

Aircastle LTD
Form 10-K
February 15, 2017

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-K

Annual report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2016

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 001-32959

AIRCASTLE LIMITED
(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)
Bermuda 98-0444035
(State or other Jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer
Incorporation or organization) Identification No.)
300 First Stamford Place, 5th Floor, Stamford, Connecticut 06902
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)
Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (203) 504-1020

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

Title of Each Class	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Common Shares, par value \$.01 per share	New York Stock Exchange

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

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

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 Website, 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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

Large accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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

The aggregate market value of the Registrant's Common Shares based upon the closing price on the New York Stock Exchange on June 30, 2016 (the last business day of registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter), beneficially owned by non-affiliates of the Registrant was approximately \$921.5 million. For purposes of the foregoing calculation, which is required by Form 10-K, the Registrant has included in the shares owned by affiliates those shares owned by directors and executive officers and shareholders owning 10% or more of the outstanding common shares of the Registrant, and such inclusion shall not be construed as an admission that any such person is an affiliate for any purpose.

As of February 7, 2017, there were 78,556,466 outstanding shares of the registrant's common shares, par value \$0.01 per share.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Documents of Which Portions Are Incorporated by Reference	Parts of Form 10-K into Which Portion Of Documents Are Incorporated
Proxy Statement for Aircastle Limited 2017 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders	Part III (Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14)

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**SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT UNDER THE
PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995**

All statements included or incorporated by reference in this Annual Report on Form 10-K (this “report”), other than characterizations of historical fact, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws, including the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Examples of forward-looking statements include, but are not necessarily limited to, statements relating to our ability to acquire, sell, lease or finance aircraft, raise capital, pay dividends, and increase revenues, earnings, EBITDA, Adjusted EBITDA and Adjusted Net Income and the global aviation industry and aircraft leasing sector. Words such as “anticipates,” “expects,” “intends,” “plans,” “projects,” “believes,” “may,” “will,” “would,” “could,” “should,” “seeks,” “estimates” and variations on these words and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking statements. These statements are based on our historical performance and that of our subsidiaries and on our current plans, estimates and expectations and are subject to a number of factors that could lead to actual results materially different from those described in the forward-looking statements; Aircastle can give no assurance that its expectations will be attained. Accordingly, you should not place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements which are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated as of the date of this report. These risks or uncertainties include, but are not limited to, those described from time to time in Aircastle’s filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), including as described in Item 1A, and elsewhere in this report. In addition, new risks and uncertainties emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for Aircastle to predict or assess the impact of every factor that may cause its actual results to differ from those contained in any forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this report. Aircastle expressly disclaims any obligation to revise or update publicly any forward-looking statement to reflect future events or circumstances.

WEBSITE AND ACCESS TO COMPANY’S REPORTS

The Company’s Internet website can be found at www.aircastle.com. Our annual reports on Forms 10-K, quarterly reports on Forms 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act are available free of charge through our website under “Investors — SEC Filings” as soon as reasonably practicable after they are electronically filed with, or furnished to, the SEC. Statements and information concerning our status as a Passive Foreign Investment Company (“PFIC”) for U.S. taxpayers are also available free of charge through our website under “Investors — SEC Filings”. Our Corporate Governance Guidelines, Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, and Board of Directors committee charters (including the charters of the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee) are available free of charge through our website under “Investors — Corporate Governance”. In addition, our Code of Ethics for the Chief Executive and Senior Financial Officers, which applies to our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Accounting Officer, Treasurer and Controller, is available in print, free of charge, to any shareholder upon request to Investor Relations, Aircastle Limited, c/o Aircastle Advisor LLC, 300 First Stamford Place, 5th Floor, Stamford, Connecticut 06902. The information on the Company’s website is not part of, or incorporated by reference, into this report, or any other report we file with, or furnish to, the SEC.

PART I.

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

Unless the context suggests otherwise, references in this report to “Aircastle,” the “Company,” “we,” “us,” or “our” refer to Aircastle Limited and its subsidiaries. References in this report to “Aircastle Bermuda” refer to Aircastle Holding Corporation Limited and its subsidiaries. Throughout this report, when we refer to our aircraft, we include aircraft that we have transferred into grantor trusts or similar entities for purposes of financing such assets through securitizations and term financings. These grantor trusts or similar entities are consolidated for purposes of our financial statements. All amounts in this report are expressed in U.S. dollars and the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“U.S. GAAP”).

Aircastle acquires, leases, and sells commercial jet aircraft to airlines throughout the world. As of December 31, 2016, we owned and managed on behalf of our joint ventures 206 aircraft leased to 71 lessees located in 36 countries. Our aircraft are managed by an experienced team based in the United States, Ireland and Singapore. Our aircraft are subject to net leases whereby the lessee is generally responsible for maintaining the aircraft and paying operational, maintenance and insurance costs, although in certain cases, we are obligated to pay a portion of specified maintenance or modification costs. As of December 31, 2016, the net book value of our flight equipment (including flight equipment held for lease and net investment in finance and sales-type leases, or “net book value”) was \$6.51 billion compared to \$6.07 billion at the end of 2015. Our revenues and net income for the year ended December 31, 2016 were \$773.0 million and \$151.5 million, respectively, and for the fourth quarter of 2016 were \$204.7 million and \$67.7 million, respectively.

Growth in commercial air traffic is broadly correlated with world economic activity and in recent years, has been expanding at a rate one and a half to two times that of global GDP growth. The expansion of air travel has driven a rise in the world aircraft fleet. There are currently approximately 20,000 commercial mainline passenger and freighter aircraft in operation worldwide. This fleet is expected to continue expanding at an average annual rate of three to four percent over the next twenty years. In addition, aircraft leasing companies own a significant share of the world’s commercial jet aircraft and account for approximately 41% of this fleet.

Notwithstanding the sector’s long-term growth, the aviation markets have been, and are expected to remain, subject to economic variability, as well as to changes in macroeconomic variables such as fuel price levels and foreign exchange rates. The aviation industry is susceptible to external shocks, such as regional conflicts and terrorist events. Mitigating these risks is the portability of the assets, allowing aircraft to be redeployed to locations where demand is higher.

Air traffic data for the past several years has shown strong passenger market growth. According to the International Air Transport Association, during 2016, global passenger traffic increased 6.3% compared to 2015. This strong growth was, in part, stimulated by lower air fare prices resulting from the significant drop in fuel prices. Air cargo demand, which is more sensitive to economic conditions, appears to have stabilized. During 2016, air cargo traffic increased 3.8% compared to 2015, but capacity increased 5.3%, further depressing load factors. This market continues to be hampered by oversupply arising from the rapid growth in belly cargo capacity in passenger aircraft, as well as the production of dedicated freighter aircraft.

Demand for air travel varies considerably by region. Emerging market economies have generally been experiencing significant increases in air traffic, driven by rising levels of per capita income. Air traffic growth in some regions is being driven by the proliferation of low cost carriers, which have stimulated demand through lower prices. Mature markets, such as North America and Western Europe, are likely to grow more slowly in tandem with their economies. Persian Gulf-based Emirates, Qatar Airways and Etihad Airways are also showing signs of reaching maturity, with their growth rates starting to slow. Airlines operating in areas with political instability or weakening economies, such as those in Russia, Brazil, and now Turkey, are under pressure, and their near-term outlook is more uncertain. On balance, we believe air travel will increase over time, and as a result, we expect demand for modern aircraft will continue to remain strong over the long-term.

Record low fuel prices and interest rates have had a substantial effect on our industry. In the four years between 2012 and 2016, the price of oil dropped by \$67 per barrel, allowing airlines to reduce ticket prices and stimulate aircraft traffic while retaining enough of this benefit to achieve record profit levels. We believe the prospect of fuel prices

having shifted to a lower baseline has shifted lease pricing among different types of aircraft, generally to the detriment of newer, more fuel efficient aircraft with higher capital costs. The ongoing low interest rate environment and strong overall performance of the aircraft financing sector attracted significant new capital, increasing competition for new investments. The downward

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trend in fuel prices and interest rates may, however, have ended as fuel prices started rising in 2016 and in early 2017 the price of fuel was up \$19 per barrel since January 2016. Likewise interest rates have started to rise in the U.S., with Federal Reserve guidance suggesting multiple rate hikes subsequent to the December 2016 increase in the Federal Funds rate.

Capital availability for aircraft has varied over time, and we consider this variability to be a basic characteristic of our business. If pursued properly, this represents an important source of opportunity. Both debt and equity markets have improved globally over the past several years with the recovery from the global financial crisis. Strong U.S. debt capital market conditions benefited borrowers by permitting access to financing at historic lows while higher fees have driven down export credit agency (“ECA”) demand. Recently, ECA availability has been curtailed, both in the U.S. and in Europe, due to political issues and an investigation into possible irregularities, respectively. Commercial bank debt continues to play a critical role for aircraft finance, although we believe regulatory pressures may ultimately limit its role.

While financial markets conditions are currently attractive, heightened volatility stemming from global growth concerns and various geopolitical issues may increase capital costs and limit availability going forward. We believe these market forces should generate attractive new investment and trading opportunities upon which we are well placed to capitalize given our access to different financing sources, our limited capital commitments and our reputation as a reliable trading partner. Over the longer term, our strategy is to achieve an investment grade credit rating, which we believe will reduce our borrowing costs and enable more reliable access to debt capital throughout the business cycle.

We believe our business approach is differentiated from those of other large leasing companies. Our investment strategy is to seek out the best risk-adjusted return opportunities across the commercial jet market, so our acquisition targets and growth rates will vary with market conditions. We prefer to have capital resources available to capture investment opportunities that arise in the context of changing market circumstances. As such, we limit large, long-term capital commitments and are therefore much less reliant on orders for new aircraft from aircraft manufacturers as a source of new investments. In general, we focus on discerning investment value in situations that are often more bespoke and generally less competitive.

Competitive Strengths

We believe that the following competitive strengths will allow us to capitalize on future growth opportunities in the global aviation industry:

Diversified portfolio of modern aircraft. We have a portfolio of modern aircraft that is diversified with respect to lessees, geographic markets, lease maturities and aircraft types. As of December 31, 2016, our aircraft portfolio consisted of 206 aircraft, comprising a variety of aircraft types leased to 71 lessees located in 36 countries. Lease expirations for our owned aircraft are well dispersed, with a weighted-average remaining lease term of 5.1 years as of December 31, 2016. This provides the company with a long-dated base of contracted revenues. We believe our focus on portfolio diversification reduces the risks associated with individual lessee defaults and adverse geopolitical or economic issues, and results in generally predictable cash flows.

Flexible, disciplined acquisition approach and broad investment sourcing network. We consider Aircastle to be the industry’s largest “value investor.” Our investment strategy is to seek out the best risk-adjusted return opportunities across the commercial jet market, so our acquisition targets vary with market opportunities. We source our acquisitions through well-established relationships with airlines, other aircraft lessors, manufacturers, financial institutions and other aircraft owners. Since our formation in 2004, we built our aircraft portfolio through more than 144 transactions with 84 counterparties.

Significant experience in successfully selling aircraft throughout their life cycle. Since our formation, we sold 169 aircraft for \$4.0 billion. These sales produced net gains of \$231 million and involved a wide range of aircraft types and buyers. Our team is adept at managing and executing the sale of both new and used aircraft. We sold 124 aircraft that were over fourteen years old at the time of sale; many of these being sold on a part-out disposition basis, where the airframe and engines may be sold to various buyers. We believe our competence in selling older aircraft is an essential portfolio management skill and one of the capabilities that sets us apart from many of our larger competitors.

Strong capital raising track record and access to a wide range of financing sources. Aircastle is a publicly listed company, and our shares have traded on the New York Stock Exchange since 2006. Since our inception in late 2004, we raised approximately \$1.7 billion in equity capital from private and public investors. Our two largest shareholders are Marubeni Corporation (“Marubeni”) and Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan (“Teachers”)

with whom we maintain strong, strategic relationships. We also obtained \$12.9 billion in debt capital from a variety of sources including the unsecured bond market, commercial banks, export credit agency-backed debt, and the aircraft securitization market. The diversity and global nature of our financing sources demonstrates our ability to adapt to changing market conditions and seize new opportunities.

Our capital structure is long-dated and provides investment flexibility. Our business is currently financed under debt financings with a weighted-average debt maturity of 3.7 years. We also have \$810 million available from unsecured revolving credit facilities that expire in 2019 and 2020, thereby limiting our near-term financial markets exposure.

Given our relatively limited future capital commitments, we have resources to take advantage of what we anticipate will be a more attractive investment environment. We also believe that our access to the unsecured bond market and our unsecured revolving lines of credit, due to our large unencumbered asset base, allow us to pursue a flexible and opportunistic investment strategy.

Experienced management team with significant expertise. Each member of our management team has more than twenty years of industry experience and has expertise in the acquisition, leasing, financing, technical management, restructuring/repossession and sale of aviation assets. This experience spans several industry cycles and a wide range of business conditions and is global in nature. We believe our management team is highly qualified to manage and grow our aircraft portfolio and to address our long-term capital needs.

Global and scalable business platform. We operate through offices in the United States, Ireland and Singapore, using a modern asset management system designed specifically for aircraft operating lessors and capable of handling a significantly larger aircraft portfolio. We believe that our current facilities, systems and personnel are capable of supporting an increase in our revenue base and asset base without a proportional increase in overhead costs.

Business Strategy

The overall financing environment has improved in recent years and aircraft owners have benefited from the low interest rate environment. Particularly strong conditions in the debt capital markets have provided select borrowers, including Aircastle, access to attractively priced, flexible financing. This provides us a competitive advantage over airlines and lessors that lack similar access. Moreover, supply of traditional asset-based financing from commercial banks remains volatile, particularly for older aircraft. Going forward, recent heightened financial markets volatility stemming from global growth and geopolitical concerns may increase capital costs and limit availability. This may enable more attractive investment opportunities for Aircastle.

We plan to grow our business and profits over the long-term while maintaining a countercyclical orientation, a bias towards limiting long-dated capital commitments and a conservative and flexible capital structure. Our business strategy entails the following elements:

Pursuing a disciplined and differentiated investment strategy. In our view, aircraft values change in different ways over time. We carefully evaluate investments across different aircraft models, ages, lessees and acquisition sources and re-evaluate these choices as market conditions and relative investment values change. We believe the financing flexibility offered through unsecured debt and our team's experience with a wide range of asset types enables our value oriented strategy and provides us with a competitive advantage. We view orders from equipment manufacturers to be part of our investment opportunity set, but choose to limit long term capital commitments unless we believe there is an adequate return premium to compensate for risks and opportunity costs. This approach sets us apart from most other large aircraft leasing companies.

Originating investments from many different sources across the globe. Our strategy is to seek out worthwhile investments by leveraging our team's wide range of contacts around the world. We utilize a multi-channel approach to sourcing acquisitions and have purchased aircraft from a large number of airlines, lessors, original equipment manufacturers, lenders and other aircraft owners.

Selling assets when attractive opportunities arise and for portfolio management purposes. We sell assets with the aim of realizing profits and reinvesting proceeds when more accretive investments are available. We also use asset sales for portfolio management purposes, such as reducing lessee specific concentrations and lowering residual value exposures to certain aircraft types, and as an exit from investments when a sale generates the greatest expected cash flow.

Maintaining efficient access to capital from a wide set of sources while targeting an investment grade credit rating.
• We believe the aircraft investment market is influenced by the business cycle. Our strategy is to increase

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our purchase activity when prices are low and to emphasize asset sales when competition for assets is high. To implement this approach, we believe it is important to maintain access to a wide variety of financing sources. Our strategy is to improve our corporate credit ratings to an investment grade level by maintaining strong portfolio and capital structure metrics while achieving a critical size through accretive growth. We believe improving our credit rating will not only reduce our borrowing costs but also facilitate more reliable access to both secured and unsecured debt capital throughout the business cycle.

Leveraging our strategic relationships. We intend to capture the benefits provided through the extensive global contacts and relationships maintained by Marubeni, which is our biggest shareholder and one of the largest Japanese trading companies. Marubeni has already enabled greater access to Japanese-based financing and helped source and develop our new joint venture (“IBJ Air”) with the leasing arm of the Industrial Bank of Japan, Limited (“IBJL”). Our Lancaster joint venture with Teachers’ (“Lancaster”) provides us with an opportunity to pursue larger transactions, manage portfolio concentrations and improve our return on deployed capital. IBJ Air is targeted at newer narrow-body aircraft leased to premier airlines, providing Aircastle with increased access to this market sector and to these customers.

