

GALLAGHER ARTHUR J & CO

Form 424B2

April 24, 2015

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Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2)

Registration No. 333-203203

PROSPECTUS

8,000,000 Shares of Common Stock

This prospectus relates to 8,000,000 shares of our common stock that we may offer and issue from time to time in connection with future acquisitions of other businesses, assets or securities.

We will determine the amount and type of consideration to be offered and the other specific terms of each acquisition following negotiation with the owners or controlling persons of the businesses, assets or securities to be acquired. The consideration for any such acquisition may consist of shares of our common stock or a combination of common stock, cash, notes or assumption of liabilities. We may structure business acquisitions in a variety of ways, including acquiring stock, other equity interests or assets of the acquired business or merging the acquired business with one of our subsidiaries. We expect that the shares of common stock issued in connection with these transactions will be valued at a price reasonably related to the market value of our common stock either at the time an agreement is reached regarding the terms of the acquisition, at the time we issue the shares, or during some other negotiated period. Persons to whom we issue our common stock under this prospectus may also use this prospectus to resell the common stock. We have not fixed a period of time during which the common stock offered by this prospectus may be offered or sold.

We may also issue shares of common stock upon the exercise of options, warrants, convertible securities or other similar securities assumed or issued by us from time to time in connection with these transactions.

We will pay all expenses of this offering. We will not pay underwriting discounts or commissions in connection with issuing these shares, although we may pay finder's fees in specific acquisitions. Any person receiving a finder's fee may be deemed an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Our common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol AJG. On April 1, 2015, the last reported per share sale price of our common stock was \$46.73.

Investing in our common stock involves risk. You should carefully consider the Risk Factors described on page 2 in determining whether to accept stock as all or part of the purchase price for our acquisition of your business, securities or other assets.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is April 21, 2015.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a shelf registration statement on Form S-4 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. Under the shelf registration process, we may from time to time offer and issue up to 8,000,000 shares of our common stock in connection with future acquisitions of other businesses, assets or securities. This prospectus provides a general description of the common stock that we may offer and issue. We may add, update or change the information contained in this prospectus by means of one or more prospectus supplements. Before investing in our common stock, please carefully review both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, together with the additional information described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.

This prospectus incorporates important business and financial information about us that is not included in or delivered with this prospectus. We will provide, without charge upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Direct any such requests to: General Counsel, Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., Two Pierce Place, Itasca, Illinois 60143-3141 (telephone number (630) 773-3800). **To obtain timely delivery, you must request the information no later than five business days before the date that you must make your investment decision.**

You should rely only on information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to give you any information or make any representation about us that is different from, or in addition to, that contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or in any of the materials that we have incorporated by reference into this document. If anyone does give you information of this sort, you should not rely on it. If you are in a jurisdiction where offers to sell, or solicitations of offers to purchase, the securities offered by this document are unlawful, or if you are a person to whom it is unlawful to direct these types of activities, then the offer presented in this document does not extend to you. The information contained in this prospectus speaks only as of the date of this document, unless the information specifically indicates that another date applies.

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ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER & CO.

We are engaged in providing insurance brokerage and consulting services, third-party claims settlement and administration services to entities in the United States and abroad. We believe that our major strength is our ability to deliver comprehensively structured insurance risk management and consulting services to our clients. Our brokers, agents and administrators act as intermediaries between insurers and their customers and we do not assume underwriting risks.

We have three reportable segments: brokerage, risk management and corporate, which contributed approximately 63%, 14% and 23%, respectively, to our 2014 revenues. Our major sources of operating revenues are commissions, fees and supplemental and contingent commissions from brokerage operations and fees from risk management operations. Investment income is generated from invested cash and fiduciary funds, clean energy and other investments, and interest income from premium financing. In 2014, we expanded, and expect to continue to expand, our international operations through both acquisitions and organic growth. In 2014, we generated approximately 68% of our revenues for the combined brokerage and risk management segments domestically, with the remaining 32% derived internationally, primarily in Australia, Bermuda, Canada, the Caribbean, New Zealand and the U.K. Substantially all of the revenues of the corporate segment are generated in the United States.

