RLI CORP
Form 10-Q
April 25, 2018
Table of Contents

13

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2018

or

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

For the transition period from to

Commission File Number: 001-09463

RLI Corp.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Illinois (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	37-0889946 (I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)
9025 North Lindbergh Drive, Peoria, IL (Address of principal executive offices)	61615 (Zip Code)

(309) 692-1000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, 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.

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

APPLICABLE ONLY TO CORPORATE ISSUERS:

As of April 13, 2018, the number of shares outstanding of the registrant's Common Stock was 44,253,126.

Table of Contents

		Page
Part I - Financial Information		3
Item 1.	Financial Statements	3
	Condensed Consolidated Statements of Earnings and Comprehensive Earnings For the Three-Month Periods Ended March 31, 2018 and 2017 (unaudited)	3
	Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets as of March 31, 2018 (unaudited) and December 31, 2017	4
	Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows For the Three-Month Periods Ended March 31, 2018 and 2017 (unaudited)	5
	Notes to unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements	6
Item 2.	Management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations	21
Item 3.	Quantitative and qualitative disclosures about market risk	31
Item 4.	Controls and procedures	32
Part II - Other Information		32
Item 1.	Legal proceedings	32
Item 1a.	Risk factors	32
Item 2.	Unregistered sales of equity securities and use of proceeds	32
Item 3.	Defaults upon senior securities	32

Item 4.	Mine safety disclosures	32
Item 5.	Other information	32
Item 6.	Exhibits	32
Signatures		33

Table of Contents

PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

RLI Corp. and Subsidiaries

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Earnings and Comprehensive Earnings

(Unaudited)

	For the Three-Month Periods Ended March 31,	
(in thousands, except per share data)	2018	2017
Net premiums earned	$ 190,027	$ 183,285
Net investment income	14,232	13,005
Net realized gains	8,460	2,714
Other-than-temporary impairment (OTTI) losses on investments	(56)	(2,090)
Net unrealized losses on equity securities	(26,772)	-
Consolidated revenue	$ 185,891	$ 196,914
Losses and settlement expenses	92,421	93,390
Policy acquisition costs	66,734	63,503
Insurance operating expenses	13,385	13,335
Interest expense on debt	1,856	1,856
General corporate expenses	2,283	3,325
Total expenses	$ 176,679	$ 175,409
Equity in earnings of unconsolidated investees	5,166	4,938
Earnings before income taxes	$ 14,378	$ 26,443
Income tax expense	2,162	6,615
Net earnings	$ 12,216	$ 19,828
Other comprehensive earnings (loss), net of tax	(26,398)	11,769
Comprehensive earnings (loss)	$ (14,182)	$ 31,597
Earnings per share:		
Basic:		
Basic net earnings per share	$ 0.28	$ 0.45
Basic comprehensive earnings (loss) per share	$ (0.32)	$ 0.72
Diluted:		

Diluted net earnings per share	$ 0.27	$ 0.45
Diluted comprehensive earnings (loss) per share	$ (0.32)	$ 0.71
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding:		
Basic	44,221	43,961
Diluted	44,650	44,502
Cash dividends paid per common share	$ 0.21	$ 0.20

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

Table of Contents

RLI Corp. and Subsidiaries

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

(Unaudited)

(in thousands, except share data)	March 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
ASSETS		
Investments and cash:		
Fixed income:		
Available-for-sale, at fair value (amortized cost - $1,661,490 at 3/31/18 and $1,646,411 at 12/31/17)	$ 1,653,674	$ 1,672,239
Equity securities, at fair value (cost - $186,520 at 3/31/18 and $182,002 at 12/31/17)	378,253	400,492
Short-term investments, at cost which approximates fair value	-	9,980
Other invested assets	35,065	33,808
Cash	28,927	24,271
Total investments and cash	$ 2,095,919	$ 2,140,790
Accrued investment income	14,079	15,166
Premiums and reinsurance balances receivable, net of allowances for uncollectible amounts of $16,984 at 3/31/18 and $16,935 at 12/31/17	132,682	134,351
Ceded unearned premium	57,356	57,928
Reinsurance balances recoverable on unpaid losses and settlement expenses, net of allowances for uncollectible amounts of $9,945 at 3/31/18 and $10,014 at 12/31/17	308,703	301,991
Deferred policy acquisition costs	77,622	77,716
Property and equipment, at cost, net of accumulated depreciation of $49,350 at 3/31/18 and $47,676 at 12/31/17	56,153	55,849
Investment in unconsolidated investees	85,564	90,067
Goodwill and intangibles	54,793	59,302
Other assets	11,321	14,084
TOTAL ASSETS	$ 2,894,192	$ 2,947,244
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Unpaid losses and settlement expenses	$ 1,303,131	$ 1,271,503
Unearned premiums	444,296	451,449
Reinsurance balances payable	12,233	21,624
Funds held	67,415	74,560
Income taxes-deferred	40,234	53,768
Bonds payable, long-term debt	148,975	148,928
Accrued expenses	26,621	52,848
Other liabilities	18,354	18,966
TOTAL LIABILITIES	$ 2,061,259	$ 2,093,646
Shareholders' Equity		

Common stock ($1 par value, 100,000,000 shares authorized) (67,183,340 shares issued, 44,253,126 shares outstanding at 3/31/18) (67,078,569 shares issued, 44,148,355 shares outstanding at 12/31/17)	$ 67,183	$ 67,079
Paid-in capital	235,694	233,077
Accumulated other comprehensive earnings	(6,973)	157,919
Retained earnings	930,028	788,522
Deferred compensation	8,056	8,640
Less: Treasury shares at cost (22,930,214 shares at 3/31/18 and 12/31/17)	(401,055)	(401,639)
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	$ 832,933	$ 853,598
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	$ 2,894,192	$ 2,947,244

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

Table of Contents

RLI Corp. and Subsidiaries

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(Unaudited)

	For the Three-Month Periods Ended March 31,	
(in thousands)	2018	2017
Net cash provided by operating activities	$ 15,393	$ 11,265
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Investments purchased	$ (177,324)	$ (88,910)
Investments sold	123,869	67,667
Investments called or matured	41,337	33,880
Net change in short-term investments	9,980	(3,435)
Net property and equipment purchased	(2,065)	(3,298)
Other	35	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	$ (4,168)	$ 5,904
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Cash dividends paid	$ (9,290)	$ (8,793)
Stock plan share issuance	2,721	1,499
Net cash used in financing activities	$ (6,569)	$ (7,294)
Net increase in cash	$ 4,656	$ 9,875
Cash at the beginning of the period	$ 24,271	$ 18,269
Cash at March 31	$ 28,927	$ 28,144

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

Table of Contents

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP) for interim financial reporting and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the disclosures required by GAAP for complete financial statements. As such, these unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with our 2017 Annual Report on Form 10-K. Management believes that the disclosures are adequate to make the information presented not misleading, and all normal and recurring adjustments necessary to present fairly the financial position at March 31, 2018 and the results of operations of RLI Corp. and subsidiaries for all periods presented have been made. The results of operations for any interim period are not necessarily indicative of the operating results for a full year. Certain reclassifications were made to 2017 to conform to the classifications used in the current year.

The preparation of the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions relating to the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. These estimates are inherently subject to change and actual results could differ significantly from these estimates.

B. ADOPTED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

ASU 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)

ASU 2014-09 was issued to clarify and remove inconsistencies within revenue recognition requirements. The core principle of the update is that an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. To achieve that core principle, the transaction price for a contract is allocated among separately identifiable performance obligations and a portion of the transaction price is recognized as revenue when the associated performance obligation has been completed or transferred to the customer. All contracts and fulfillment activities within the scope of Topic 944, Financial Services – Insurance, investment income, investment related gains and losses and equity in earnings of unconsolidated investees are outside the scope of this ASU.

We adopted ASU 2014-09 on January 1, 2018. However, nearly all (over 99 percent) of our consolidated revenue is scoped out and therefore exempt from the guidance contained within this ASU. For the remaining portion, the revenue recognition policy we utilize aligns with the new guidance and there were no changes to the way we recognize revenue. Although the recognition of earnings from equity method investees is out of scope from the update, the recognition of revenue by our two equity method investees would be subject to the new guidance if the revenue streams are within this update's scope. Any impact on revenues would affect the net income of each of the equity method investees, upon which we calculate our portion of earnings to recognize. Our equity method investees are private companies and this guidance becomes effective for private companies in periods beginning after December 15, 2018. As a result, their earnings and our portion of those earnings are not impacted in 2018. We expect that revenue generated by both of our equity method investees will either be outside the scope of this update or largely unaffected by the changes.

ASU 2016-01, Financial Instruments - Overall (Subtopic 825-10): Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities

This ASU was issued to improve the recognition and measurement of financial instruments. The new guidance makes targeted improvements to GAAP as follows:

a. Requires equity investments (except those accounted for under the equity method of accounting or those that result in consolidation of the investee) to be measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in net earnings;
b. Simplifies the impairment assessment of equity investments without readily determinable fair values by requiring a qualitative assessment to identify impairment;
c. Eliminates the requirement for public business entities to disclose the method(s) and significant assumptions used to estimate the fair value that is required to be disclosed for financial instruments measured at amortized cost on the balance sheet;

d. Requires public business entities to use the exit price notion when measuring the fair value of financial instruments for disclosure purposes;
e. Requires an entity to present separately in other comprehensive earnings the portion of the total change in the fair value of a liability resulting from a change in the instrument-specific credit risk when the entity has elected to measure the liability at fair value in accordance with the fair value option for financial instruments;
f. Requires separate presentation of financial assets and financial liabilities by measurement category and form of financial asset on the balance sheet or the accompanying notes to the financial statements; and
g. Clarifies that an entity should evaluate the need for a valuation allowance on a deferred tax asset related to available-for-sale securities in combination with the entity's other deferred tax assets.

We adopted ASU 2016-01 on January 1, 2018. A cumulative-effect adjustment to the balance sheet was made as of the beginning of the year, which moved $142.2 million of net unrealized gains and losses on equity securities from accumulated other comprehensive earnings to retained earnings. During the first quarter of 2018, we recognized $26.8 million of unrealized losses on equity securities within net earnings and $5.6 million of income tax benefit. This compares to $6.5 million of unrealized gains on equity securities, net of tax, that was recognized through other comprehensive earnings in 2017. The future impact to our net earnings will vary depending upon the level of volatility in the performance of the securities held in our equity portfolio and the overall market.

ASU 2016-15, Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230): Classification of Certain Cash Receipts and Cash Payments

ASU 2016-15 was issued to reduce the diversity in practice of how certain cash receipts and payments, for which current guidance is silent, are classified in the statement of cash flows. The update addresses eight specific issues, including contingent consideration payments made after a business combination, distributions received from equity method investees and the classification of cash receipts and payments that have aspects of more than one class of cash flows. We adopted ASU 2016-15 on January 1, 2018. The adoption did not have a material impact on our statement of cash flows.