Capturing the value of our efficient operating platform and strong operating track record. We believe our team’s capabilities in the global aircraft leasing market places us in a favorable position to source and manage new income-generating activities. We intend to continue to focus our efforts in areas where we believe we have competitive advantages, including new direct investments as well as ventures with strategic business partners. Intending to pay quarterly dividends to our shareholders based on the Company’s sustainable earnings levels. Aircastle has paid dividends each quarter since our initial public offering in 2006. On October 28, 2016, our Board of Directors declared a regular quarterly dividend of \$0.26 per common share, or an aggregate of \$20.4 million for the three months ended December 31, 2016, which was paid on December 15, 2016 to holders of record on November 29, 2016. These dividend amounts may not be indicative of any future dividends. Our ability to pay quarterly dividends will depend upon many factors, including those as described in Item 1A. “Risk Factors” and elsewhere in this report.

Declaration Date	Dividend per Common Share	Aggregate Dividend Amount (Dollars in thousands)	Record Date	Payment Date
October 28, 2016	\$ 0.260	\$ 20,434	November 29, 2016	December 15, 2016
August 2, 2016	\$ 0.240	\$ 18,872	August 26, 2016	September 15, 2016
May 2, 2016	\$ 0.240	\$ 18,915	May 31, 2016	June 15, 2016
February 9, 2016	\$ 0.240	\$ 18,915	February 29, 2016	March 15, 2016
October 30, 2015	\$ 0.240	\$ 19,377	November 30, 2015	December 15, 2015
August 4, 2015	\$ 0.220	\$ 17,860	August 31, 2015	September 15, 2015
May 4, 2015	\$ 0.220	\$ 17,863	May 29, 2015	June 15, 2015
February 17, 2015	\$ 0.220	\$ 17,860	March 6, 2015	March 13, 2015
October 31, 2014	\$ 0.220	\$ 17,817	November 28, 2014	December 15, 2014
July 28, 2014	\$ 0.200	\$ 16,201	August 29, 2014	September 12, 2014
May 5, 2014	\$ 0.200	\$ 16,202	May 30, 2014	June 13, 2014
February 21, 2014	\$ 0.200	\$ 16,201	March 7, 2014	

March 14,
2014

We believe our team's capabilities in the global aircraft leasing market place us in a favorable position to explore new income-generating activities as capital becomes available for such activities. We intend to continue to focus our efforts on investment opportunities in areas where we believe we have competitive advantages and on transactions that offer attractive risk/return profiles after taking into consideration available financing options. In any case, there can be no assurance that we will be able to access capital on a cost-effective basis and a failure to do so could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Acquisitions and Sales

We originate acquisitions and sales through well-established relationships with airlines, other aircraft lessors, financial institutions and brokers, as well as other sources. We believe that sourcing such transactions globally through multiple channels provides for a broad and relatively consistent set of opportunities.

Our objective is to develop and maintain a diverse and stable operating lease portfolio. We review our operating lease portfolio to sell aircraft opportunistically, to manage our portfolio diversification and to exit from aircraft investments when we believe selling will achieve better expected risk-adjusted cash flows than reinvesting in and re-leasing the aircraft. See “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Overview — Acquisitions and Sales.”

We have an experienced acquisitions and sales team based in Stamford, Connecticut; Dublin, Ireland and Singapore that maintains strong relationships with a wide variety of market participants throughout the world. We believe that our seasoned personnel and extensive industry contacts facilitate our access to acquisition and sales opportunities and that our strong operating track record facilitates our access to debt and equity capital markets.

Potential investments and sales are evaluated by teams comprised of marketing, technical, risk management, financial and legal professionals. These teams consider a variety of aspects before we commit to purchase or sell an aircraft, including price, specification/configuration, age, condition and maintenance history, operating efficiency, lease terms, financial condition and liquidity of the lessee, jurisdiction, industry trends and future redeployment potential and values, among other factors. We believe that utilizing a cross-functional team of experts to consider investment parameters helps us assess more completely the overall risk and return profile of potential acquisitions and helps us move forward expeditiously on letters of intent and acquisition documentation.

Finance

We intend to fund new investments through cash on hand, cash flows from operations, our revolving credit facilities and medium to long-term financings. We may repay all or a portion of such borrowings from time to time with the net proceeds from subsequent long-term debt financings, additional equity offerings, cash generated from operations and asset sales. Therefore, our ability to execute our business strategy, particularly the acquisition of additional commercial jet aircraft or other aviation assets, depends to a significant degree on our ability to obtain additional debt and equity capital on terms we deem attractive.

See “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources — Secured Debt Financings” and “ — Unsecured Debt Financings” under Item 7.

Segments

The Company manages, analyzes and reports on its business and results of operations on the basis of one operating segment: leasing, financing, selling and managing commercial flight equipment. Our chief executive officer is the chief operating decision maker.

Aircraft Leases

Nearly all of our aircraft are contracted on operating leases. Under an operating lease, we retain the benefit, and bear the risk, of re-leasing and of the residual value of the aircraft at the end of the lease. Operating leasing can be an attractive alternative to ownership for an airline because leasing increases their fleet flexibility, requires lower capital commitments, and significantly reduces aircraft residual value risks. Under these leases, the lessee agrees to lease an aircraft for a fixed term, although certain of our operating leases allow the lessee the option to extend the lease for an additional term or, in rare cases, terminate the lease prior to its expiration. As a percentage of lease rental revenue for the year ended December 31, 2016, our four largest customers, Lion Air, LATAM Airlines Group, Avianca Brazil and South African Airways, accounted for 7%, 6%, 6% and 5%, respectively.

The scheduled maturities of our aircraft leases by aircraft type grouping currently are as follows, taking into account lease placement and renewal commitments as of February 7, 2017:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Sale at Lease End	Total
A319/A320/A321	1	2	10	17	12	6	11	9	4	3	2	3	1	—	81
A330-200/300	1	—	5	1	5	1	1	2	3	2	1	—	—	—	22
737-700/800/900ER	—	6	11	9	7	13	4	5	4	—	4	—	—	—	63
757-200	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
777-200ER/300ER	—	2	2	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	8
E195	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Freighters	2	4	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Total	4	14	28	27	25	21	19	21	12	5	7	3	1	6	193

2017 Lease Expirations and Lease Placements

We began 2017 with seventeen aircraft having scheduled lease expirations in 2017 and three off-lease aircraft. As of February 7, 2017, we have lease commitments or letters of intent to lease or sell sixteen of these aircraft. The remaining four aircraft, which account for 2.9% of our net book value at December 31, 2016, represent our best estimate for the aircraft which we will need to place on lease or sell this year.

2018-2021 Lease Expirations and Lease Placements

Taking into account lease and sale commitments, we currently have the following number of aircraft with lease expirations scheduled in the period 2018-2021, representing the percentage of our net book value at December 31, 2016, specified below:

2018: 14 aircraft, representing 9%;

2019: 28 aircraft, representing 16%;

2020: 27 aircraft, representing 9%; and

2021: 25 aircraft, representing 12%.

Lease Payments and Security. Each of our leases requires the lessee to pay periodic rentals during the lease term. As of December 31, 2016, rentals on more than 93% of our leases then in effect, as a percentage of net book value, are fixed and do not vary according to changes in interest rates. For the remaining leases, rentals are payable on a floating interest-rate basis. Most lease rentals are payable monthly in advance, and all lease rentals are payable in U.S. dollars. Under our leases, the lessee must pay operating expenses accrued or payable during the term of the lease, which normally include maintenance, overhaul, fuel, crew, landing, airport and navigation charges, certain taxes, licenses, consents and approvals, aircraft registration and insurance premiums. Typically, the lessee is required to make payments for heavy maintenance, overhaul or replacement of certain high-value components of the aircraft. These maintenance payments are based on hours or cycles of utilization or on calendar time, depending upon the component, and are required to be made monthly in arrears or at the end of the lease term. Our determination of whether to permit a lessee to make a single maintenance payment at the end of the lease term, rather than requiring such payments to be made monthly, depends on a variety of factors, including the creditworthiness of the lessee, the amount of security deposit which may be provided by the lessee and market conditions at the time. If a lessee is making monthly maintenance payments, we would typically be obligated to use the funds paid by the lessee during the lease term to reimburse the lessee for costs they incur for heavy maintenance, overhaul or replacement of certain high-value components, usually shortly following completion of the relevant work. If a lease requires an end of lease term maintenance payment, typically the lessee would be required to pay us for its utilization of the aircraft during the lease. In some cases, however, we may owe a net payment to the lessee in the event heavy maintenance is performed and paid for by the lessee during the lease term and the aircraft is returned to us in better condition than at lease inception.

Many of our leases also contain provisions requiring us to pay a portion of the cost of modifications to the aircraft performed by the lessee at its expense, if such modifications are mandated by recognized airworthiness authorities. Typically, these provisions would set a threshold, below which the lessee would not have a right to seek reimbursement and above which we may be required to pay a portion of the cost incurred by the lessee. The lessees are obliged to remove liens on the aircraft other than liens permitted under the leases.

Our leases generally provide that the lessees' payment obligations are absolute and unconditional under any and all circumstances and require lessees to make payments without withholding payment on account of any amounts the lessor may owe the lessee or any claims the lessee may have against the lessor for any reason, except that under certain of the leases a breach of quiet enjoyment by the lessor may permit a lessee to withhold payment. The leases also generally include an obligation of the lessee to gross up payments under the lease where lease payments are subject to withholding and other taxes, although there may be some limitations to the gross up obligation, including provisions which do not require a lessee to gross up payments if the withholdings arise out of our ownership or tax structure. In addition, changes in law may result in the imposition of withholding and other taxes and charges that are not reimbursable by the lessee under the lease or that cannot be so reimbursed under applicable law. Lessees may fail to reimburse us even when obligated under the lease to do so. Our leases also generally require the lessee to indemnify the lessor for tax liabilities relating to the leases and the aircraft, including in most cases, value added tax and stamp duties, but excluding income tax or its equivalent imposed on the lessor.

Portfolio Risk Management

Our objective is to build and maintain a lease portfolio which is balanced and diversified and delivers returns commensurate with risk. We have portfolio concentration objectives to assist in portfolio risk management and highlight areas where action to mitigate risk may be appropriate, and take into account the following:

- individual lessee exposures;
- geographic concentrations;
- aircraft type concentrations;
- portfolio credit quality distribution; and
- lease maturity distribution.

We have a risk management team which undertakes detailed due diligence on lessees when aircraft are being acquired with a lease already in place and for placement of aircraft with new lessees following lease expiration or termination.

Lease Management and Remarketing

Our aircraft re-leasing strategy is to develop opportunities proactively, well in advance of scheduled lease expiration, to enable consideration of a broad set of alternatives, including deployment, sale or part-out, and to allow for reconfiguration or maintenance lead times where needed. We also take a proactive approach to monitoring the credit quality of our customers, and may seek early return and redeployment of aircraft if we feel that a lessee is unlikely to perform its obligations under a lease. We have invested significant resources in developing and implementing what we consider to be state-of-the-art lease management information systems and processes to enable efficient management of aircraft in our portfolio.

Other Aviation Assets and Alternative New Business Approaches

We believe investment opportunities may arise in related areas such as financing secured by commercial jet aircraft as well as jet engine and spare parts leasing, trading and financing. In the future, we may make opportunistic investments in these or other sectors or in other aviation-related assets, and we intend to continue to explore other income-generating activities and investments.

We established Lancaster, a joint venture with Teachers' in December 2013 to invest in leased aircraft. This joint venture is aimed at leveraging our capabilities and allowing us to pursue larger opportunities than we would have on our own. At February 7, 2017, Teachers' holds 10.0% of our outstanding common shares.

In February 2016, through the Company's relationship with Marubeni, we established IBJ Air, a new joint venture with the leasing arm of IBJL. IBJ Air is targeted at newer narrow-body aircraft leased to premier airlines, providing Aircastle with increased access to this market sector and to these customers.

We source and service investments for Lancaster and IBJ Air and provide marketing, asset management and administrative services to them. We are paid market-based fees for those services, which are recorded in Other revenue in our Consolidated Statements of Income.

We believe we have a world class servicing platform and may also pursue opportunities to capitalize on these capabilities such as providing aircraft management services for third party aircraft owners.

Competition

The aircraft leasing and trading industry is highly competitive with a significant number of active participants. We face competition for the acquisition of aircraft from airlines and other aircraft owners, for the placement of aircraft on lease with airlines and for buyers of aircraft assets which we may wish to divest.

Competition for aircraft acquisitions comes from large established aircraft leasing companies, smaller players, and new entrants. The improvement in financial markets conditions over the past several years has increased competition across most asset types and has drawn many new investors to our business.

Larger lessors are generally more focused on acquiring new aircraft via purchase and lease-back transactions with airlines and through direct orders with the original equipment manufacturers. These larger lessors include GE Capital Aviation Services, AerCap Holdings, Air Lease Corporation, Aviation Capital Group, CIT Aerospace, SMBC Aviation Capital, BOC Aviation and Avolon Holdings/Bohai Leasing. In addition, several major Asian financial institutions have entered the market for new aircraft over the past several years through new leasing subsidiaries and have been pursuing business aggressively.

Many aircraft leasing companies appear to be in the midst of significant changes, which have the potential to affect the industry structure. Bank of China completed an initial public offering for their leasing subsidiary, BOC Aviation, in May 2016. After acquiring Avolon Holdings in 2015, Bohai Leasing, a Chinese leasing company affiliated with HNA Group, announced an agreement to acquire CIT Aerospace in October 2016, subject to various regulatory approvals. AWAS' ownership group is reported to be exploring exit alternatives.

Competition for mid-aged and older aircraft typically comes from smaller players that, in many cases, rely on private equity or hedge fund capital sources. Such competitors include Apollo Aviation Group, Deucalion, Castlake, Alterna Capital Partners and a number of relatively new players funded by alternative investment funds and companies. These companies are typically fund-based, rather than having permanent capital structures, and have benefited from the substantially improved availability of debt financing for mid-aged aircraft.

Competition for leasing or re-leasing of aircraft, as well as aircraft sales, is based principally upon the availability, type and condition of aircraft, lease rates, prices and other lease terms. Aircraft manufacturers, airlines and other operators, distributors, equipment managers, leasing companies, financial institutions and other parties engaged in leasing, managing, marketing or remarketing aircraft compete with us, although their focus may be on different market segments and aircraft types.

Some of our competitors have, or may obtain, greater financial resources than we have and may have a lower cost of capital. A number also commit to speculative orders of new aircraft to be placed on operating lease upon delivery from the manufacturer, which compete with new and used aircraft offered by other lessors. However, we believe that we are able to compete favorably in aircraft acquisition, leasing and sales activities due to the reputation of our team of experienced professionals, extensive market contacts and expertise in sourcing and acquiring aircraft. We also believe our access of unsecured capital markets debt provides us with a competitive advantage in pursuing investments quickly and reliably and in acquiring aircraft in situations for which it may be more difficult to finance on a secured, non-recourse basis.

Employees

As of December 31, 2016, we had 102 employees. None of our employees are covered by a collective bargaining agreement, and we believe that we maintain excellent employee relations. We provide certain employee benefits, including retirement benefits, and health, life, disability and accident insurance plans.

Insurance

We require our lessees to carry airline general third-party legal liability insurance, all-risk aircraft hull insurance (both with respect to the aircraft and with respect to each engine when not installed on our aircraft) and war-risk hull and legal liability insurance. We are named as an additional insured on liability insurance policies carried by our lessees, and we or one of our lenders would typically be designated as a loss payee in the event of a total loss of the aircraft. We maintain contingent hull and liability insurance coverage with respect to our aircraft which is intended to provide coverage for certain risks, including the risk of cancellation of the hull or liability insurance maintained by any of our lessees without notice to us, but which excludes coverage for other risks such as the risk of insolvency of the primary insurer or reinsurer.

We maintain insurance policies to cover non-aviation risks related to physical damage to our equipment and property, as well as with respect to third-party liabilities arising through the course of our normal business operations (other than aircraft operations). We also maintain limited business interruption insurance to cover a portion of the costs we would expect to incur in connection with a disruption to our main facilities, and we maintain directors' and officers' liability insurance providing coverage for liabilities related to the service of our directors, officers and certain employees. Consistent with industry practice, our insurance policies are generally subject to deductibles or self-retention amounts.