Shares of our common stock are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol AJG, and we had a market capitalization at January 31, 2015 of approximately \$7.76 billion. We were reincorporated as a Delaware corporation in 1972. Our executive offices are located at Two Pierce Place, Itasca, Illinois 60143-3141, and our telephone number is (630) 773-3800.

Unless the context otherwise requires, the terms we, our and us refer to both Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. and its subsidiaries. The term you refers to a prospective investor.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our common stock involves risks. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider the specific risks set forth under the caption Risk Factors in the applicable prospectus supplement as well as under the caption Risk Factors in our filings with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus contains certain statements related to future results, or states our intentions, beliefs and expectations or predictions for the future, which are forward-looking statements as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements relate to expectations or forecasts of future events. Such statements use words such as anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, contemplate, forecast, project, intend, potential, and other similar terms, and future or conditional tense verbs like could, may, might, see, should, would. You can also identify forward-looking statements by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. For example, we may use forward-looking statements when addressing topics such as: market and industry conditions, including competitive and pricing trends; acquisition strategy; the expected impact of acquisitions and dispositions; the development and performance of our services and products; changes in the composition or level of our revenues or earnings; our cost structure and the outcome of cost-saving or restructuring initiatives; future capital expenditures; future debt to earnings ratios; the outcome of contingencies; dividend policy; pension obligations; cash flow and liquidity; capital structure and financial losses; future actions by regulators; the outcome of existing regulatory actions, investigations or litigation; the impact of changes in accounting rules; financial markets;

interest rates; foreign exchange rates; matters relating to our operations; income taxes; expectations regarding our investments, including our clean energy investments; and integrating recent acquisitions. These forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from either historical or anticipated results depending on a variety of factors.

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Many factors could affect our actual results, and variances from our current expectations regarding such factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. Potential factors that could impact us include:

Our failure to successfully integrate recently acquired businesses and their operations or fully realize synergies from such acquisitions in the expected time frame;

Volatility or declines in premiums or other adverse trends in the insurance industry;

An economic downturn;

Competitive pressures in each of our businesses;

Risks that could negatively affect the success of our acquisition strategy, including continuing consolidation in our industry and growing interest in acquiring insurance brokers on the part of private equity firms, which could make it more difficult to identify targets and could make them more expensive, execution risks, integration risks, the risk of post-acquisition deterioration leading to intangible asset impairment charges, and the risk we could incur or assume unanticipated regulatory liabilities such as those relating to violations of anti-corruption and sanctions laws;

Our failure to attract and retain experienced and qualified personnel;

Risks arising from our growing international operations, including the risks posed by political and economic uncertainty in certain countries (including the risks posed by protectionist local governments and underdeveloped or evolving legal systems), risks related to maintaining regulatory and legal compliance across multiple jurisdictions (such as those relating to violations of anti-corruption, sanctions and privacy laws), and risks arising from the complexity of managing businesses across different time zones, geographies, cultures and legal regimes;

Risks particular to our risk management segment;

The lower level of predictability inherent in contingent and supplemental commissions versus standard commissions;

Sustained increases in the cost of employee benefits;

Our failure to apply technology effectively in driving value for our clients through technology-based solutions, or our failure to gain internal efficiencies and effective internal controls through the application of technology and related tools;

Our inability to recover successfully should we experience a disaster, cybersecurity attack or other disruption to business continuity;

Damage to our reputation;

Our failure to comply with regulatory requirements, including those related to international sanctions, or a change in regulations or enforcement policies that adversely affects our operations (for example, relating to insurance broker compensation methods);

Violations or alleged violations of the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, the U.K. Bribery Act or other anti-corruption laws and rules that apply to U.S. businesses that operate abroad;