ASU 2018-02, Income Statement - Reporting Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Reclassification of Certain Tax Effects from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income

ASU 2018-02 was issued as a result of the enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) on December 22, 2017. Accounting guidance required deferred tax items to be revalued based on the new tax laws (the most significant of which reduced the corporate tax rate to 21 percent from 35 percent) with the change included in income from continuing operations. Since other comprehensive income was not affected by the revaluation of the deferred tax items, the net accumulated other comprehensive income (AOCI) balance was reflective of the historic 35 percent tax rate instead of the newly enacted rate, a difference that is referred to as a stranded tax effect. This ASU allows for the option to reclassify the stranded tax effects resulting from the implementation of the TCJA out of AOCI and into retained earnings. ASU 2018-02 does not replace the guidance requiring changes from the enactment of other tax laws or rates to be included within income from continuing operations and is applicable only to changes from the TCJA.

We adopted ASU 2018-02 during the first quarter of 2018. A current period adjustment was made to the balance sheet, which moved $3.7 million of stranded tax effects on the unrealized balances of our fixed income securities and equity method investees from accumulated other comprehensive earnings to retained earnings. The entire unrealized balance on equity securities was reclassified from AOCI into retained earnings from the adoption of ASU 2016-01 on January 1, 2018 and was therefore unaffected by this ASU. As there was no impact to net earnings and the balance sheet effect is limited to a reclassification within the equity section, there was not a material impact on our financial statements.

C. PROSPECTIVE ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

ASU 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842)

ASU 2016-02 was issued to improve the financial reporting of leasing transactions. Under current guidance for lessees, leases are only included on the balance sheet if certain criteria, classifying the agreement as a capital lease, are met. This update will require the recognition of a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability, discounted to the present value, for all leases that extend beyond 12 months. For operating leases, the asset and liability will be expensed over the lease term on a straight-line basis, with all cash flows included in the operating section of the statement of cash flows. For finance leases, interest on the lease liability will be recognized separately from the amortization of the right-of-use asset in the statement of comprehensive income and the repayment of the principal portion of the lease liability will be classified as a financing activity while the interest component will be included in the operating section of the statement of cash flows.

This ASU is effective for annual and interim reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018. Early adoption is permitted. Upon adoption, leases will be recognized and measured at the beginning of the earliest period presented using a modified retrospective approach. We do not have any financing leases. Approximately $31 million of undiscounted future lease liabilities would have to be discounted to present value and added to our balance sheet with a corresponding right-of-use asset if the guidance were applicable on March 31, 2018. We have approximately $7 million of annual operating lease expenses and do not expect that there will be a materially different annual rental expense upon adoption.

ASU 2016-13, Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326)

ASU 2016-13 was issued to provide more decision-useful information about the expected credit losses on financial instruments. Current GAAP delays the recognition of credit losses until it is probable a loss has been incurred. The update will require a financial asset measured at amortized cost, including reinsurance balances recoverable, to be presented at the net amount expected to be collected by means of an allowance for credit losses that runs through net earnings. Credit losses relating to available-for-sale debt securities will also be recorded through an allowance for credit losses. However, the amendments would limit the amount of the allowance to the amount by which fair value is below amortized cost. The measurement of credit losses on available-for-sale securities is similar under current GAAP, but the update requires the use of the allowance account through which amounts can be reversed, rather than through an irreversible write-down.

This ASU is effective for annual and interim reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2019. Early adoption is permitted beginning after December 15, 2018. Upon adoption, the update will be applied using the modified-retrospective approach, by which a cumulative-effect adjustment will be made to retained earnings as of the beginning of the first reporting period presented. We do not have any assets measured at amortized cost that would be impacted by this accounting standards update. Additionally, as our fixed income portfolio is weighted towards higher rated bonds (84 percent rated A or better at March 31, 2018) and we purchase reinsurance from financially strong reinsurers, we do not expect that credit loss will be material.

D. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Goodwill and intangible assets totaled $54.8 million and $59.3 million at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively, as detailed in the following table.

Goodwill and Intangible Assets	March 31,	December 31,

(in thousands)	2018	2017
Goodwill		
Energy surety	$ 25,706	$ 25,706
Miscellaneous and contract surety	15,110	15,110
Small commercial	5,246	5,246
Medical professional liability *	-	3,595
Total goodwill	$ 46,062	$ 49,657
Intangibles		
State insurance licenses	$ 7,500	$ 7,500
Definite-lived intangibles, net of accumulated amortization of $2,763 at 3/31/18 and $5,678 at 12/31/17	1,231	2,145
Total intangibles	$ 8,731	$ 9,645
Total goodwill and intangibles	$ 54,793	$ 59,302

* The medical professional liability goodwill balance reflects a cumulative non-cash impairment charge of $12.4 million and $8.8 million as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively.

All definite-lived intangible assets are amortized against future operating results based on their estimated useful lives. Amortization of intangible assets was $0.1 million for the first quarter of 2018, compared to $0.2 million for the first quarter of 2017.

Annual impairment testing was performed on our energy surety goodwill, miscellaneous and contract surety goodwill, small commercial goodwill and state insurance license indefinite-lived intangible asset during 2017. Based upon these reviews, none of the assets were impaired. In addition, as of March 31, 2018, there were no triggering events that would suggest an updated review was necessary on the above mentioned goodwill and intangible assets. In contrast, the medical professional liability reporting unit had adverse loss experience during the first quarter of 2018, which triggered the need to review the reporting unit for impairment. Testing of the reporting unit resulted in a $4.4 million non-cash impairment charge. The fair value for the medical professional liability reporting unit's agency relationships, carried as a definite-lived intangible, was determined by using a discounted cash flow valuation. The carrying value exceeded the fair value, resulting in a $0.8 million non-cash impairment charge. The fair value for the medical professional liability reporting unit's goodwill was determined by using a weighted average of a market approach and discounted cash flow valuation. The model implied the reporting unit had no value, resulting in a $3.6 million non-cash impairment charge. Subsequent to this impairment, the medical professional liability reporting unit had no remaining goodwill or intangible assets. All impairment charges were recorded as net realized losses in the consolidated statement of earnings.

E. EARNINGS PER SHARE

Basic earnings per share (EPS) excludes dilution and is computed by dividing income available to common shareholders by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted EPS reflects the dilution that could occur if securities or other contracts to issue common stock or common stock equivalents were exercised or converted into common stock. When inclusion of common stock equivalents increases the earnings per share or reduces the loss per share, the effect on earnings is anti-dilutive. Under these circumstances, the diluted net earnings or net loss per share is computed excluding the common stock equivalents.

The following represents a reconciliation of the numerator and denominator of the basic and diluted EPS computations contained in the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

	For the Three-Month Period Ended March 31, 2018			For the Three-Month Period Ended March 31, 2017		
	Income	Shares	Per Share	Income	Shares	Per Share
(in thousands, except per share data)	(Numerator)	(Denominator)	Amount	(Numerator)	(Denominator)	Amount
Basic EPS						
Income available to common shareholders	$ 12,216	44,221	$ 0.28	$ 19,828	43,961	$ 0.45
Effect of Dilutive Securities						
Stock options	-	429		-	541	
Diluted EPS						

Income available to common shareholders	$ 12,216	44,650	$ 0.27	$ 19,828	44,502	$ 0.45

F. COMPREHENSIVE EARNINGS

Our comprehensive earnings include net earnings plus after-tax unrealized gains and losses on our fixed income portfolio in 2018. In 2017, after-tax unrealized gains and losses on our fixed income and equity portfolios were also included. With the adoption of ASU 2016-01 on January 1, 2018, we began recognizing unrealized gains and losses on the equity portfolio through net income. See note 1.B to the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements for more information. In reporting comprehensive earnings on a net basis in the statement of earnings, we used the federal statutory tax rate of 21 percent in 2018 and 35 percent in 2017.

Unrealized losses, net of tax, on the fixed income portfolio for the first three months of 2018 were $26.4 million, compared to $11.8 million of unrealized gains, net of tax, on the fixed income and equity portfolios during the same period last year. Unrealized losses in the first three months of 2018 were mainly attributable to rising interest rates, which decreased the fair value of securities held in the fixed income portfolio. In 2017, unrealized gains were the result of strong equity market returns for the quarter and a slight decline in interest rates.

The following table illustrates the changes in the balance of each component of accumulated other comprehensive earnings for each period presented in the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements. The 2017 activity and balances include the net unrealized gain and loss activity on both fixed income and equity securities, while the 2018 activity

Table of Contents

and ending balance reflect only the net unrealized gain and loss activity on fixed income securities due to the aforementioned adoption of ASU 2016-01.

(in thousands)	For the Three-Month Periods Ended March 31,	
Unrealized Gains/Losses on Available-for-Sale Securities	2018	2017
Beginning balance	$ 157,919	$ 122,610
Cumulative effect adjustment of ASU 2016-01	(142,219)	-
Adjusted beginning balance	$ 15,700	$ 122,610
Other comprehensive earnings before reclassifications	(26,410)	12,172
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive earnings	12	(403)
Net current-period other comprehensive earnings (loss)	$ (26,398)	$ 11,769
Reclassification of stranded tax effect per ASU 2018-02	3,725	-
Ending balance	$ (6,973)	$ 134,379

The sale or other-than-temporary impairment of an available-for-sale security results in amounts being reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive earnings to current period net earnings. The effects of reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive earnings by the respective line items of net earnings are presented in the following table. As previously mentioned, 2018 activity is reflective of activity on fixed income securities classified as available-for-sale, while 2017 also includes activity from the equity portfolio.

(in thousands)	Amount Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Earnings For the Three-Month Periods Ended March 31,		
Component of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Earnings	2018	2017	Affected line item in the Statement of Earnings
Unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale securities	$ 41	$ 2,710	Net realized gains
	(56)	(2,090)	Other-than-temporary impairment (OTTI) losses on investments
	$ (15)	$ 620	Earnings before income taxes
	3	(217)	Income tax expense
	$ (12)	$ 403	Net earnings

2. INVESTMENTS

Our investments are primarily composed of fixed income debt securities and common stock equity securities. We carry our equity securities at fair value and categorize all of our debt securities as available-for-sale, which are carried at fair value. When available, we obtain quoted market prices to determine fair value for our investments. If a quoted market price is not available, fair value is estimated using a secondary pricing source or using quoted market prices of similar securities. We have no investment securities for which fair value is determined using Level 3 inputs as defined in note 3 to the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements, “Fair Value Measurements.”

