends paid - \$.60 per share	-	-	(69.5)	-	(69.5)
Balance at December 31, 2016	1.2	1,398.8	(552.2)	(452.8)	395.0
Net income	-	-	354.5	-	354.5
Other comprehensive income, net of tax	-	-	-	74.1	74.1
Issuance of common stock	-	.2	-	-	.2
Dividends paid - \$.60 per share	-	-	(69.5)	-	(69.5)
Balance at December 31, 2017	\$ 1.2	\$ 1,399.0	\$ (267.2)	\$ (378.7)	\$ 754.3

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

KRONOS WORLDWIDE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(In millions)

	Years ended December 31,		
	2015	2016	2017
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income (loss)	\$(173.6)	\$43.3	\$354.5
Depreciation and amortization	42.1	40.5	41.2
Deferred income taxes	138.5	7.7	(151.6)
Loss on prepayment of debt	-	-	7.1
Securities transactions, net	12.0	-	-
Payment for termination of interest rate swap contract	-	-	(3.3)
Benefit plan expense greater than cash funding	5.1	5.8	12.0
Distributions from (contributions to) TiO ₂ manufacturing			
joint venture, net	6.5	3.6	(6.0)
Other, net	6.3	3.0	2.4
Change in assets and liabilities:			
Accounts and other receivables	20.1	(37.4)	(52.7)
Inventories	(9.5)	38.8	(4.9)
Prepaid expenses	(1.6)	(1.5)	.9
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(12.0)	(12.9)	20.7
Income taxes	(1.5)	3.8	19.2
Accounts with affiliates	19.2	(5.8)	41.3
Other noncurrent assets	.3	.3	(1.6)
Other noncurrent liabilities	.2	.4	(3.1)
Net cash provided by operating activities	52.1	89.6	276.1
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Capital expenditures	(47.1)	(53.0)	(64.3)
Loan to Valhi:			
Loans	-	-	(18.2)
Collections	-	-	4.6
Net cash used in investing activities	(47.1)	(53.0)	(77.9)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Indebtedness:			
Borrowings	1.3	266.2	731.5
Principal payments	(3.9)	(270.0)	(594.3)
Deferred financing fees	-	-	(8.9)
Dividends paid	(69.5)	(69.5)	(69.5)

Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities (72.1) (73.3) 58.8

F-9

KRONOS WORLDWIDE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (CONTINUED)

(In millions)

	Years ended December		
	31,		
	2015	2016	2017
Cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash - net change from:			
Operating, investing and financing activities	\$(67.1)	\$(36.7)	\$257.0
Effect of exchange rate changes	(8.5)	(5.3)	14.4
Net change for the year	(75.6)	(42.0)	271.4
Balance at beginning of year	169.9	94.3	52.3
Balance at end of year	\$94.3	\$52.3	\$323.7
Supplemental disclosures:			
Cash paid for:			
Interest, net of amounts capitalized	\$16.6	\$18.4	\$15.2
Income taxes	1.4	6.6	37.1
Accrual for capital expenditures	6.8	8.0	8.7

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

KRONOS WORLDWIDE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2017

Note 1 – Summary of significant accounting policies:

Organization and basis of presentation – At December 31, 2017, Valhi, Inc. (NYSE: VHI) held approximately 50% of our outstanding common stock and a wholly-owned subsidiary of NL Industries, Inc. (NYSE: NL) held approximately 30% of our common stock. Valhi owned approximately 83% of NL's outstanding common stock and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Contran Corporation held approximately 93% of Valhi's outstanding common stock. All of Contran's outstanding voting stock is held by a family trust established for the benefit of Lisa K. Simmons and Serena Simmons Connelly and their children, for which Ms. Simmons and Ms. Connelly are co-trustees, or is held directly by Ms. Simmons and Ms. Connelly or entities related to them. Consequently, Ms. Simmons and Ms. Connelly may be deemed to control Contran, Valhi, NL and us.