The outcome of any existing or future investigation, regulatory action or litigation;

Our failure to adapt our services to changes resulting from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act;

Unfavorable determinations related to contingencies and legal proceedings;

Clients that are not satisfied with our services;

Improper disclosure of confidential, personal or proprietary data;

Significant changes in foreign exchange rates;

Changes in our accounting estimates and assumptions;

Risks related to our clean energy investments, including the risk of intellectual property claims, utilities switching from coal to natural gas, environmental and product liability claims and environmental compliance costs;

Disallowance of Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (IRC) Section 29 or IRC Section 45 tax credits;

The risk that our outstanding debt adversely affects our financial flexibility and restrictions and limitations in the agreements and instruments governing our debt;

The risk we may not be able to receive dividends or other distributions from subsidiaries;

The risk of share ownership dilution when we issue common stock as consideration for acquisitions and for other reasons; and

Volatility of the price of our common stock.

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A detailed discussion of certain of the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from our published expectations is contained in our SEC filings, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014, and any reports we file with the SEC in the future, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

Any or all of our forward-looking statements may turn out to be inaccurate, and there are no guarantees about our performance. The factors identified above are not exhaustive. We operate in a dynamic business environment in which new risks may emerge frequently. Accordingly, you should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements contained in this report, which speak only as of the date set forth as of the date of this prospectus. Except as required by law, we expressly disclaim any obligation to update or alter any forward-looking statement that we may make from time to time, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The shares of our common stock covered by this prospectus may be offered by us from time to time in connection with future acquisitions of other businesses, assets or securities. We are actively looking for acquisition opportunities in the insurance brokerage and employee benefits consulting markets. We typically seek targets with a strong middle market client focus or significant expertise in one of our focus market areas. Acquisition targets have typically been within a \$1,000,000 to \$50,000,000 purchase price range, although we may complete acquisitions with a higher purchase price. From time to time, we also consider acquisitions in our risk management segment consisting of claim settlement and administrative service providers. In recent years, many of our acquisitions have occurred outside the United States.

We expect to offer and sell the shares covered by this prospectus in connection with future acquisitions within the next two years. We anticipate that our future acquisitions will consist principally of additional insurance brokerage, employee benefits consulting and related businesses. The consideration for such acquisitions may include cash, including installment payments, earnout payments, shares of common stock, other securities including securities that may be converted into common stock, guarantees, assumptions of liabilities, or any two or more of the foregoing, as determined from time to time by negotiations between us and the owners or controlling persons of the businesses, assets or securities to be acquired. In addition, we may enter into employment contracts and non-competition agreements with former owners and key executive personnel of acquired businesses. At any given time we are typically engaged in preliminary discussions or negotiations with many candidates regarding possible future acquisitions.

In general, the terms of each future acquisition will be determined by negotiations between our representatives and the owners or controlling persons of the businesses, assets or securities to be acquired. The factors taken into account in determining the terms of an acquisition may include the established quality and reputation of the business to be acquired and its management, its gross commission revenues, earning power, cash flow, growth potential, the location of the business and assets to be acquired, and the geographical and service diversification we anticipate as a result of the acquisition. We anticipate that shares of our common stock issued in any future acquisition will be valued at a price reasonably related to the then current market value of our common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange at or about the time or times of delivery of the shares. We do not expect to receive any cash proceeds, other than cash balances of acquired companies maintained in the ordinary course of business, in connection with any such issuances.

This prospectus may be supplemented to furnish the information necessary for a particular negotiated transaction, and the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part will be amended or supplemented, as required, to supply information concerning an acquisition.

We will pay all expenses of this offering. We do not expect that underwriting discounts or commissions will be paid by us except that finder's fees may be paid to persons from time to time in connection with specific acquisitions. Any person receiving any such fees may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act).