Fixed Income Securities - Available-for-Sale

The amortized cost and fair value of available-for-sale securities at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 were as follows:

Available-for-sale
(in thousands)

	March 31, 2018			
	Cost or	Gross	Gross	
	Amortized	Unrealized	Unrealized	Fair
Asset Class	Cost	Gains	Losses	Value
U.S. government	$ 119,660	$ 54	$ (2,179)	$ 117,535
U.S. agency	18,541	208	(408)	18,341
Non-U.S. govt. & agency	8,193	35	(145)	8,083
Agency MBS	359,232	2,148	(9,896)	351,484
ABS/CMBS*	91,073	199	(774)	90,498
Corporate	527,845	5,331	(7,184)	525,992
Municipal	536,946	8,629	(3,834)	541,741
Total Fixed Income	$ 1,661,490	$ 16,604	$ (24,420)	$ 1,653,674

Available-for-sale
(in thousands)

	December 31, 2017			
	Cost or	Gross	Gross	
	Amortized	Unrealized	Unrealized	Fair
Asset Class	Cost	Gains	Losses	Value
U.S. government	$ 92,561	$ 23	$ (895)	$ 91,689
U.S. agency	18,541	347	(110)	18,778
Non-U.S. govt. & agency	7,501	143	(56)	7,588
Agency MBS	329,129	3,420	(4,078)	328,471
ABS/CMBS*	70,405	436	(315)	70,526
Corporate	508,128	12,575	(1,681)	519,022
Municipal	620,146	17,272	(1,253)	636,165
Total Fixed Income	$ 1,646,411	$ 34,216	$ (8,388)	$ 1,672,239

*Non-agency asset-backed and commercial mortgage-backed

The following table presents the amortized cost and fair value of available-for-sale debt securities by contractual maturity dates as of March 31, 2018:

	March 31, 2018	
Available-for-sale	Amortized	Fair
(in thousands)	Cost	Value
Due in one year or less	$ 35,667	$ 35,502
Due after one year through five years	328,700	330,089
Due after five years through 10 years	553,968	552,243
Due after 10 years	292,850	293,858
Mtge/ABS/CMBS*	450,305	441,982
Total available-for-sale	$ 1,661,490	$ 1,653,674

*Mortgage-backed, asset-backed and commercial mortgage-backed

Unrealized Losses on Fixed Income Securities

We conduct and document periodic reviews of all fixed income securities with unrealized losses to evaluate whether the impairment is other-than-temporary. The following tables are used as part of our impairment analysis and illustrate the total value of fixed income securities that were in an unrealized loss position as of March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017. The tables segregate the securities based on type, noting the fair value, cost (or amortized cost) and unrealized loss on each category of investment as well as in total. The tables further classify the securities based on the length of time they have been in an unrealized loss position. As of March 31, 2018 unrealized losses on fixed income securities, as shown in the following tables, were 1.2 percent of total invested assets. Unrealized losses increased through the first three months of 2018, as interest rates increased from the end of 2017, which decreased the fair value of securities held in the fixed income portfolio.

	March 31, 2018			December 31, 2017		
		12 Mos. &			12 Mos. &	
(in thousands)	< 12 Mos.	Greater	Total	< 12 Mos.	Greater	Total
U.S. Government						
Fair value	$ 64,861	$ 31,191	$ 96,052	$ 58,009	$ 30,888	$ 88,897
Cost or amortized cost	66,407	31,824	98,231	58,443	31,349	89,792
Unrealized Loss	$ (1,546)	$ (633)	$ (2,179)	$ (434)	$ (461)	$ (895)
U.S. Agency						
Fair value	$ 12,655	$ —	$ 12,655	$ 10,917	$ —	$ 10,917
Cost or amortized cost	13,063	—	13,063	11,027	—	11,027
Unrealized Loss	$ (408)	$ —	$ (408)	$ (110)	$ —	$ (110)
Non-U.S. government						
Fair value	$ 2,768	$ 1,781	$ 4,549	$ —	$ 1,840	$ 1,840
Cost or amortized cost	2,797	1,897	4,694	—	1,896	1,896
Unrealized Loss	$ (29)	$ (116)	$ (145)	$ —	$ (56)	$ (56)
Agency MBS						
Fair value	$ 190,033	$ 110,400	$ 300,433	$ 122,130	$ 111,306	$ 233,436
Cost or amortized cost	195,213	115,116	310,329	123,559	113,955	237,514
Unrealized Loss	$ (5,180)	$ (4,716)	$ (9,896)	$ (1,429)	$ (2,649)	$ (4,078)
ABS/CMBS*						
Fair value	$ 48,135	$ 18,248	$ 66,383	$ 23,406	$ 21,587	$ 44,993
Cost or amortized cost	48,635	18,522	67,157	23,491	21,817	45,308
Unrealized Loss	$ (500)	$ (274)	$ (774)	$ (85)	$ (230)	$ (315)
Corporate						
Fair value	$ 248,217	$ 27,617	$ 275,834	$ 86,946	$ 28,600	$ 115,546
Cost or amortized cost	253,724	29,294	283,018	87,736	29,491	117,227
Unrealized Loss	$ (5,507)	$ (1,677)	$ (7,184)	$ (790)	$ (891)	$ (1,681)
Municipal						
Fair value	$ 117,781	$ 48,961	$ 166,742	$ 71,059	$ 60,049	$ 131,108
Cost or amortized cost	119,784	50,792	170,576	71,534	60,827	132,361
Unrealized Loss	$ (2,003)	$ (1,831)	$ (3,834)	$ (475)	$ (778)	$ (1,253)
Total fixed income						
Fair value	$ 684,450	$ 238,198	$ 922,648	$ 372,467	$ 254,270	$ 626,737

Cost or amortized cost	699,623	247,445	947,068	375,790	259,335	635,125
Unrealized Loss	$ (15,173)	$ (9,247)	$ (24,420)	$ (3,323)	$ (5,065)	$ (8,388)

* Non-agency asset-backed and commercial mortgage-backed

The following table shows the composition of the fixed income securities in unrealized loss positions at March 31, 2018 by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) rating and the generally equivalent Standard & Poor’s (S&P) and Moody’s ratings. The vast majority of the securities are rated by S&P and/or Moody’s.

	Equivalent	Equivalent	(dollars in thousands)				
NAIC	S&P	Moody's	Amortized		Unrealized	Percent	
Rating	Rating	Rating	Cost	Fair Value	Loss	to Total	
1	AAA/AA/A	Aaa/Aa/A	$ 821,528	$ 800,794	$ (20,734)	84.9	%
2	BBB	Baa	95,823	93,384	(2,439)	10.0	%
3	BB	Ba	18,431	17,862	(569)	2.3	%
4	B	B	9,281	8,787	(494)	2.0	%
5	CCC	Caa	1,389	1,250	(139)	0.6	%
6	CC or lower	Ca or lower	616	571	(45)	0.2	%
		Total	$ 947,068	$ 922,648	$ (24,420)	100.0	%

Evaluating Fixed Income Securities for OTTI

The fixed income portfolio contained 551 securities in an unrealized loss position as of March 31, 2018. The $24.4 million in associated unrealized losses for these 551 securities represents 1.5 percent of the fixed income portfolio's cost basis. Of these 551 securities, 126 have been in an unrealized loss position for 12 consecutive months or longer. All fixed income securities in the investment portfolio continue to pay the expected coupon payments under the contractual terms of the securities. Any credit-related impairment related to fixed income securities we do not plan to sell and for which we are not more likely than not to be required to sell is recognized in net earnings, with the non-credit related impairment recognized in comprehensive earnings. Based on our analysis, our fixed income portfolio is of high credit quality and we believe we will recover the amortized cost basis of our fixed income securities. We continually monitor the credit quality of our fixed income investments to assess if it is probable that we will receive our contractual or estimated cash flows in the form of principal and interest. In the first three months of 2018, we recognized $0.1 million in other-than-temporary impairment (OTTI) charges in earnings on one fixed income security that we no longer had the intent to hold. Comparatively, we recognized $2.1 million in OTTI losses in earnings on two fixed income securities that we no longer had the intent to hold in same period in 2017. There were no OTTI losses recognized in other comprehensive earnings on the fixed income portfolio for the periods presented.

Unrealized Gains and Losses on Equity Securities

The portion of net unrealized losses for the first quarter of 2018 that relates to equity securities held as of March 31, 2018 was $12.3 million.

Other Invested Assets

Other invested assets include investments in three low income housing tax credit partnerships (LIHTC), membership in the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLBC), an investment in a real estate fund, an investment in a business development company (BDC) and an investment in a global credit fund. Our LIHTC investments are carried at amortized cost and our investment in FHLBC stock is carried at cost. Due to the nature of the LIHTC and our membership in the FHLBC, their carrying amounts approximate fair value. Our investments in the BDC and global credit fund are carried at fair value. The investment in the real estate fund was carried at cost through 2017, but is carried at fair value in 2018 and forward due to the adoption of ASU 2016-01. Our LIHTC interests had a balance of $15.0 million at March 31, 2018, compared to $15.5 million at December 31, 2017 and recognized a total tax benefit of $0.6 million during the first quarter of 2018, the same as the prior year. Our unfunded commitment for our LIHTC investments totaled $2.5 million at March 31, 2018 and will be paid out in installments through 2025. Our investment in FHLBC stock totaled $1.0 million at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017. As of March 31, 2018, $18.2 million of investments were pledged as collateral with the FHLBC to ensure timely access to the secured lending facility that ownership of FHLBC stock provides. Comparatively, $18.9 million of investments were pledged as collateral as of December 31, 2017. As of and during the three month period ending March 31, 2018, there were no outstanding borrowings with the FHLBC. Our investment in the real estate fund had a fair value of $2.6 million at March 31, 2018, compared to a carrying value of $2.5 million which approximated fair value at December 31, 2017. Our investment in the BDC had a fair value of $9.2 million at March 31, 2018, compared to $7.3 million at December 31, 2017. The investment in the BDC is restricted from being transferred until after a qualified IPO unless prior consent is provided by the BDC. Our unfunded commitments related to this investment totaled $15.7 million at March 31, 2018. Lastly, our investment in a global credit fund that specializes in consumer loans had a fair value of $7.3 million at March 31, 2018, compared to $7.5 million at December 31, 2017. We had a $7.2 million unfunded commitment related to the global credit fund investment at March 31, 2018.

Table of Contents

Cash and Short-term Investments

Cash consists of uninvested balances in bank accounts. We had a cash balance of $28.9 million at March 31, 2018, compared to $24.3 million at the end of 2017. We did not have any short-term investments at March 31, 2018, but had $10.0 million of short-term investments that were carried at cost and approximated fair value at December 31, 2017.

3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Assets and Liabilities Recorded at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

Fair value is defined as the price in the principal market that would be received for an asset to facilitate an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date.

We determined the fair value of certain financial instruments based on their underlying characteristics and relevant transactions in the marketplace. We maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value.

Financial assets are classified based upon the lowest level of significant input that is used to determine fair value. The following are the levels of the fair value hierarchy and a brief description of the type of valuation inputs that are used to establish each level:

Pricing Level 1 is applied to valuations based on readily available, unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets.

Pricing Level 2 is applied to valuations based upon quoted prices for similar assets in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets in inactive markets; or valuations based on models where the significant inputs are observable (e.g. interest rates, yield curves, prepayment speeds, default rates, loss severities) or can be corroborated by observable market data.

Pricing Level 3 is applied to valuations that are derived from techniques in which one or more of the significant inputs are unobservable.

As a part of management's process to determine fair value, we utilize widely recognized, third-party pricing sources to determine our fair values. We have obtained an understanding of the third-party pricing sources' valuation methodologies and inputs. The following is a description of the valuation techniques used for financial assets that are measured at fair value, including the general classification of such assets pursuant to the fair value hierarchy.

