

PRAXAIR INC
Form 10-Q
October 26, 2017
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2017

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____
PRAXAIR, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

1-11037

06-1249050

(Commission File Number)

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

10 Riverview Drive, DANBURY, CT 06810-6268

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(203) 837-2000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A

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

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

Title of each class: Registered on:

Common Stock (\$0.01 par value) New York Stock Exchange

1.50% Euro notes due 2020 New York Stock Exchange

1.20% Euro notes due 2024 New York Stock Exchange

1.625% Euro notes due 2025 New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

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, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See 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 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

At September 30, 2017, 286,305,341 shares of common stock (\$0.01 par value) of the Registrant were outstanding.

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PRAXAIR, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(Millions of dollars, except per share data)
(UNAUDITED)

	Quarter Ended September	
	30,	
	2017	2016
SALES	\$ 2,922	\$ 2,716
Cost of sales, exclusive of depreciation and amortization	1,652	1,533
Selling, general and administrative	304	291
Depreciation and amortization	298	284
Research and development	23	22
Transaction costs and other charges	16	100
Other income (expense) - net	(3	) 11
OPERATING PROFIT	626	497
Interest expense - net	41	43
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES AND EQUITY INVESTMENTS	585	454
Income taxes	162	120
INCOME BEFORE EQUITY INVESTMENTS	423	334
Income from equity investments	12	10
NET INCOME (INCLUDING NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS)	435	344
Less: noncontrolling interests	(16	) (5
NET INCOME - PRAXAIR, INC.	\$ 419	\$ 339
PER SHARE DATA - PRAXAIR, INC. SHAREHOLDERS		
Basic earnings per share	\$ 1.46	\$ 1.19
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 1.45	\$ 1.18
Cash dividends per share	\$ 0.7875	\$ 0.75
WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING (000's):		
Basic shares outstanding	286,467	285,858
Diluted shares outstanding	289,216	288,195

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

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PRAXAIR, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(Millions of dollars, except per share data)
(UNAUDITED)

	Nine months ended September 30,	
	2017	2016
SALES	\$8,484	\$7,890
Cost of sales, exclusive of depreciation and amortization	4,795	4,382
Selling, general and administrative	891	873
Depreciation and amortization	877	837
Research and development	69	69
Transaction costs and other charges	37	100
Other income (expense) - net	(3	) 10
OPERATING PROFIT	1,812	1,639
Interest expense - net	120	152
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES AND EQUITY INVESTMENTS	1,692	1,487
Income taxes	468	399
INCOME BEFORE EQUITY INVESTMENTS	1,224	1,088
Income from equity investments	35	31
NET INCOME (INCLUDING NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS)	1,259	1,119
Less: noncontrolling interests	(45	) (25
NET INCOME - PRAXAIR, INC.	\$1,214	\$1,094
PER SHARE DATA - PRAXAIR, INC. SHAREHOLDERS		
Basic earnings per share	\$4.24	\$3.83
Diluted earnings per share	\$4.21	\$3.80
Cash dividends per share	\$2.36	\$2.25
WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING (000's):		
Basic shares outstanding	286,022	285,663
Diluted shares outstanding	288,524	287,727

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

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PRAXAIR, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)
(Millions of dollars)
(UNAUDITED)

	Quarter Ended September 30,	
	2017	2016
NET INCOME (INCLUDING NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS)	\$ 435	\$ 344
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)		
Translation adjustments:		
Foreign currency translation adjustments	204	(47)
Income taxes	19	8
Translation adjustments	223	(39)
Funded status - retirement obligations (Note 11):		
Retirement program remeasurements	(9)	(11)
Reclassifications to net income	19	18
Income taxes	(4)	(2)
Funded status - retirement obligations	6	5
Derivative instruments (Note 6):		
Current quarter unrealized gain (loss)	—	—
Reclassifications to net income	—	—
Income taxes	—	—
Derivative instruments	—	—
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)	229	(34)
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS) (INCLUDING NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS)	664	310
Less: noncontrolling interests	(26)	(8)
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS) - PRAXAIR, INC.	\$ 638	\$ 302

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

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PRAXAIR, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)
(Millions of dollars)
(UNAUDITED)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2017	2016
NET INCOME (INCLUDING NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS)	\$1,259	\$1,119
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)		
Translation adjustments:		
Foreign currency translation adjustments	520	392
Income taxes	77	(3)
Translation adjustments	597	389
Funded status - retirement obligations (Note 11):		
Retirement program remeasurements	(29)	(35)
Reclassifications to net income	39	47
Income taxes	(4)	(5)
Funded status - retirement obligations	6	7
Derivative instruments (Note 6):		
Current period unrealized gain (loss)	—	—
Reclassifications to net income	—	1
Income taxes	—	(1)
Derivative instruments	—	—
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)	603	396
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCLUDING NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS)	1,862	1,515
Less: noncontrolling interests	(73)	(36)
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME - PRAXAIR, INC.	\$1,789	\$1,479

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

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PRAXAIR, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
 (Millions of dollars)
 (UNAUDITED)

	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 607	\$ 524
Accounts receivable - net	1,809	1,641
Inventories	587	550
Prepaid and other current assets	240	165
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	3,243	2,880
Property, plant and equipment (less accumulated depreciation of \$13,642 in 2017 and \$12,444 in 2016)	11,992	11,477
Goodwill	3,234	3,117
Other intangible assets - net	563	583
Other long-term assets	1,343	1,275
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 20,375	\$ 19,332
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Accounts payable	\$ 947	\$ 906
Short-term debt	84	434
Current portion of long-term debt	910	164
Other current liabilities	981	974
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,922	2,478
Long-term debt	8,243	8,917
Other long-term liabilities	2,468	2,485
TOTAL LIABILITIES	13,633	13,880
Commitments and contingencies (Note 12)		
Redeemable noncontrolling interests (Note 14)	11	11
Praxair, Inc. Shareholders' Equity:		
Common stock \$0.01 par value, authorized - 800,000,000 shares, issued 2017 and 2016 - 383,230,625 shares	4	4
Additional paid-in capital	4,091	4,074
Retained earnings	13,417	12,879
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) (Note 14)	(4,025)	(4,600)
Less: Treasury stock, at cost (2017 - 96,925,284 shares and 2016 - 98,329,849 shares)	(7,231)	(7,336)
Total Praxair, Inc. Shareholders' Equity	6,256	5,021
Noncontrolling interests	475	420
TOTAL EQUITY	6,731	5,441
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 20,375	\$ 19,332

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

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PRAXAIR, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
 CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
 (Millions of dollars)
 (UNAUDITED)