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LEGAL MATTERS

Seth Diehl, Esq., our Senior Counsel, Corporate & Securities, has issued an opinion with respect to the validity of the securities being offered by this prospectus. We have filed the opinion as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. (Gallagher) appearing in Gallagher s Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2014 (including the schedule appearing therein), and the effectiveness of Gallagher s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014 have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, included therein, and incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements are incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may access and read our SEC filings, including the complete registration statement and all of the exhibits to it, on the SEC s website located at <http://www.sec.gov>. This site contains reports and other information that we file electronically with the SEC. The registration statement and other reports or information can be inspected, and copies may be obtained, at the SEC s Public Reference Room, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room of the SEC may be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330.

We have filed a registration statement, of which this prospectus is a part, and related exhibits with the SEC under the Securities Act. This prospectus, filed as part of the registration statement, does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement and its exhibits and schedules, portions of which have been omitted as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information about us and our common stock, we refer you to the registration statement and its exhibits and schedules. Statements in this prospectus about the contents of any contract, agreement or other documents are not necessarily complete and, in each instance, we refer you to the copy of such contract, agreement or document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, with each such statement being qualified in all respects by reference to the document to which it refers. You may inspect the registration statement and exhibits without charge at the SEC s Public Reference Room or at the SEC s web site listed above, and you may obtain copies from the SEC at prescribed rates.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

THIS PROSPECTUS INCORPORATES DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE THAT ARE NOT PRESENTED IN OR DELIVERED WITH THIS PROSPECTUS. YOU SHOULD RELY ONLY ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS PROSPECTUS AND IN THE DOCUMENTS THAT WE HAVE INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE INTO THIS PROSPECTUS. WE HAVE NOT AUTHORIZED ANYONE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM OR IN ADDITION TO THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT AND INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE INTO THIS PROSPECTUS.

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We incorporate information into this prospectus by reference, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and all documents subsequently filed with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, after the date of this prospectus and prior to the date this offering is terminated or we issue all of the shares of common stock under this prospectus:

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, filed on February 13, 2015 (including the portions of our proxy statement for our 2014 annual meeting of stockholders incorporated by reference therein);

Our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 6, 2015; and

The description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form S-4, filed on May 16, 2013 (File No. 333-188651).

Nothing in this prospectus shall be deemed to incorporate information furnished, but not filed, with the SEC pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K and corresponding information furnished under Item 9.01 of Form 8-K or included as an exhibit.

Information in this prospectus supersedes related information in the documents listed above and information in subsequently filed documents supersedes related information in both this prospectus and the incorporated documents.

You may request orally or in writing, and we will provide you with, a copy of these filings, at no cost, by calling us at (630) 773-3800 or by writing to us at the following address:

General Counsel

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

Two Pierce Place

Itasca, Illinois 60143-3141

In order to ensure timely delivery of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any request should be made no later than five business days prior to the date on which you plan to make a final investment decision. These filings and reports can also be found on our website, located at <http://www.ajg.com>, by following the links to Investor Relations and SEC Filings.

The information contained on our website does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

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8,000,000 Shares of Common Stock

PROSPECTUS

April 21, 2015

We have not authorized any dealer, salesperson or other person to give any information or represent anything to you other than the information contained in this prospectus. You may not rely on unauthorized information or representations.

This prospectus does not offer to sell or ask for offers to buy any of the securities in any jurisdiction where it is unlawful, where the person making the offer is not qualified to do so, or to any person who cannot legally be offered the securities.

The information in this prospectus is current only as of the date on its cover, and may change after that date. For any time after the cover date of this prospectus, we do not represent that our affairs are the same as described or that the information in this prospectus is correct, nor do we imply those things by delivering this prospectus or selling securities to you.

Until June 1, 2015, all dealers that effect transactions in these securities may be required to deliver a prospectus. This is in addition to the dealers' obligations to deliver a prospectus when acting as underwriters and with respect to their unsold allotments or subscription.