Corporate, Agencies, Government and Municipal Bonds: The pricing vendor employs a multi-dimensional model which uses standard inputs including (listed in approximate order of priority for use) benchmark yields, reported trades, broker/dealer quotes, issuer spreads, two-sided markets, benchmark securities, market bids/offers and other reference data. The pricing vendor also monitors market indicators, as well as industry and economic events. All bonds valued using these techniques are classified as Level 2. All corporate, agency, government and municipal securities were deemed Level 2.

Mortgage-backed Securities (MBS)/Commercial Mortgage-backed Securities (CMBS) and Asset-backed Securities (ABS): The pricing vendor evaluation methodology includes principally interest rate movements and new issue data. Evaluation of the tranches (non-volatile, volatile or credit sensitivity) is based on the pricing vendors' interpretation of accepted modeling and pricing conventions. This information is then used to determine the cash flows for each tranche, benchmark yields, prepayment assumptions and to incorporate collateral performance. To evaluate MBS and CMBS volatility, an option adjusted spread model is used in combination with models that simulate interest rate paths to determine market price information. This process allows the pricing vendor to obtain evaluations of a broad universe of securities in a way that reflects changes in yield curve, index rates, implied volatility, mortgage rates and recent trade activity. MBS/CMBS and ABS with corroborated, observable inputs are classified as Level 2. All of our MBS/CMBS and ABS are deemed Level 2.

Common Stock: Exchange traded equities have readily observable price levels and are classified as Level 1 (fair value based on quoted market prices). All of our common stock holdings are deemed Level 1.

For the Level 2 securities, as described above, we periodically conduct a review to assess the reasonableness of the fair values provided by our pricing services. Our review consists of a two pronged approach. First, we compare prices provided by our pricing services to those provided by an additional source. Second, we obtain prices from securities brokers and compare them to the prices provided by our pricing services. In both comparisons, when discrepancies are found, we compare our prices to actual reported trade data for like securities. Based on this assessment, we determined that the fair values of our Level 2 securities provided by our pricing services are reasonable.

For common stock, we receive prices from a nationally recognized pricing service. Prices are based on observable inputs in an active market and are therefore disclosed as Level 1. Based on this assessment, we determined that the fair values of our Level 1 securities provided by our pricing service are reasonable.

Our investments in the BDC, real estate fund and global credit fund are measured using each investment's net asset value per share and are not categorized within the fair value hierarchy.

Due to the relatively short-term nature of cash, short-term investments, accounts receivable and accounts payable, their carrying amounts are reasonable estimates of fair value.

Assets measured at fair value in the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements on a recurring basis are summarized below:

	As of March 31, 2018			
	Fair Value Measurements Using			
(in thousands)	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total
Fixed income securities - available-for-sale				
U.S. government	$ —	$ 117,535	$ —	$ 117,535
U.S. agency	—	18,341	—	18,341
Non-U.S. govt. & agency	—	8,083	—	8,083
Agency MBS	—	351,484	—	351,484
ABS/CMBS*	—	90,498	—	90,498
Corporate	—	525,992	—	525,992
Municipal	—	541,741	—	541,741
Total fixed income securities - available-for-sale	$ —	$ 1,653,674	$ —	$ 1,653,674
Equity securities	378,253	—	—	378,253
Total	$ 378,253	$ 1,653,674	$ —	$ 2,031,927

	As of December 31, 2017			
	Fair Value Measurements Using			
(in thousands)	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total
Fixed income securities - available-for-sale				
U.S. government	$ —	$ 91,689	$ —	$ 91,689
U.S. agency	—	18,778	—	18,778
Non-U.S. govt. & agency	—	7,588	—	7,588
Agency MBS	—	328,471	—	328,471
ABS/CMBS*	—	70,526	—	70,526
Corporate	—	519,022	—	519,022
Municipal	—	636,165	—	636,165
Total fixed income securities - available-for-sale	$ —	$ 1,672,239	$ —	$ 1,672,239
Equity securities	400,492	—	—	400,492
Total	$ 400,492	$ 1,672,239	$ —	$ 2,072,731

* Non-agency asset-backed and commercial mortgage-backed

As noted in the above table, we did not have any assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) during the period. Additionally, there were no securities transferred in or out of levels 1 or 2 during the three-month period ended March 31, 2018.

4. HISTORICAL LOSS AND LAE DEVELOPMENT

The following table is a reconciliation of our unpaid losses and settlement expenses (LAE) for the first three months of 2018 and 2017.

	For the Three-Month Periods Ended March 31,	
(in thousands)	2018	2017
Unpaid losses and LAE at beginning of year		
Gross	$ 1,271,503	$ 1,139,337
Ceded	(301,991)	(288,224)
Net	$ 969,512	$ 851,113
Increase (decrease) in incurred losses and LAE		
Current accident year	$ 107,011	$ 99,249
Prior accident years	(14,590)	(5,859)
Total incurred	$ 92,421	$ 93,390
Loss and LAE payments for claims incurred		
Current accident year	$ (3,384)	$ (3,395)
Prior accident year	(64,121)	(60,427)
Total paid	$ (67,505)	$ (63,822)
Net unpaid losses and LAE at March 31,	$ 994,428	$ 880,681
Unpaid losses and LAE at March 31,		
Gross	$ 1,303,131	$ 1,152,027
Ceded	(308,703)	(271,346)
Net	$ 994,428	$ 880,681

For the first three months of 2018, incurred losses and LAE included $14.6 million of favorable development on prior years' loss reserves. Commercial and personal umbrella, general liability and small commercial were drivers of the favorable development within the casualty segment. Property and surety segments also developed favorably, contributing to the decrease in incurred losses on prior accident years.

For the first three months of 2017, incurred losses and LAE included $5.9 million of favorable development on prior years' loss reserves. The property segment and surety segments had favorable development, primarily from commercial property, marine, contract surety and commercial surety. The casualty segment experienced unfavorable development, driven by commercial transportation.

5. INCOME TAXES

Our effective tax rate for the three-month period ended March 31, 2018 was 15.0 percent, compared to 25.0 percent for the same period in 2017. Effective rates are dependent upon components of pretax earnings and the related tax effects. Pre-tax earnings were lower for the first quarter of 2018 due to the adoption of ASU 2016-01 on January 1, 2018, which resulted in the inclusion of $26.8 million of unrealized losses on equity securities within pre-tax earnings. The lower pretax earnings caused the tax favored adjustments to be larger on a percentage basis in 2018 compared to the prior year. Additionally, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) lowered the federal corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent effective January 1, 2018. There have been no changes to the provisional amounts that we recorded in the fourth quarter of 2017 associated with the TCJA.

Income tax expense attributable to income from operations for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2018 and 2017 differed from the amounts computed by applying the U.S. federal tax rate of 21 percent and 35 percent, respectively, to pretax income by the items detailed in the below table. In interim periods, income taxes are adjusted to reflect the effective tax rate we anticipate for the year, with adjustments flowing through the other items line.

	For the Three-Month Periods Ended March 31,			
	2018		2017	
(in thousands)	Amount	%	Amount	%
Provision for income taxes at the statutory rate of 21% in 2018 and 35% in 2017	$ 3,019	21.0 %	$ 9,255	35.0 %
Increase (reduction) in taxes resulting from:				
Excess tax benefit on share-based compensation	(1,143)	(7.9) %	(443)	(1.7) %
Tax exempt interest income	(581)	(4.0) %	(1,179)	(4.5) %
Dividends received deduction	(196)	(1.4) %	(530)	(2.0) %
ESOP dividends paid deduction	(139)	(1.0) %	(233)	(0.9) %
Other items, net	1,202	8.3 %	(255)	(0.9) %
Total tax expense	$ 2,162	15.0 %	$ 6,615	25.0 %

6. STOCK BASED COMPENSATION

Our RLI Corp. Omnibus Stock Plan (omnibus plan) was in place from 2005 to 2010. The omnibus plan provided for equity-based compensation, including stock options, up to a maximum of 3,000,000 shares of common stock (subject to adjustment for changes in our capitalization and other events). Between 2005 and 2010, we granted 2,458,059 stock options under this plan, including incentive stock options (ISOs), which were adjusted as part of the special dividends paid in 2014 and prior years. The omnibus plan was replaced in 2010.

In 2010, our shareholders approved the RLI Corp. Long-Term Incentive Plan (2010 LTIP), which provides for equity-based compensation and replaced the omnibus plan. In conjunction with the adoption of the 2010 LTIP, effective May 6, 2010, options were no longer granted under the omnibus plan. The 2010 LTIP provided for equity-based compensation, including stock options, up to a maximum of 4,000,000 shares of common stock (subject to adjustment for changes in our capitalization and other events). Between 2010 and 2015, we granted 2,878,000 stock options under the 2010 LTIP. The 2010 LTIP was replaced in 2015.

In 2015, our shareholders approved the 2015 RLI Corp. Long-Term Incentive Plan (2015 LTIP), which provides for equity-based compensation and replaced the 2010 LTIP. In conjunction with the adoption of the 2015 LTIP, effective May 7, 2015, options were no longer granted under the 2010 LTIP. Awards under the 2015 LTIP may be in the form of restricted stock, restricted stock units, stock options (non-qualified only), stock appreciation rights, performance units as well as other stock-based awards. Eligibility under the 2015 LTIP is limited to employees and directors of the company or any affiliate. The granting of awards under the 2015 LTIP is solely at the discretion of the board of directors. The maximum number of shares of common stock available for distribution under the 2015 LTIP is 4,000,000 shares (subject to adjustment for changes in our capitalization and other events). Since 2015, we have granted 1,485,325 awards under the 2015 LTIP, including 36,750 thus far in 2018.

Stock Options

Under the 2015 LTIP, as under the 2010 LTIP and omnibus plan, we grant stock options for shares with an exercise price equal to the fair market value of the shares at the date of grant (subject to adjustments for changes in our capitalization, special dividends and other events as set forth in such plans). Options generally vest and become exercisable ratably over a five-year period and expire eight years after grant.

For most participants, the requisite service period and vesting period will be the same. For participants who are retirement eligible, defined by the plan as those individuals whose age and years of service equals 75, the requisite service period is deemed to be met and options are immediately expensed on the date of grant. For participants who will become retirement eligible during the vesting period, the requisite service period over which expense is recognized is the period between the grant date and the attainment of retirement eligibility. Shares issued upon option exercise are newly issued shares.

Table of Contents

The following tables summarize option activity for the periods ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

	Number of Options Outstanding	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (in 000's)
Outstanding options at January 1, 2018	2,257,015	$ 46.80		
Options granted	36,750	$ 64.42		
Options exercised	(147,370)	$ 30.01		$ 5,001
Options canceled/forfeited	(4,800)	$ 62.55		
Outstanding options at March 31, 2018	2,141,595	$ 48.22	4.90	$ 32,883
Exercisable options at March 31, 2018	853,835	$ 40.27	3.32	$ 19,834

	Number of Options Outstanding	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (in 000's)
Outstanding options at January 1, 2017	2,207,110	$ 40.90		
Options granted	23,125	$ 59.77		
Options exercised	(32,960)	$ 33.05		$ 891
Options canceled/forfeited	—	$ 0.00		
Outstanding options at March 31, 2017	2,197,275	$ 41.22	4.73	$ 42,954
Exercisable options at March 31, 2017	891,235	$ 31.89	3.12	$ 25,118

The majority of our stock options are granted annually at our regular board meeting in May. In addition, options are approved at the May meeting for quarterly grants to certain retirement eligible employees. Since stock option grants to retirement eligible employees are fully expensed when issued, the approach allows for a more even expense distribution throughout the year.