	Nine months ended September 30,	
	2017	2016
OPERATIONS		
Net income - Praxair, Inc.	\$1,214	\$1,094
Noncontrolling interests	45	25
Net income (including noncontrolling interests)	1,259	1,119
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Transaction costs and other charges, net of payments	27	93
Depreciation and amortization	877	837
Deferred income taxes	22	(30)
Share-based compensation	44	36
Working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(83)	(44)
Inventory	(11)	11
Prepaid and other current assets	(64)	(32)
Payables and accruals	11	6
Pension contributions	(14)	(8)
Long-term assets, liabilities and other	137	59
Net cash provided by operating activities	2,205	2,047
INVESTING		
Capital expenditures	(972)	(1,056)
Acquisitions, net of cash acquired	(18)	(345)
Divestitures and asset sales	22	41
Net cash used for investing activities	(968)	(1,360)
FINANCING		
Short-term debt borrowings (repayments) - net	(353)	359
Long-term debt borrowings	11	925
Long-term debt repayments	(160)	(728)
Issuances of common stock	90	109
Purchases of common stock	(11)	(133)
Cash dividends - Praxair, Inc. shareholders	(675)	(642)
Noncontrolling interest transactions and other	(85)	(122)
Net cash provided by (used for) financing activities	(1,183)	(232)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	29	25
Change in cash and cash equivalents	83	480
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning-of-period	524	147
Cash and cash equivalents, end-of-period	\$607	\$627

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

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PRAXAIR, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(UNAUDITED)

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Presentation of Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements - In the opinion of Praxair, Inc. (Praxair) management, the accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements include all adjustments necessary for a fair presentation of the results for the interim periods presented and such adjustments are of a normal recurring nature. The accompanying condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the notes to the consolidated financial statements of Praxair, Inc. and subsidiaries in Praxair's 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K. There have been no material changes to the company's significant accounting policies during 2017.

Accounting Standards Implemented in 2017

Simplifying the Measurement of Inventory – In July 2015, the FASB issued updated guidance on the measurement of inventory. The new guidance requires that inventory be measured at the lower of cost or net realizable value, previously inventory was measured at the lower of cost or market. The adoption of this guidance resulted in no material impact.

Accounting Standards to be Implemented

Revenue Recognition – In May 2014, the FASB issued updated guidance on the reporting and disclosure of revenue. The new guidance requires the evaluation of contracts with customers to determine the recognition of revenue when or as the entity satisfies a performance obligation, and requires expanded disclosures. Subsequently, the FASB has issued amendments to certain aspects of the guidance including the effective date. This guidance is required to be effective beginning in the first quarter 2018 and includes several transition options.

The Company is currently in the process of evaluating and implementing this new guidance, as required, and will be prepared to adopt the new standard on January 1, 2018 using the modified retrospective transition option. Praxair will provide additional disclosures in its 2017 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Leases – In February 2016, the FASB issued updated guidance on the accounting and financial statement presentation of leases. The new guidance requires lessees to recognize a right-of-use asset and lease liability for all leases, except those that meet certain scope exceptions, and would require expanded quantitative and qualitative disclosures. This guidance will be effective for Praxair beginning in the first quarter 2019 and requires companies to transition using a modified retrospective approach. Praxair is in the early stages of implementing the new guidance and will provide updates on the expected impact to Praxair in future filings, as appropriate.

Credit Losses on Financial Instruments – In June 2016, the FASB issued an update on the measurement of credit losses. The guidance introduces a new accounting model for expected credit losses on financial instruments, including trade receivables, based on estimates of current expected credit losses. This guidance will be effective for Praxair beginning in the first quarter 2020, with early adoption permitted beginning in the first quarter 2019 and requires companies to apply the change in accounting on a prospective basis. We are currently evaluating the impact this update will have on our consolidated financial statements.

Classification of Certain Cash Receipts and Cash Payments – In August 2016, the FASB issued updated guidance on the classification of certain cash receipts and cash payments within the statement of cash flows.

The update provides accounting guidance for specific cash flow issues with the objective of reducing diversity in practice. This new guidance will be effective for Praxair beginning in the first quarter 2018 on a retrospective basis, with early adoption optional. Praxair does not expect this requirement to have a material impact.

Intra-Entity Asset Transfers – In October 2016, the FASB issued updated guidance for income tax accounting of intra-entity transfers of assets other than inventory. The update requires an entity to recognize the income tax consequences of an intra-entity transfer of an asset other than inventory in the period when the transfer occurs. This new guidance will be effective for Praxair beginning in the first quarter 2018, with early adoption permitted, and should be applied on a modified retrospective basis. We are currently evaluating the impact this update will have on our consolidated financial statements.

Simplifying the Test for Goodwill Impairment – In January 2017, the FASB issued updated guidance on the measurement of goodwill. The new guidance eliminates the requirement to calculate the implied fair value of goodwill to measure a goodwill impairment charge. The guidance will be effective for Praxair beginning in the first quarter 2020. Praxair does not expect this guidance to have a material impact.

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Pension Costs - In March 2017, the FASB issued updated guidance on the presentation of net periodic pension cost and net periodic postretirement benefit cost. The new guidance requires the service cost component be reported in the same line item or items as other compensation costs arising from services rendered by employees during the period. The other components of net benefit cost are required to be presented in the income statement separately from the service cost component and not included within operating profit. This guidance will be effective for Praxair beginning in the first quarter 2018, with early adoption optional, and requires companies to transition using a retrospective approach for the presentation of the service cost component and the other cost components and prospectively for the capitalization of the service cost component. Praxair is currently evaluating the impact this update will have on our consolidated financial statements.

Derivatives and Hedging - In August 2017, the FASB issued updated guidance on accounting for hedging activities. The new guidance changes both the designation and measurement for qualifying hedging relationships and the presentation of hedge results. This guidance will be effective for Praxair beginning in the first quarter 2019, with early adoption optional. Praxair is currently evaluating the impact this update will have on our consolidated financial statements.

Reclassifications – Certain prior years' amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

2. Transaction Costs and Other Charges

2017 Transaction Costs and Other Charges

On June 1, 2017 Praxair and Linde AG ("Linde") entered into a business combination agreement, pursuant to which they agreed to combine their respective businesses subject to shareholder and regulatory approvals (see Note 15). In connection with the intended business combination, Praxair incurred transaction costs which totaled \$14 million and \$35 million for the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2017 (\$13 million and \$34 million after-tax, or \$0.05 and \$0.12 per diluted share), respectively.

In addition, in the third quarter of 2017, a series of lump sum benefit payments for employees under an international pension plan triggered a settlement of the related pension obligation. Accordingly, Praxair recorded a pension settlement charge of \$2 million (\$1 million after-tax or less than \$0.01 per diluted share).

Classification in the condensed consolidated financial statements

The costs are shown within operating profit in a separate line item on the consolidated statements of income. On the condensed consolidated statement of cash flows, the impact of these costs, net of cash payments, is shown as an adjustment to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities. In Note 13 - Segments, Praxair excluded these costs from its management definition of segment operating profit; a reconciliation of segments operating profit to consolidated operating profit is shown within the segment operating profit table.

Cost Reduction Programs and Other Charges

In the third quarter of 2016, Praxair recorded pre-tax charges totaling \$96 million (\$63 million after-tax and noncontrolling interests or \$0.22 per diluted share). During 2015, Praxair recorded pre-tax charges totaling \$165 million (\$125 million after-tax and noncontrolling interests, or \$0.43 per diluted share).

Reconciliation

The following table summarizes the activities related to the company's cost reduction programs for the nine months ended September 30, 2017:

(millions of dollars)	Severance costs	Other Charges	Total
Balance, January 1, 2017	\$ 38	\$ 27	\$ 65
Less: Cash payments	(23)	(4)	(27)
Foreign currency translation and other	8	(8)	—
Balance, September 30, 2017	\$ 23	\$ 15	\$ 38

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2016 Pension Settlement Charge

In 2015 a number of senior managers retired. These retirees are covered by the U.S. supplemental pension plan which provides for a lump sum benefit payment option. Under certain circumstances, such lump sum payments must be accounted for as a settlement of the related pension obligation, but only when paid. Accordingly, in the third quarter 2016, Praxair recorded a pension settlement charge related to net unrecognized actuarial losses of \$4 million (\$3 million after-tax or \$0.01 per diluted share).