Unless otherwise indicated, references in this report to “we,” “us” or “our” refers to Kronos Worldwide, Inc. and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole.

Management's estimates – In preparing our financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) we are required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results may differ significantly from previously-estimated amounts under different assumptions or conditions.

Principles of consolidation – The consolidated financial statements include our accounts and those of our majority-owned subsidiaries. We have eliminated all material intercompany accounts and balances.

Translation of currencies – We translate the assets and liabilities of our subsidiaries whose functional currency is other than the U.S. dollar at year-end exchange rates, while we translate our revenues and expenses at average exchange rates prevailing during the year. We accumulate the resulting translation adjustments in stockholders' equity as part of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), net of related deferred income taxes. We recognize currency transaction gains and losses in income currently.

Derivatives and hedging activities – We recognize derivatives as either assets or liabilities measured at fair value. We recognize the effect of changes in the fair value of derivatives either in net income or other comprehensive income (loss), depending on the intended use of the derivative. See Note 18.

Cash and cash equivalents – We classify bank time deposits and U.S. Treasury securities purchased under short-term agreements to resell with original maturities of three months or less as cash equivalents.

Restricted cash – We classify cash that has been segregated or is otherwise limited in use as restricted. Such restrictions or limitations relate to certain Norwegian payroll tax and employee benefit obligations. To the extent the restricted amount relates to a recognized liability, we classify such restricted amount as either a current or noncurrent asset to correspond with the classification of the liability. To the extent the restricted amount does not relate to a recognized liability, we classify restricted cash as a current asset. All of our restricted cash is classified as a current

asset and is separately presented on the face of the statement of financial position.

Marketable securities and securities transactions – We carry marketable securities at fair value. Accounting Standard Codification (ASC) Topic 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures, establishes a consistent framework for measuring fair value and (with certain exceptions) this framework is generally applied to all financial statement items required to be measured at fair value. The standard requires fair value measurements to be classified and disclosed in one of the following three categories:

Level 1 – Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets that are accessible at the measurement date for identical, unrestricted assets or liabilities;

F-11

Level 2 – Quoted prices in markets that are not active, or inputs which are observable, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the assets or liability; and

Level 3 – Prices or valuation techniques that require inputs that are both significant to the fair value measurement and unobservable.

We classify all of our marketable securities as available-for-sale and unrealized gains or losses on these securities are recognized through other comprehensive income, net of deferred income taxes, except for any decline in value we conclude is other than temporary, which is accounted for as a realized loss as a component of net income. We base realized gains and losses upon the specific identification of the securities sold.

We evaluate our investments whenever events or conditions occur to indicate that the fair value of such investments has declined below their carrying amounts. If the carrying amount for an investment declines below its historical cost basis, we evaluate all available positive and negative evidence including, but not limited to, the extent and duration of the impairment, business prospects for the investee and our intent and ability to hold the investment for a reasonable period of time sufficient for the recovery of fair value. If we determine the decline in fair value is other than temporary, the carrying amount of the investment is written down to fair value.

See Notes 6, 10 and 18.

Accounts receivable – We provide an allowance for doubtful accounts for known and estimated potential losses arising from sales to customers based on a periodic review of these accounts. See Note 3.

Inventories and cost of sales – We state inventories at the lower of cost or net realizable value, net of allowance for obsolete and slow-moving inventories. We generally base inventory costs for all inventory categories on average cost that approximates the first-in, first-out method. Inventories include the costs for raw materials, the cost to manufacture the raw materials into finished goods and overhead. Depending on the inventory’s stage of completion, our manufacturing costs can include the costs of packing and finishing, utilities, maintenance, depreciation, and salaries and benefits associated with our manufacturing process. We allocate fixed manufacturing overheads based on normal production capacity. Unallocated overhead costs resulting from periods with abnormally low production levels are charged to expense as incurred. As inventory is sold to third parties, we recognize the cost of sales in the same period that the sale occurs. We periodically review our inventory for estimated obsolescence or instances when inventory is no longer marketable for its intended use, and we record any write-down equal to the difference between the cost of inventory and its estimated net realizable value based on assumptions about alternative uses, market conditions and other factors. See Note 4.