We believe the insurance coverage currently carried by our lessees and by Aircastle provides adequate protection against the accident-related and other covered risks involved in the conduct of our business. However, there can be no assurance that we have adequately insured against all risks, that lessees will at all times comply with their obligations to maintain insurance, that our lessees' insurers and re-insurers will be or will remain solvent and able to satisfy any claims, that any particular claim will ultimately be paid or that we will be able to procure adequate insurance coverage at commercially reasonable rates in the future.

Government Regulation

The air transportation industry is highly regulated. In general, we are not directly subject to most air transportation regulations because we do not operate aircraft. In contrast, our lessees are subject to extensive, direct regulation under the laws of the jurisdictions in which they are registered and under which they operate. Such laws govern, among other things, the registration, operation, security, and maintenance of our aircraft, as well as environmental and financial oversight regulation of their operations.

Our customers may also be subject to noise or emissions regulations in the jurisdictions in which they operate our aircraft. In July 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") determined that Greenhouse Gas ("GHG") emissions from certain aircraft engines contribute to the pollution that causes climate change and endangers Americans' health and the environment. The findings are for carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆). At that time, the EPA indicated its intention to promulgate new rules to adopt GHG standards promulgated by the International Civil Aviation Organization ("ICAO"). In October 2016, ICAO adopted a global market-based measure to control CO₂ emissions from international aviation. The pilot phase of this measure will begin in 2021, and the mandatory phase begins in 2027. In addition, European countries generally have strict environmental regulations, and, in particular, the European Union ("E.U.") has included flights originating or landing in the E.U. in the European Emissions Trading Scheme ("ETS"). The United States, China and other countries continue to oppose the inclusion of aviation emissions in ETS. Other environmental regulations our customers may be subject to include those relating to discharges to surface and subsurface waters, management of hazardous substances, oils, and waste materials, and other regulations affecting their aircraft operations.

Inflation

Inflation affects our lease rentals, asset values and costs, including SG&A expenses and other expenses. We do not believe that our financial results have been, or will be, adversely affected by inflation in a material way.

Subsequent Events

The Company's management has reviewed and evaluated all events or transactions for potential recognition and/or disclosure since the balance sheet date of December 31, 2016 through the date of this filing, the date on which the

consolidated financial statements included in this Form 10-K were issued.

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ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information set forth in this report, you should carefully consider the following factors, which could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations or ability to pay dividends in future periods or to meet our debt obligations. The risks described below are not the only risks facing our Company. Additional risks not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations or ability to pay dividends in future periods.

Risks Related to Our Business

Risks Related to Our Operations

Volatile financial market conditions may adversely impact our liquidity, our access to capital and our cost of capital and may adversely impact the airline industry and the financial condition of our lessees.

The financial crisis that began in the second half of 2008 resulted in significant global market volatility and disruption and a lack of liquidity. While these conditions have stabilized and many segments of the capital markets have improved substantially since the first quarter of 2009, the availability and pricing of capital in the commercial bank market and in the unsecured bond market remain susceptible to global events, including, for example, political changes in the U.S. and abroad, rising interest rates, a strengthening dollar, the rate of China's economic growth and implications from changes in oil prices. If we need, but cannot obtain, adequate capital on satisfactory terms, or at all, as a result of negative conditions in the capital markets or otherwise, our business, financial condition, results of operations or our ability to pay dividends to our shareholders could be materially adversely affected. Additionally, such inability to obtain capital on satisfactory terms, or at all, could prevent us from pursuing attractive future growth opportunities.

Risks affecting the airline industry may adversely affect our customers and have a material adverse impact on our financial results.

We operate as a supplier to airlines and are indirectly impacted by all the risks facing airlines today. The ability of each lessee to perform its obligations under the relevant lease will depend primarily on the lessee's financial condition and cash flow, which may be affected by factors beyond our control, including:

- passenger and air cargo demand;
- competition;
- passenger fare levels and air cargo rates;
- the continuing availability of government support, whether through subsidies, loans, guarantees, equity investments or otherwise;
- availability of financing and other circumstances affecting airline liquidity, including covenants in financings, terms imposed by credit card issuers, collateral posting requirements contained in fuel hedging contracts and the ability of airlines to make or refinance principal payments as they come due;
- geopolitical and other events, including war, acts or threats of terrorism, outbreaks of epidemic diseases and natural disasters;
- aircraft accidents;
- operating costs, including the price and availability of jet fuel, labor costs and insurance costs and coverages;
- restrictions in labor contracts and labor difficulties;
- economic conditions, including recession, financial system distress and currency fluctuations in the countries and regions in which the lessee operates or from which the lessee obtains financing;
- changing political conditions, including risk of rising protectionism, restrictions on immigration or imposition of new trade barriers;
- cyber risk, including information hacking, viruses and malware; and
- governmental regulation of, or affecting the air transportation business, including noise regulations, emissions regulations, climate change initiatives, and aircraft age limitations.

These factors, and others, may lead to defaults by our customers, or may delay or prevent aircraft deliveries or transitions, result in payment restructurings or other lease term restructurings, and may increase our costs from repossessions and reduce our revenues due to downtime or lower re-lease rates.

We bear the risk of re-leasing and selling our aircraft in order to meet our debt obligations, finance our growth and operations, pay dividends and, ultimately, realize upon the investment in the aircraft in our portfolio.

We bear the risk of re-leasing and selling or otherwise disposing of our aircraft in order to continue to generate revenues. In certain cases we commit to purchase aircraft that are not subject to lease and therefore are subject to lease placement risk. Because only a portion of an aircraft's value is covered by contractual cash flows from an operating lease, we are exposed to the risk that the residual value of the aircraft will not be sufficient to permit us to fully recover or realize a gain on our investment in the aircraft and to the risk that we may have to record impairment charges. Further, our ability to re-lease, lease or sell aircraft on favorable terms, or at all, or without significant off-lease time and transition costs is likely to be adversely impacted by risks affecting the airline industry generally. Other factors that may affect our ability to realize upon the investment in our aircraft and that may increase the likelihood of impairment charges, include higher fuel prices which may reduce demand for older, less fuel efficient aircraft, additional environmental regulations, age restrictions, customer preferences and other factors that may effectively shorten the useful life of older aircraft.

We own and lease long-lived assets and have written down the value of some of our assets in prior years, and if market conditions worsen, or in the event of a customer default, we may be required to record further write-downs. We test our assets for recoverability whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amounts for such assets are not recoverable from their expected, undiscounted cash flows. We also perform a fleet-wide recoverability assessment annually. This recoverability assessment is a comparison of the carrying value of each aircraft to its undiscounted expected future cash flows. We develop the assumptions used in the recoverability assessment, including those relating to current and future demand for each aircraft type, based on management's experience in the aircraft leasing industry as well as from information received from third party sources.

If anticipated aircraft lease cash flows or sales values worsen due to a decline in market conditions, or if a lessee defaults, we may have to reassess the carrying value of one or more of our aircraft. For example, as aircraft approach the end of their economic useful lives, their carrying values may be more susceptible to non-recoverable declines in value because such assets will have a shorter opportunity in which to benefit from a market recovery. At December 31, 2016, our monitoring list consisted of thirteen aircraft with a total net book value of \$549.2 million, which represents aircraft that may be more susceptible to future impairments. As such, it is possible that additional impairments may be triggered for these aircraft and any such impairment amounts may be material.

Our financial reporting for lease revenue may be significantly impacted by a proposed new model for lease accounting.

On February 25, 2016, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 842, "Leases," which replaced the existing guidance in ASC 840, Leases ("ASC 840"). The accounting for leases by lessors basically remained unchanged from the concepts that existed in ASC 840 accounting. The FASB decided that lessors would be precluded from recognizing selling profit and revenue at lease commencement for any sales-type or direct finance lease that does not transfer control of the underlying asset to the lessee. This requirement aligns the notion of what constitutes a sale in the lessor accounting guidance with that in the forthcoming revenue recognition standard, which evaluates whether a sale has occurred from the customer's perspective. The standard will be effective for public entities beginning after December 15, 2018. The standard is applied on a "modified retrospective" basis. We plan to adopt the standard on its required effective date of January 1, 2019. We are evaluating the impact that ASC 842 will have on our consolidated financial statements and related disclosures. Although we do not believe that the adoption of the standard will significantly impact our existing or potential lessees' economic decisions to lease aircraft, the ultimate impact on our existing or potential lessees remains uncertain.

Our ability to obtain debt financing and our cost of debt financing is, in part, dependent upon our credit ratings and a credit downgrade could adversely impact our financial results.

Our ability to obtain debt financing and our cost of debt financing is dependent, in part, on our credit ratings. Maintaining our credit ratings depends in part on strong financial results and in part on other factors, including the outlook of the ratings agencies on our sector and on the market generally. A credit rating downgrade may result in higher pricing or less favorable terms under secured financings, including ECA backed financings, or may make it more difficult or more costly for us to

raise debt financing in the unsecured bond market. Credit rating downgrades may therefore make it more difficult and/or more costly to satisfy our funding requirements. In addition, any future tightening or regulation of financial institutions (such as BASEL 4), including increasing capital reserves, could impact our ability to raise funds in the commercial bank loan market in the future.

An increase in our borrowing costs may adversely affect our earnings and cash available for distribution to our shareholders.

Our aircraft are financed under long-term debt financings. As these financings mature, we will be required to either refinance these instruments by entering into new financings, which could result in higher borrowing costs, or repay them by using cash on hand or cash from the sale of our assets.

Departure of key officers could harm our business and financial results.

Our senior management's reputations and relationships with lessees, sellers, buyers and financiers of aircraft are a critical element of our business. We encounter intense competition for qualified employees from other companies in the aircraft leasing industry, and we believe there are only a limited number of available qualified executives in our industry. The Company seeks to retain a pipeline of senior management personnel with superior talent to provide continuity of succession, including for the Chief Executive Officer position and other senior positions. In addition, our Board of Directors is involved in succession planning, including review of short- and long-term succession plans for the Chief Executive Officer and other senior positions. Our future success depends, to a significant extent, upon the continued service of our senior management personnel, including the Chief Executive Officer and his potential successors, and if we lose one or more of these individuals, our business could be adversely affected.

We may not be able to pay or maintain dividends, or we may choose not to pay dividends, and the failure to pay or maintain dividends may adversely affect our share price.

On October 28, 2016, our Board of Directors declared a regular quarterly dividend of \$0.26 per common share, or an aggregate of approximately \$20.4 million, which was paid on December 15, 2016 to holders of record on November 29, 2016. This dividend may not be indicative of the amount of any future quarterly dividends. Our ability to pay, maintain or increase cash dividends to our shareholders is subject to the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend on many factors, including: our ability to comply with financial covenants in our financing documents that limit our ability to pay dividends and make certain other restricted payments; the difficulty we may experience in raising, and the cost of, additional capital and our ability to finance our aircraft acquisition commitments; our ability to re-finance our long-term financings; our ability to negotiate and enforce favorable lease rates and other contractual terms; the level of demand for our aircraft in the lease placement or sales markets; the economic condition of the commercial aviation industry generally; the financial condition and liquidity of our lessees; unexpected or increased aircraft maintenance or other expenses; the level and timing of capital expenditures, principal repayments and other capital needs; maintaining our credit ratings, our results of operations, financial condition and liquidity; legal restrictions on the payment of dividends, including a statutory dividend test and other limitations under Bermuda law; and general business conditions and other factors that our Board of Directors deems relevant. Some of these factors are beyond our control. In the future, we may choose to not pay dividends or may not be able to pay dividends, maintain our current level of dividends, or increase them over time. The failure to maintain or pay dividends may adversely affect our share price.

We are subject to risks related to our indebtedness that may limit our operational flexibility and our ability to compete with our competitors.

As of December 31, 2016, our total indebtedness was approximately \$4.5 billion, representing approximately 71.1% of our total capitalization. Aircastle Limited has guaranteed most of this indebtedness and we are responsible on a full recourse basis for timely payment when due and compliance with covenants under the related debt documentation. As a result of our substantial amount of indebtedness, we may be unable to generate sufficient cash to pay, when due, the principal of, interest on or other amounts due with respect to our indebtedness, and our substantial amount of indebtedness may increase our vulnerability to adverse economic and industry conditions, reduce our flexibility in planning for or reaction to changes in the business environment or in our business or industry, and adversely affect our cash flow and our ability to operate our business and compete with our competitors.

Our indebtedness subjects us to certain risks, including:

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29% of our net book value serves as collateral for our secured indebtedness, and the terms of certain of our indebtedness require us to use proceeds from sales of aircraft, in part, to repay amounts outstanding under such indebtedness;

our failure to comply with the terms of our indebtedness, including restrictive covenants contained therein, may result in additional interest being due or defaults that could result in the acceleration of the principal, and unpaid interest on, the defaulted debt, as well as the forfeiture of any aircraft pledged as collateral; and

- non-compliance with covenants prohibiting certain investments and other restricted payments, including limitations on our ability to pay dividends, repurchase our common shares, raise additional capital or refinance our existing debt, may reduce our operational flexibility and limit our ability to refinance or grow the business.

Risks Related to Our Long-term Financings

The provisions of our long-term financings require us to comply with financial and other covenants. Our compliance with these ratios, tests and covenants depends upon, among other things, the timely receipt of lease payments from our lessees and upon our overall financial performance.

ECA Financings. Our ECA Financings contain a \$500 million minimum net worth covenant and also contain, among other customary provisions, a material adverse change default and a cross-default to certain other financings of the Company.

Bank Financings. Our secured bank financings contain, among other customary provisions, a \$500 million minimum net worth covenant, a cross-default to certain other financings of the Company, and for one portfolio financing, a minimum debt service coverage ratio of 1.15.

Senior Notes. Our senior notes indentures impose operating and financial restrictions on our activities. These restrictions limit our ability to, or in certain cases prohibit us from, incurring or guaranteeing additional indebtedness, refinancing our existing indebtedness, paying dividends, repurchasing our common shares, making other restricted payments, making certain investments or entering into joint ventures and a cross-default to certain other financings of the Company.

Unsecured Revolving Credit Facilities and Loan. Our unsecured revolving credit facilities/loan contain \$750 million minimum net worth covenants, minimum unencumbered asset ratios, minimum interest coverage ratios and cross-defaults to certain other financings of the Company.

The terms of our financings also restrict our ability to incur or guarantee additional indebtedness or engage in mergers, amalgamations or consolidations among our subsidiary companies or between a subsidiary company and a third party or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets.

We are subject to various risks and requirements associated with transacting business in foreign jurisdictions.

The international nature of our business exposes us to trade and economic sanctions and other restrictions imposed by the U.S. and other governments. The U.S. Departments of Justice, Commerce and Treasury, as well as other agencies and authorities have a broad range of civil and criminal penalties they may seek to impose against companies for violations of export controls, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act ("FCPA"), and other federal statutes, sanctions and regulations, including those established by the Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") and, increasingly, similar or more restrictive foreign laws, rules and regulations, including the U.K. Bribery Act ("UKBA"), which may also apply to us. By virtue of these laws and regulations, and under laws and regulations in other jurisdictions, we may be obliged to limit our business activities, we may incur costs for compliance programs and we may be subject to enforcement actions or penalties for noncompliance. In recent years, U.S. and foreign governments have increased their oversight and enforcement activities with respect to these laws, and we expect the relevant agencies to continue to increase these activities.

We have compliance policies and training programs in place for our employees with respect to FCPA, OFAC Regulations, UKBA and similar laws, but there can be no assurance that our employees, consultants or agents will not engage in conduct for which we may be held responsible. Violations of FCPA, OFAC Regulations, UKBA and other laws, sanctions or regulations may result in severe criminal or civil penalties, and we may be subject to other liabilities.

We are dependent upon information technology systems, which are subject to disruption, damage, failure and risks associated with implementation and integration.

We are dependent upon information technology systems to manage, process, store and transmit information associated with our operations, which may include proprietary business information and personally identifiable information of our customers and employees. Our information technology systems are subject to disruption, damage or failure from a variety of sources, including, without limitation, computer viruses, security breaches, cyber-attacks, employee error, natural disasters and defects in design. Damage, disruption, or failure of one or more information technology systems may result in interruptions to our operations in the interim or may require a significant investment to fix or replace them or may result in significant damage to our reputation. Although various measures have been implemented to manage our risks related to the information technology systems and network disruptions, a cyber-attack could lead to the loss of sensitive information, including our own proprietary information or that of our customers and employees, and could harm our reputation and result in lost revenues and additional costs and potential liabilities.