Thus far in 2018, 36,750 stock options were granted with a weighted average exercise price of $64.42 and a weighted average fair value of $9.16. We recognized $1.0 million of expense in the first quarter of 2018 related to options vesting. Since options granted under our 2010 LTIP and 2015 LTIP are non-qualified, we recorded a tax benefit of $0.2 million in the first quarter of 2018 related to this compensation expense. Total unrecognized compensation expense relating to outstanding and unvested options was $5.0 million, which will be recognized over the remainder of the vesting period. Comparatively, we recognized $0.9 million of expense in the first quarter of 2017. We recorded a tax benefit of $0.3 million in the first quarter of 2017 related to this compensation expense.

The fair value of options was estimated using a Black-Scholes based option pricing model with the following weighted average grant-date assumptions and weighted average fair values as of March 31:

	2018	2017
Weighted-average fair value of grants	$ 9.16	$ 8.49
Risk-free interest rates	2.02 %	1.95 %
Dividend yield	3.60 %	3.59 %
Expected volatility	22.93 %	22.99 %
Expected option life	5.13 years	5.14 years

The risk-free rate was determined based on U.S. treasury yields that most closely approximated the option's expected life. The dividend yield was determined based on the average annualized quarterly dividends paid during the most recent five-year period and incorporated a consideration for special dividends paid in recent history. The expected volatility was calculated based on the median of the rolling volatilities for the expected life of the options. The expected option life was determined based on historical exercise behavior and the assumption that all outstanding options will be exercised at the midpoint of the current date and remaining contractual term, adjusted for the demographics of the current year's grant.

Table of Contents

Restricted Stock Units

In addition to stock options, restricted stock units (RSUs) were granted for the first time in May 2017. RSUs have a grant date value equal to the closing stock price of the Company's stock on the dates the shares are granted. Generally, these units have a three-year cliff vesting. When participants terminate employment with the Company after having met the definition of retirement under the 2015 LTIP, defined as those individuals whose age and years of service equals 75, the RSUs will become fully vested. In addition, the RSUs have dividend participation which accrues and is settled in additional shares with all granted stock units at the end of the three-year period.

As of March 31, 2018, 15,450 RSUs have been granted and 15,150 remain outstanding. No RSUs were granted in the first quarter of 2018. We recognized $0.1 million of expense on these units in the first quarter of 2018. Total unrecognized compensation expense relating to outstanding and unvested RSUs was $0.4 million, which will be recognized over the remainder of the three-year vesting period.

7. OPERATING SEGMENT INFORMATION

Selected information by operating segment is presented in the table below. Additionally, the table reconciles segment totals to total earnings and total revenues.

	For the Three-Month Periods	
REVENUES	Ended March 31,	
(in thousands)	2018	2017
Casualty	$ 125,850	$ 116,984
Property	35,182	35,805
Surety	28,995	30,496
Net premiums earned	$ 190,027	$ 183,285
Net investment income	14,232	13,005
Net realized gains	8,404	624
Net unrealized losses on equity securities	(26,772)	-
Total consolidated revenue	$ 185,891	$ 196,914
NET EARNINGS		
(in thousands)	2018	2017
Casualty	$ 1,561	$ (6,881)
Property	5,882	8,804
Surety	10,044	11,134
Net underwriting income	$ 17,487	$ 13,057
Net investment income	14,232	13,005

Net realized gains	8,404	624
Net unrealized losses on equity securities	(26,772)	-
General corporate expense and interest on debt	(4,139)	(5,181)
Equity in earnings of unconsolidated investees	5,166	4,938
Total earnings before income taxes	$ 14,378	$ 26,443
Income tax expense	2,162	6,615
Total net earnings	$ 12,216	$ 19,828

The following table further summarizes revenues by major product type within each operating segment:

NET PREMIUMS EARNED	For the Three-Month Periods Ended March 31,	
(in thousands)	2018	2017
Casualty		
Commercial and personal umbrella	$ 29,952	$ 28,577
General liability	23,165	21,583
Professional services	19,823	19,226
Commercial transportation	19,175	21,101
Small commercial	12,890	12,287
Executive products	5,052	4,412
Medical professional liability	4,472	4,291
Other casualty	11,321	5,507
Total	$ 125,850	$ 116,984
Property		
Commercial property	$ 16,951	$ 15,718
Marine	13,857	12,286
Specialty personal	4,142	6,018
Property reinsurance	12	1,783
Other property	220	-
Total	$ 35,182	$ 35,805
Surety		
Miscellaneous	$ 11,642	$ 11,857
Commercial	6,713	7,143
Contract	6,346	7,084
Energy	4,294	4,412
Total	$ 28,995	$ 30,496
Grand Total	$ 190,027	$ 183,285

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

"SAFE HARBOR" STATEMENT UNDER THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995: This discussion and analysis may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are not historical facts, and involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expected and projected. Various risk factors that could affect future results are listed in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

OVERVIEW

RLI Corp. is an Illinois corporation that was organized in 1965. We underwrite selected property and casualty insurance through major subsidiaries collectively known as RLI Insurance Group (the Group). We conduct operations principally through three insurance companies. RLI Insurance Company (RLI Ins.), a subsidiary of RLI Corp. and our principal insurance subsidiary, writes multiple lines of insurance on an admitted basis in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. Mt. Hawley Insurance Company (Mt. Hawley), a subsidiary of RLI Ins., writes excess and surplus lines insurance on a non-admitted basis in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company (CBIC), a subsidiary of RLI Ins., writes multiple lines of insurance on an admitted basis in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Each of our insurance companies is domiciled in Illinois.

As a specialty insurance company with a niche focus, we offer insurance coverages in both the specialty admitted and excess and surplus markets. Coverages in the specialty admitted market, such as our energy surety bonds, are for risks that are unique or hard-to-place in the standard market, but must remain with an admitted insurance company for regulatory or marketing reasons. In addition, our coverages in the specialty admitted market may be designed to meet specific insurance needs of targeted insured groups, such as our professional liability and package coverages for design professionals and our stand-alone personal umbrella policy. The specialty admitted market is subject to more state regulation than the excess and surplus market, particularly with regard to rate and form filing requirements, restrictions on the ability to exit lines of business, premium tax payments and membership in various state associations, such as state guaranty funds and assigned risk plans. We also underwrite coverages in the excess and surplus market. The excess and surplus market, unlike the admitted market, is less regulated and more flexible in terms of policy forms and premium rates. This market provides an alternative for customers with risks or loss exposures that generally cannot be written in the standard market. This typically results in coverages that are more restrictive and more expensive than coverages in the admitted market. When we underwrite within the excess and surplus market, we are selective in the lines of business and type of risks we choose to write. Using our non-admitted status in this market allows us to tailor terms and conditions to manage these exposures effectively. Often, the development of these coverages is generated through proposals brought to us by an agent or broker seeking coverage for a specific group of clients or loss exposures. Once a proposal is submitted, our underwriters determine whether it would be a viable product based on our business objectives.

The foundation of our overall business strategy is to underwrite for profit in all market conditions and we have achieved this for 22 consecutive years, averaging an 87.8 combined ratio over that period of time. This drives our ability to provide shareholder returns in three different ways: the underwriting income itself, net investment income from our investment portfolio and long-term appreciation in our equity portfolio. Our investment strategy is based on preservation of capital as the first priority, with a secondary focus on generating total return. The fixed income portfolio consists primarily of highly-rated, diversified, liquid, investment-grade securities. Consistent underwriting income allows a portion of our investment portfolio to be invested in equity securities and other risk asset classes. Our equity portfolio consists of a core stock portfolio weighted toward dividend-paying stocks, as well as exchange traded funds (ETFs). Our minority equity ownership interests in Maui Jim, Inc. (Maui Jim), a manufacturer of high-quality sunglasses, and Prime Holdings Insurance Services, Inc. (Prime), a specialty E&S insurance company, has also enhanced financial results. We have a diversified investment portfolio and closely monitor our investment risks. Despite periodic fluctuations in market value, our equity portfolio is part of a long-term asset allocation strategy and has contributed significantly to our historic growth in book value.

We measure the results of our insurance operations by monitoring certain measures of growth and profitability across three distinct business segments: casualty, property and surety. Growth is measured in terms of gross premiums written and profitability is analyzed through combined ratios, which are further subdivided into their respective loss and expense components.

Table of Contents

The property and casualty insurance business is cyclical and influenced by many factors, including price competition, economic conditions, natural or man-made disasters (for example, earthquakes, hurricanes and terrorism), interest rates, state regulations, court decisions and changes in the law.

One of the unique and challenging features of the property and casualty insurance business is that coverages must be priced before costs have fully developed, because premiums are charged before claims are incurred. This requires that liabilities be estimated and recorded in recognition of future loss and settlement obligations. Due to the inherent uncertainty in estimating these liabilities, there can be no assurance that actual liabilities will not be more or less than recorded amounts; if actual liabilities differ from recorded amounts, there will be an adverse or favorable effect on net earnings. In evaluating the objective performance measures previously mentioned, it is important to consider the following individual characteristics of each major insurance segment.

The casualty portion of our business consists largely of commercial umbrella, personal umbrella, general liability, transportation and executive products coverages, as well as package business and other specialty coverages, such as professional liability and workers' compensation for office-based professionals. We also offer fidelity and crime coverage for commercial insureds and select financial institutions and medical and healthcare professional liability coverage. The casualty business is subject to the risk of estimating losses and related loss reserves because the ultimate settlement of a casualty claim may take several years to fully develop. The casualty segment is also subject to inflation risk and may be affected by evolving legislation and court decisions that define the extent of coverage and the amount of compensation due for injuries or losses.

Our property segment is comprised primarily of commercial fire, earthquake, difference in conditions and marine coverages. We also offer select personal lines policies, including homeowners' coverages. Our property reinsurance and recreational vehicle products are in runoff after we began curtailing offerings at the end of 2015 and 2016, respectively. Property insurance results are subject to the variability introduced by perils such as earthquakes, fires and hurricanes. Our major catastrophe exposure is to losses caused by earthquakes, primarily on the West Coast. Our second largest catastrophe exposure is to losses caused by wind storms to commercial properties throughout the Gulf and East Coast, as well as to homes we insure in Hawaii. We limit our net aggregate exposure to a catastrophic event by minimizing the total policy limits written in a particular region, purchasing reinsurance and maintaining policy terms and conditions throughout market cycles. We also use computer-assisted modeling techniques to provide estimates that help us carefully manage the concentration of risks exposed to catastrophic events.