2016 Bond Redemption Charge

In February 2016, Praxair redeemed \$325 million of 5.20% notes due March 2017 resulting in a \$16 million interest charge (\$10 million after-tax, or \$0.04 per diluted share).

For further details regarding the cost reduction program and other charges, refer to Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements of Praxair's 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

3. Acquisitions

2017 Acquisitions

During the nine months ended September 30, 2017, Praxair had acquisitions totaling \$18 million, primarily acquisitions of packaged gas businesses in North America. These transactions resulted in goodwill and other intangible assets of \$13 million and \$3 million, respectively (see Note 9).

2016 Acquisitions

During the nine months ended September 30, 2016, Praxair had acquisitions totaling \$345 million, primarily the acquisition of Yara International ASA's European carbon dioxide business ("European CO2 business") and packaged gases businesses in North America and Europe. These transactions resulted in goodwill and other intangible assets of \$129 million and \$71 million, respectively. In addition, Praxair purchased a remaining 34% share in a Scandinavian joint venture for \$104 million.

European CO2 Acquisition

On June 1, 2016 Praxair, Inc. completed an acquisition of a European CO2 business, which is a leading supplier of liquid CO2 and dry ice primarily to the European food and beverage industries. The business operates CO2 liquefaction plants and dry ice production facilities across the UK, Ireland, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, France and Italy. This acquisition was accounted for as a business combination; accordingly, the results of operations were consolidated from June 1, 2016 in the European business segment.

The purchase price for the acquisition was approximately \$230 million (€206 million) and resulted in \$121 million of intangible assets. The intangible assets primarily consist of \$69 million of goodwill and \$51 million of customer relationships that will be amortized over their estimated useful life of 20 years.

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4. Supplemental Information

Inventories

The following is a summary of Praxair's consolidated inventories:

(Millions of dollars)	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
Inventories		
Raw materials and supplies	\$ 214	\$ 197
Work in process	55	45
Finished goods	318	308
Total inventories	\$ 587	\$ 550

Long-term receivables

Long-term receivables are not material and are largely reserved. Such long-term receivables are included within other long-term assets in the condensed consolidated balance sheets and totaled \$51 million and \$46 million at September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively. These amounts are net of reserves of \$53 million and \$50 million, respectively. The amounts in both periods relate primarily to government receivables in Brazil and other long-term notes receivable from customers. Collectability is reviewed regularly and uncollectible amounts are written off as appropriate.

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5. Debt

The following is a summary of Praxair's outstanding debt at September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016:

(Millions of dollars)	September 30, December 31,	
	2017	2016
SHORT-TERM		
Commercial paper and U.S. bank borrowings	\$ 38	\$ 333
Other bank borrowings (primarily international)	46	101
Total short-term debt	84	434
LONG-TERM (a)		
U.S. borrowings (U.S. dollar denominated unless otherwise noted)		
Floating Rate Notes due 2017 (b)	—	150
1.05% Notes due 2017	400	400
1.20% Notes due 2018	499	499
1.25% Notes due 2018 (c)	478	478
4.50% Notes due 2019	598	598
1.90% Notes due 2019	499	499
1.50% Euro-denominated notes due 2020	706	627
2.25% Notes due 2020	299	299
4.05% Notes due 2021	497	497
3.00% Notes due 2021	496	496
2.45% Notes due 2022	597	597
2.20% Notes due 2022	498	498
2.70% Notes due 2023	497	497
1.20% Euro-denominated notes due 2024	648	575
2.65% Notes due 2025	397	397
1.625% Euro-denominated notes due 2025	585	519
3.20% Notes due 2026	725	725
3.55% Notes due 2042	662	662
Other	12	12
International bank borrowings	56	49
Obligations under capital leases	4	7
	9,153	9,081
Less: current portion of long-term debt	(910	) (164
Total long-term debt	8,243	8,917
Total debt	\$ 9,237	\$ 9,515

(a) Amounts are net of unamortized discounts, premiums and/or debt issuance costs as applicable.

(b) In February 2017, Praxair repaid \$150 million of floating rate notes that became due.

(c) September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016 include a \$1 million and \$4 million fair value increase, respectively, related to hedge accounting. See Note 6 for additional information.

In June 2017, the company entered into a \$500 million 364-day revolving credit facility with a syndicate of banks which expires in June 2018. The credit facility is with major financial institutions and is non-cancelable by the issuing financial institution until maturity. The only financial covenant requires Praxair not to exceed a maximum 70% leverage ratio, which is consistent with the company's \$2.5 billion senior unsecured credit facility (see Note 11 to the consolidated financial statements of Praxair's 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K). No borrowings were outstanding under the credit agreement at September 30, 2017.

6. Financial Instruments

In its normal operations, Praxair is exposed to market risks relating to fluctuations in interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, energy costs and to a lesser extent precious metal prices. The objective of financial risk management at Praxair is to minimize the negative impact of such fluctuations on the company's earnings and cash flows. To manage these risks, among other strategies, Praxair routinely enters into various derivative financial instruments ("derivatives") including interest-rate swap and treasury rate lock agreements, currency-swap agreements, forward contracts, currency options, and commodity-swap agreements. These instruments are not entered into for trading purposes and Praxair only uses commonly traded and non-leveraged instruments.

There are three types of derivatives that the company enters into: (i) those relating to fair-value exposures, (ii) those relating to cash-flow exposures, and (iii) those relating to foreign currency net investment exposures. Fair-value exposures relate to recognized assets or liabilities, and firm commitments; cash-flow exposures relate to the variability of future cash flows associated with recognized assets or liabilities, or forecasted transactions; and net investment exposures relate to the impact of foreign currency exchange rate changes on the carrying value of net assets denominated in foreign currencies.

When a derivative is executed and hedge accounting is appropriate, it is designated as either a fair-value hedge, cash-flow hedge, or a net investment hedge. Currently, Praxair designates all interest-rate and treasury-rate locks as hedges for accounting purposes; however, currency contracts are generally not designated as hedges for accounting purposes unless they are related to forecasted transactions. Whether designated as hedges for accounting purposes or not, all derivatives are linked to an appropriate underlying exposure. On an ongoing basis, the company assesses the hedge effectiveness of all derivatives designated as hedges for accounting purposes to determine if they continue to be highly effective in offsetting changes in fair values or cash flows of the underlying hedged items. If it is determined that the hedge is not highly effective, then hedge accounting will be discontinued prospectively.

Counterparties to Praxair's derivatives are major banking institutions with credit ratings of investment grade or better and no collateral is required, and there are no significant risk concentrations. Management believes the risk of incurring losses on derivative contracts related to credit risk is remote and any losses would be immaterial.

The following table is a summary of the notional amount and fair value of derivatives outstanding at September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016 for consolidated subsidiaries:

(Millions of dollars)	Notional Amounts		Fair Value			
	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities
Derivatives Not Designated as Hedging Instruments:						
Currency contracts:						
Balance sheet items (a)	\$2,303	\$ 2,104	\$ 2	\$ 11	\$ 18	\$ 18
Derivatives Designated as Hedging Instruments:						
Currency contracts:						
Balance sheet items (a)	\$38	\$ 38	\$—	\$ 3	\$ 1	\$ —
Forecasted purchases (a)	4	—	—	—	—	—
Interest rate contracts:						
Interest rate swaps (b)	475	475	1	4	—	—
Total Hedges	\$517	\$ 513	\$1	\$ 7	\$ 1	\$ —
Total Derivatives	\$2,820	\$ 2,617	\$3	\$ 18	\$ 19	\$ 18

(a) Assets are recorded in prepaid and other current assets, and liabilities are recorded in other current liabilities.

(b) Assets are recorded in other long term assets.

Currency Contracts

Balance Sheet Items

Foreign currency contracts related to balance sheet items consist of forward contracts entered into to manage the exposure to fluctuations in foreign-currency exchange rates on recorded balance sheet assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than the functional currency of the related operating unit. Certain forward currency

contracts are entered into to protect underlying monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies from foreign exchange risk and are not designated

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as hedging instruments. The fair value adjustments on these contracts are offset by the fair value adjustments recorded on the underlying monetary assets and liabilities. Praxair also enters into forward currency contracts, which are designated as hedging instruments, to limit the cash flow exposure on certain foreign-currency denominated intercompany loans. The fair value adjustments on these contracts are recorded to AOCI, with the effective portion immediately reclassified to earnings to offset the fair value adjustments on the underlying debt instrument.

Forecasted Purchases

Foreign currency contracts related to forecasted purchases consist of forward contracts entered into to manage the exposure to fluctuations in foreign-currency exchange rates on forecasted purchases of capital-related equipment and services denominated in currencies other than the functional currency of the related operating units. These forward contracts were designated and accounted for as cash flow hedges.

Net Investment Hedge

In 2014 Praxair designated the €600 million (\$706 million as of September 30, 2017) 1.50% Euro-denominated notes due 2020 and the €500 million (\$585 million as of September 30, 2017) 1.625% Euro-denominated notes due 2025, as a hedge of the net investment position in its European operations. In 2016 Praxair designated an incremental €550 million (\$648 million as of September 30, 2017) 1.20% Euro-denominated notes due 2024 as an additional hedge of the net investment position in its European operations. These Euro-denominated debt instruments reduce the company's exposure to changes in the currency exchange rate on investments in foreign subsidiaries with Euro functional currencies. Since hedge inception, exchange rate movements have reduced long-term debt by \$125 million (long-term debt increased by \$214 million during the first nine months of 2017), with the offsetting gain shown within the cumulative translation component of AOCI in the condensed consolidated balance sheets and the consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

Interest Rate Contracts

Outstanding Interest Rate Swaps

At September 30, 2017, Praxair had one outstanding interest rate swap agreement with a \$475 million notional amount related to the \$475 million 1.25% notes that mature in 2018. The interest rate swap effectively converts fixed-rate interest to variable-rate interest and is designated as a fair value hedge. Fair value adjustments are recognized in earnings along with an equally offsetting charge / benefit to earnings for the changes in the fair value of the underlying debt instrument. At September 30, 2017, \$1 million was recognized as an increase in the fair value of these notes (\$4 million at December 31, 2016).

Terminated Treasury Rate Locks

The following table summarizes the unrecognized gains (losses) related to terminated treasury rate lock contracts:

(Millions of dollars)	Year Terminated	Original Gain / (Loss)	Unrecognized Gain / September 30, 2017	(Loss) / December 31, 2016 (a)
Treasury Rate Locks				
Underlying debt instrument:				
\$500 million 2.20% fixed-rate notes that mature in 2022 (b)	2012	\$ (2)	\$ (1)	\$ (1)
\$500 million 3.00% fixed-rate notes that mature in 2021 (b)	2011	(11)	(4)	(5)
\$600 million 4.50% fixed-rate notes that mature in 2019 (b)	2009	16	3	4
Total - pre-tax			\$ (2)	\$ (2)
Less: income taxes			1	1
After- tax amounts			\$ (1)	\$ (1)

The unrecognized gains / (losses) for the treasury rate locks are shown in accumulated other comprehensive income ("AOCI") and are being recognized on a straight line basis to interest expense – net over the term of the underlying debt agreements. Refer to the table below summarizing the impact on the company's consolidated statements of income and AOCI for current period gain (loss) recognition.

(b)

The notional amount of the treasury rate lock contracts are equal to the underlying debt instrument with the exception of the treasury rate lock contract entered into to hedge the \$600 million 4.50% fixed-rate notes that mature in 2019. The notional amount of this contract was \$500 million.

The following table summarizes the impact of the company's derivatives on the consolidated statements of income:

(Millions of dollars)	Amount of Pre-Tax Gain (Loss) Recognized in Earnings *			
	Nine Months			
	Quarter Ended September 30,		Quarter Ended September 30,	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
Derivatives Not Designated as Hedging Instruments				
Currency contracts:				
Balance sheet items				
Debt-related	\$ 19	\$ (10)	\$ 128	\$ 73
Other balance sheet items	(1)	(1)	1	2
Total	\$ 18	\$ (11)	\$ 129	\$ 75

* The gains (losses) on balance sheet items are offset by gains (losses) recorded on the underlying hedged assets and liabilities. Accordingly, the gains (losses) for the derivatives and the underlying hedged assets and liabilities related to debt items are recorded in the consolidated statements of income as interest expense-net. Other balance sheet items and anticipated net income gains (losses) are recorded in the consolidated statements of income as other income (expenses)-net.

The following tables summarize the impacts of the company's derivatives designated as hedging instruments that impact AOCI:

Derivatives Designated as Hedging Instruments **

There was no impact for the quarters-ended September 30, 2017 and 2016.

(Millions of dollars)	Nine Months Ended			
	Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized in AOCI		Amount of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from AOCI to the Consolidated Statement of Income	
	September 30, 2017	September 30, 2016	September 30, 2017	September 30, 2016
Currency contracts:				
Balance sheet items	\$ (1)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Net investment hedge	—	(4)	—	—
Forecasted purchases	1	—	—	—
Interest rate contracts:				
Treasury rate lock contracts	—	—	—	(1)
Total - pre tax	\$ —	\$ (4)	\$ —	\$ (1)
Less: income taxes	—	1	—	1
Total - Net of Taxes	\$ —	\$ (3)	\$ —	\$ —

**The gains (losses) on net investment hedges are recorded as a component of AOCI within foreign currency translation adjustments in the condensed consolidated balance sheets and the condensed consolidated statements of comprehensive income. The gains (losses) on treasury rate locks are recorded as a component of AOCI within derivative instruments in the condensed consolidated balance sheets and the condensed consolidated statements of comprehensive income. There was no ineffectiveness for these instruments during 2017 or 2016. The gains (losses) on net investment hedges are reclassified to earnings only when the related currency translation adjustments are required

to be reclassified, usually upon sale or liquidation of the investment. The gains (losses) for interest rate contracts are reclassified to earnings as interest expense –net on a straight-line basis over the remaining maturity of the underlying debt. Net losses of approximately \$1 million are expected to be reclassified to earnings during the next twelve months.

7. Fair Value Disclosures

The fair value hierarchy prioritizes the input to valuation techniques used to measure fair value into three broad levels as follows:

Level 1 – quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 – quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets or inputs that are observable

Level 3 – inputs that are unobservable (for example cash flow modeling inputs based on assumptions)

Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

The following table summarizes assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

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(Millions of dollars)	Fair Value Measurements Using				
	Level 1	Level 2		Level 3	
	September 30, 2017	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
Assets					
Derivatives	—	\$ 3	\$ 18	—	—
Liabilities					
Derivatives	—	\$ 19	\$ 18	—	—

The fair values of the derivative assets and liabilities are based on market prices obtained from independent brokers or determined using quantitative models that use as their basis readily observable market parameters that are actively quoted and can be validated through external sources, including third-party pricing services, brokers and market transactions. Investments are marketable securities traded on an exchange.

The fair values of cash and cash equivalents, short-term debt, accounts receivable-net, and accounts payable approximate carrying amounts because of the short maturities of these instruments. The fair value of long-term debt is estimated based on the quoted market prices for similar issues, which is deemed a level 2 measurement. At September 30, 2017, the estimated fair value of Praxair's long-term debt portfolio was \$9,352 million versus a carrying value of \$9,153 million. At December 31, 2016, the estimated fair value of Praxair's long-term debt portfolio was \$9,218 million versus a carrying value of \$9,081 million. Differences from carrying amounts are attributable to interest-rate changes subsequent to when the debt was issued.

8. Earnings Per Share – Praxair, Inc. Shareholders

Basic earnings per share is computed by dividing Net income – Praxair, Inc. for the period by the weighted average number of Praxair common shares outstanding. Diluted earnings per share is computed by dividing Net income – Praxair, Inc. for the period by the weighted average number of Praxair common shares outstanding and dilutive common stock equivalents, as follows:

Numerator (Millions of dollars)	Quarter Ended September		Nine Months Ended	
	30, 2017	2016	September 30, 2017	September 30, 2016
Net income - Praxair, Inc.	\$ 419	\$ 339	\$1,214	\$1,094
Denominator (Thousands of shares)				
Weighted average shares outstanding	286,103	285,467	285,654	285,277
Shares earned and issuable under compensation plans	364	391	368	386
Weighted average shares used in basic earnings per share	286,467	285,858	286,022	285,663
Effect of dilutive securities				
Stock options and awards	2,749	2,337	2,502	2,064
Weighted average shares used in diluted earnings per share	289,216	288,195	288,524	287,727
Basic Earnings Per Share	\$ 1.46	\$ 1.19	\$4.24	\$ 3.83
Diluted Earnings Per Share	\$ 1.45	\$ 1.18	\$4.21	\$ 3.80

There were no antidilutive shares for quarter ended September 30, 2017. Stock options of 2,439,499 for nine months ended September 30, 2017 and stock options of 2,624,190 and 2,625,825 for the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2016 were antidilutive and therefore excluded in the computation of diluted earnings per share.

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9. Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets

Changes in the carrying amount of goodwill for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 were as follows:

(Millions of dollars)	North America	South America	Europe	Asia	Surface Technologies	Total
Balance, December 31, 2016	\$ 2,165	\$ 132	\$ 629	\$ 58	\$ 133	\$3,117
Acquisitions	13	—	—	—	—	13
Purchase adjustments & other	1	—	1	—	—	2
Foreign currency translation	20	5	67	2	8	102
Balance, September 30, 2017	\$ 2,199	\$ 137	\$ 697	\$ 60	\$ 141	\$3,234

Praxair has performed its goodwill impairment tests annually during the second quarter of each year, and historically has determined that the fair value of each of its reporting units was substantially in excess of its carrying value. For the 2017 test completed last quarter, Praxair applied the FASB's accounting guidance (refer to Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements of Praxair's 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K) which allows the Company to first assess qualitative factors to determine the extent of additional quantitative analysis, if any, that may be required to test goodwill for impairment. Based on the qualitative assessments performed, Praxair concluded that it was more likely than not that the fair value of each reporting unit substantially exceeded its carrying value and therefore, further quantitative analysis was not required. As a result, no impairment was recorded. There were no indicators of impairment through September 30, 2017.

Changes in the carrying amounts of other intangibles for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 were as follows:

(Millions of dollars)	Customer & License/Use Agreements	Non-compete Agreements	Patents & Other	Total
Cost:				
Balance, December 31, 2016	\$ 751	\$ 34	\$ 51	\$836
Additions	1	2	—	3
Foreign currency translation	22	1	1	24
Other*	(3	) (8	) —	(11)
Balance, September 30, 2017	\$ 771	\$ 29	\$ 52	\$852
Less: Accumulated amortization				
Balance, December 31, 2016	\$ (214)	\$ (22)	\$ (17)	\$(253)
Amortization expense	(30)	(4)	(3)	(37)
Foreign currency translation	(9)	—	—	(9)
Other*	2	8	—	10
Balance, September 30, 2017	\$ (251)	\$ (18)	\$ (20)	\$(289)
Net balance at September 30, 2017	\$ 520	\$ 11	\$ 32	\$563

* Other primarily relates to write-off of fully amortized assets.

There are no expected residual values related to these intangible assets. The remaining weighted-average amortization period for intangible assets is approximately 17 years.

Total estimated annual amortization expense is as follows:

(Millions of dollars)	
Remaining 2017	\$12
2018	45
2019	43
2020	41
2021	40
Thereafter	382
	\$563

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10. Share-Based Compensation

Share-based compensation of \$16 million (\$7 million after-tax) and \$14 million (\$5 million after-tax) was recognized during the quarters ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively. The 2017 and 2016 quarters include \$4 million and \$5 million of excess tax benefits, respectively. Share-based compensation of \$44 million (\$12 million after-tax) and \$36 million (\$11 million after-tax) was recognized during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016, respectively. The 2017 and 2016 nine-month periods include \$18 million and \$15 million, respectively, of excess tax benefits. Expense amounts reflect current estimates of achieving performance targets relating to performance-based compensation. The expense was recorded primarily in selling, general and administrative expenses. There was no share-based compensation cost that was capitalized. For further details regarding Praxair's share-based compensation arrangements and prior-year grants, refer to Note 15 to the consolidated financial statements of Praxair's 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Stock Options

The weighted-average fair value of options granted during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 was \$12.40 (\$8.91 in 2016) based on the Black-Scholes Options-Pricing model. The increase in grant date fair value year-over-year was primarily attributable to an increase in the company's stock price.

The following weighted-average assumptions were used to value the grants in 2017 and 2016:

	Nine months ended September 30, 2017 2016	
Dividend yield	2.7 %	2.9 %
Volatility	14.0%	14.4%
Risk-free interest rate	2.13 %	1.41 %
Expected term years	6	6

The following table summarizes option activity under the plans as of September 30, 2017 and changes during the nine-month period then ended (averages are calculated on a weighted basis; life in years; intrinsic value expressed in millions):

	Number of Options (000's)	Average Exercise Price	Average Remaining Life	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Outstanding at January 1, 2017	11,708	\$ 101.58		
Granted	2,091	118.71		
Exercised	(1,960)	) 87.43		
Cancelled or Expired	(115)	) 113.50		
Outstanding at September 30, 2017	11,724	106.89	6.1	\$ 385
Exercisable at September 30, 2017	7,678	\$ 103.37	4.6	\$ 279

The aggregate intrinsic value represents the difference between the company's closing stock price of \$139.74 as of September 30, 2017 and the exercise price multiplied by the number of in the money options outstanding as of that date. The total intrinsic value of stock options exercised during the quarter and nine-months ended September 30, 2017 was \$17 million and \$80 million, respectively (\$22 million and \$64 million during the same periods in 2016, respectively).

Cash received from option exercises under all share-based payment arrangements for the quarter and nine-months ended September 30, 2017 was \$18 million and \$81 million, respectively (\$41 million and \$101 million for the same periods in 2016, respectively). The cash tax benefit realized from share-based compensation totaled \$5 million and \$31 million for the quarter and nine-months ended September 30, 2017, respectively (\$7 million and \$26 million for the same periods in 2016, respectively).

As of September 30, 2017, \$23 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to non-vested stock options is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of approximately 1 year.

Performance-Based and Restricted Stock Awards

During the nine months ended September 30, 2017, the company granted performance-based stock awards to employees of 223,730 shares that vest, subject to the attainment of pre-established minimum performance criteria, principally on the third anniversary of their date of grant. These awards are tied to either return on capital ("ROC") performance or relative total shareholder return ("TSR") performance versus that of the S&P 500. The actual number of shares issued in settlement of a

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vested award can range from zero to 200 percent of the target number of shares granted based upon the company's attainment of specified performance targets at the end of a three-year period. Compensation expense related to these awards is recognized over the three-year performance period based on the fair value of the closing market price of the company's common stock on the date of the grant and the estimated performance that will be achieved. Compensation expense for ROC awards will be adjusted during the three-year performance period based upon the estimated performance levels that will be achieved. TSR awards are measured at their grant date fair value and not subsequently re-measured.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2017, the company also granted restricted stock units to employees of 81,917 shares. The majority of the restricted stock units vest at the end of a three-year service period. Compensation expense related to the restricted stock units is recognized on a straight line basis over the vesting period.

The weighted-average fair value of ROC performance-based stock awards and restricted stock units granted during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 was \$109.68 and \$111.70, respectively (\$93.46 and \$98.12 for the same periods in 2016, respectively). These fair values are based on the closing market price of Praxair's common stock on the grant date adjusted for dividends that will not be paid during the vesting period.

The weighted-average fair value of performance-based stock tied to relative TSR performance granted during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 was \$124.12 (\$124.18 in 2016), and was estimated using a Monte Carlo simulation performed as of the grant date.

The following table summarizes non-vested performance-based and restricted stock award activity as of September 30, 2017 and changes during the nine months then ended (shares based on target amounts, averages are calculated on a weighted basis):

	Performance-Based		Restricted Stock	
	Number of Shares (000's)	Average Grant Date Fair Value	Number of Shares (000's)	Average Grant Date Fair Value
Non-vested at January 1, 2017	714	\$ 115.72	274	\$ 109.49
Granted	224	114.82	82	111.70
Vested	(76)	121.16	(83)	118.34
Cancelled and Forfeited	(194)	113.81	(7)	109.27
Non-vested at September 30, 2017	668	\$ 113.40	266	\$ 107.45

There are approximately 9 thousand performance-based shares and 6 thousand restricted stock shares that are non-vested at September 30, 2017 which will be settled in cash due to foreign regulatory limitations. The liability related to these grants reflects the current estimate of performance that will be achieved and the current common stock price.

As of September 30, 2017, based on current estimates of future performance, \$23 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to performance-based awards is expected to be recognized through the first quarter of 2020 and \$13 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to the restricted stock awards is expected to be recognized primarily through the first quarter of 2020.

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11. Retirement Programs

The components of net pension and postretirement benefits other than pensions (“OPEB”) costs for the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 are shown below:

(Millions of dollars)	Quarter Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,					
	Pensions	OPEB	Pensions	OPEB	Pensions	OPEB		
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016		
Service cost	\$ 12	\$ 11	\$ —	\$ —	\$35	\$35	\$2	\$ 2
Interest cost	25	27	2	2	76	76	4	4
Expected return on plan assets	(40)	(39)	—	—	(120)	(117)	—	—
Net amortization and deferral	17	14	—	—	51	45	(2)	(2)
Curtailement gain (1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	(18)	—
Net periodic benefit cost before settlement charges	\$ 14	\$ 13	\$ 2	\$ 2	\$42	\$39	\$(14)	\$ 4
Pension settlement charge (Note 2)	2	4	—	—	2	4	—	—
Net periodic benefit cost	\$ 16	\$ 17	\$ 2	\$ 2	\$44	\$43	\$(14)	\$ 4

(1) The curtailment gain recorded during the nine months ended September 30, 2017 resulted from the termination of an OPEB plan in South America in the first quarter.

Praxair estimates that 2017 required contributions to its pension plans will be in the range of \$15 million to \$20 million, of which \$14 million have been made through September 30, 2017.

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12. Commitments and Contingencies

Contingent Liabilities

Praxair is subject to various lawsuits and government investigations that arise from time to time in the ordinary course of business. These actions are based upon alleged environmental, tax, antitrust and personal injury claims, among others. Praxair has strong defenses in these cases and intends to defend itself vigorously. It is possible that the company may incur losses in connection with some of these actions in excess of accrued liabilities. Management does not anticipate that in the aggregate such losses would have a material adverse effect on the company's consolidated financial position or liquidity; however, it is possible that the final outcomes could have a significant impact on the company's reported results of operations in any given period (see Note 17 to the consolidated financial statements of Praxair's 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K).

Significant matters are:

During May 2009, the Brazilian government published Law 11941/2009 instituting a new voluntary amnesty program ("Refis Program") which allowed Brazilian companies to settle certain federal tax disputes at reduced amounts. During the 2009 third quarter, Praxair decided that it was economically beneficial to settle many of its outstanding federal tax disputes and such disputes were enrolled in the Refis Program, subject to final calculation and review by the Brazilian federal government. The Company recorded estimated liabilities based on the terms of the Refis Program. Since 2009, Praxair has been unable to reach final agreement on the calculations and recently initiated litigation against the government in an attempt to resolve certain items. Open issues relate to the following matters: (i) application of cash deposits and net operating loss carryforwards to satisfy obligations, and (ii) the amount of tax reductions available under the Refis Program. It is difficult to estimate the timing of resolution of legal matters in Brazil.

At September 30, 2017 the most significant non-income and income tax claims in Brazil, after enrollment in the Refis Program, relate to state VAT tax matters and a federal income tax matter where the taxing authorities are challenging the tax rate that should be applied to income generated by a subsidiary company. The total estimated exposure relating to such claims, including interest and penalties, as appropriate, is approximately \$245 million. Praxair has not recorded any liabilities related to such claims based on management judgments, after considering judgments and opinions of outside counsel. Because litigation in Brazil historically takes many years to resolve, it is very difficult to estimate the timing of resolution of these matters; however, it is possible that certain of these matters may be resolved within the near term. The company is vigorously defending against the proceedings.

On September 1, 2010, CADE (Brazilian Administrative Council for Economic Defense) announced alleged anticompetitive activity on the part of five industrial gas companies in Brazil and imposed fines on all five companies. Originally, CADE imposed a civil fine of R\$2.2 billion Brazilian reais (US\$694 million) against White Martins, the Brazil-based subsidiary of Praxair, Inc. In response to a motion for clarification, the fine was reduced to R\$1.7 billion Brazilian reais (US\$537 million) due to a calculation error made by CADE. The amount of the fine is subject to indexation using SELIC. On September 2, 2010, Praxair issued a press release and filed a report on Form 8-K rejecting all claims and stating that the fine represents a gross and arbitrary disregard of Brazilian law.

On October 19, 2010, White Martins filed an annulment petition ("appeal") with the Federal Court in Brasilia seeking to have the fine against White Martins entirely overturned. In order to suspend payment of the fine pending the completion of the appeal process, Brazilian law required that the company tender a form of guarantee in the amount of the fine as security. Initially, 50% of the guarantee was satisfied by letters of credit with a financial institution and 50% by equity of a Brazilian subsidiary. On April 15, 2016, the Ninth Federal Court in Brasilia allowed White Martins to withdraw and cancel the letters of credit. Accordingly, the guarantee is currently satisfied solely by equity of a Brazilian subsidiary.

On September 14, 2015, the Ninth Federal Court of Brasilia overturned the fine against White Martins and declared the original CADE administrative proceeding to be null and void. On June 30, 2016, CADE filed an appeal against this decision with the Federal Circuit Court in Brasilia.

Praxair strongly believes that the allegations are without merit and that the fine will be entirely overturned during the appeal process. The company further believes that it has strong defenses and will vigorously defend against the allegations and related fine up to such levels of the Federal Courts in Brazil as may be necessary. Because appeals in Brazil historically take many years to resolve, it is very difficult to estimate when the appeal will be finally decided.

Based on management judgments, after considering judgments and opinions of outside counsel, no reserve has been recorded for this proceeding as management does not believe that a loss is probable.

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13. Segments

Sales and operating profit by segment for the quarters and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 are shown below. For a description of Praxair's operating segments, refer to Note 18 to the consolidated financial statements of Praxair's 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K.

(Millions of dollars)	Quarter Ended September		Nine Months	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
SALES ^(a)				
North America	\$ 1,518	\$ 1,431	\$4,481	\$4,195
Europe	407	366	1,146	1,041
South America	389	378	1,131	1,047
Asia	451	391	1,268	1,160
Surface Technologies	157	150	458	447
Total sales	\$ 2,922	\$ 2,716	\$8,484	\$7,890

(Millions of dollars)	Quarter Ended September		Nine Months	
	2017	2016	2017	2016
OPERATING PROFIT				
North America	\$ 386	\$ 363	\$1,121	\$1,071
Europe	78	72	217	202
South America	63	68	190	193
Asia	88	68	243	198
Surface Technologies	27	26	78	75
Segment operating profit	642	597	1,849	1,739
Transaction costs and other charges (Note 2)	(16)	(100)	(37)	(100)
Total operating profit	\$ 626	\$ 497	\$1,812	\$1,639

(a) Sales reflect external sales only. Intersegment sales, primarily from North America to other segments, were not material.

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14. Equity and Redeemable Noncontrolling Interests

Equity

A summary of the changes in total equity for the quarters and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016 is provided below:

(Millions of dollars)	Quarter Ended September 30,					
	2017			2016		
Activity	Praxair, Inc. Shareholder Equity	Noncontrolling Interests	Total Equity	Praxair, Inc. Shareholder Equity	Noncontrolling Interests	Total Equity
Balance, beginning of period	\$5,807	\$ 453	\$6,260	\$5,140	\$ 407	\$5,547
Net income (a)	419	16	435	339	3	342
Other comprehensive income (loss)	219	10	229	(37)	3	(34)
Noncontrolling interests:						
Additions (reductions)	—	2	2	—	(12)	(12)
Dividends and other capital changes	—	(6)	(6)	—	(8)	(8)
Redemption value adjustments	—	—	—	1	—	1
Dividends to Praxair, Inc. common stock holders (\$0.7875 per share in 2017 and \$0.75 per share in 2016)	(225)	—	(225)	(214)	—	(214)
Issuances of common stock:						
For the dividend reinvestment and stock purchase plan	2	—	2	1	—	1
For employee savings and incentive plans	18	—	18	46	—	46
Other	—	—	—	5	—	5
Purchases of common stock	—	—	—	(50)	—	(50)
Share-based compensation	16	—	16	14	—	14
Balance, end of period	\$6,256	\$ 475	\$6,731	\$5,245	\$ 393	\$5,638

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(Millions of dollars)	Nine Months Ended September 30,					
	2017			2016		
Activity	Praxair,		Total	Praxair,		Total
	Inc.	Noncontrolling		Inc.	Noncontrolling	
	Shareholders	Interests	Equity	Shareholders	Interests	Equity
	Equity			Equity		
Balance, beginning of period	\$5,021	\$ 420	\$5,441	\$4,389	\$ 404	\$4,793
Net income (a)	1,214	44	1,258	1,094	21	1,115
Other comprehensive income (loss)	575	28	603	385	7	392
Noncontrolling interests:						
Additions (reductions)	—	9	9	—	(12)	(12)
Dividends and other capital changes	—	(26)	(26)	—	(27)	(27)
Redemption value adjustments	—	—	—	4	—	4
Dividends to Praxair, Inc. common stock holders (\$2.36 per share in 2017 and \$2.25 per share in 2016)	(675)	—	(675)	(642)	—	(642)
Issuances of common stock:						
For the dividend reinvestment and stock purchase plan	5	—	5	5	—	5
For employee savings and incentive plans	72	—	72	102	—	102
Other	—	—	—	5	—	5
Purchases of common stock	—	—	—	(133)	—	(133)
Share-based compensation	44	—	44	36	—	36
Balance, end of period	\$6,256	\$ 475	\$6,731	\$5,245	\$ 393	\$5,638

Net income for noncontrolling interests excludes Net income related to redeemable noncontrolling interests of less than \$1 million and \$1 million for quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2017, respectively, and \$2 million (a) and \$4 million for the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2016, respectively, which is not part of total equity (see redeemable noncontrolling interests section below).

The components of AOCI are as follows:

(Millions of dollars)	September 30, 2017	December 31, 2016
Cumulative translation adjustment - net of taxes:		
North America	\$(795)	\$(1,038)
South America	(1,914)	(1,969)
Europe	(401)	(504)
Asia	(245)	(383)
Surface Technologies	(22)	(52)
	(3,377)	(3,946)
Derivatives - net of taxes	(1)	(1)
Pension / OPEB funded status obligation (net of \$348 million and \$352 million tax benefit in September 30, 2017 and December 31, 2016, respectively)	(647)	(653)
	\$(4,025)	\$(4,600)

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Redeemable Noncontrolling Interests

Noncontrolling interests with redemption features, such as put/sell options, that are not solely within the Company's control ("redeemable noncontrolling interests") are reported separately in the consolidated balance sheets at the greater of carrying value or redemption value. For redeemable noncontrolling interests that are not yet exercisable, Praxair calculates the redemption value by accreting the carrying value to the redemption value over the period until exercisable. If the redemption value is greater than the carrying value, any increase is adjusted directly to equity and does not impact net income.

At September 30, 2017, redeemable noncontrolling interests includes one packaged gas distributor in the United States where the noncontrolling shareholder has a put option. On June 1, 2016, Praxair acquired the remaining 34% stake in Yara Praxair Holding AS, a 66%-owned joint venture in Scandinavia, for \$104 million.

The following is a summary of the changes in redeemable noncontrolling interests for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016:

(Millions of dollars)	2017	2016
Balance, January 1	\$11	\$113
Net income	1	4
Distributions to noncontrolling interest and other	(1)	(2)
Redemption value adjustments/accretion	—	(4)
Foreign currency translation	—	4
Purchase of noncontrolling interest	—	(104)
Balance, September 30	\$11	\$11

15. Proposed Business Combination with Linde AG

On June 1, 2017, Praxair, Inc. and Linde AG entered into a definitive Business Combination Agreement, as amended (the "Business Combination Agreement"), pursuant to which, among other things, Praxair, Inc. and Linde AG agreed to combine their respective businesses through an all-stock transaction, and become subsidiaries of a new holding company incorporated in Ireland, Linde plc (f/k/a Zamalight plc). In connection with the proposed business combination, Linde plc filed a Registration Statement on Form S-4 which was declared effective by the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on August 14, 2017.

Linde plc has also filed an offer document with the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (Bundesanstalt fuer Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht) ("BaFin") which was approved for publication by BaFin on August 14, 2017 and published by Linde plc on August 15, 2017. The offer is to exchange each issued and outstanding no-par value bearer share of Linde AG for 1.540 ordinary shares of Linde plc (the "Exchange Offer"). In addition, Zamalight Subco, Inc., an indirect wholly-owned Delaware subsidiary of Linde plc, will merge with and into Praxair, Inc., with Praxair, Inc. surviving the merger (the "Merger", and together with the Exchange Offer, the "Business Combination"). In the Merger, each share of Praxair, Inc. common stock will be converted into the right to receive one Linde plc ordinary share. Upon completion of the Business Combination, and assuming that all of the outstanding Linde AG shares are exchanged in the Exchange Offer, former Praxair, Inc. shareholders and former Linde AG shareholders will each own approximately 50% of the outstanding Linde plc shares. Linde plc will apply to list its ordinary shares on the New York Stock Exchange and the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, and will seek inclusion in the S&P 500 and DAX 30 indices. Praxair Inc.'s stockholders approved the merger at Praxair Inc.'s special meeting held on September 27, 2017. On October 23, 2017, Linde plc amended the Exchange Offer to reduce the minimum acceptance threshold from 75% to 60% of all Linde AG shares entitled to voting rights, following the consent by both Linde AG and Praxair, Inc. Due to the amendment, the acceptance period of the Exchange Offer, which was originally scheduled to expire on October 24, 2017 at 24:00 hours (CEST), was extended by two weeks and will now expire on November 7, 2017 at 24:00 hours (CET). As of October 24, 2017, approximately 64.4% of all Linde AG shares entitled to voting rights had been tendered into the Exchange Offer. The parties currently expect the Business Combination to be completed in the second half of 2018.

Completion of the Business Combination remains subject to the satisfaction or waiver of conditions, including (a) at least 60% of the Linde AG shares entitled to voting rights are tendered and not withdrawn on November 7, 2017 at 24:00 hours (CET), (b) approval by requisite governmental regulators and authorities, including approvals under applicable competition laws, (c) absence of any law, regulation or injunction or order by any governmental entity in Ireland, the United Kingdom, Germany or the United States that prohibits or makes illegal the completion of the Business Combination and (d) that there has been no material adverse effect on and no material compliance violation by either Praxair, Inc. or Linde AG, as determined by a third-party independent expert.

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The Business Combination may be terminated for, or may terminate as a result of, certain reasons, including, among others, (a) the mutual consent of Praxair, Inc. and Linde AG to termination, (b) a change in recommendation regarding the Business Combination from the Praxair board of directors, the Linde executive board or the Linde supervisory board (provided that, with respect to the Linde supervisory board, such change involves recommending that Linde shareholders not accept the Exchange Offer), (c) the occurrence of an “adverse tax event” (as defined in the Business Combination Agreement), (d) a permanent injunction or order by any governmental entity in Ireland, the United Kingdom, Germany or the United States that prohibits or makes illegal the completion of the Business Combination, (e) the occurrence of a change, event, occurrence or effect that has had or is reasonably expected to have a “material adverse change” (as defined in the Business Combination Agreement) on Linde AG or Praxair, Inc. or (f) the failure to satisfy any of the conditions described in the preceding paragraph. The Business Combination Agreement further provides that, upon termination of the Business Combination under certain specified circumstances, Praxair, Inc. will be required to pay Linde AG a termination fee of €250 million or Linde AG will be required to pay Praxair, Inc. such termination fee, as applicable.

For additional information related to the Business Combination Agreement, please refer to the proxy statement/prospectus filed by Praxair, Inc. on Schedule 14A with the SEC on August 16, 2017.

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Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following table provides summary data for the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2017 and 2016:

(Dollar amounts in millions, except per share data)	Quarter Ended September 30,				Nine Months Ended September 30,			
	2017	2016	Variance		2017	2016	Variance	
Reported Amounts								
Sales	\$2,922	\$2,716	8	%	\$8,484	\$7,890	8	%
Cost of sales, exclusive of depreciation and amortization	\$1,652	\$1,533	8	%	\$4,795	\$4,382	9	%
Gross margin (a)	\$1,270	\$1,183	7	%	\$3,689	\$3,508	5	%
As a percent of sales	43.5	% 43.6	%		43.5	% 44.5	%	
Selling, general and administrative	\$304	\$291	4	%	\$891	\$873	2	%
As a percent of sales	10.4	% 10.7	%		10.5	% 11.1	%	
Depreciation and amortization	\$298	\$284	5	%	\$877	\$837	5	%
Transaction costs and other charges (b)	\$16	\$100			\$37	\$100		
Other income (expense) - net	\$(3)	\$11			\$(3)	\$10		
Operating profit	\$626	\$497	26	%	\$1,812	\$1,639	11	%
Operating margin	21.4	% 18.3	%		21.4	% 20.8	%	
Interest expense - net	\$41	\$43	(5)	)%	\$120	\$152	(21))%
Effective tax rate	27.7	% 26.4	%		27.7	% 26.8	%	
Income from equity investments	\$12	\$10	20	%	\$35	\$31	13	%
Noncontrolling interests	\$(16)	\$(5)	220	%	\$(45)	\$(25)	80	%
Net income - Praxair, Inc.	\$419	\$339	24	%	\$1,214	\$1,094	11	%
Diluted earnings per share	\$1.45	\$1.18	23	%	\$4.21	\$3.80	11	%
Diluted shares outstanding	289,216	288,195	—	%	288,524	287,727	—	%
Number of employees	26,531	26,680			26,531	26,680		
Adjusted Amounts (b)								
Operating profit	\$642	\$597	8	%	\$1,849	\$1,739	6	%
Operating margin	22.0	% 22.0	%		21.8	% 22.0	%	
Interest expense - net	\$41	\$43	(5)	)%	\$120			