Risks Related to Our Aviation Assets

The variability of supply and demand for aircraft could depress lease rates for our aircraft, which would have an adverse effect on our financial results and growth prospects.

The aircraft leasing and sales industry has experienced periods of aircraft oversupply and undersupply. In recent years, we believe the market has been characterized by oversupply of certain older, less fuel efficient aircraft and certain freighter aircraft types. More recently, the values of certain types of wide-body aircraft have been under stress but it is unclear whether this is a temporary market imbalance or a long term trend. The oversupply of a specific type of aircraft in the market is likely to depress aircraft lease rates for, and the value of, that type of aircraft.

The supply and demand for aircraft is affected by various cyclical and non-cyclical factors that are not under our control, including:

- passenger and air cargo demand;
- operating costs, including fuel costs, and general economic conditions affecting our lessees' operations;
- geopolitical events, including war, prolonged armed conflict and acts of terrorism;
- outbreaks of communicable diseases and natural disasters;
- governmental regulation;
- interest rates;
- foreign exchange rates;
- tariffs and other restrictions on trade;
- airline restructurings and bankruptcies;
- the availability of credit;
- changes in control of, or restructurings of, other aircraft leasing companies;
- manufacturer production levels and technological innovation;
- discounting by manufacturers on aircraft types nearing end of production;
- climate change initiatives, technological change, aircraft noise and emissions regulations, aircraft age limits and other factors leading to reduced demand for, early retirement or obsolescence of aircraft models;
- manufacturers merging, exiting the industry or ceasing to produce aircraft types;
- new-entrant manufacturers producing additional aircraft models, or existing manufacturers producing newly engineered aircraft models or new aircraft models, in competition with existing aircraft models;
- reintroduction into service of aircraft previously in storage; and
- airport and air traffic control infrastructure constraints.

These and other factors may produce sharp decreases or increases in aircraft values and lease rates, which would impact our cost of acquiring aircraft and our ability to grow the business, or which may result in lease defaults and also prevent the aircraft from being re-leased or sold on favorable terms. This could have an adverse effect on our financial results and growth prospects.

Other factors that increase the risk of decline in aircraft value and lease rates could have an adverse effect on our financial results and growth prospects.

In addition to factors linked to the aviation industry generally, other factors that may affect the value and lease rates of our aircraft include:

- the age of the aircraft;
- the particular maintenance and operating history of the airframe and engines;
- the number of operators using that type of aircraft;
- whether the aircraft is subject to a lease and, if so, whether the lease terms are favorable to us;
- applicable airworthiness directives or manufacturer's service bulletins that have not yet been performed to the aircraft;
- grounding orders or other regulatory action that could prevent or limit utilization of our aircraft;
- any regulatory and legal requirements that must be satisfied before the aircraft can be purchased, sold or re-leased; and
- compatibility of our aircraft configurations or specifications with those desired by the operators of other aircraft of that type.

Any decrease in the values of and lease rates for commercial aircraft which may result from the above factors or other unanticipated factors may have a material adverse effect on our financial results and growth prospects.

The advent of superior aircraft technology and higher production levels could cause our existing aircraft portfolio to become outdated and therefore less desirable.

As manufacturers introduce technological innovations and new types of aircraft, including the Boeing 787, the Airbus A350, the Bombardier C Series and re-engined and/or replacement types for the Boeing 737, Boeing 777, Airbus A320, Airbus A330 and Embraer E-Jet families of aircraft, certain aircraft in our existing aircraft portfolio may become less desirable to potential lessees or purchasers. This next generation of aircraft is expected to deliver improved fuel consumption and reduced noise and emissions with lower operating costs compared to current-technology aircraft. The Boeing 787 is currently in production while the Boeing 777X is expected to enter service in 2020-2021. The first variant of the Airbus A350 entered service in December 2014. The Airbus A320neo and the Bombardier C Series entered service in 2016. The Boeing 737 MAX family of aircraft is expected to enter service in 2017 and first deliveries for the Airbus A330neo and Embraer's second generation of E-Jets, the E-2 family, are expected to begin in 2018. Further, Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China Ltd., Mitsubishi and Russia's United Aircraft Corporation are developing aircraft models that will compete with the Airbus A319, the Boeing 737 and the Embraer E-Jet.

The introduction of these new models, and the potential resulting overcapacity in aircraft supply, could adversely affect the residual values and the lease rates for our aircraft and our ability to lease or sell our aircraft on favorable terms, or at all.

The effects of energy, emissions, and noise regulations and policies may negatively affect the airline industry. This may cause lessees to default on their lease payment obligations to us and may limit the market for certain aircraft in our portfolio.

Governmental regulations regarding aircraft and engine noise and emissions levels apply based on where the relevant aircraft is registered and operated. For example, jurisdictions throughout the world have adopted noise regulations which require all aircraft to comply with noise level standards. In addition to the current requirements, the United States and ICAO have adopted a new, more stringent set of standards for noise levels which applies to engines manufactured or certified on or after January 1, 2006. Currently, U.S. regulations would not require any phase-out of aircraft that qualify with the older standards applicable to engines manufactured or certified prior to January 1, 2006, but the E.U. has established a framework for the imposition of operating limitations on aircraft that do not comply with the new standards. These regulations could limit the economic life of the aircraft and engines, reduce their value, limit our ability to lease or sell these non-compliant aircraft and engines or, if engine modifications are permitted, require us to make significant additional investments in the aircraft and engines to make them compliant.

In addition to stringent noise restrictions, the U.S. and other jurisdictions have imposed stringent limits on aircraft engine emissions, such as NOx, CO and CO2, consistent with current ICAO standards. European countries have

relatively strict environmental regulations that can restrict operational flexibility and decrease aircraft productivity.
The E.U. has

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included the aviation sector in its emissions trading scheme ("ETS"), and has attempted to apply the ETS to flights outside of European airspace. This effort has been opposed by the U.S. and other countries. The E.U. suspended the ETS for flights from or to non-European countries in 2013, but absent amendment, the ETS applies to flights outside of Europe in 2017. Finally, ICAO has also adopted a resolution developing a global market-based measure to control CO2 emission from international aviation, which begins in 2021. As noted above, the U.S. EPA announced in 2016 its intent to promulgate and adopt a rule to incorporate these new standards into domestic law.

Additionally, in 2015, over 190 countries, including the United States, reached an agreement to reduce global GHG emissions at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate. The agreement does not expressly reference aviation, but if the agreement is implemented in the United States and other countries there could be an adverse direct or indirect effect on the aviation industry as a whole.

Over time, it is possible that governments will adopt additional regulatory requirements and/or market-based policies that are intended to reduce energy usage, emissions, and noise levels from aircraft. Such initiatives may be based on concerns regarding climate change, energy security, public health, local impacts, or other factors, and may also impact the global market for certain aircraft and cause behavioral shifts that result in decreased demand for air travel. These concerns could also result in greater limitations on the operation of our fleet, particularly aircraft equipped with older technology engines.

Compliance with current or future regulations, taxes or duties could cause our lessees to incur higher costs and lead to higher ticket prices, which could mean lower demand for travel and adverse impacts on the financial condition of our lessees. Such compliance may also affect our lessees' ability to make rental and other lease payments and limit the market for aircraft in our portfolio, which could have other negative effects on our financial position.

The older age, or older technology, of some of our aircraft may expose us to higher than anticipated maintenance related expenses.

As of December 31, 2016, 9% of our aircraft portfolio, based on net book value, was fifteen years or older. In general, the costs of operating an aircraft, including maintenance expenditures, increase with the age of the aircraft.

Additionally, older aircraft typically are less fuel-efficient than newer aircraft and may be more difficult to re-lease or sell, particularly if, due to increasing production rates by aircraft manufacturers or airline insolvencies or other distress, older aircraft are competing with newer aircraft in the lease or sale market. Expenses like fuel, aging aircraft inspections, maintenance or modification programs and related airworthiness directives could make the operation of older aircraft less economically feasible and may result in increased lessee defaults. We may also incur some of these increased maintenance expenses and regulatory costs upon acquisition or re-leasing of our aircraft. Re-leasing larger wide-body aircraft may result in higher reinvestment and maintenance expenditures than re-leasing narrow-body aircraft.

The concentration of aircraft types in our aircraft portfolio could lead to adverse effects on our business and financial results should any difficulties specific to these particular types of aircraft occur.

Our owned aircraft portfolio is concentrated in certain aircraft types. Should any of these aircraft types (or other types we acquire in the future) or aircraft manufacturers encounter technical, financial or other difficulties, it would cause a decrease in value of these aircraft, an inability to lease the aircraft on favorable terms or at all, or a potential grounding of these aircraft, which may adversely impact our financial results, to the extent the affected aircraft types comprise a significant percentage of our aircraft portfolio.

We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities in aviation assets and for the leasing and sale of aircraft.

We compete with other operating lessors, airlines, aircraft manufacturers, financial institutions, aircraft brokers and other investors with respect to aircraft acquisitions, leasing and sales. The aircraft leasing industry is highly competitive and may be divided into three basic activities: (i) aircraft acquisition; (ii) leasing or re-leasing of aircraft; and (iii) aircraft sales. Competition varies among these three basic activities.

A number of our competitors are substantially larger and have considerably greater financial, technical and marketing resources than we do. Some competitors may have a lower cost of funds and access to funding sources that are not available to us. In addition, some of our competitors may have higher risk tolerances or different risk or residual value

assessments, which could allow them to consider a wider variety of investments, establish more relationships, bid more aggressively on aviation assets available for sale and offer lower lease rates or sales prices than we can. Some of our competitors may provide financial services, maintenance services or other inducements to potential lessees or buyers that we cannot provide. As a

result of competitive pressures, we may not be able to take advantage of attractive investment opportunities from time to time, and we may not be able to identify and make investments that are consistent with our investment objectives. We are beginning to see a greater supply of certain aircraft, engines and parts being offered for sale in the part-out market as other leasing companies start addressing the older aircraft in their portfolios. Additionally, the barriers to entry in the aircraft acquisition and leasing market are comparatively low, and new entrants with private equity, hedge fund, Asian bank or other funding sources appear from time to time. We may not be able to compete effectively against present and future competitors in the aircraft acquisition, leasing or sales market.

Risks Related to our Order of New Embraer E-Jet E2 Aircraft

We have lease commitments for three of the 25 Embraer E-Jet E2 aircraft that we contracted to purchase from Embraer and are scheduled for delivery between the fourth quarter of 2018 and 2021. We do not yet have lease commitments for the remaining deliveries nor have we put financing in place for any of the Embraer E-Jet E-2 aircraft deliveries. Our ability to lease these aircraft on favorable terms, if at all, may be adversely affected by desirability of this new aircraft type and risks to the commercial airline industry generally. If we are unable to obtain the necessary financing or otherwise satisfy our contractual obligations to Embraer, we will be subject to several potential risks, including:

- forfeiting advance deposits and progress payments to Embraer, as well as incurring certain significant costs related to these commitments such as actual damages and legal, accounting and financial advisory expenses;
- defaulting on any future lease commitments we may have entered into with respect to these aircraft, which could result in monetary damages and strained relationships with lessees;
- failing to realize the benefits of purchasing and leasing such aircraft; and
- risking harm to our business reputation, which would make it more difficult to purchase and lease aircraft in the future on agreeable terms, if at all.

In addition, the Embraer E-Jet E2 is a new aircraft variant under development and is not yet in production. While the Embraer E-Jet E2 aircraft will incorporate a modified version of the recently introduced Pratt & Whitney geared turbofan engine, this version is also not in production. Airframe and engine manufacturers have occasionally experienced delays and technical difficulties in bringing new aircraft and engine types to market. If any aircraft for which we have made future lease commitments is delayed or if Embraer is unable to produce the aircraft in compliance with the performance specifications, some or all of our affected lessees might be able to terminate their leases with respect to such aircraft. Our purchase agreement with Embraer and the anticipated future leases for these aircraft contain certain cancellation rights related to delays in delivery. Any such termination could strain our relations with those lessees going forward. Lastly, we will rely on Embraer to return any advance deposits and progress payments if they are unable to meet their obligations to us, and we may not be able to recover such amounts if Embraer defaults or becomes insolvent. Any of these events could materially and adversely affect our financial results and operations.

Risks Related to Our Leases

If lessees are unable to fund their maintenance obligations on our aircraft, we may incur increased costs at the conclusion of the applicable lease.

The standards of maintenance observed by the various lessees and the condition of the aircraft at the time of lease or sale may affect the future values and rental rates for our aircraft.

Under our leases, the relevant lessee is generally responsible for maintaining the aircraft and complying with all governmental requirements applicable to the lessee and the aircraft, including, without limitation, operational, maintenance, and registration requirements and airworthiness directives, although in certain cases we may agree to share certain of these costs. Failure of a lessee to perform required aircraft maintenance or required airworthiness directives could result in a decrease in value of such aircraft, an adverse effect on our ability to lease the aircraft at favorable rates or at all, or a potential grounding of such aircraft, and will likely require us to incur increased maintenance and modification costs upon the expiration or earlier termination of the applicable lease, which could be substantial, to restore such aircraft to an acceptable condition. If any of our aircraft are not subject to a lease, we would be required to bear the entire cost of maintaining that aircraft and performing any required airworthiness

directives.

Certain of our leases provide that the lessee is required to make periodic payments to us during the lease term in order to provide cash reserves for the major maintenance. In these leases there is an associated liability for us to reimburse the

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lessee after such maintenance is performed. A substantial number of our leases do not provide for any periodic maintenance reserve payments to be made to us. Typically, these lessees are required to make payments at the end of the lease term. However, in the event such lessees default, the value of the aircraft could be negatively affected by the maintenance condition and we may be required to fund the entire cost of performing major maintenance on the relevant aircraft without, in either case, having received compensating maintenance payments from these lessees. Even if we receive maintenance payments, these payments may not cover the entire expense of the scheduled maintenance they are intended to fund. In addition, maintenance payments typically cover only certain scheduled maintenance requirements and do not cover all required maintenance and all scheduled maintenance. As a result, we may incur unanticipated or significant costs at the conclusion of a lease.

Failure to pay certain potential additional operating costs could result in the grounding or arrest of our aircraft and prevent the re-lease, sale or other use of our aircraft.

As in the case of maintenance costs, we may incur other operational costs upon a lessee default or where the terms of the lease require us to pay a portion of those costs. Such costs include:

- the costs of casualty, liability and political risk insurance and the liability costs or losses when insurance coverage has not been or cannot be obtained as required, or is insufficient in amount or scope;
- the costs of licensing, exporting or importing an aircraft, airport charges, customs duties, air navigation charges, landing fees and similar governmental or quasi-governmental impositions, which can be substantial;
- penalties and costs associated with the failure of lessees to keep aircraft registered under all appropriate local requirements or obtain required governmental licenses, consents and approvals; and
- carbon taxes or other fees, taxes or costs imposed under emissions limitations, climate change regulations or other initiatives.

The failure to pay certain of these costs can result in liens on the aircraft and the failure to register the aircraft can result in a loss of insurance. These matters could result in the grounding or arrest of the aircraft and prevent the re-lease, sale or other use of the aircraft until the problem is cured.

Our lessees may have inadequate insurance coverage or fail to fulfill their respective indemnity obligations, which could result in us not being covered for claims asserted against us.

By virtue of holding title to the aircraft, lessors may be held strictly liable for losses resulting from the operation of aircraft or may be held liable for those losses based on other legal theories. Liability may be placed on an aircraft lessor in certain jurisdictions around the world even under circumstances in which the lessor is not directly controlling the operation of the relevant aircraft.

Lessees are required under our leases to indemnify us for, and insure against, liabilities arising out of the use and operation of the aircraft, including third-party claims for death or injury to persons and damage to property for which we may be deemed liable. Lessees are also required to maintain public liability, property damage and hull all risk and hull war risk insurance on the aircraft at agreed upon levels. However, they are not generally required to maintain political risk insurance. Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, aviation insurers significantly reduced the amount of insurance coverage available to airlines for liability to persons other than employees or passengers for claims resulting from acts of terrorism, war or similar events. At the same time, they significantly increased the premiums for such third-party war risk and terrorism liability insurance and coverage in general. As a result, the amount of such third-party war risk and terrorism liability insurance that is commercially available at any time may be below the amount stipulated in our leases.