The surety segment specializes in writing small to large-sized commercial and contract surety coverages, as well as those for the energy, petrochemical and refining industries. We also offer miscellaneous bonds including license and permit, notary and court bonds. Often, our surety coverages involve a statutory requirement for bonds. While these bonds typically maintain a relatively low loss ratio, losses may fluctuate due to adverse economic conditions affecting the financial viability of our insureds. The contract surety product guarantees the construction work of a commercial contractor for a specific project. Generally, losses occur due to the deterioration of a contractor's financial condition. This line has historically produced marginally higher loss ratios than other surety lines during economic downturns.

The insurance marketplace is intensely competitive across all of our segments. Despite challenges that exist in today's marketplace, we believe that our business model is built to create underwriting income by focusing on sound risk selection and discipline. Our primary focus will continue to be on underwriting profitability, with a secondary focus on premium growth where we believe underwriting profit exists, as opposed to general premium growth or market share measurements.

GAAP, non-GAAP and Performance Measures

Throughout this quarterly report, we include certain non-generally accepted accounting principles ("non-GAAP") financial measures. Management believes that these non-GAAP measures better explain the Company's results of operations and allow for a more complete understanding of the underlying trends in the Company's business. These measures should not be viewed as a substitute for those determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP). In addition, our definitions of these items may not be comparable to the definitions used by other companies.

Following is a list of non-GAAP measures found throughout this report with their definitions, relationships to GAAP measures and explanations of their importance to our operations.

Table of Contents

Underwriting Income

Underwriting income or profit represents one measure of the pretax profitability of our insurance operations and is derived by subtracting losses and settlement expenses, policy acquisition costs and insurance operating expenses from net premiums earned, which are all GAAP financial measures. Each of these captions is presented in the statements of earnings but is not subtotaled. However, this information is available in total and by segment in note 11 to the consolidated financial statements in our 2017 Annual Report on Form 10-K, regarding operating segment information. The nearest comparable GAAP measure is earnings before income taxes which, in addition to underwriting income, includes net investment income, net realized gains or losses, net unrealized gain or losses on equity securities in 2018, general corporate expenses, debt costs and our portion of earnings from unconsolidated investees.

Combined Ratio

The combined ratio, which is derived from components of underwriting income, is a common industry performance measure of profitability for underwriting operations and is calculated in two components. First, the loss ratio is losses and settlement expenses divided by net premiums earned. The second component, the expense ratio, reflects the sum of policy acquisition costs and insurance operating expenses divided by net premiums earned. All items included in these components of the combined ratio are presented in our GAAP consolidated financial statements. The sum of the loss and expense ratios is the combined ratio. The difference between the combined ratio and 100 reflects the per-dollar rate of underwriting income or loss. For example, a combined ratio of 85 implies that for every $100 of premium we earn, we record $15 of underwriting income.

Net Unpaid Loss and Settlement Expenses

Unpaid losses and settlement expenses, as shown in the liabilities section of our balance sheets, represents the total obligations to claimants for both estimates of known claims and estimates for incurred but not reported (IBNR) claims. The related asset item, reinsurance balances recoverable on unpaid losses and settlement expense, is the estimate of known claims and estimates of IBNR that we expect to recover from reinsurers. The net of these two items is generally referred to as net unpaid loss and settlement expenses and is commonly used in our disclosures regarding the process of establishing these various estimated amounts.

Critical Accounting Policies

In preparing the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements, we are required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities as of the date of the condensed consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses for the reporting period. Actual results could differ significantly from those estimates.

The most critical accounting policies involve significant estimates and include those used in determining the liability for unpaid losses and settlement expenses, investment valuation and OTTI, recoverability of reinsurance balances, deferred policy acquisition costs and deferred taxes. For a detailed discussion of each of these policies, refer to our 2017 Annual Report on Form 10-K. There have been no significant changes to any of these policies during the current year.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 Compared to Three Months Ended March 31, 2017

Consolidated revenue for the first quarter of 2018 decreased $11.0 million from the same period in 2017. The decline relates to the $26.8 million of net unrealized losses on equity securities, which are required to be recognized in earnings for 2018 and forward due to the adoption of ASU 2016-01. Prior to 2018, unrealized gains and losses on equity securities were recognized through other comprehensive earnings. Net premiums earned for the Group increased 4 percent, driven by growth from our casualty segment, while investment income increased 9 percent. Realized gains during the quarter were $8.4 million, compared to realized gains of $0.6 million during the same period of 2017. During 2018, realized gains of $12.9 million in the equity portfolio were partially offset by a $4.4 million non-cash impairment charge on goodwill and definite-lived intangibles. Equity portfolio rebalancing accounts for the higher amount of gains compared to that realized in the previous year.

	For the Three-Month Periods Ended March 31,	
	2018	2017
Consolidated revenues (in thousands)		
Net premiums earned	$ 190,027	$ 183,285
Net investment income	14,232	13,005
Net realized gains	8,404	624
Net unrealized losses on equity securities	(26,772)	-
Total consolidated revenue	$ 185,891	$ 196,914

Net after-tax earnings for the first quarter of 2018 totaled $12.2 million, $0.27 per diluted share, compared to $19.8 million, $0.45 per diluted share, for the same period last year. The reduction in earnings for 2018 was driven by the $21.1 million, $0.48 per diluted share, of unrealized losses on equity securities, net of tax, recognized in net earnings. In 2017, these amounts were recognized through other comprehensive earnings. From an underwriting perspective, both periods reflect profitable current accident year results and favorable development from prior years' loss reserves. Catastrophe activity was light for both years, with $2.0 million of winter storm losses in 2018. Favorable development on prior years' loss reserves provided additional pretax earnings of $14.6 million in the first three months of 2018 compared to $5.9 million in 2017. Bonus and profit sharing-related expenses associated with the net impact of prior years' reserve development and catastrophe losses totaled $1.9 million in 2018, compared to $0.7 million in 2017. These performance-related expenses affected policy acquisition, insurance operating and general corporate expenses. Bonus and profit-sharing amounts earned by executives, managers and associates are predominately influenced by corporate performance including operating earnings, combined ratio and return on capital.

During the first quarter of 2018, equity in earnings of unconsolidated investees totaled $5.2 million. This amount includes $4.2 million from Maui Jim and $1.0 million from Prime. Comparatively, the first quarter of 2017 reflected $4.9 million of earnings, including $4.3 million from Maui Jim and $0.6 million from Prime. In addition, net earnings for the quarter benefited from a lower effective tax rate, 15 percent in 2018 compared to 25 percent in 2017, resulting from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA), which reduced the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent beginning January 1, 2018.

Comprehensive earnings totaled -$14.2 million, -$0.32 per diluted share, for the first quarter of 2018, compared to $31.6 million, $0.71 per diluted share, for the first quarter of 2017. Other comprehensive earnings primarily included after-tax unrealized gains and losses from the fixed income portfolio in 2018 and after-tax unrealized gains and losses from both the fixed income and equity portfolios in 2017. The first quarter's $26.4 million other comprehensive loss was due to unrealized losses on the fixed income portfolio as interest rates rose during the quarter. This compares to $11.8 million of other comprehensive earnings for the same period in 2017, as equity market returns were strong and interest rates declined slightly.

RLI Insurance Group

Gross premiums written for the Group increased 11 percent to $216.9 million for the first three months of 2018. The majority of our products contributed to growth in the period, with the bulk of the increase driven by products in our casualty and property segments. Net premiums earned increased $6.7 million, or 4 percent. This growth was largely attributable to our casualty segment, which was up 8 percent from the prior year.

	Gross Premiums Written			Net Premiums Earned		
	For the Three-Month Periods			For the Three-Month Periods		
	Ended March 31,			Ended March 31,		
(in thousands)	2018	2017	% Change	2018	2017	% Change
Casualty						
Commercial and personal umbrella	$ 34,333	$ 30,912	11.1 %	$ 29,952	$ 28,577	4.8 %
General liability	21,288	19,599	8.6 %	23,165	21,583	7.3 %
Professional services	20,481	20,078	2.0 %	19,823	19,226	3.1 %
Commercial transportation	18,416	15,612	18.0 %	19,175	21,101	(9.1) %
Small commercial	13,147	13,054	0.7 %	12,890	12,287	4.9 %
Executive products	13,000	9,835	32.2 %	5,052	4,412	14.5 %
Medical professional liability	5,021	6,697	(25.0) %	4,472	4,291	4.2 %
Other casualty	14,769	11,047	33.7 %	11,321	5,507	105.6 %
Total	$ 140,455	$ 126,834	10.7 %	$ 125,850	$ 116,984	7.6 %
Property						
Commercial property	$ 25,309	$ 18,419	37.4 %	$ 16,951	$ 15,718	7.8 %
Marine	16,127	13,537	19.1 %	13,857	12,286	12.8 %
Specialty personal	4,147	4,660	(11.0) %	4,142	6,018	(31.2) %
Property reinsurance	10	405	(97.5) %	12	1,783	(99.3) %
Other property	314	58	441.4 %	220	-	-
Total	$ 45,907	$ 37,079	23.8 %	$ 35,182	$ 35,805	(1.7) %
Surety						
Miscellaneous	$ 12,615	$ 12,161	3.7 %	$ 11,642	$ 11,857	(1.8) %
Commercial	7,512	7,482	0.4 %	6,713	7,143	(6.0) %
Contract	6,193	7,145	(13.3) %	6,346	7,084	(10.4) %
Energy	4,182	4,175	0.2 %	4,294	4,412	(2.7) %
Total	$ 30,502	$ 30,963	(1.5) %	$ 28,995	$ 30,496	(4.9) %
Grand Total	$ 216,864	$ 194,876	11.3 %	$ 190,027	$ 183,285	3.7 %

Casualty

Gross premiums written for the casualty segment in the first quarter of 2018 were up 11 percent, as most products posted top line growth. Newer product initiatives and improving rates have each contributed to the improved production. Growth was led by other casualty, notably our general binding authority business which was launched in the first quarter of 2017, and our assumed reinsurance business with Prime. Gross premiums written are up nearly $2.0 million for our general binding business, while Prime has continued to post solid growth, up 20 percent. Our executive products group also made significant contributions during the quarter. Both mature and newer product offerings, such as cyber liability coverages, have driven exposure growth within the executive products group. Pricing for most coverages in this group remains soft, though rates have improved of late for select lines. For commercial transportation, growth of 18 percent was posted in the quarter, driven by both exposure growth and rate increases, in particular for the commercial auto class. On an overall basis, rates across all classes within our commercial transportation business were up 9 percent, after increasing approximately 10 percent in each of the previous four quarters. The first quarter of 2018 marks the second consecutive quarter the commercial transportation unit has posted top line growth, subsequent to completing re-underwriting efforts in the latter half of 2017. Exposure growth from both mature and newer products led to increased premium within umbrella and general liability. Pricing has improved modestly and newer initiatives, such as energy casualty, have had a positive impact on premiums. Medical professional liability declined in the first three months of 2018, as gross premiums written from the health care liability line within the group decreased.