Investment in TiO₂ manufacturing joint venture – We account for our investment in a 50%-owned manufacturing joint venture by the equity method. Distributions received from such investee are classified for statement of cash flow purposes using the “nature of distribution” approach under ASC Topic 320. See Note 5.

Property and equipment and depreciation – We state property and equipment at cost, including capitalized interest on borrowings during the actual construction period of major capital projects. Capitalized interest costs were \$1.1 million in 2015, \$.9 million in 2016 and \$2.0 million in 2017. We compute depreciation of property and equipment for financial reporting purposes (including mining equipment) principally by the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets as follows:

Asset	Useful lives
Buildings and improvements	10 to 40 years
Machinery and equipment	3 to 20 years

Mine development costs units-of-production

We use accelerated depreciation methods for income tax purposes, as permitted. Upon the sale or retirement of an asset, we remove the related cost and accumulated depreciation from the accounts and recognize any gain or loss in income currently.

F-12

We expense costs incurred for maintenance, repairs and minor renewals (including planned major maintenance) while we capitalize expenditures for major improvements.

We have a governmental concession with an unlimited term to operate our ilmenite mines in Norway. Mining properties consist of buildings and equipment used in our Norwegian ilmenite mining operations. While we own the land and ilmenite reserves associated with the mining operations, such land and reserves were acquired for nominal value and we have no material asset recognized for the land and reserves related to our mining operations.

We perform impairment tests when events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable. We consider all relevant factors. We perform the impairment test by comparing the estimated future undiscounted cash flows (exclusive of interest expense) associated with the asset to the asset's net carrying value to determine if a write-down to fair value or discounted cash flow value is required.

Long-term debt – We state long-term debt net of any unamortized original issue premium, discount or deferred financing costs (other than deferred financing costs associated with revolving credit facilities, which are recognized as an asset). We classify amortization of all deferred financing costs and any premium or discount associated with the issuance of indebtedness as interest expense and compute such amortization by either the interest method or the straight-line method over the term of the applicable issue. See Note 8.

Employee benefit plans – Accounting and funding policies for our retirement plans are described in Note 10.

Income taxes – We, Valhi and our qualifying subsidiaries are members of Contran's consolidated U.S. federal income tax group (the Contran Tax Group) and we and certain of our qualifying subsidiaries also file consolidated income tax returns with Contran in various U.S. state jurisdictions. As a member of the Contran Tax Group, we are jointly and severally liable for the federal income tax liability of Contran and the other companies included in the Contran Tax Group for all periods in which we are included in the Contran Tax Group. See Note 17. As a member of the Contran Tax Group, we are a party to a tax sharing agreement which provides that we compute our provision for U.S. income taxes on a separate-company basis using the tax elections made by Contran. Pursuant to the tax sharing agreement, we make payments to or receive payments from Valhi in amounts we would have paid to or received from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service or the applicable state tax authority had we not been a member of the Contran Tax Group. We received net income tax refunds from Valhi of \$3.5 million in 2015 and made net payments of income taxes to Valhi of \$.8 million in 2016 and \$16.8 million in 2017.