Our lessees' insurance, including any available governmental supplemental coverage, may not be sufficient to cover all types of claims that may be asserted against us. Any inadequate insurance coverage or default by lessees in fulfilling their indemnification or insurance obligations will reduce the proceeds that would be received by us upon an event of loss under the respective leases or upon a claim under the relevant liability insurance.

Failure to obtain certain required licenses and approvals could negatively affect our ability to re-lease or sell aircraft.

A number of our lessees must obtain licenses, consents or approvals in order to import or operate the aircraft or comply with the leases. These include consents from governmental or regulatory authorities for certain payments under the leases and for the import, export or deregistration of the aircraft. Subsequent changes in applicable law or

administrative practice

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may increase such requirements and a governmental consent, once given, might be withdrawn. Furthermore, consents needed in connection with future re-leasing or sale of an aircraft may not be forthcoming. Any of these events could adversely affect our ability to re-lease or sell aircraft.

Due to the fact that many of our lessees operate in emerging markets, we are indirectly subject to many of the economic and political risks associated with competing in such markets.

Emerging markets are countries which have less developed economies that are vulnerable to economic and political problems, such as significant fluctuations in gross domestic product, interest and currency exchange rates, civil disturbances, government instability, nationalization and expropriation of private assets, unfavorable legal systems, change in law regarding recognition of contracts or ownership rights, changes in governments or government policy and the imposition of taxes or other charges by governments. The occurrence of any of these events in markets served by our lessees and the resulting instability may adversely affect our ownership interest in an aircraft or the ability of lessees which operate in these markets to meet their lease obligations and these lessees may be more likely to default than lessees that operate in developed economies. For the year ended December 31, 2016, 41 of our lessees, which operated 119 aircraft and generated 68% of our lease rental revenue, are domiciled or habitually based in emerging markets.

Risks Related to Our Lessees

Lessee defaults could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

As a general matter, airlines with weak capital structures are more likely than well-capitalized airlines to seek operating leases, and, at any point in time, investors should expect a varying number of lessees and sub-lessees to experience payment difficulties. As a result of their weak financial condition and lack of liquidity, a portion of lessees over time may be significantly in arrears in their rental or maintenance payments. This is likely to be the case in the future and with other lessees and sub-lessees of our aircraft as well, particularly in a difficult economic or operating environment. These liquidity issues will be more likely to lead to airline failures in the context of financial system distress, volatile fuel prices, and economic slowdown, with additional liquidity being more difficult and expensive to source. Given the size of our aircraft portfolio, we expect that from time to time some lessees will be slow in making, or will fail to make, their payments in full under their leases.

We may not correctly assess the credit risk of each lessee or may not be in a position to charge risk-adjusted lease rates, and lessees may not be able to continue to perform their financial and other obligations under our leases in the future. A delayed, reduced or missed rental payment from a lessee decreases our revenues and cash flow and may adversely affect our ability to make payments on our indebtedness or to comply with debt service coverage or interest coverage ratios. While we may experience some level of delinquency under our leases, default levels may increase over time, particularly as our aircraft portfolio ages and if economic conditions deteriorate. A lessee may experience periodic difficulties that are not financial in nature, which could impair its performance of maintenance obligations under the leases. These difficulties may include the failure to perform required aircraft maintenance and labor-management disagreements or disputes.

In the event that a lessee defaults under a lease, any security deposit paid or letter of credit provided by the lessee may not be sufficient to cover the lessee's outstanding or unpaid lease obligations and required maintenance and transition expenses.

Adverse currency movements could negatively affect our lessees' ability to honor the terms of their leases and could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Many of our lessees are exposed to currency risk due to the fact that they earn revenues in their local currencies while a significant portion of their liabilities and expenses, including fuel, debt service, and lease payments are denominated in U.S. dollars. In the case of a devaluation of the local currency, our lessees may not be able to increase revenue sufficiently to offset the impact of exchange rates on these expenses. This is particularly true for non-U.S. airlines whose operations are primarily domestic. This difference is magnified in the event of an appreciating U.S. dollar, as we have seen over the course of the last year, due to the strengthening of the U.S. economy and the expectation of rising U.S. interest rates. Currency volatility, particularly in emerging market countries, could impact the ability of some of our customers to meet their contractual obligations in a timely manner. Shifts in foreign exchange rates can

be significant, are difficult to predict, and can occur quickly.

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If our lessees encounter financial difficulties and we decide to restructure our leases with those lessees, this could result in less favorable leases and in significant reductions in our cash flow or adversely affect our financial results. When a lessee is late in making payments, fails to make payments in full or in part under the lease or has otherwise advised us that it will in the future fail to make payments in full or in part under the lease, we may elect to or be required to restructure the lease. Restructuring may involve anything from a simple rescheduling of payments to the termination of a lease without receiving all or any of the past due amounts. If any requests for payment restructuring or rescheduling are made and granted, reduced or deferred rental payments may be payable over all or some part of the remaining term of the lease, although the terms of any revised payment schedules may be unfavorable and such payments may not be made. We may be unable to agree upon acceptable terms for any requested restructurings and as a result may be forced to exercise our remedies under those leases. If we, in the exercise of our remedies, repossess the aircraft, we may not be able to re-lease the aircraft promptly at favorable rates, or at all.

The terms and conditions of payment restructurings or reschedulings may result in significant reductions of rental payments, which may adversely affect our cash flows or our financial results.

Significant costs resulting from lease defaults could have a material adverse effect on our business.

Although we have the right to repossess the aircraft and to exercise other remedies upon a lessee default, repossession of an aircraft after a lessee default would lead to significantly increased costs for us. Those costs include legal and other expenses of court or other governmental proceedings, particularly if the lessee is contesting the proceedings or is in bankruptcy, to obtain possession and/or de-registration of the aircraft and flight and export permissions. Delays resulting from any of these proceedings would also increase the period of time during which the relevant aircraft is not generating revenue. In addition, we may incur substantial maintenance, refurbishment or repair costs that a defaulting lessee has failed to incur or pay and that are necessary to put the aircraft in suitable condition for re-lease or sale and we may be required to pay off liens, claims, taxes and other governmental charges on the aircraft to obtain clear possession and to remarket the aircraft for re-lease or sale. We may also incur maintenance, storage or other costs while we have physical possession of the aircraft.

We may also suffer other adverse consequences as a result of a lessee default and any termination of the lease and the repossession of the related aircraft. Our rights upon a lessee default vary significantly depending upon the jurisdiction, including the need to obtain a court order for repossession of the aircraft and/or consents for de-registration or re-export of the aircraft. When a defaulting lessee is in bankruptcy, protective administration, insolvency or similar proceedings, additional limitations may apply. Certain jurisdictions will give rights to the trustee in bankruptcy or a similar officer to assume or reject the lease or to assign it to a third party, or will entitle the lessee or another third party to retain possession of the aircraft without paying lease rentals or without performing all or some of the obligations under the relevant lease. Certain of our lessees are owned in whole or in part by government-related entities, which could complicate our efforts to repossess the relevant aircraft. Accordingly, we may be delayed in, or prevented from, enforcing certain of our rights under a lease and in re-leasing or selling the affected aircraft.

If we repossess an aircraft, we will not necessarily be able to export or de-register and profitably redeploy the aircraft. For instance, where a lessee or other operator flies only domestic routes in the jurisdiction in which the aircraft is registered, repossession may be more difficult, especially if the jurisdiction permits the lessee or the other operator to resist de-registration. Significant costs may also be incurred in retrieving or recreating aircraft records required for registration of the aircraft and obtaining a certificate of airworthiness for the aircraft.

Airline reorganizations could have an adverse effect on our financial results.

As a result of economic conditions, significant volatility in oil prices and financial markets distress, airlines may be forced to reorganize. Historically, airlines involved in reorganizations have undertaken substantial fare discounting to maintain cash flows and to encourage continued customer loyalty. Such fare discounting has in the past led to lower profitability for all airlines. Bankruptcies and reduced demand may lead to the grounding of significant numbers of aircraft and negotiated reductions in aircraft lease rental rates, with the effect of depressing aircraft market values.

Additional grounded aircraft and lower market values would adversely affect our ability to sell certain of our aircraft on favorable terms, or at all, or re-lease other aircraft at favorable rates comparable to the then current market conditions, which collectively would have an adverse effect on our financial results. We may not recover any of our

claims or damages against an airline under bankruptcy or insolvency protection.

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If our lessees fail to appropriately discharge aircraft liens, we might find it necessary to pay such claims, which could have a negative effect on our cash position and our business.

In the normal course of business, liens that secure the payment of airport fees and taxes, custom duties, air navigation charges (including charges imposed by Eurocontrol), landing charges, crew wages, repairer's charges, salvage or other liens, are likely, depending on the jurisdiction in question, to attach to the aircraft. These liens may secure substantial sums that may, in certain jurisdictions or for certain types of liens (particularly "fleet liens"), exceed the value of the relevant aircraft. Although the financial obligations relating to these liens are the responsibility of our lessees, if they fail to fulfill their obligations, these liens may attach to our aircraft and ultimately become our responsibility. Until these liens are discharged, we may be unable to repossess, re-lease or sell the aircraft or unable to avoid detention or forfeiture of the aircraft.

Our lessees may not comply with their obligations under their respective leases to discharge liens arising during the terms of their leases, whether or not due to financial difficulties. If they do not do so, we may, in some cases, find it necessary to pay the claims secured by any liens in order to repossess the aircraft.

Risks associated with the concentration of our lessees in certain geographical regions could harm our business or financial results.

Our business is sensitive to local economic and political conditions that can influence the performance of lessees located in a particular region.

European Concentration

Twenty-six lessees in Europe accounted for 66 aircraft, totaling 23% of the net book value of our aircraft at December 31, 2016. Eleven aircraft, representing 3% of the net book value of our aircraft at December 31, 2016, were leased to a customer in Spain. Commercial airlines in Europe continue to face increased competitive pressures due to the expansion of low cost carriers, industry consolidation, as well as the growth of strong airlines in the Middle East. Several of the continent's larger airlines have announced comprehensive restructuring efforts, including significant cost cutting measures.

Asian Concentration

Twenty-three lessees in Asia accounted for 61 aircraft totaling, 38% of the net book value of our aircraft at December 31, 2016. Growth in most of Asia has been strong, driven in large part by emerging economies. Asian airlines continue to face competition from new entrants and the growth of low cost carriers in the region. There is also risk of oversupply in the future driven by large outstanding order books of some Asian airlines. Demand weaknesses, due to slowing economic growth in the region, could adversely affect the Asian airlines industry. Nine lessees in southeast Asia accounted for 34 aircraft, totaling 25% of the net book value of our aircraft at December 31, 2016.

North American Concentration

Ten lessees in North America accounted for 26 aircraft, totaling 8% of the net book value of our aircraft at December 31, 2016. Consolidation among major airlines in the U.S. has helped drive capacity discipline and pricing power, but despite recent improvements in the financial results of many carriers, airlines remain highly susceptible to macroeconomic and geopolitical factors outside their control.

South American Concentration

Six lessees in South America accounted for 23 aircraft, totaling 18% of the net book value of our aircraft at December 31, 2016. The region's largest economy, Brazil, has suffered from depressed commodity prices, currency devaluation and a stalled economy, which has forced a reduction in capacity by the country's airlines. Two lessees in Brazil accounted for fifteen aircraft, totaling 8% of the net book value of our aircraft at December 31, 2016.

Middle East and African Concentration

Six lessees in the Middle East and Africa accounted for fourteen aircraft totaling 11% of the net book value of our aircraft at December 31, 2016. Middle Eastern lessees, particularly Gulf-based carriers, have a large number of aircraft on order and continue to capitalize on the region's favorable geographic position as an East-West transfer hub. In recent years, a number of countries in the Middle East and North Africa experienced significant political instability, negatively impacting tourism and air travel. Continued unrest and instability would again negatively impact the financial performance of airlines operating to, from, and within this region.

Risks Related to the Aviation Industry

Fuel prices significantly impact the profitability of the airline industry. If fuel prices rise in the future, our lessees might not be able to meet their lease payment obligations, which would have an adverse effect on our financial results and growth prospects.

Fuel costs represent a major expense to airlines. Fuel prices fluctuate widely depending primarily on international market conditions, geopolitical and environmental events and currency/exchange rates. As a result, fuel costs are not within the control of lessees and significant changes would materially affect their operating results.

While fuel prices have significantly declined since 2013, there can be no assurance that lower fuel prices will persist. Due to the competitive nature of the airline industry, airlines have been, and may continue to be, unable to pass on increases in fuel prices to their customers by increasing fares in a manner that fully compensates for the costs incurred. Higher and more volatile fuel prices may also have an impact on consumer confidence and spending, and thus may adversely impact demand for air transportation. In addition, airlines may not be able to successfully manage their exposure to fuel price fluctuations. If fuel prices increase due to future terrorist attacks, acts of war, armed hostilities, rebellion or political instability, natural disasters or for any other reason, they are likely to cause our lessees to incur higher costs and/or generate lower revenues, resulting in an adverse impact on their financial condition and liquidity. Fuel cost volatility may contribute to the reluctance of airlines to make future commitments to leased aircraft and reduce the demand for lease aircraft. Consequently, these conditions may: (i) affect our lessees' ability to make rental and other lease payments; (ii) result in lease restructurings and/or aircraft repossessions; (iii) increase our costs of re-leasing or selling our aircraft; or (iv) impair our ability to re-lease or sell our aircraft on a timely basis at favorable rates or terms, or at all.

If the effects of terrorist attacks and geopolitical conditions adversely impact the financial condition of the airlines, our lessees might not be able to meet their lease payment obligations, which would have an adverse effect on our financial results and growth prospects.

War, armed hostilities or terrorist attacks, or the fear of such events, could decrease demand for air travel or increase the operating costs of our customers. Terrorist incidents, including the attacks at Belgian and Turkish airports, the situations in Iraq, Egypt and Syria, and other international tensions, such as with North Korea and territorial disputes in East Asia, may lead to regional or broader international instability. Future terrorist attacks, war or armed hostilities, large protests or government instability, or the fear of such events, could further negatively impact the airline industry and may have an adverse effect on the financial condition and liquidity of our lessees, aircraft values and rental rates and may lead to lease restructurings or aircraft repossessions, all of which could adversely affect our financial results.

Terrorist attacks and geopolitical conditions have negatively affected the airline industry, and concerns about geopolitical conditions and further terrorist attacks could continue to negatively affect airlines (including our lessees) for the foreseeable future, depending upon various factors, including: (i) higher costs to the airlines due to the increased security measures; (ii) decreased passenger demand and revenue due to safety concerns or the inconvenience of additional security measures; (iii) the price and availability of jet fuel; (iv) higher financing costs and difficulty in raising the desired amount of proceeds on favorable terms, or at all; (v) the significantly higher costs of aircraft insurance coverage for future claims caused by acts of war, terrorism, sabotage, hijacking and other similar perils, and the extent to which such insurance has been or will continue to be available; (vi) the ability of airlines to reduce their operating costs and conserve financial resources, taking into account the increased costs incurred as a consequence of terrorist attacks and geopolitical conditions, including those referred to above; and (vii) special charges recognized by some airlines, such as those related to the impairment of aircraft and other long lived assets stemming from the above conditions.

Economic conditions and regulatory changes resulting from the United Kingdom's ("U.K.") possible exit from the E.U. and the new administration in the U.S. could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

In June 2016, voters in the U.K. approved a referendum to exit from the E.U., known as Brexit. If the U.K. initiates a Brexit process, its effects on us will depend on the resulting agreements regarding trade and travel made between the United Kingdom and European Union. In the U.S., the new administration and incoming Congress could effect

significant changes in, or create uncertainty regarding, governmental policies, the regulatory environment and many other areas that could impact the Company, including but not limited to changes to existing trade agreements, import and export regulations, immigration, tariffs and customs duties, tax regulations, environmental regulations and other areas that become subject to significant changes.

Brexit and U.S. political changes could result in adverse consequences, such as instability in financial markets, deterioration in economic conditions, volatility in currency exchange rates or adverse impact to air travel and the air freight market. These impacts may negatively impact the airline and finance industries and may have an adverse effect on our ability to borrow, the financial condition of our lessees, aircraft values and rental rates and may lead to lease restructurings or aircraft repossessions, all of which could adversely affect our financial results.