Property

Gross premiums written for the Group’s property segment totaled $45.9 million for the first quarter of 2018, up 24 percent from the same period last year. The bulk of the growth was driven by commercial property, which was up 37 percent. This marked the second consecutive quarter commercial property has posted an increase in gross premiums written, as renewal rates have continued to improve following significant U.S. catastrophe activity in the third quarter of 2017. While rates have improved relative to prior quarters, the majority of the increase in gross premiums during the quarter was exposure driven. Our marine business posted solid growth, up 19 percent in the quarter. The increase was due largely to exposure growth, though pricing overall for our marine coverages has also improved slightly. Results from specialty personal reflects solid performance from our Hawaii homeowners' product, but declined overall due to our previously announced exit from recreational vehicles. Despite flat pricing for Hawaii homeowners' during the quarter, gross premiums written were up 7 percent.

Surety

The surety segment recorded gross premiums written of $30.5 million for the first quarter of 2018, a decrease of $0.5 million, or 1 percent, from the same period last year. The decline from contract surety was driven by increasingly competitive market conditions, and served to more than offset modest growth from miscellaneous surety. Commercial and energy surety premiums were flat.

RLI Insurance Group

Underwriting income for the Group totaled $17.5 million for the first quarter of 2018, compared to $13.1 million in the same period last year. Both periods reflect positive underwriting results for the current accident year and favorable reserve development on prior accident years. Favorable development on prior years' loss reserves was a larger benefit in 2018 as most lines reported positive experience. In contrast, a lower result for 2017 was impacted by adverse development on commercial auto coverages within our casualty segment. The combined ratio for the Group totaled 90.8 in 2018, compared to 92.9 in 2017. The loss ratio decreased to 48.6 from 51.0, while the Group's expense ratio increased slightly to 42.2 from 41.9.

	For the Three-Month Periods Ended March 31,	
	2018	2017
Underwriting income (in thousands)		
Casualty	$ 1,561	$ (6,881)
Property	5,882	8,804
Surety	10,044	11,134
Total	$ 17,487	$ 13,057
Combined ratio		
Casualty	98.8	105.8
Property	83.3	75.5
Surety	65.4	63.5
Total	90.8	92.9

Casualty

The casualty segment recorded underwriting income of $1.6 million in the first three months of 2018, compared to an underwriting loss of $6.9 million for the same period last year. The improved result for 2018 relates to prior accident year development, as the segment experienced favorable development overall in 2018 versus adverse development in 2017 driven by commercial transportation. Partially offsetting this, underwriting results for 2018 also reflect a slight increase in the current accident year loss ratio. Favorable development on prior reserves improved net underwriting results for the casualty segment by $7.3 million in the first three months of 2018. Most lines developed favorably with notable contributions from umbrella, general liability and small commercial, largely on more recent accident years (2015-2017). Executive products and medical professional liability were unfavorable. The unfavorable development on medical professional liability led to the impairment charges described in note 1D.

The combined ratio for the casualty segment was 98.8 for 2018, compared to 105.8 in 2017. The segment’s loss ratio was 62.8 in 2018, down from 70.4 in 2017. The loss ratio decrease in 2018 was driven by the higher favorable development on prior years’ reserves, despite a slightly higher current accident year loss ratio compared to 2017. The expense ratio for the casualty segment was 36.0, up slightly from 35.4 for the same period last year, due largely to new business initiatives and investments in technology.

Property

The property segment recorded underwriting income of $5.9 million for the first three months of 2018, compared to $8.8 million for the same period last year. Both periods reflect positive underwriting income for the current accident year and an absence of significant catastrophe activity. Underwriting results for 2018 included slightly less favorable development on prior years' loss reserves, primarily from the marine business, and $2.0 million in winter storm losses.

Underwriting results for the first quarter of 2018 translated into a combined ratio of 83.3, compared to 75.5 for the same period last year. The segment's loss ratio increased to 37.2 in 2018 from 28.9 in 2017. The segment's expense ratio was 46.1 for the first quarter of 2018, down from 46.6 in the prior year.

Surety

The surety segment recorded underwriting income of $10.0 million for the first quarter of 2018, compared to $11.1 million for the same period last year. Both periods reflected positive current accident year underwriting performance and benefited from favorable development on prior years' loss reserves. Results for 2018 included favorable development on prior accident years' reserves across all surety lines, which improved net underwriting results for the segment by $5.0 million. Comparatively, 2017 results included favorable development on prior accident years' loss reserves, largely from contract and commercial surety, which improved the segment's net underwriting results by $6.0 million.

The combined ratio for the surety segment totaled 65.4 for the first quarter of 2018, compared to 63.5 for the same period in 2017. The segment's loss ratio was 1.2 for 2018, compared to 2.2 for 2017. The loss ratio decrease was driven by a slightly lower current accident year loss ratio in 2018. The expense ratio was 64.2, up from 61.3 in the prior year, due to the decline in earned premium, increased investments in technology and a shift in mix towards miscellaneous surety, which has higher commission rates.

Investment Income and Realized Capital Gains

Our investment portfolio generated net investment income of $14.2 million during the first quarter of 2018, an increase of 9.4 percent from that reported for the same period in 2017. The increase in investment income was due to an increased asset base and rising interest rates compared to the prior year period. On an after-tax basis, investment income increased by 18.5 percent, as lower tax rates also benefited income in 2018.

Yields on our fixed income investments for the first quarter of 2018 and 2017 were as follows:

	1Q 2018		1Q 2017	
Pretax Yield				
Taxable	3.20	%	3.17	%
Tax-Exempt	2.63	%	2.58	%
After-Tax Yield				
Taxable	2.53	%	2.06	%
Tax-Exempt	2.49	%	2.44	%

We recognized $8.4 million of realized gains in the first three months of 2018, compared to realized gains of $0.6 million in the same period of 2017. Realized gains in the equity portfolio of $12.9 million were partially offset by realized losses related to a non-cash impairment charge on goodwill and definite-lived intangibles. Equity portfolio rebalancing accounts for the higher amount of gains compared to that realized in the previous year.

The following table depicts the composition of our investment portfolio at March 31, 2018 as compared to December 31, 2017.

	3/31/2018			12/31/2017		
	Financial			Financial		
(in thousands)	Stmt Value	%		Stmt Value	%	
Fixed income	$ 1,653,674	78.9	%	$ 1,672,239	78.1	%
Equity securities	378,253	18.0	%	400,492	18.7	%
Other invested assets	35,065	1.7	%	33,808	1.6	%
Cash and short-term investments	28,927	1.4	%	34,251	1.6	%
Total	$ 2,095,919	100.0	%	$ 2,140,790	100.0	%

Table of Contents

We believe our overall asset allocation best meets our strategy to preserve capital for policyholders, provide sufficient income to support insurance operations, and to effectively grow book value over a long-term investment horizon.

The fixed income portfolio decreased by $18.6 million in the first three months of 2018. The decrease was primarily due to increased interest rates which lower the market value of fixed income securities. This portfolio had a tax-adjusted total return on a mark-to-market basis of -1.2 percent. Average fixed income duration was 4.9 years at March 31, 2018, reflecting our current liability structure and sound capital position.

The equity portfolio decreased by $22.2 million during the first three months of 2018 and had a total return of -2.9 percent through March 31, 2018.

Income Taxes

Our effective tax rate for the three-month period ended March 31, 2018 was 15.0 percent, compared to 25.0 percent for the same period in 2017. Effective rates are dependent upon components of pretax earnings and the related tax effects. Pre-tax earnings were lower for the first quarter of 2018 due to the adoption of ASU 2016-01 on January 1, 2018, which resulted in the inclusion of $26.8 million of unrealized losses on equity securities within pre-tax earnings. The lower pretax earnings caused the tax favored adjustments to be larger on a percentage basis in 2018 compared to the prior year. Additionally, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) lowered the federal corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent effective January 1, 2018. There have been no changes to the provisional amounts that we recorded in the fourth quarter of 2017 associated with the TCJA.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

We have three primary types of cash flows: (1) cash flows from operating activities, which consist mainly of cash generated by our underwriting operations and income earned on our investment portfolio, (2) cash flows from investing activities related to the purchase, sale and maturity of investments, and (3) cash flows from financing activities that impact our capital structure, such as shareholder dividend payments and changes in debt and shares outstanding.

The following table summarizes cash flows provided by (used in) our activities for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2018 and 2017:

(in thousands)	2018	2017
Operating cash flows	$ 15,393	$ 11,265
Investing cash flows	$ (4,168)	$ 5,904
Financing cash flows	$ (6,569)	$ (7,294)
Total	$ 4,656	$ 9,875

Operating activities generated positive cash flows of $15.4 million in the first three months of 2018, compared to $11.3 million in the same period last year. The increase in operating cash flows was due to an increase in written premium and associated receipts.

We have $149.0 million in debt outstanding. On October 2, 2013, we completed a public debt offering, issuing $150.0 million in senior notes maturing September 15, 2023 (a 10-year maturity), and paying interest semi-annually at the rate of 4.875 percent per annum. The notes were issued at a discount resulting in proceeds, net of discount and commission, of $148.6 million. The estimated fair value for the senior note at March 31, 2018 was $159.3 million. The fair value of our debt is estimated based on the limited observable prices that reflect thinly traded securities.

As of March 31, 2018, we had cash and other investments maturing within one year of approximately $64.4 million and an additional $330.1 million maturing between one to five years. Holdings within each of these funds comply with regulatory limitations.

Whereas our strategy is to be fully invested at all times, short-term investments in excess of demand deposit balances are considered a component of investment activities, and thus are classified as investments in our consolidated balance sheets.

We also maintain a revolving line of credit with JP Morgan Chase Bank N.A., which permits us to borrow up to an aggregate principal amount of $40.0 million. This facility was entered into during the second quarter of 2014 and replaced the previous $25.0 million facility which expired on May 31, 2014. Under certain conditions, the line may be increased up to an aggregate principal amount of $65.0 million. The facility has a four-year term that expires on May 28, 2018. As of and during the three-month period ended March 31, 2018, no amounts were outstanding on this facility.

Additionally, two of our insurance companies, RLI Ins. and Mt. Hawley, are members of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLBC). Membership in the Federal Home Loan Bank System provides both companies access to an additional source of liquidity via a secured lending facility. Our membership allows each insurance subsidiary to determine tenor and structure at the time of borrowing. As of and during the three-month period ended March 31, 2018, there were no outstanding borrowing amounts with the FHLBC.

We believe that cash generated by operations and investments will provide sufficient sources of liquidity to meet our anticipated needs over the next 12 to 24 months. In the event they are not sufficient, we believe cash available from financing activities and other sources will provide sufficient additional liquidity.

We have not had any liquidity issues affecting our operations as we have sufficient cash flow to support operations. In addition to our bank credit facility and FHLBC membership, our highly liquid investment portfolio provides an additional source of liquidity.

We maintain a diversified investment portfolio representing policyholder funds that have not yet been paid out as claims, as well as the capital we hold for our shareholders. As of March 31, 2018, our investment portfolio had a balance sheet value of $2.1 billion. Invested assets at March 31, 2018 have decreased $44.9 million from December 31, 2017 due to increases in interest rates and declines in the equity markets.

As of March 31, 2018, our investment portfolio had the following asset allocation breakdown:

Portfolio Allocation
(in thousands)

	Cost or	Fair	Unrealized	% of Total		
Asset class	Amortized Cost	Value	Gain/(Loss)	Fair Value		Quality*
U.S. government	$ 119,660	$ 117,535	$ (2,125)	5.6	%	AAA
U.S. agency	18,541	18,341	(200)	0.9	%	AAA
Non-U.S. govt. & agency	8,193	8,083	(110)	0.4	%	BBB+
Agency MBS	359,232	351,484	(7,748)	16.8	%	AAA
ABS/CMBS**	91,073	90,498	(575)	4.3	%	AAA
Corporate	527,845	525,992	(1,853)	25.1	%	BBB+
Municipal	536,946	541,741	4,795	25.8	%	AA

Total Fixed Income	$ 1,661,490	$ 1,653,674	$ (7,816)	78.9 %	AA-
Equity	$ 186,520	$ 378,253	$ 191,733	18.0 %	
Other Invested Assets	$ 34,942	$ 35,065	$ 123	1.7 %	
Cash and Short-Term Investments	$ 28,927	$ 28,927	$ —	1.4 %	
Total Portfolio	$ 1,911,879	$ 2,095,919	$ 184,040	100.0 %	

*Quality ratings provided by Moody’s and S&P

**Asset-backed and commercial mortgage-backed securities

Our investment portfolio does not have any exposure to derivatives.

As of March 31, 2018, our fixed income portfolio had the following rating distribution:

AAA	41.1 %
AA	25.0 %
A	17.4 %
BBB	10.5 %
BB	3.0 %
B	2.6 %
CCC	0.1 %
NR	0.3 %
Total	100.0 %

As of March 31, 2018, the duration of the fixed income portfolio was 4.9 years. Our fixed income portfolio remained well diversified, with 1,238 individual issues as of March 31, 2018.

Our investment portfolio has limited exposure to structured asset-backed securities (ABS). As of March 31, 2018, we had $61.9 million in ABS which are pools of assets collateralized by cash flows from several types of loans, including home equity, credit cards, autos and similar obligations.

As of March 31, 2018, we had $28.6 million in commercial mortgage backed securities (CMBS) and $351.5 million in mortgage backed securities backed by government sponsored enterprises (GSEs - Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae and Ginnie Mae). Excluding the GSE backed MBS, our exposure to ABS and CMBS was 4.3 percent of our investment portfolio at quarter end.

We had $526.0 million in corporate fixed income securities as of March 31, 2018. As of March 31, 2018, we had $73.5 million invested in a high yield credit strategy. This portfolio consists of floating rate bank loans and bonds that are below investment grade in credit quality and offer incremental yield over our core fixed income portfolio.

We also maintain an allocation to municipal fixed income securities. As of March 31, 2018, we had $541.7 million in municipal securities. As of March 31, 2018, approximately 88 percent of our municipal bond portfolio maintains an ‘AA’ or better rating, while 99 percent of the municipal bond portfolio is rated ‘A’ or better.

Our equity portfolio had a fair value of $378.3 million as of March 31, 2018 and is also a source of liquidity. The securities within the equity portfolio remain primarily invested in large-cap issues with strong dividend performance. In the equity portfolio, the strategy remains one of value investing, with security selection taking precedence over market timing. We use a buy-and-hold strategy, minimizing both transactional costs and taxes.

As of March 31, 2018, our equity portfolio had a dividend yield of 2.5 percent, compared to 2.0 percent for the S&P 500 index. Because of the corporate dividend-received-deduction applicable to our dividend income, we pay an effective tax rate of 13.1 percent on dividends, compared to 21.0 percent on taxable interest and 5.3 percent on municipal bond interest income. The equity portfolio is managed in a diversified and granular manner, with 81 individual names and no single stock exposure greater than 2 percent of the equity portfolio.

Other invested assets include investments in three low income housing tax credit partnerships (LIHTC), membership in the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLBC), an investment in a real estate fund, an investment in a business development company (BDC) and an investment in a global credit fund. Our LIHTC investments are carried at amortized cost and our investment in FHLBC stock is carried at cost. Due to the nature of the LIHTC and our membership in the FHLBC, their carrying amounts approximate fair value. Our investments in the BDC and global credit fund are carried at fair value. The investment in the real estate fund was carried at cost through 2017, but is carried at fair value in 2018 and forward due to the adoption of ASU 2016-01. Our LIHTC interests had a balance of $15.0 million at March 31, 2018, compared to $15.5 million at December 31, 2017 and recognized a total tax benefit of $0.6 million during the first quarter of 2018, the same as the prior year. Our unfunded commitment for our LIHTC investments totaled $2.5 million at March 31, 2018 and will be paid out in installments through 2025. Our investment in FHLBC stock totaled $1.0 million at March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017. As of March 31, 2018, $18.2 million of investments were pledged as collateral with the FHLBC to ensure timely access to the secured lending facility that ownership of FHLBC stock provides. Comparatively, $18.9 million of investments were pledged as collateral as of December 31, 2017. As of and during the three month period ending March 31, 2018, there were no outstanding borrowings with the FHLBC. Our investment in the real estate fund had a fair value of $2.6 million at March 31, 2018, compared to a carrying value of $2.5 million which approximated fair value at December 31, 2017. Our investment in the BDC had a fair value of $9.2 million at March 31, 2018, compared to $7.3 million at December 31, 2017. The investment in the BDC is restricted from being transferred until after a qualified IPO unless prior consent is provided by the BDC. Our unfunded commitments related to this investment totaled $15.7 million at March 31, 2018. Lastly, our investment in a global credit fund that specializes in consumer loans had a fair value of $7.3 million at March 31, 2018, compared to $7.5 million at December 31, 2017. We had a $7.2 million unfunded commitment related to the global credit fund investment at March 31, 2018.

Our capital structure is comprised of equity and debt outstanding. As of March 31, 2018, our capital structure consisted of $149.0 million in 10-year maturity senior notes maturing in 2023 (debt) and $832.9 million of shareholders' equity. Debt outstanding comprised 15.2 percent of total capital as of March 31, 2018. Interest and fees on debt obligations totaled $1.9 million during the first three months of 2018, the same amount as the previous year. We have incurred interest expense on debt at an average annual interest rate of 4.91 percent for the three-month periods ended March 31, 2018 and 2017.

We paid a quarterly cash dividend of $0.21 per share on March 20, 2018, the same as the prior quarter. We have paid dividends for 167 consecutive quarters and increased dividends in each of the last 42 years.

Our three insurance subsidiaries are subsidiaries of RLI Corp, with RLI Ins. as the first-level, or principal, insurance subsidiary. At the holding company (RLI Corp.) level, we rely largely on dividends from our insurance company subsidiaries to meet our obligations for paying principal and interest on outstanding debt, corporate expenses and dividends to RLI Corp. shareholders. As discussed further below, dividend payments to RLI Corp. from our principal insurance subsidiary are restricted by state insurance laws as to the amount that may be paid without prior approval of the insurance regulatory authorities of Illinois. As a result, we may not be able to receive dividends from such subsidiary at times and in amounts necessary to pay desired dividends to RLI Corp. shareholders. On a GAAP basis, as of March 31, 2018, our holding company had $832.9 million in equity. This includes amounts related to the equity of our insurance subsidiaries, which is subject to regulatory restrictions under state insurance laws. The unrestricted portion of holding company net assets is comprised primarily of investments and cash, including $21.5 million in liquid assets, which approximates half of our annual holding company expenditures. Unrestricted funds at the holding company are available to fund debt interest, general corporate obligations and dividend payments to our shareholders. If necessary, the holding company also has other potential sources of liquidity that could provide for additional funding to meet corporate obligations or pay shareholder dividends, which include a revolving line of credit, as well as access to capital markets.

Ordinary dividends, which may be paid by our principal insurance subsidiary without prior regulatory approval, are subject to certain limitations based upon statutory income, surplus and earned surplus. The maximum ordinary dividend distribution from our principal insurance subsidiary in a rolling 12-month period is limited by Illinois law to the greater of 10 percent of RLI Ins. policyholder surplus, as of December 31 of the preceding year, or the net income of RLI Ins. for the 12-month period ending December 31 of the preceding year. Ordinary dividends are further restricted by the requirement that they be paid from earned surplus. Any dividend distribution in excess of the ordinary dividend limits is deemed extraordinary and requires prior approval from the Illinois Department of Insurance (IDOI). RLI Ins. did not pay any dividends to RLI Corp in the first three months of 2018. In 2017, our principal insurance subsidiary paid ordinary dividends totaling $107.0 million to RLI Corp. No extraordinary dividends were paid during 2018 or 2017. Given the amount of dividends paid during the prior rolling 12-month period, the net assets of our principal insurance subsidiary are restricted until the end of the third quarter of 2018 and cannot be distributed to RLI Corp. without prior approval of the IDOI. However, in addition to the unrestricted liquid net assets that RLI Corp. had on hand as of March 31, 2018, RLI Corp. has access to lines of credit that would cover normal annual holding company expenditures as they are incurred and become payable.

ITEM 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

Market risk is the risk of economic losses due to adverse changes in the estimated fair value of a financial instrument as the result of changes in equity prices, interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates and commodity prices. Historically, our primary market risks have been equity price risk associated with investments in equity securities and interest rate risk associated with investments in fixed maturities. We have limited exposure to both foreign currency risk and commodity risk.

Credit risk is the potential loss resulting from adverse changes in an issuer’s ability to repay its debt obligations. We monitor our portfolio to ensure that credit risk does not exceed prudent levels. We have consistently invested in high credit quality, investment grade securities. Our fixed maturity portfolio has an average rating of “AA-,” with 84 percent rated “A” or better by at least two nationally recognized rating organizations.

On an overall basis, our exposure to market risk has not significantly changed from that reported in our December 31, 2017 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

ITEM 4. Controls and Procedures

We maintain a system of controls and procedures designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the reliability of the financial statements and other disclosures included in this report, as well as to safeguard assets from unauthorized use or disposition. An evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures was performed, under the supervision and with the participation of management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that these disclosure controls and procedures are effective, as of the end of the period covered by this report.

In designing and evaluating our disclosure controls and procedures, management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurances of achieving the desired control objective, and management necessarily is required to apply its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures. We believe that our disclosure controls and procedures provide such reasonable assurance.

No changes were made to our internal control over financial reporting during the last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II - OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings – There were no material changes to report.

Item 1A. Risk Factors - There were no material changes to report.

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

Items 2(a) and (b) are not applicable.

In 2010, our Board of Directors implemented a $100 million share repurchase program. We did not repurchase any shares during 2017. We have $87.5 million of remaining capacity from the repurchase program. The repurchase program may be suspended or discontinued at any time without prior notice.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities - Not Applicable.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures - Not Applicable.

Item 5. Other Information - Not Applicable.

Item 6. Exhibits

Exhibit 31.1	Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
Exhibit 31.2	Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
Exhibit 32.1	Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
Exhibit 32.2	Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
Exhibit 101	XBRL-Related Documents

SIGNATURES

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

RLI Corp.

/s/Thomas L. Brown
Thomas L. Brown
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial and Chief Accounting Officer)

Date: April 25, 2018