We recognize deferred income tax assets and liabilities for the expected future tax consequences of temporary differences between the income tax and financial reporting carrying amounts of assets and liabilities, including investments in our subsidiaries and affiliates who are not members of the Contran Tax Group and undistributed earnings of non-U.S. subsidiaries which are not deemed to be permanently reinvested. At December 31, 2017, none of the post-1986 undistributed earnings of our European subsidiaries, and none of the undistributed earnings of our Canadian subsidiary, are subject to permanent reinvestment plans. It is currently not practical for us to determine the amount of the unrecognized deferred income tax liability related to our investments in our non-U.S. subsidiaries which are permanently reinvested due to the complexities associated with our organizational structure, changes in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (2017 Tax Act) enacted on December 22, 2017, and the U.S. taxation of such investments in the states in which we operate. We are currently reviewing certain other provisions under the 2017 Tax Act that would impact our determination of the aggregate temporary differences attributable to our investments in our non-U.S. subsidiaries. Deferred income tax assets and liabilities for each tax-paying jurisdiction in which we operate are netted and presented as either a noncurrent deferred income tax asset or liability, as applicable. We periodically evaluate our deferred tax assets in the various taxing jurisdictions in which we operate and adjust any related valuation allowance based on the estimate of the amount of such deferred tax assets that we believe does not meet the more-likely-than-not recognition criteria.

We account for the tax effects of a change in tax law as a component of the income tax provision related to continuing operations in the period of enactment, including the tax effects of any deferred income taxes originally established through a financial statement component other than continuing operations (i.e. other comprehensive income). Changes in applicable income tax rates over time as a result of changes in tax law, or times in which a

F-13

deferred income tax asset valuation allowance is initially recognized in one year and subsequently reversed in a later year, can give rise to “stranded” tax effects in accumulated other comprehensive income in which the net accumulated income tax (benefit) remaining in accumulated other comprehensive income does not correspond to the then-applicable income tax rate applied to the pre-tax amount which resides in accumulated other comprehensive income. As permitted by GAAP, our accounting policy is to remove any such stranded tax effect remaining in accumulated other comprehensive income, by recognizing an offset to our provision for income taxes related to continuing operations, only at the time when there is no remaining pre-tax amount in accumulated other comprehensive income. For accumulated other comprehensive income related to marketable securities, this would occur whenever we would have no available-for-sale marketable securities for which unrealized gains and losses are recognized through other comprehensive income. For accumulated other comprehensive income related to currency translation, this would occur only upon the sale or complete liquidation of one of our non-U.S. subsidiaries. For defined pension benefit plans and OPEB plans, this would occur whenever one of our subsidiaries which previously sponsored a defined benefit pension or OPEB plan had terminated such a plan and had no future obligation or plan asset associated with such a plan.

We record a reserve for uncertain tax positions for tax positions where we believe that it is more-likely-than-not our position will not prevail with the applicable tax authorities. The amount of the benefit associated with our uncertain tax positions that we recognize is limited to the largest amount for which we believe the likelihood of realization is greater than 50%. We accrue penalties and interest on the difference between tax positions taken on our tax returns and the amount of benefit recognized for financial reporting purposes. We classify our reserves for uncertain tax positions in a separate current or noncurrent liability, depending on the nature of the tax position. See Note 14.

Net sales – We record sales when products are shipped and title and other risks and rewards of ownership have passed to the customer. Shipping terms of products shipped are generally FOB shipping point, although in some instances shipping terms are FOB destination point (for which we do not recognize sales until the product is received by the customer) or other standard shipping terms. We state sales net of price, early payment and distributor discounts and volume rebates. We report any tax assessed by a governmental authority that we collect from our customers that is both imposed on and concurrent with our revenue-producing activities (such as sales, use, value added and excise taxes) on a net basis (meaning we do not recognize these taxes either in our revenues or in our costs and expenses).

Selling, general and administrative expense; shipping and handling costs – Selling, general and administrative expense includes costs related to marketing, sales, distribution, shipping and handling, research and development, legal and administrative functions such as accounting, treasury and finance, and includes costs for salaries and benefits not associated with our manufacturing process, travel and entertainment, promotional materials and professional fees. We include shipping and handling costs in selling, general and administrative expense and these costs were \$87 million in 2015, \$90 million in 2016 and \$101 million in 2017. We expense research, development and certain sales technical support costs as incurred and these costs totaled \$16 million in 2015, \$13 million in 2016 and \$20 million in 2017. We expense advertising costs as incurred and these costs were not material in any year presented.

Note 2 – Geographic information:

Our operations are associated with the production and sale of titanium dioxide pigments (TiO₂). TiO₂ is used to impart whiteness, brightness, opacity and durability to a wide variety of products, including paints, plastics, paper, fibers and ceramics. Additionally, TiO₂ is a critical component of everyday applications, such as coatings, plastics and paper, as well as many specialty products such as inks, foods and cosmetics. At December 31, 2016 and 2017, the net assets of non-U.S. subsidiaries included in consolidated net assets approximated \$62 million and \$381 million, respectively.

For geographic information, we attribute net sales to the place of manufacture (point of origin) and to the location of the customer (point of destination); we attribute property and equipment to their physical location.

F-14

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(In millions)

Raw materials	\$68.7	\$106.9
Work in process	22.3	20.8
Finished products	195.7	191.5
Supplies	56.8	63.1
Total	\$343.5	\$382.3

F-15

We regularly review our actual asset allocation for each plan, and will periodically rebalance the investments in each plan to more accurately reflect the targeted allocation and/or maximize the overall long-term return when considered appropriate.

F-26

	2015	2016	2017
	(In millions)		
Net periodic OPEB cost (benefit):			
Service cost	\$.1	\$.1	\$.1
Interest cost	.3	.3	.3
Amortization of prior service credit	(.8)	(.8)	(.6)
Recognized actuarial losses	.3	.2	.2
Total	\$(.1)	\$(.2)	\$ -

F-29

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OPEB plans	(.1)	(.2)	(.2)
Interest rate swap	(1.3)	.2	1.1
Total	\$144.0	\$18.4	\$(20.9)

F-32

term. We had also previously indicated that facts and circumstances could change, which might in the future result in the recognition of a valuation allowance against some or all of such deferred income tax assets. However, as of June 30, 2015, and given our operating results during the second quarter of 2015 and our expectations at that time for our operating results for the remainder of 2015, we did not have sufficient

F-33

reporting impacts of the 2017 Tax Act. SAB 118 states that companies should account for changes related to the 2017 Tax Act in the period of enactment if all information is available and the accounting can be completed. In situations where companies do not have enough information to complete the accounting in the period of enactment, a company must either 1) record an estimated provisional amount if the impact of the change can be reasonably estimated; or 2) continue to apply the accounting guidance that was in effect immediately prior to the 2017 Tax Act if the impact of the change cannot be reasonably estimated. If estimated provisional amounts are

F-34

Certain U.S. deferred tax attributes of one of our non-U.S. subsidiaries, which subsidiary is treated as a dual resident for U.S. income tax purposes, were subject to various limitations. As a result, we had previously concluded that a deferred income tax asset valuation allowance was required to be recognized with respect to such subsidiary's U.S. net deferred income tax asset because such assets did not meet the more-likely-than-not recognition criteria primarily due to (i) the various limitations regarding use of such attributes due to the dual residency; (ii) the dual resident subsidiary had a history of losses and absent distributions from our non-U.S. subsidiaries, which were previously not determinable, such subsidiary was expected to continue to generate losses;

F-35

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Balance at beginning of year	\$ (335.8)	\$ (412.0)	\$ (452.8)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	(76.2)	(40.8)	74.1
Balance at end of year	\$ (412.0)	\$ (452.8)	\$ (378.7)

See Note 6 for further discussion on our marketable securities, Note 10 for amounts related to our defined benefit pension plans and OPEB plans and Note 18 for discussion on our interest rate swap contract.

F-38

1.00%, payable quarterly, with all principal due on demand, but in any event no earlier than December 31, 2019. The amount of our outstanding loans to Valhi at any time is at our discretion. At December 31, 2016, we had no outstanding loans to Valhi, and at December 31, 2017 we had \$13.6 million of outstanding loans to Valhi under this promissory note.

F-39

considered toxic or hazardous within the meaning of applicable environmental laws and regulations. As with other companies engaged in similar businesses, certain of our past and current operations and products have the potential to cause environmental or other damage. We have implemented and continue to implement various policies and programs in an effort to minimize these risks. Our policy is to maintain compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations at all of our facilities and to strive to improve our environmental performance. From time to time, we may be subject to environmental regulatory enforcement under U.S. and non-U.S. statutes, the resolution of which typically involves the establishment of compliance programs. It is possible

F-40

did not have sales to a single customer comprising 10% or more of our net sales in 2017.

F-41

minimum lease payments disclosed above.

Income taxes – We and Valhi are a party to a tax sharing agreement providing for the allocation of tax liabilities and tax payments as described in Note 1. Under applicable law, we, along with every other member of the

F-42

At December 31, 2016 and 2017, we had no currency forward contracts outstanding. We did not use hedge accounting for any of our contracts to the extent we held such contracts during 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Interest rate swap contract – As part of our interest rate risk management strategy, in August 2015 we entered into a pay-fixed/receive-variable interest rate swap contract with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. to minimize our exposure to volatility in LIBOR as it related to our forecasted outstanding variable-rate indebtedness. Under this interest rate swap, we paid a fixed rate of 2.016% per annum, payable quarterly, and received a variable rate of three-month LIBOR (subject to a 1.00% floor), also payable quarterly, in each case based on the notional amount of

F-43

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Variable rate term loan	335.9	334.6	-	-
Common stockholders' equity	395.0	1,383.8	754.3	2,986.8

F-44

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Year ended December 31, 2017				
Net sales	\$369.8	\$441.4	\$464.5	\$453.3
Gross margin	103.4	129.8	152.2	173.5
Net income	36.8	196.5	73.8	47.4
Basic and diluted income per share	\$.32	\$1.70	\$.64	\$.41

F-46

We recognized the following amounts during 2016:

pre-tax insurance settlement gains of \$2.0 million, \$1.4 million and \$.9 million in the first, second and fourth quarters, respectively, (see Note 12),

current income tax benefit of \$5.6 million in the third quarter, and current income tax expense of \$2.2 million in the fourth quarter, related to the execution and finalization of an Advance Pricing Agreement between the U.S. and Canada (see Note 14),

non-cash deferred income tax expense (benefit) of \$2.9 million, \$(.8) million and \$(4.3) million in the second, third and fourth quarters, respectively, as the result of a net decrease in our deferred income tax asset valuation allowance related to our German and Belgian operations (see Note 14),

non-cash income tax expense of \$2.4 million related to an increase in our reserve for uncertain tax positions, mostly in the fourth quarter.

We recognized the following amounts during 2017:

pre-tax charge of \$7.1 million in the third quarter related to the loss on prepayment of debt (see Note 8),

non-cash deferred income tax benefit of \$5.0 million, \$157.6 million, \$7.8 million and \$16.3 million in the first, second, third and fourth quarters, respectively, as a result of the reversal of our deferred income tax asset valuation allowances associated with our German and Belgian operations (see Note 14),

provisional current income tax expense of \$76.2 million in the fourth quarter as a result of the 2017 Tax Act for the one-time repatriation tax imposed on the post-1986 undistributed earnings of our non-U.S. subsidiaries (see Note 14),

non-cash deferred income tax benefit of \$18.7 million as a result of the reversal of our deferred income tax asset valuation allowance related to certain U.S. deferred income tax assets of one of our non-U.S. subsidiaries (which subsidiary is treated as a dual resident for U.S. income tax purposes) (see Note 14),

aggregate income tax benefit of \$11.8 million related to the execution and finalization of an Advance Pricing Agreement between Canada and Germany, mostly in the third quarter (see Note 14), and

aggregate provisional non-cash deferred income tax expense of \$4.5 million in the fourth quarter related to a change in our conclusions regarding our permanent reinvestment assertion with respect to the post-1986 undistributed earnings of our European subsidiaries (see Note 14).

The sum of the quarterly per share amounts may not equal the annual per share amounts due to relative changes in the weighted average number of shares used in the per share computations.