Epidemic diseases, severe weather conditions, natural disasters or their perceived effects may negatively impact the airline industry and our lessees' ability to meet their lease payment obligations to us, which, in turn, could have an adverse effect on our financial results.

Over the past several years, there have been outbreaks of epidemic diseases which have spread to other parts of the world. If an outbreak of epidemic diseases were to occur, numerous responses, including travel restrictions, might be necessary to combat the spread of the disease. Even if restrictions are not implemented, it is likely that passengers would voluntarily choose to reduce travel. There have been several outbreaks of epidemic diseases which have spread to other parts of the world in the last ten years, although their impact was relatively limited. Additional outbreaks of epidemic diseases, or the fear of such events, could result in travel bans or could have an adverse effect on our financial results. Similarly, demand for air travel or the inability of airlines to operate to or from certain regions due to severe weather conditions or natural disasters, such as floods, earthquakes or volcanic eruptions, could have an adverse effect on our lessees' ability to their lease payment obligations to us, which could negatively impact our financial results.

Risks Related to Our Organization and Structure

If the ownership of our common shares continues to be highly concentrated, it may prevent minority shareholders from influencing significant corporate decisions and may result in conflicts of interest.

As of February 7, 2017, Marubeni owns 21,605,347 shares, or 27.5% of our common shares. Although the Shareholder Agreement, dated as of June 6, 2013, among us, Marubeni and a subsidiary of Marubeni (as amended and restated from time to time, the "Shareholder Agreement"), imposes certain restrictions on Marubeni's and its affiliates' ability to make additional acquisitions of our common shares, Marubeni, nonetheless, may be able to influence fundamental corporate matters and transactions, including the election of directors; mergers or amalgamations (subject to prior board approval); consolidations or acquisitions; the sale of all or substantially all of our assets; in certain circumstances, the amendment of our bye-laws; and our winding up and dissolution. This concentration of ownership may delay, deter or prevent acts that would be favored by our other shareholders. The interests of Marubeni may not always coincide with our interests or the interests of our other shareholders. This concentration of ownership may also have the effect of delaying, preventing or deterring a change in control of our company. Also, Marubeni may seek to cause us to take courses of action that, in its judgment, could enhance its investment in us, but which might involve risks to our other shareholders or adversely affect us or our other shareholders. In addition, under the Shareholder Agreement, based on the current ownership of our common shares by Marubeni and the current size of our Board of Directors, Marubeni is entitled to designate three directors for election to our Board of Directors. As a result of these or other factors, the market price of our common shares could decline or shareholders might not receive a premium over the then-current market price of our common shares upon a change in control. In addition, this concentration of share ownership may adversely affect the trading price of our common shares because investors may perceive disadvantages in owning shares in a company with a significant shareholder.

We are a holding company with no operations and rely on our operating subsidiaries to provide us with funds necessary to meet our financial obligations.

We are a holding company with no material direct operations. Our principal assets are the equity interests we directly or indirectly hold in our operating subsidiaries. As a result, we are dependent on loans, dividends and other payments from our subsidiaries to generate the funds necessary to meet our financial obligations and to pay dividends to our shareholders. Although there are currently no material legal restrictions on our operating subsidiaries ability to distribute assets to us, legal restrictions, including governmental regulations and contractual obligations, could restrict or impair our operating subsidiaries ability to pay dividends or make loan or other distributions to us. Our subsidiaries

are legally distinct from us and may be prohibited or restricted from paying dividends or otherwise making funds available to us under certain conditions.

We are a Bermuda company, and it may be difficult for securityholders to enforce judgments against us or our directors and executive officers.

We are a Bermuda exempted company and, as such, the rights of holders of our common shares will be governed by Bermuda law and our memorandum of association and bye-laws. The rights of securityholders under Bermuda law may differ from the rights of securityholders of companies incorporated in other jurisdictions. A substantial portion of our assets are located outside the United States. As a result, it may be difficult for investors to effect service of process on those persons in the United States or to enforce in the United States judgments obtained in U.S. courts against us or those persons based on the civil liability provisions of the U.S. securities laws. Uncertainty exists as to whether courts in Bermuda will enforce judgments obtained in other jurisdictions, including the United States, against us or our directors or officers under the securities laws of those jurisdictions or entertain actions in Bermuda against us or our directors or officers under the securities laws of other jurisdictions.

Our bye-laws restrict shareholders from bringing legal action against our officers and directors.

Our bye-laws contain a broad waiver by our shareholders of any claim or right of action, both individually and on our behalf, against any of our officers or directors. The waiver applies to any action taken by an officer or director, or the failure of an officer or director to take any action, in the performance of his or her duties, except with respect to any matter involving any fraud or dishonesty on the part of the officer or director. This waiver limits the right of shareholders to assert claims against our officers and directors unless the act or failure to act involves fraud or dishonesty.

We have anti-takeover provisions in our bye-laws that may discourage a change of control.

Our bye-laws contain provisions that could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us without the consent of our Board of Directors. These provisions include:

- provisions providing for a classified board of directors with staggered three-year terms;
- provisions regarding the election of directors, classes of directors, the term of office of directors and amalgamations to be rescinded, altered or amended only upon approval by a resolution of the directors and by a resolution of our shareholders, including the affirmative votes of at least 66% of the votes attaching to all shares in issue entitling the holder to vote on such resolution;
- provisions in our bye-laws dealing with the removal of directors and corporate opportunity to be rescinded, altered or amended only upon approval by a resolution of the directors and by a resolution of our shareholders, including the affirmative votes of at least 80% of the votes attaching to all shares in issue entitling the holder to vote on such resolution;
- provisions providing for the removal of directors by a resolution, including the affirmative votes of at least 80% of all votes attaching to all shares in issue entitling the holder to vote on such resolution;
- provisions providing for our Board of Directors to determine the powers, preferences and rights of our preference shares and to issue such preference shares without shareholder approval;
- provisions providing for advance notice requirements by shareholders for director nominations and actions to be taken at annual meetings; and
- no provision for cumulative voting in the election of directors; all the directors standing for election may be elected by our shareholders by a plurality of votes cast at a duly convened annual general meeting, the quorum for which is two or more persons present in person or by proxy at the start of the meeting and representing in excess of 50% of all votes attaching to all shares in issue entitling the holder to vote at the meeting.

In addition, these provisions may make it difficult and expensive for a third party to pursue a tender offer, change in control or takeover attempt that is opposed by our management and/or our Board of Directors. Public shareholders who might desire to participate in these types of transactions may not have an opportunity to do so. These anti-takeover provisions could substantially impede the ability of public shareholders to benefit from a change in control or change our management and Board of Directors and, as a result, may adversely affect the market price of our common shares and your ability to realize any potential change of control premium.

There are provisions in our bye-laws that may require certain of our non-U.S. shareholders to sell their shares to us or to a third party.

Our bye-laws provide that if our Board of Directors determines that we or any of our subsidiaries do not meet, or in the absence of repurchases of shares will fail to meet, the ownership requirements of a limitation on benefits article of any bilateral income tax treaty with the U.S. applicable to us, and that such tax treaty would provide material benefits to us or any of our subsidiaries, we generally have the right, but not the obligation, to repurchase, at fair market value (as determined pursuant to the method set forth in our bye-laws), common shares from any shareholder who beneficially owns more than 5% of our issued and outstanding common shares and who fails to demonstrate to our satisfaction that such shareholder is either a U.S. citizen or a qualified resident of the U.S. or the other contracting state of any applicable tax treaty with the U.S. (as determined for purposes of the relevant provision of the limitation on benefits article of such treaty).

We will have the option, but not the obligation, to purchase all or a part of the shares held by such shareholder (to the extent the Board of Directors, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, determines it is necessary to avoid or cure adverse consequences), provided that the Board of Directors will use its reasonable efforts to exercise this option equitably among similarly situated shareholders (to the extent feasible under the circumstances).

Instead of exercising the repurchase right described above, we will have the right, but not the obligation, to cause the transfer to, and procure the purchase by, any U.S. citizen or a qualified resident of the U.S. or the other contracting state of the applicable tax treaty (as determined for purposes of the relevant provision of the limitation on benefits article of such treaty) of the number of issued and outstanding common shares beneficially owned by any shareholder that are otherwise subject to repurchase under our bye-laws as described above, at fair market value (as determined in the good faith discretion of our Board of Directors).

Our joint ventures may have an adverse effect on our business.

Our joint ventures, which are referred to in “Other Aviation Assets and Alternative New Business Approaches” above, involve significant risks that may not be present with other methods of ownership, including:

- we may not realize a satisfactory return on our investment or the joint ventures may divert management’s attention from our business;

- our joint venture partners could have investment goals that are not consistent with our investment objectives, including the timing, terms and strategies for any investments;

- our joint venture partners might fail to fund their share of required capital contributions or fail to fulfill their obligations as a joint venture partner; and

- our joint venture partners may have competing interests in our markets that could create conflict of interest issues, particularly if aircraft owned by the joint ventures are being marketed for lease or sale at a time when the Company also has comparable aircraft available for lease or sale.

As of February 7, 2017, Teachers’ owns 10.0% of our outstanding common shares.

Risks Related to Our Common Shares

The market price and trading volume of our common shares may be volatile or may decline regardless of our operating performance, which could result in rapid and substantial losses for our shareholders.

If the market price of our common shares declines significantly, shareholders may be unable to resell their shares at or above their purchase price. The market price or trading volume of our common shares could be highly volatile and may decline significantly in the future in response to various factors, many of which are beyond our control, including:

- variations in our quarterly or annual operating results;

- failure to meet any earnings estimates;

- actual or perceived reduction in our growth or expected future growth;

- actual or anticipated accounting issues;

- publication of research reports about us, other aircraft lessors or the aviation industry or the failure of securities analysts to cover our common shares or the decision to suspend or terminate coverage in the future;

- additions or departures of key management personnel;

increased volatility in the capital markets and more limited or no access to debt financing, which may result in an increased cost of, or less favorable terms for, debt financing or may result in sales to satisfy collateral calls or other pressure on holders to sell our shares;

- redemptions, or similar events affecting funds or other investors holding our shares, which may result in large block trades that could significantly impact the price of our common shares;
- adverse market reaction to any indebtedness we may incur or preference or common shares we may issue in the future;
- changes in or elimination of our dividend;
- actions by shareholders;
- changes in market valuations of similar companies;
- announcements by us, our competitors or our suppliers of significant contracts, acquisitions, disposals, strategic partnerships, joint ventures or capital commitments;
- speculation in the press or investment community;
- changes or proposed changes in laws or regulations affecting the aviation industry or enforcement of these laws and regulations, or announcements relating to these matters; and
- general market, political and economic conditions and local conditions in the markets in which our lessees are located.

In addition, the equity markets in general have frequently experienced substantial price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of companies traded in those markets. Changes in economic conditions in the U.S., Europe or globally could also impact our ability to grow profitably. These broad market and industry factors may materially affect the market price of our common shares, regardless of our business or operating performance. In the past, following periods of volatility in the market price of a company's securities, securities class-action litigation has often been instituted against that company. Such litigation, if instituted against us, could cause us to incur substantial costs and divert management's attention and resources, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Future debt, which would be senior to our common shares upon liquidation, and additional equity securities, which would dilute the percentage ownership of our then current common shareholders and may be senior to our common shares for the purposes of dividends and liquidation distributions, may adversely affect the market price of our common shares.

In the future, we may attempt to increase our capital resources by incurring debt or issuing additional equity securities, including commercial paper, medium-term notes, senior or subordinated notes or loans and series of preference shares or common shares. Upon liquidation, holders of our debt investments and preference shares and lenders with respect to other borrowings would receive a distribution of our available assets prior to the holders of our common shares. Additional equity offerings would dilute the holdings of our then current common shareholders and could reduce the market price of our common shares, or both. Preference shares, if issued, could have a preference on liquidating distributions or a preference on dividend payments. Restrictive provisions in our debt and/or preference shares could limit our ability to make a distribution to the holders of our common shares. Because our decision to incur more debt or issue additional equity securities in the future will depend on market conditions and other factors beyond our control, we cannot predict or estimate the amount, timing or nature of our future capital raising activities. Thus, holders of our common shares bear the risk of our future debt and equity issuances reducing the market price of our common shares and diluting their percentage ownership.

The market price of our common shares could be negatively affected by sales of substantial amounts of our common shares in the public markets.

As of February 7, 2017, there were 78,556,466 shares issued and outstanding, all of which are freely transferable, except for any shares held by our "affiliates," as that term is defined in Rule 144 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). Approximately 37.5% of our outstanding common shares are held by our affiliates and can be resold into the public markets in the future in accordance with the requirements of Rule 144 under the Securities Act.

One affiliate, Marubeni, currently holds 27.5% of our outstanding common shares. Beginning in July 2016, pursuant to the occurrence of certain events set forth in the Shareholders Agreement, Marubeni and permitted third-party transferees have the ability to cause us to register the resale of their common shares into the public markets. Another investor, Teachers',

currently holds 10.0% of our outstanding common shares and has the ability to cause us to register the resale of their common shares into the public markets.

The issuance of additional common shares in connection with acquisitions or otherwise will dilute all other shareholdings.

As of February 7, 2017, we had an aggregate of 153,960,290 common shares authorized but unissued and not reserved for issuance under our incentive plan. We may issue all of these common shares without any action or approval by our shareholders. We intend to continue to actively pursue acquisitions of aviation assets and may issue common shares in connection with these acquisitions. Any common shares issued in connection with our acquisitions, our incentive plan, and the exercise of outstanding share options or otherwise would dilute the percentage ownership held by existing shareholders.

Risks Related to Taxation

If Aircastle were treated as engaged in a trade or business in the United States, it would be subject to U.S. federal income taxation on a net income basis, which would adversely affect our business and result in decreased cash available for distribution to our shareholders.

If, contrary to expectations, Aircastle were treated as engaged in a trade or business in the United States, the portion of its net income, if any, that was “effectively connected” with such trade or business would be subject to U.S. federal income taxation at a maximum rate of 35%. In addition, Aircastle would be subject to the U.S. federal branch profits tax on its effectively connected earnings and profits at a rate of 30%. The imposition of such taxes would adversely affect our business and would result in decreased cash available for distribution to our shareholders.

If there is not sufficient trading in our shares, or if 50% of our shares are held by certain 5% shareholders, we could lose our eligibility for an exemption from U.S. federal income taxation on rental income from our aircraft used in “international traffic” and could be subject to U.S. federal income taxation which would adversely affect our business and result in decreased cash available for distribution to our shareholders.

We expect that we are currently eligible for an exemption under Section 883 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), which provides an exemption from U.S. federal income taxation with respect to rental income derived from aircraft used in international traffic by certain foreign corporations. No assurances can be given that we will continue to be eligible for this exemption as our stock is traded on the market and changes in our ownership or the amount of our shares that are traded could cause us to cease to be eligible for such exemption. To qualify for this exemption in respect of rental income, the lessor of the aircraft must be organized in a country that grants a comparable exemption to U.S. lessors (Bermuda and Ireland each do), and certain other requirements must be satisfied. We can satisfy these requirements in any year if, for more than half the days of such year, our shares are primarily and regularly traded on a recognized exchange and certain shareholders, each of whom owns 5% or more of our shares (applying certain attribution rules), do not collectively own more than 50% of our shares. Our shares will be considered to be primarily and regularly traded on a recognized exchange in any year if: (i) the number of trades in our shares effected on such recognized stock exchanges exceed the number of our shares (or direct interests in our shares) that are traded during the year on all securities markets; (ii) trades in our shares are effected on such stock exchanges in more than de minimis quantities on at least 60 days during every calendar quarter in the year; and (iii) the aggregate number of our shares traded on such stock exchanges during the taxable year is at least 10% of the average number of our shares outstanding in that class during that year. If our shares cease to satisfy these requirements, then we may no longer be eligible for the Section 883 exemption with respect to rental income earned by aircraft used in international traffic. If we were not eligible for the exemption under Section 883 of the Code, we expect that the U.S. source rental income of Aircastle Bermuda generally would be subject to U.S. federal taxation, on a gross income basis, at a rate of not in excess of 4% as provided in Section 887 of the Code. If, contrary to expectations, Aircastle Bermuda did not comply with certain administrative guidelines of the Internal Revenue Service, such that 90% or more of Aircastle Bermuda’s U.S. source rental income were attributable to the activities of personnel based in the United States, Aircastle Bermuda’s U.S. source rental income would be treated as income effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States. In such case, Aircastle Bermuda’s U.S. source rental income would be subject to U.S. federal income taxation on its net income at a maximum rate of

35% as well as state and local taxation. In addition, Aircastle Bermuda would be subject to the U.S. federal branch profits tax on its effectively connected earnings and profits at a rate of 30%. The imposition of such taxes would adversely affect our business and would result in decreased cash available for distribution to our shareholders.

One or more of our Irish subsidiaries could fail to qualify for treaty benefits, which would subject certain of their income to U.S. federal income taxation, which would adversely affect our business and result in decreased cash available for distribution to our shareholders.

Qualification for the benefits of the double tax treaty between the United States and Ireland (the “Irish Treaty”) depends on many factors, including being able to establish the identity of the ultimate beneficial owners of our common shares. Each of the Irish subsidiaries may not satisfy all the requirements of the Irish Treaty and thereby may not qualify each year for the benefits of the Irish Treaty or may be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the United States. Moreover, the provisions of the Irish Treaty may change. Failure to so qualify, or to be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the United States, could result in the rental income from aircraft used for flights within the United States being subject to increased U.S. federal income taxation. The imposition of such taxes would adversely affect our business and would result in decreased cash available for distribution to our shareholders.

We may become subject to an increased rate of Irish taxation which would adversely affect our business and would result in decreased earnings available for distribution to our shareholders.

Our Irish subsidiaries and affiliates are expected to be subject to corporation tax on their income from leasing, managing and servicing aircraft at the 12.5% tax rate applicable to trading income. This expectation is based on certain assumptions, including that we will maintain at least the current level of our business operations in Ireland. If we are not successful in achieving trading status in Ireland, the non-trading income activities of our Irish subsidiaries and affiliates would be subject to tax at the rate of 25% and capital gains would be taxed at the rate of 35%, which would adversely affect our business and would result in decreased earnings available for distribution to our shareholders.

We may be subject to an increased rate of Singapore taxation which would adversely affect our business and would result in decreased earnings available for distribution to our shareholders.

Our Singapore subsidiaries are subject to Singapore income tax on their income from leasing, managing and servicing aircraft. Singapore’s authorities have awarded our Singapore subsidiaries a reduced rate of tax until July 2017, provided that we satisfy certain conditions and requirements. If we cannot meet such conditions and requirements, or if the award is not renewed, we would be subject to additional Singapore income tax. This would adversely affect our business and would result in decreased earnings available for distribution to our shareholders.

We may become subject to income or other taxes in the non-U.S. jurisdictions in which our aircraft operate, where our lessees are located or where we perform certain services which would adversely affect our business and result in decreased cash available for distributions to shareholders.

Certain Aircastle entities are expected to be subject to the income tax laws of Ireland, Mauritius, Singapore and the United States. In addition, we may be subject to income or other taxes in other jurisdictions by reason of our activities and operations, where our aircraft operate or where the lessees of our aircraft (or others in possession of our aircraft) are located. Although we have adopted operating procedures to reduce the exposure to such taxation, we may be subject to such taxes in the future and such taxes may be substantial. In addition, if we do not follow separate operating guidelines relating to managing a portion of our aircraft portfolio through offices in Ireland and Singapore, income from aircraft not owned in such jurisdictions would be subject to local tax. Changes in tax law could impose withholding taxes on lease payments during the term of a lease. Our leases typically require our lessees to indemnify us in respect of taxes but some leases may not require such indemnification or a lessee may fail to make such indemnification payment. The imposition of such taxes could adversely affect our business and result in decreased earnings available for distribution to our shareholders.

In addition, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development has undertaken the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (“BEPS”) project, which aims to restructure the taxation scheme currently affecting multinational entities. If the proposals recommended under BEPS are implemented, the tax rules to which we are subject may increase our liability for non-U.S. taxes.

We expect to continue to be a passive foreign investment company (“PFIC”) and may be a controlled foreign corporation (“CFC”) for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

We expect to continue to be treated as a PFIC and may be a CFC for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If you are a U.S. person and do not make a qualified electing fund (“QEF”) election with respect to us and each of our PFIC subsidiaries, unless we are a CFC and you own 10% of our voting shares, you would be subject to special deferred tax and interest charges with respect to certain distributions on our common shares, any gain realized on a disposition of our common shares and

certain other events. The effect of these deferred tax and interest charges could be materially adverse to you. Alternatively, if you are such a shareholder and make a QEF election for us and each of our PFIC subsidiaries, or if we are a CFC and you own 10% or more of our voting shares, you will not be subject to those charges, but could recognize taxable income in a taxable year with respect to our common shares in excess of any distributions that we make to you in that year, thus giving rise to so-called “phantom income” and to a potential out-of-pocket tax liability. Distributions made to a U.S. person that is an individual will not be eligible for taxation at reduced tax rates generally applicable to dividends paid by certain United States corporations and “qualified foreign corporations” on or after January 1, 2003. The more favorable rates applicable to regular corporate dividends could cause individuals to perceive investment in our shares to be relatively less attractive than investment in the shares of other corporations, which could adversely affect the value of our shares.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

We lease approximately 19,200 square feet of office space in Stamford, Connecticut for our corporate operations. The lease for the Stamford facility expires in December 2017. We lease approximately 3,380 square feet of office space in Dublin, Ireland and approximately 2,600 square feet of office space in Singapore for our operations in Europe and Asia. The lease for our Irish office expires in June 2026, and the lease for our Singapore office expires in July 2019. We believe our current facilities are adequate for our current needs and that suitable additional space will be available as and when needed.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Company is not a party to any material legal or adverse regulatory proceedings.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

Executive Officers of the Registrant

Executive officers are elected by our Board of Directors, and their terms of office continue until the next annual meeting of the board or until their successors are elected and have been duly qualified. There are no family relationships among our executive officers.

Set forth below is information pertaining to our executive officers who held office as of February 7, 2017:

Ron Wainshal, 52, became our Chief Executive Officer in May 2005 and a member of our Board in May 2010 and is currently on medical leave. Prior to joining Aircastle, Mr. Wainshal was in charge of the Asset Management group of General Electric Capital Aviation Services (“GECAS”) from 2003 to 2005. After joining GECAS in 1998, Mr. Wainshal led many of GECAS’ U.S. airline restructuring efforts and its bond market activities, and played a major marketing and structured finance role for GECAS in the Americas. Before joining GECAS, he was a principal and co-owner of a financial advisory company specializing in transportation infrastructure from 1994 to 1998 and prior to that held positions at Capstar Partners and The Transportation Group in New York and Ryder System in Miami. He received a B.S. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School and an MBA from the University of Chicago’s Booth Graduate School of Business.

Michael Inglese, 55, became our Chief Financial Officer in April 2007 and has been Acting Chief Executive Officer since January 6, 2017. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Inglese served as an Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of PanAmSat Holding Corporation, where he served as Chief Financial Officer from June 2000 until the closing of PanAmSat's sale to Intelsat in July 2006. Mr. Inglese joined PanAmSat in May 1998 as Vice President, Finance after serving as Chief Financial Officer for DIRECTV Japan, Inc. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst who holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Rutgers University College of Engineering and his MBA from Rutgers Graduate School of Business Management.

Michael Kriedberg, 55, became our Chief Commercial Officer in April 2013. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Kriedberg served as an Executive Vice President, Aviation Financing Operations of GECAS from August 2009. From January 2008 to August 2009, Mr. Kriedberg was the Chief Investment Officer of GE Capital Corporation ("GECC") and President of the Bank Loan Group division of GECC from August 2006 to January 2008. Mr. Kriedberg holds a B.S. in Economics from SUNY Albany and a Master's degree in Accounting from Pace University.

Christopher L. Beers, 52, became our General Counsel in November 2014. Prior to joining Aircastle, Mr. Beers held senior positions at GE Capital since 2000, including Senior Vice President and Associate General Counsel at GECAS from 2009 to 2014, and Senior Vice President and General Counsel of GE Transportation Finance from 2006 to 2009. Previously, Mr. Beers was a Senior Associate at the law firm of Milbank Tweed Hadley and McCloy in New York City. Mr. Beers holds a B.S. in Economics from Arizona State University and a J.D. from Pace Law School.

Joseph Schreiner, 59, became our Executive Vice President, Technical in October 2004. Prior to joining Aircastle, Mr. Schreiner oversaw the technical department at AAR Corp, a provider of products and services to the aviation and defense industries from 1998 to 2004 where he managed aircraft and engine evaluations and inspections, aircraft lease transitions, reconfiguration and heavy maintenance. Prior to AAR, Mr. Schreiner spent nineteen years at Boeing (McDonnell-Douglas) in various technical management positions. Mr. Schreiner received a B.S. from the University of Illinois and an MBA from Pepperdine University.

Aaron Dahlke, 48, became our Chief Accounting Officer in June 2005. Prior to that, Mr. Dahlke was Vice President and Controller of Boullioun Aviation Services Inc. from January 2003 to May 2005. Prior to Boullioun, Mr. Dahlke was at ImageX.com, Inc. and Ernst & Young LLP. He received a B.S. in Accounting from California State University, San Bernardino. He is a Certified Public Accountant.

PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTER AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

Our common shares are listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "AYR." As of February 7, 2017, there were 26,838 record holders of our common shares.

The following table sets forth the quarterly high and low prices of our common shares on the New York Stock Exchange for the periods indicated since our initial public offering and dividends during such periods:

	High	Low	Dividends Declared per Share (\$)
Year Ended December 31, 2016:			
First Quarter	\$22.49	\$15.06	\$ 0.240
Second Quarter	\$22.74	\$18.82	\$ 0.240
Third Quarter	\$22.95	\$18.56	\$ 0.240
Fourth Quarter	\$22.99	\$18.26	\$ 0.260
Year Ended December 31, 2015:			
First Quarter	\$23.82	\$19.64	\$ 0.220
Second Quarter	\$25.52	\$22.15	\$ 0.220
Third Quarter	\$24.70	\$18.50	\$ 0.220
Fourth Quarter	\$23.49	\$19.13	\$ 0.240

Our ability to pay, maintain or increase cash dividends to our shareholders is subject to the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend on many factors, including the difficulty we may experience in raising capital in a market that has experienced significant volatility in recent years and our ability to finance our aircraft acquisition commitments; our ability to negotiate favorable lease and other contractual terms; the level of demand for our aircraft; the economic condition of the commercial aviation industry generally; the financial condition and liquidity of our lessees; the lease rates we are able to charge and realize; our leasing costs; unexpected or increased expenses; the level and timing of capital expenditures; principal repayments and other capital needs; the value of our aircraft portfolio; our compliance with loan to value, debt service coverage, interest rate coverage and other financial covenants in our financings; our results of operations, financial condition and liquidity; general business conditions; restrictions imposed by our securitizations or other financings; legal restrictions on the payment of dividends, including a statutory dividend test and other limitations under Bermuda law; and other factors that our Board of Directors deems relevant. Some of these factors are beyond our control and a change in any such factor could affect our ability to pay dividends on our common shares. In the future we may not choose to pay dividends or may not be able to pay dividends, maintain our current level of dividends, or increase them over time. Increases in demand for our aircraft and operating lease payments may not occur and may not increase our actual cash available for dividends to our common shareholders. The failure to maintain or pay dividends may adversely affect our share price.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

In February 2016, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of \$100.0 million of the Company's common shares. During the fourth quarter of 2016, we purchased our common shares as follows:

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs ⁽¹⁾	Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs ⁽¹⁾
	(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)			
October 1 through 31	—	\$ —	—	\$ 96,656
November 1 through 30	41,000	18.75	41,000	95,888
December 1 through 31	—	—	—	95,888
Total	41,000	\$ 18.75	41,000	\$ 95,888

(1) Under our current repurchase program, we have purchased an aggregate of 217,574 common shares at an aggregate cost of \$4.1 million, including commissions.

Performance Graph

The following stock performance graph shall not be deemed "filed" with the SEC or subject to Section 18 of the Exchange Act, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any of our filings under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

The following graph compares the cumulative five year total return to holders of our common shares relative to the cumulative total returns of the S&P Midcap 400 Index and a customized peer group over the five year period ended December 31, 2016. The peer group consists of three companies: AerCap Holdings NV (NYSE: AER), Air Lease Corporation (NYSE: AL) and FLY Leasing Limited (NYSE: FLY). An investment of \$100 (with reinvestment of all dividends) is assumed to have been made in our common shares, the S&P Midcap 400 Index and in the peer group on December 31, 2011, and the relative performance of each is tracked through December 31, 2016. The stock performance shown on the graph below represents historical stock performance and is not necessarily indicative of future stock price performance. We believe that the S&P Midcap 400 Index is more representative of our peers and as such, we utilize the S&P Midcap 400 Index as one of the metrics for our performance share-based compensation as part of our long-term incentive plan.

* \$100 invested on December 31, 2011 in stock or index, including reinvestment of dividends.

	12/31/11	12/31/12	12/31/13	12/31/14	12/31/15	12/31/16
Aircastle Limited	\$ 127.29	\$ 103.77	\$ 165.60	\$ 192.80	\$ 196.31	\$ 205.19
S&P Midcap 400	98.27	117.88	157.37	172.74	168.98	204.03
Peer Group	82.53	103.24	203.09	210.89	226.50	222.69

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The selected historical consolidated financial, operating and other data as of December 31, 2016 and 2015 and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2016 presented in this table are derived from our audited consolidated financial statements and related notes thereto appearing elsewhere in this Annual Report. The selected consolidated financial data as of December 31, 2013 and 2012 presented in this table are derived from our audited consolidated financial statements and related notes thereto, which are not included in this Annual Report. You should read these tables along with Item 7. “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and our Consolidated Financial Statements and the related notes thereto included elsewhere in this Annual Report.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
	(Dollars in thousands, except share data)				
Selected Financial Data:					
Consolidated Statements of Income:					
Lease rental revenue	\$725,220	\$733,417	\$714,654	\$644,929	\$623,503
Total revenues	772,958	819,202	818,602	708,645	686,572
Selling, general and administrative expenses	61,872	56,198	55,773	53,436	48,370
Depreciation	305,216	318,783	299,365	284,924	269,920
Interest, net	255,660	243,577	238,378	243,757	222,808
Net income	151,453	121,729	100,828	29,781	32,868
Earnings per common share — Basic:					
Net income	\$1.92	\$1.50	\$1.25	\$0.40	\$0.46
Earnings per common share — Diluted:					
Net income	\$1.92	\$1.50	\$1.25	\$0.40	\$0.46
Cash dividends declared per share	\$0.98	\$0.90	\$0.82	\$0.695	\$0.615
Other Operating Data:					
EBITDA	\$734,989	\$707,524	\$658,606	\$600,088	\$546,285
Adjusted EBITDA	767,953	832,105	792,283	717,209	647,622
Adjusted net income	168,527	142,271	167,642	59,260	57,009
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows:					
Cash flows provided by operations	\$468,092	\$526,285	\$458,786	\$424,037	\$427,277
Cash flows used in investing activities	(646,155)	(864,662)	(861,602)	(682,933)	(741,909)
Cash flows provided by (used in) financing activities	477,738	324,625	(82,141)	295,292	637,327
Consolidated Balance Sheet Data:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$455,579	\$155,904	\$169,656	\$654,613	\$618,217
Flight equipment held for lease, net of accumulated depreciation	6,247,585	5,867,062	5,579,718	5,044,410	4,662,661
Net investment in finance and sales-type leases	260,853	201,211	106,651	145,173	119,951
Total assets	7,244,665	6,569,964	6,175,146	6,199,429	5,757,073
Borrowings from secured and unsecured financings, net of debt issuance costs	4,506,245	4,041,156	3,744,587	3,684,897	3,543,589
Shareholders’ equity	1,834,314	1,779,500	1,720,335	1,645,407	1,415,626

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Other Data:

Number of aircraft owned and managed on behalf of our joint ventures (at the end of period)	206	167	152	162	159	
Total debt to total capitalization	71.1	% 69.4	% 68.5	% 69.1	% 71.5	%
Total unencumbered assets	\$5,069,955	\$4,084,134	\$3,510,588	\$3,309,821	\$2,709,915	

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We define EBITDA as income from continuing operations before income taxes, interest expense, and depreciation and amortization. We use EBITDA to assess our consolidated financial and operating performance, and we believe this non-U.S. GAAP measure is helpful in identifying trends in our performance. This measure provides an assessment of controllable expenses and affords management the ability to make decisions which are expected to facilitate meeting current financial goals as well as achieving optimal financial performance. It provides an indicator for management to determine if adjustments to current spending decisions are needed. EBITDA provides us with a measure of operating performance because it assists us in comparing our operating performance on a consistent basis as it removes the impact of our capital structure (primarily interest charges on our outstanding debt) and asset base (primarily depreciation and amortization) from our operating results. Accordingly, this metric measures our financial performance based on operational factors that management can impact in the short-term, namely the cost structure, or expenses, of the organization. EBITDA is one of the metrics used by senior management and the Board of Directors to review the consolidated financial performance of our business.

We define Adjusted EBITDA as EBITDA (as defined above) further adjusted to give effect to adjustments required in calculating covenant ratios and compliance as that term is defined in the indenture governing our senior unsecured notes. Adjusted EBITDA is a material component of these covenants.

The table below shows the reconciliation of net income to EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2012.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
	(Dollars in thousands)				
Net income	\$151,453	\$121,729	\$100,828	\$29,781	\$32,868
Depreciation	305,216	318,783	299,365	284,924	269,920
Amortization of net lease premiums (discounts) and lease incentives	10,353	10,664	6,172	32,411	12,844
Interest, net	255,660	243,577	238,378	243,757	222,808
Income tax provision	12,307	12,771	13,863	9,215	7,845
EBITDA	\$734,989	\$707,524	\$658,606	\$600,088	\$546,285
Adjustments:					
Impairment of aircraft	28,585	119,835	93,993	117,306	96,454
Loss on extinguishment of debt	—	—	36,570	—	—
Non-cash share-based payment expense	7,901	5,537	4,244	4,569	4,232
Gain on mark-to-market of interest rate derivative contracts	(3,522)	(791)	(1,130)	(4,754)	(597)
Contract termination expense	—	—	—	—	1,248
Adjusted EBITDA	\$767,953	\$832,105	\$792,283	\$717,209	\$647,622

Management believes that Adjusted Net Income ("ANI") when viewed in conjunction with the Company's results under U.S. GAAP and the below reconciliation, provides useful information about operating and period-over-period performance, and provides additional information that is useful for evaluating the underlying operating performance of our business without regard to periodic reporting elements related to interest rate derivative accounting, changes related to refinancing activity and non-cash share-based payment expense.

For additional information regarding the limitations of these non-GAAP measures, see "Limitations of EBITDA, Adjusted EBITDA and ANI" below.

The table below shows the reconciliation of net income to ANI for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2012.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
	(Dollars in thousands)				
Net income	\$ 151,453	\$ 121,729	\$ 100,828	\$ 29,781	\$ 32,868
Loss on extinguishment of debt ⁽²⁾	—	—	36,570	—	—
Ineffective portion and termination of cash flow hedges ⁽¹⁾	—	455	660	2,393	2,893
Gain on mark-to-market of interest rate derivative contracts ⁽²⁾	(3,522)	(791)	(1,130)	(4,754)	(597)
Loan termination payment ⁽¹⁾	4,960	—	—	2,954	—
Write-off of deferred financing fees ⁽¹⁾	2,880	—	—	3,975	3,034
Stock compensation expense ⁽³⁾	7,901	5,537	4,244	4,569	4,232
Term Financing No. 1 hedge loss amortization charges ⁽¹⁾	—	4,401	14,854	17,843	13,331
Securitization No. 1 hedge loss amortization charges ⁽¹⁾	4,855	10,940	11,616	2,499	—
Contract termination expense	—	—	—	—	1,248
Adjusted net income	\$ 168,527	\$ 142,271	\$ 167,642	\$ 59,260	\$ 57,009

(1) Included in Interest, net.

(2) Included in Other income (expense).

(3) Included in Selling, general and administrative expenses.

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

This management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations contains forward-looking statements that involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. You should read the following discussion in conjunction with Item 6. "Selected Financial Data" and our historical consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto appearing elsewhere in this report. The results of operations for the periods reflected herein are not necessarily indicative of results that may be expected for future periods, and our actual results may differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including but not limited to those described under Item 1A. — "Risk Factors" and elsewhere in this report. Please see "Safe Harbor Statement Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995" for a discussion of the uncertainties, risks and assumptions associated with these statements. Our consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP and, unless otherwise indicated, the other financial information contained in this report has also been prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Unless otherwise indicated, all references to "dollars" and "\$" in this report are to, and all monetary amounts in this report are presented in, U.S. dollars.

OVERVIEW

Aircastle acquires, leases, and sells commercial jet aircraft to airlines throughout the world. As of December 31, 2016, we owned and managed on behalf of our joint ventures 206 aircraft that were leased to 71 lessees located in 36 countries. Our aircraft are managed by an experienced team based in the United States, Ireland and Singapore. Our aircraft are subject to net leases whereby the lessee is generally responsible for maintaining the aircraft and paying operational, maintenance and insurance costs, although in certain cases, we are obligated to pay a portion of specified maintenance or modification costs. As of December 31, 2016, the net book value was \$6.51 billion compared to \$6.07 billion at the end of 2015. Our revenues and net income for the year ended December 31, 2016 were \$773.0 million and \$151.5 million respectively, and for the fourth quarter 2016 were \$204.7 million and \$67.7 million, respectively.

Revenues

Our revenues are comprised primarily of operating lease rentals on flight equipment held for lease, revenue from retained maintenance payments related to lease expirations, lease termination payments, lease incentive amortization and interest recognized from finance and sales-type leases.

Typically, our aircraft are subject to net leases whereby the lessee pays lease rentals and is generally responsible for maintaining the aircraft and paying operational, maintenance and insurance costs arising during the term of the lease. Our aircraft lease agreements generally provide for the periodic payment of a fixed amount of rent over the life of the lease and the amount of the contracted rent will depend upon the type, age, specification and condition of the aircraft and market conditions at the time the lease is committed. The amount of rent we receive will depend on a number of factors, including the creditworthiness of our lessees and the occurrence of restructurings and defaults. Our lease rental revenues are also affected by the extent to which aircraft are off-lease and our ability to remarket aircraft that are nearing the end of their leases in order to minimize their off-lease time. Our success in re-leasing aircraft is affected by market conditions relating to our aircraft and by general industry conditions and trends. An increase in the percentage of off-lease aircraft or a reduction in lease rates upon remarketing would negatively impact our revenues. Under an operating lease, the lessee will be responsible for performing maintenance on the relevant aircraft and will typically be required to make payments to us for heavy maintenance, overhaul or replacement of certain high-value components of the aircraft. These maintenance payments are based on hours or cycles of utilization or on calendar time, depending upon the component, and would be made either monthly in arrears or at the end of the lease term. For maintenance payments made monthly in arrears during a lease term, we will typically be required to reimburse all or a portion of these payments to the lessee upon their completion of the relevant heavy maintenance, overhaul or parts replacement. We record maintenance payments paid by the lessee during a lease as accrued maintenance liabilities in recognition of our obligation in the lease to refund such payments, and therefore we do not recognize maintenance revenue during the lease. Maintenance revenue recognition would occur at the end of a lease, when we are able to determine the amount, if any, by which reserve payments received exceed the amount we are required under the lease to reimburse to the lessee for heavy maintenance, overhaul or parts replacement. The amount of maintenance revenue

we recognize in any reporting period is inherently volatile and is dependent upon a number of factors, including the timing of lease expiries, including scheduled and unscheduled expiries, the timing of maintenance events and the utilization of the aircraft by the lessee.

Many of our leases contain provisions which may require us to pay a portion of the lessee's costs for heavy maintenance, overhaul or replacement of certain high-value components. We account for these expected payments as lease incentives, which are amortized as a reduction of revenue over the life of the lease. We estimate the amount of our portion for such costs, typically for the first major maintenance event for the airframe, engines, landing gear and auxiliary power units, expected to be paid to the lessee based on assumed utilization of the related aircraft by the lessee, the anticipated cost of the maintenance event and the estimated amounts the lessee is responsible to pay. This estimated lease incentive is not recognized as a lease incentive liability at the inception of the lease. We recognize the lease incentive as a reduction of lease revenue on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, with the offset being recorded as a lease incentive liability which is included in maintenance payments on the balance sheet. The payment to the lessee for the lease incentive liability is first recorded against the lease incentive liability and any excess above the lease incentive liability is recorded as a prepaid lease incentive asset which is included in other assets on the balance sheet and continues to amortize over the remaining life of the lease.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses are comprised of depreciation of flight equipment held for lease, interest expense, selling, general and administrative expenses, aircraft impairment charges and maintenance and other costs. Because our operating lease terms generally require the lessee to pay for operating, maintenance and insurance costs, our portion of maintenance and other costs relating to aircraft reflected in our statement of income primarily relates to expenses for unscheduled lease transitions.

Income Tax Provision

We obtained an assurance from the Minister of Finance of Bermuda under the Exempted Undertakings Tax Protection Act 1966 that, in the event any legislation is enacted in Bermuda imposing any tax computed on profits or income, or computed on any capital asset, gain or appreciation or any tax in the nature of estate duty or inheritance tax, such tax shall not, until March 2035, be applicable to us or to any of our operations or to our shares, debentures or other obligations except insofar as such tax applies to persons ordinarily resident in Bermuda or to any taxes payable by us in respect of real property owned or leased by us in Bermuda. Consequently, the provision for income taxes recorded relates to income earned by certain subsidiaries of the Company which are located in, or earn income in, jurisdictions that impose income taxes, primarily Ireland, Singapore and the United States.

All of our aircraft-owning subsidiaries that are recognized as corporations for U.S. tax purposes are non-U.S. corporations. These non-U.S. subsidiaries generally earn income from sources outside the United States and typically are not subject to U.S. federal, state or local income taxes, unless they operate within the U.S., in which case they may be subject to federal, state and local income taxes. The aircraft owning subsidiaries resident in Ireland, Mauritius and Singapore are subject to tax in those respective jurisdictions.

We have a U.S.-based subsidiary which provides management services to our non-U.S. subsidiaries and is subject to U.S. federal, state and local income taxes. We also have Ireland and Singapore based subsidiaries which provide management services to our non-U.S. subsidiaries and are subject to tax in those respective jurisdictions.

Acquisitions and Sales

During 2016, we acquired 60 aircraft for \$1.6 billion. At December 31, 2016, we had commitments to acquire 28 aircraft for \$1.08 billion, including 25 new Embraer E-Jet E-2 aircraft from Embraer, with delivery beginning in 2018. These amounts include estimated amounts for pre-delivery deposits, contractual price escalations and other adjustments. As of February 7, 2017, we have commitments to acquire 28 aircraft for \$1.08 billion.

During 2016, we sold 30 aircraft and other flight equipment for \$755.9 million, which resulted in a net gain of \$39.1 million.

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the aircraft owned and managed on behalf of our joint ventures by us as of December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014:

AIRCATTLE AIRCRAFT INFORMATION (dollars in millions)

	As of December 31, 2016	As of December 31, 2015	As of December 31, 2014 ⁽¹⁾
Owned Aircraft			
Flight Equipment Held for Lease	\$ 6,508	\$ 6,068	\$ 5,686
Unencumbered Flight Equipment included in Flight Equipment Held for Lease	\$ 4,614	\$ 3,928	\$ 3,341
Number of Aircraft	193	162	148
Number of Unencumbered Aircraft	156	118	95
Number of Lessees	71	53	54
Number of Countries	36	34	34
Weighted Average Age (years) ⁽²⁾	7.9	7.5	8.4
Weighted Average Remaining Lease Term (years) ⁽²⁾	5.1	5.9	5.4
Weighted Average Fleet Utilization during the Fourth Quarter ⁽³⁾	99.0	% 99.7	% 99.9
Weighted Average Fleet Utilization for the Year Ended ⁽³⁾	98.9	% 99.3	% 99.6
Portfolio Yield for the Fourth Quarter ⁽⁴⁾	12.4	% 12.6	% 13.3
Portfolio Yield for the Year Ended ⁽⁴⁾	12.4	% 12.7	% 13.4
Managed Aircraft on behalf of Joint Ventures			
Flight Equipment	\$ 689	\$ 484	\$ 505
Number of Aircraft	13	5	5

(1) Calculated using net book value at period end.

(2) Weighted by net book value.

(3) Aircraft on-lease days as a percent of total days in period weighted by net book value.

Lease rental revenue, interest income and cash collections on our net investment in finance and sales-type leases for the period as a percent of the average net book value for the period; quarterly information is annualized. Based on the growing level of finance and sales-type lease revenue, management revised the calculation of portfolio yield to include our net investment in finance and sales-type leases in the average net book value and to include the interest income and cash collections on our net investment in finance and sales-type leases in lease rentals.

Our owned aircraft portfolio as of December 31, 2016 is listed in Exhibit 99.1 to this report.

PORTFOLIO DIVERSIFICATION

Aircraft Type	Owned Aircraft as of December 31, 2016			Owned Aircraft as of December 31, 2015		
	Number of Aircraft	% of Net Book Value ⁽¹⁾	%	Number of Aircraft	% of Net Book Value ⁽¹⁾	%
Passenger:						
Narrow-body	155	56	%	118	46	%
Wide-body	30	36	%	33	44	%
Total Passenger	185	92	%	151	90	%
Freighter	8	8	%	11	10	%
Total	193	100	%	162	100	%
Manufacturer						
Airbus	103	51	%	87	53	%
Boeing	85	47	%	70	45	%
Embraer	5	2	%	5	2	%
Total	193	100	%	162	100	%
Regional Diversification						
Asia and Pacific	61	38	%	49	39	%
Europe	66	23	%	64	26	%
Middle East and Africa	14	11	%	9	10	%
North America	26	8	%	17	6	%
South America	23	18	%	22	19	%
Off-lease	3	⁽²⁾ 2	%	1	⁽³⁾ —	%
Total	193	100	%	162	100	%

(1) Calculated using net book value at year end.

(2) Consisted of one Airbus A330-200 aircraft, which was delivered on lease to a customer in February 2017, and two Airbus A321-200 aircraft which are subject to a commitment to lease.

(3) Consisted of one Boeing 777-200ER aircraft that was sold during the second quarter of 2016.

Our largest customer represents 6% of the net book value at December 31, 2016. Our top fifteen customers for aircraft we owned at December 31, 2016, representing 88 aircraft and 59% of the net book value, are as follows:

Percent of Net Book Value	Customer	Country	Number of Aircraft
Greater than 6% per customer	Avianca Brazil	Brazil	10
	Lion Air	Indonesia	12
3% to 6% per customer	LATAM	Chile	3
	South African Airways	South Africa	4
	Thai Airways	Thailand	2
	Singapore Airlines	Singapore	4
	Air Asia X	Malaysia	3
	Air Berlin	Germany	11
	Emirates	United Arab Emirates	2
	AirBridge Cargo ⁽¹⁾	Russia	2
	Iberia	Spain	11
	Garuda	Indonesia	4
Less than 3% per customer	Jet Airways	India	8
	Avianca	Colombia	2
	easyJet	United Kingdom	10
	Total top 15 customers		88
	All other customers		105
	Total all customers		193

(1) Guaranteed by Volga-Dnepr Airlines. We have one additional aircraft on lease with an affiliated airline.

Finance

Aircastle Limited is a publicly-listed company, and our shares have been trading on the New York Stock Exchange since August 2006. Since our inception in late 2004, we raised approximately \$1.7 billion in equity capital from private and public investors. We also obtained \$12.9 billion in debt capital from a variety of sources including export credit agency-backed debt, commercial bank debt, the aircraft securitization markets and the unsecured bond market. The diversity and global nature of our financing sources demonstrates our ability to adapt to changing market conditions and seize new growth opportunities.

We intend to fund new investments through cash on hand, funds generated from operations, maintenance payments received from lessees, secured borrowings for aircraft, draws on our revolving credit facilities and proceeds from any future aircraft sales. We may repay all or a portion of such borrowings from time to time with the net proceeds from subsequent long-term debt financings, additional equity offerings or cash generated from operations and asset sales. Therefore, our ability to execute our business strategy, particularly the acquisition of additional commercial jet aircraft or other aviation assets, depends to a significant degree on our ability to obtain additional debt and equity capital on terms we deem attractive.

See “Liquidity and Capital Resources — Secured Debt Financings” and “Liquidity and Capital Resources — Unsecured Debt Financings” below.

Comparison of the year ended December 31, 2016 to the year ended December 31, 2015:

Year Ended	
December 31,	
2016	2015

(Dollars in
thousands)

Revenues: