

Ryerson Holding Corp  
Form 10-K  
March 05, 2019

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018

OR

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File No. 001-34735

RYERSON HOLDING CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE 26-1251524  
(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer

incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

227 W. Monroe St., 27<sup>th</sup> Floor

Chicago, Illinois 60606

(Address of principal executive offices)

(312) 292-5000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

Title of each class	Name of exchange on which registered
Common Stock - \$0.01 par value	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 every Interactive Data File required to be submitted 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 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, a smaller reporting company, or emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer	Accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer	Smaller reporting company
	Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. Yes No

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 voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant, based on the closing price of a share of the registrant's common stock on June 30, 2018 as reported by the New York Stock Exchange on such date was approximately \$175,719,730. Shares of the registrant's common stock held by each executive officer, director and holder of 5% or more of the outstanding common stock have been excluded in that such persons may be deemed to be affiliates. This calculation does not reflect a determination that certain persons are

affiliates of the registrant for any other purpose.

As of February 28, 2019 there were 37,453,080 shares of our Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The information required to be furnished pursuant to Part III of this Form 10-K will be set forth in, and incorporated by reference from, the registrant's definitive proxy statement for the annual meeting of stockholders (the "2018 Proxy Statement"), which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	Page 3
 <u>PART I</u>	
Item 1. <u>Business</u>	4
Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>	11
Item 1B. <u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	21
Item 2. <u>Properties</u>	22
Item 3. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	24
Item 4. <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	24
 <u>PART II</u>	
Item 5. <u>Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters, and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	25
Item 6. <u>Selected Financial Data</u>	26
Item 7. <u>Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	29
Item 7A. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk</u>	46
Item 8. <u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	48
Item 9. <u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	99
Item 9A. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	99
Item 9B. <u>Other Information</u>	99
 <u>PART III</u>	
Item 10. <u>Directors, Executive Officers, and Corporate Governance</u>	100
Item 11. <u>Executive Compensation</u>	100
Item 12. <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	100

Item 13. <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	101
Item 14. <u>Principal Accounting Fees and Services</u>	101
<u>PART IV</u>	
Item 15. <u>Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>	102
<u>Signatures</u>	106

## SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report contains “forward-looking statements.” Such statements can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as “objectives,” “goals,” “preliminary,” “range,” “believes,” “expects,” “may,” “estimates,” “should,” “plans” or “anticipates” or the negative thereof or other variations thereon or comparable terminology, or by discussions of strategy. Readers are cautioned that any such forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and may involve significant risks and uncertainties, and that actual results may vary materially from those anticipated or implied in the forward-looking statements as a result of various factors. Among the factors that significantly impact the metals distribution industry and our business are:

- highly cyclical fluctuations resulting from, among others, seasonality, market uncertainty, and costs of goods sold;
- remaining competitive and maintaining market share in the highly competitive and fragmented metals distribution industry;
- managing the costs of purchased metals relative to the price at which we sell our products during periods of rapid price escalation;
- our substantial indebtedness and the covenants in instruments governing such indebtedness;
- the impairment of goodwill that could result from, among other things, volatility in the markets in which we operate;
- the failure to effectively integrate newly acquired operations;
- the regulatory and other operational risks associated with our operations located outside of the United States (or “U.S.”);
- the management of inventory and other costs and expenses;
- the adequacy of our efforts to mitigate cyber security risks and threats;
- reduced production schedules, layoffs or work stoppages by our own, our suppliers’, or customers’ personnel;
- certain employee retirement benefit plans are underfunded and the actual costs could exceed current estimates;
- future funding for postretirement employee benefits may require substantial payments from current cash flow;
- prolonged disruption of our processing centers;
- the ability to retain and attract management and key personnel;
- the ability of management to focus on North American and foreign operations;
- the ability to comply with the terms of our asset-based credit facility and our indenture;
- the incurrence of substantial costs or liabilities to comply with, or as a result of violations of, environmental laws;
- the impact of new or pending litigation against us;
- the risk of product liability claims;
- our risk management strategies may result in losses;
- currency fluctuations in the U.S. dollar versus the Canadian dollar and the Chinese renminbi;
- customer, supplier, and competitor consolidation, bankruptcy or insolvency;
- the ownership of a majority of our equity securities by a single investor group.

These risks and uncertainties could cause actual results to differ materially from those suggested by the forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements should, therefore, be considered in light of various factors, including those set forth in this Annual Report under “Risk Factors” and the caption “Industry and Operating Trends” included in “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and elsewhere in this Annual Report. Moreover, we caution you not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date they were made. We do not undertake any obligation to revise or publicly release any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this Annual Report or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.



## PART I

### ITEM 1. BUSINESS.

Ryerson Holding Corporation (“Ryerson Holding”), a Delaware corporation, is the parent company of Joseph T. Ryerson & Son, Inc. (“JT Ryerson”), a Delaware corporation. Affiliates of Platinum Equity, LLC (“Platinum”) own approximately 21,037,500 shares of our common stock, which is approximately 56% of our issued and outstanding common stock.

We are a leading metals service center, a value-added processor and distributor of industrial metals with operations in the United States through JT Ryerson, in Canada through our indirect wholly-owned subsidiary Ryerson Canada, Inc., a Canadian corporation (“Ryerson Canada”), and in Mexico through our indirect wholly-owned subsidiary Ryerson Metals de Mexico, S. de R.L. de C.V., a Mexican corporation (“Ryerson Mexico”). In addition to our North American operations, we conduct materials processing and distribution operations in China through an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary, Ryerson China Limited (“Ryerson China”). Unless the context indicates otherwise, Ryerson Holding, JT Ryerson, Ryerson Canada, Ryerson China, and Ryerson Mexico together with their subsidiaries, are collectively referred to herein as “Ryerson,” “we,” “us,” “our,” or the “Company.”

#### Our Company

We believe we are one of the largest value-add processors and distributors of industrial metals in North America measured in terms of sales. Our industry is highly fragmented with the largest companies accounting for only a small percentage of total market share. Our customer base ranges from local, independently owned fabricators and machine shops to large, international original equipment manufacturers. We carry a full line of over 75,000 products in stainless steel, aluminum, carbon steel, and alloy steels and a limited line of nickel and red metals in various shapes and forms. More than 75% of the products we sell are processed to meet customer requirements. Specifically, we provide a wide range of flat and long metals products, we offer numerous value-added processing and fabrication services such as bending, beveling, blanking, blasting, burning, cutting-to-length, drilling, embossing, flattening, forming, grinding, laser cutting, machining, notching, painting, perforating, polishing, punching, rolling, sawing, scribing, shearing, slitting, stamping, tapping, threading, welding, or other techniques to process materials to a specified thickness, length, width, shape, and surface quality pursuant to specific customer orders. Our value proposition also includes providing a superior level of customer service and responsiveness, technical services, and inventory management solutions. Our range of products together with our breadth of services allows us to create long-term partnerships with our customers and enhances our profitability. We continue to focus on our systems and enhance our online services to provide increased functionality and flexibility to our customers.

We track the processing, if any, performed on sold material for over 95% of our total revenues. The activities we track broadly fall into four main processing categories: (1) sheet processing (excludes fabrication activities), (2) as-is long and plate, (3) cut long and plate, and (4) fabrication. A key metric that we track is the percentage mix of revenue that comes from our fabrication capabilities. In 2010, the mix of revenue from fabrication activities was 6.7% of our sales, while in 2018, our mix of revenue from fabrication activities was 10.2% of our sales largely due to the strategic investments we have made in value-added processing capital expenditures. On July 2, 2018, JT Ryerson acquired Central Steel and Wire Company (“CS&W”) a leading metal service center with locations across the Central and Eastern United States offering a wide selection of products and capabilities, with a commercial portfolio centered on bar, tube, plate, and steel products.

We operate 97 facilities across North America and five facilities in China. Our service centers are strategically located near our customers, which allows us to quickly process and deliver our products and services, often within the next day of receiving an order. We own, lease, or contract a fleet of tractors and trailers, allowing us to efficiently meet our customers’ delivery demands. In addition, our scale enables us to maintain low operating costs. Our operating expenses



as a percentage of sales for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 were 14.0% and 14.3%, respectively.

We serve approximately 45,000 customers across a wide range of manufacturing end markets. Our geographic network and broad range of products and services allow us to serve large, international manufacturing companies across multiple locations. We believe the diverse end markets we serve reduce the volatility of our business in the aggregate.

#### Industry Overview

Metals service centers serve as key intermediaries between metal producers and end users of metal products. Metal producers offer commodity products and typically sell metals in the form of standard-sized coils, sheets, plates, structurals, bars, and tubes. Producers, mostly steel and aluminum mills, prefer large order quantities, longer lead times, and limited inventory to maximize capacity utilization across their typically higher capital-intensive structure.

End users of metal products seek to purchase metals with customized specifications, including value-added processing. End-users in highly diverse industries such as machinery, construction, and transportation often look for “one-stop” suppliers that can offer processing services along with lower order volumes, shorter lead times, and more reliable delivery.

As an intermediary, metals service centers aggregate end-users’ demand, purchase metal in bulk to take advantage of economies of scale, and then process and sell metal that meets specific customer requirements.

The metals service center industry is comprised of many companies, the majority of which have limited product lines and inventories, with customers located in a specific geographic area. In general, competition is based on quality, service, price, and geographic proximity.

The metals service center industry typically experiences cash flow trends that are counter-cyclical to the revenue and volume growth of the industry. During an industry downturn, companies generally reduce working capital assets and generate cash as inventory and accounts receivable balances decline. As a result, operating cash flow and liquidity tend to increase during a downturn, which typically facilitates industry participants’ ability to cover fixed costs and repay outstanding debt.

We compete with many other metals service centers and to a lesser extent with primary metal producers. Primary metal producers typically sell to larger customers that require regular shipments of higher volumes of steel than the traditional service center customer.

#### Competitive Strengths

##### Leading Market Position in North America.

Based on sales, we believe we are one of the largest service center companies for carbon, stainless steel, and aluminum in the North American market where we have a broad geographic presence with 97 facilities.

Our service centers are located near our customer locations, enabling us to provide timely delivery to customers across numerous geographic markets. Additionally, our widespread network of locations in the United States, Canada, and Mexico helps us to utilize our expertise to more efficiently serve customers with complex supply chain requirements across multiple manufacturing locations. We believe this is a key differentiator for customers who need a supplier that can reliably and consistently support them. Our ability to transfer inventory among our facilities better enables us to more timely and profitably source and process specialized items at regional locations throughout our network than if we were required to maintain inventory of all products and specialized equipment at each location.

##### Broad Geographic Reach Across Attractive End Markets.

Our operations serve a diverse range of industries including commercial ground transportation manufacturing, metal fabrication and machine shops, industrial machinery and equipment manufacturing, consumer durable equipment, HVAC manufacturing, construction equipment manufacturing, food processing and agricultural equipment manufacturing, and oil and gas. We believe this broad range of industries in which we sell our products and services reduces our risk related to a downturn in a specific industry. We believe that our ability to quickly adjust our offering based on regional and industry specific trends creates stability while also providing the opportunity to access specific growth markets.

##### Established Platform for Organic and Acquisition Growth.

Although there can be no guarantee of growth, we believe a number of our strategies, such as investing in value-added processing capabilities, analytically targeting attractive customers and end markets with our supply chain optimization service model, industry consolidation through targeted M&A, and providing customers faster and easier solutions to their metal needs will provide us with growth opportunities.

Given the highly fragmented nature of the metals service center industry, we believe there are numerous additional opportunities to acquire businesses and incorporate them into our existing infrastructure. Given our large scale and geographic reach, we believe we can add value to these businesses in a number of ways, including providing greater purchasing power, improving expense and working capital management, access to additional end markets, and broadening product mix.

#### Lean Operating Structure Providing Operating Leverage.

Ryerson has demonstrated the ability to effectively manage expenses through tactical productivity and spending improvements. In a stronger metals service center environment characterized by increases in demand and/or pricing, we believe that most additional expenses to service higher revenue and margins would come from variable expenses while further leveraging economies of scale on our existing fixed expenses. We effectively managed our costs in 2018 with increased volume and cost inflation, as expenses as a percentage of sales declined from 14.3% in 2017 to 14.0% in 2018.

We also continue to focus on inventory management. Average inventory days excluding LIFO increased from 71 days in 2017 to 73 days in 2018. This increase is due to the acquisition of CS&W in July 2018. On a same-store basis, days of supply remained at 71 days, within management's target range of 70 to 75 days. As a result of our initiatives, we maintain financial flexibility and believe we have a favorable cost structure compared to many of our peers.

#### Extensive Breadth of Products and Services for Diverse Customer Base.

We believe our broad product mix and marketing approach provides customers with a "one-stop shop" solution few other metals service center companies are able to offer. We provide a broad range of processing and fabrication services to meet the needs of our approximately 45,000 customers and typically fulfill more than 1,500,000 orders per year. We provide supply chain solutions, including just-in-time delivery and value-added processing to many original equipment manufacturing customers.

For the year ended December 31, 2018, no single customer, including their subcontractors, accounted for more than 6% of our sales, and our top 10 customers, including their subcontractors accounted for less than 15% of our sales.

#### Strong Relationships with Suppliers.

We are among the largest purchasers of metals in North America and have long-term relationships with many of our North American suppliers. We believe we are frequently one of the largest customers of our suppliers and that concentrating our orders among a core group of suppliers is effective for obtaining favorable pricing and service. We believe we have the opportunity to further leverage this strength through continued focus on price and volume using an analytics-driven approach to procurement. In addition, we view our strategic suppliers as supply chain partners. We focus on logistics, lead times, rolling schedules, and scrap return programs to drive value-based buying that is advantageous for us. Metals producers worldwide are consolidating, and large, geographically diversified customers, such as Ryerson, are desirable partners for these larger suppliers. Our relationships with suppliers often provide us with access to metals when supply is constrained. Through our knowledge of the global metals marketplace and capabilities of specific mills we believe we have developed an advantageous global purchasing strategy.

#### Experienced Management Team with Deep Industry Knowledge.

Our senior management team has extensive industry and operational experience and has been instrumental in optimizing and implementing our strategy over the last five years. Our senior management has an average of more than 20 years of experience in the metals or service center industries. Our CEO, Mr. Edward Lehner, who joined the Company in August 2012 as CFO and became CEO in June 2015, has nearly 30 years of experience, predominantly in the metals industry. Mr. Erich Schnauffer, who joined the Company in 2005 and became CFO in January 2016, has nearly 30 years of financial and accounting experience and over 10 years with Ryerson.

#### Industry Outlook

The United States economy has grown since the recession of 2008. According to the Institute for Supply Management, the Purchasing Managers' Index ("PMI") was above 50% for 33 of the last 36 months, indicating general expansion in the U.S. manufacturing economy for the last three years. The PMI measures the economic health of the manufacturing sector and is a composite index based on five indicators: new orders, inventory levels, production, supplier deliveries, and the employment environment. PMI readings can be a good indicator of industrial activity and general economic growth.

Additionally, the overall U.S. economy is projected to maintain growth as evidenced by the Federal Reserve's midrange forecasted real GDP growth rates of 2.5%, 2.0%, and 1.8% for 2019, 2020, and 2021, respectively.

Steel demand in North America is largely dependent on growth of the automotive, industrial equipment, consumer appliance, and construction end markets. One of our key end markets is the industrial equipment sector, and according to the latest Livingston Survey, published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, U.S. industrial production expanded by 3.8% in 2018 and is expected to grow by 2.9% in 2019, and 2.0% in 2020.

China continues to be a key driver in the growth of global metals demand. According to the International Monetary Fund, China's GDP maintained growth of 6.6% in 2018 and is projected to grow 6.2% in 2019, and 6.2% in 2020.

### Products and Services

We carry a full line of carbon steel, stainless steel, alloy steels, and aluminum, and a limited line of nickel and red metals. These materials are stocked in a number of shapes, including coils, sheets, rounds, hexagons, square and flat bars, plates, structurals, and tubing.

The following table shows our percentage of sales by major product lines for 2018, 2017, and 2016:

Product Line	2018	2017	2016
Carbon Steel Flat	27 %	28 %	28 %
Carbon Steel Plate	11	10	9
Carbon Steel Long	14	12	13
Stainless Steel Flat	16	18	17
Stainless Steel Plate	4	4	4
Stainless Steel Long	4	4	3
Aluminum Flat	15	15	16
Aluminum Plate	3	3	3
Aluminum Long	4	4	5
Other	2	2	2
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %

More than 75% of the materials sold by us are processed. We use processing and fabricating techniques such as bending, beveling, blanking, blasting, burning, cutting-to-length, drilling, embossing, flattening, forming, grinding, laser cutting, machining, notching, painting, perforating, polishing, punching, rolling, sawing, scribing, shearing, slitting, stamping, tapping, threading, welding, or other techniques to process materials to specified thickness, length, width, shape, and surface quality pursuant to specific customer orders. Among the most common processing techniques used by us are slitting, which involves cutting coiled metals to specified widths along the length of the coil, and leveling, which involves flattening coiled metals and cutting them to exact lengths. We also use third-party fabricators to outsource certain processes (such as pickling and other coating processes or heat treating).

The plate burning and fabrication processes are particularly important to us. These processes require sophisticated and expensive processing equipment. As a result, rather than making investments in such equipment, manufacturers have increasingly outsourced these processes to metals service centers.

As part of securing customer orders, we also provide services to our customers to assure cost effective material application while maintaining or improving the customers' product quality. Among our services are: just-in-time inventory programs, production of configured kits containing multiple custom products for ease of assembly by the customer, consignment arrangements, and the placement of our employees at a customer's site for inventory management and production and technical assistance. We also provide special stocking programs in which products that would not otherwise be stocked by us are held in inventory to meet certain customers' needs. These services are designed to reduce customers' costs by minimizing their investment in inventory and processing equipment and improving their production efficiency.

## Customers

Our customer base is diverse, numbering approximately 45,000 and including most metal-consuming industries, most of which are cyclical. For the year ended December 31, 2018, no customer, including their subcontractors, accounted for more than 6 percent of our sales, and the top 10 customers, including their subcontractors, accounted for less than 15 percent of our sales. Substantially all of our sales are attributable to our U.S. operations and substantially all of our long-lived assets are located in the United States. The following table shows the Company's percentage of sales by metal consuming industry for 2018, 2017, and 2016:

Metal Consuming Industry	Percentage of Sales		
	2018	2017	2016
Metal fabrication and machine shops	22 %	20 %	18 %
Industrial machinery and equipment	18	18	18
Commercial ground transportation	16	16	16
Consumer durable	11	11	11
Food processing and agricultural equipment	10	10	9
Construction equipment	8	9	9
HVAC	6	7	7
Oil & gas	5	5	5
Other	4	4	7
Total	100%	100 %	100 %

Some of our largest customers have procurement programs with us, typically ranging from three months to one year in duration. Pricing for these contracts is generally based on a pricing formula rather than a fixed price for the program duration. However, certain customer contracts are at fixed prices; to minimize our financial exposure, we generally match these fixed-price sales programs with fixed-price supply programs. In general, sales to customers are priced at the time of sale based on prevailing market prices.

## Suppliers

For the year ended December 31, 2018, our top 25 suppliers, including their subcontractors, accounted for approximately 74% of our purchase dollars. We purchase the majority of our inventories at prevailing market prices from key suppliers with which we have established relationships to obtain improvements in price, quality, delivery, and service. We are generally able to meet our materials requirements because we use many suppliers, there is a substantial overlap of product offerings from these suppliers, and there are several other suppliers able to provide identical or similar products. Because of the competitive nature of the business, when metal prices increase due to product demand, mill surcharges, input costs, supplier consolidation, or other factors that in turn lead to supply constraints or longer mill lead times and higher procured material costs, we may not be able to fully pass increased material costs to customers. In recent decades, there have been significant consolidations among suppliers of carbon steel, stainless steel, and aluminum. We believe we will be able to meet our material requirements and believe we will continue to be among the largest customers of our suppliers.

## Sales and Marketing

We maintain our own professional sales force. In addition to our office sales staff, we market and sell our products through the use of our field sales force that we believe has extensive product and customer knowledge and offers a

comprehensive catalog of our products. Our office and field sales staffs, which together consist of approximately 790 employees, include technical personnel.

A portion of our customers experience seasonal slowdowns. Our sales, as measured in tonnage sold, in the months of July, November, and December traditionally have been lower than in other months because of a reduced number of shipping days and holiday or vacation closures for some customers. Consequently, our sales in the first two quarters of the year are usually higher than in the third and fourth quarters.

8

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## Capital Expenditures

We continue to make capital investments to maintain, improve, and expand processing capabilities. Investments by us in property, plant, and equipment, together with asset retirements for the five years ended December 31, 2018, excluding the initial purchase price of acquisitions are set forth below. The net capital change during such period aggregated to an increase of \$79.6 million.

### Retirements

	Additions	Sales	Net
	(In millions)		
2018	\$38.4	\$ 5.5	\$32.9
2017	25.1	24.9	0.2
2016	23.0	5.0	18.0
2015	22.3	9.1	13.2
2014	21.6	6.3	15.3

We currently anticipate capital expenditures, excluding acquisitions, of up to approximately \$35 million for 2019. We expect capital expenditures will be funded from cash generated by operations and available borrowings.

## Employees

As of December 31, 2018, we employed approximately 4,300 persons in North America and 300 persons in China. Our North American workforce was comprised of approximately 1,800 office employees and approximately 2,500 plant employees. Sixteen percent of our plant employees were members of various unions, including the United Steel Workers and The International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Renewals of six union contracts covering approximately 107 employees were successfully negotiated in 2018. Four contracts covering 89 employees are currently scheduled to expire in 2019.

## Environmental, Health, and Safety Matters

Our facilities and operations are subject to many foreign, federal, state, and local laws and regulations relating to the protection of the environment and to health and safety. In particular, our operations are subject to extensive requirements relating to waste disposal, recycling, air and water emissions, the handling of regulated materials, remediation, underground storage tanks, asbestos-containing building materials, workplace exposure, and other matters. We believe that our operations are currently in substantial compliance with all such laws and do not presently anticipate substantial expenditures in the foreseeable future in order to meet environmental, workplace health or safety requirements, or to pay for any investigations, corrective action, or claims. Claims, enforcement actions, or investigations regarding personal injury, property damage, or violation of environmental laws could result in substantial costs to us, divert our management's attention, and result in significant liabilities, fines, or the suspension or interruption of our facilities.

We continue to analyze and implement safeguards to mitigate any environmental, health, and safety risks we may face. As a result, additional costs and liabilities may be incurred to comply with future requirements or to address newly discovered conditions, and these costs and liabilities could have a material adverse effect on the results of

operations, financial condition, or cash flows. For example, there is increasing likelihood that additional regulation of greenhouse gas emissions will occur at the foreign, federal, state, and local level, which could affect us, our suppliers, and our customers. While the costs of compliance could be significant, given the uncertain outcome and timing of future action by the U.S. federal government and states on this issue, we cannot accurately predict the financial impact of future greenhouse gas regulations on our operations or our customers at this time. We do not currently anticipate any new programs disproportionately impacting us compared to our competitors.

Some of the properties currently or previously owned or leased by us are located in industrial areas or have a long history of heavy industrial use. We may incur environmental liabilities with respect to these properties in the future including costs of investigations, corrective action, claims for natural resource damages, claims by third parties relating to property damages, or claims relating to contamination at sites where we have sent waste for treatment or disposal. Based on currently available information we do not expect any investigation, remediation matters, or claims related to properties presently or formerly owned, operated, or to which we have sent waste for treatment or disposal would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

In October 2011, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (the “EPA”) named us as one of more than 100 businesses that may be a potentially responsible party for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site (the “PHS Site”). On January 6, 2017, the EPA issued an initial Record of Decision (“ROD”) regarding the site. The ROD includes a combination of dredging, capping, and enhanced natural recovery that would take approximately thirteen years to construct plus additional time for monitored natural recovery, at an estimated present value cost of \$1.05 billion. At a meeting on December 4, 2018, the EPA announced that it expects parties to submit a plan to remediate the river and harbor per the original ROD within the next 2-3 years. It also expects allocation of amounts among the parties to be determined in the same time frame. It is willing to consider de minimus and de micromis settlements but is unlikely to approve any before completion of the remedial design process.

The EPA has not yet allocated responsibility for the contamination among the potentially responsible parties, including JT Ryerson. We do not currently have sufficient information available to us to determine whether the ROD will be executed as currently stated, whether and to what extent JT Ryerson may be held responsible for any of the identified contamination, and how much (if any) of the final plan’s costs might ultimately be allocated to JT Ryerson. Therefore, management cannot predict the ultimate outcome of this matter or estimate a range of potential loss at this time.

Excluding any potential additional remediation costs resulting from any corrective action for the properties described above, we expect spending for pollution control projects to remain at historical levels below \$500,000 per year.

Our United States operations are also subject to the Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. We operate a private trucking motor fleet for making deliveries to some of our customers. Our drivers do not carry any material quantities of hazardous materials. Our foreign operations are subject to similar regulations. Future regulations could increase maintenance, replacement, and fuel costs for our fleet. These costs could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition, or cash flows.

#### Intellectual Property

We own several U.S. and foreign trademarks, service marks, and copyrights. Certain of the trademarks are registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and, in certain circumstances, with the trademark offices of various foreign countries. We consider certain other information owned by us to be trade secrets. We protect our trade secrets by, among other things, entering into confidentiality agreements with our employees regarding such matters and implementing measures to restrict access to sensitive data and computer software source code on a need-to-know basis. We believe that these safeguards adequately protect our proprietary rights and we vigorously defend these rights. While we consider all our intellectual property rights as a whole to be important, we do not consider any single right to be essential to our operations as a whole.

#### Available Information

All periodic and current reports and other filings that we are required to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), including our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, are available free of charge from the SEC’s website ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)) or through our Investor Relations website at [www.ir.ryerson.com](http://www.ir.ryerson.com). Such documents are available as soon as reasonably practicable after electronic filing of the material with the SEC. Copies of these reports (excluding exhibits) may also be obtained free of charge, upon written request to: Investor Relations, Ryerson Holding Corporation, 227 W. Monroe St., 27th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60606.

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The Company also posts its Code of Ethics on its website. See “Directors, Executive Officers, and Corporate Governance—Code of Ethics” for more information regarding our Code of Ethics.

Our website address is included in this report for information purposes only. Our website and the information contained therein or connected thereto are not incorporated into this annual report on Form 10-K.

10

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## ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS.

Our business faces many risks. You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described below, together with the other information in this report, including the consolidated financial statements and notes to consolidated financial statements. We cannot assure you that any of the events discussed in the risk factors below will not occur. These risks could have a material and adverse impact on our business, results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows.

### Risks Related to Our Business and Industry

Weakness in the economy, market trends, and other conditions affecting the profitability and financial stability of our customers could negatively impact our sales growth and results of operations.

Economic and industry trends affect our business environments. We serve several industries in which the demand for our products and services is sensitive to the production activity, capital spending, and demand for products and services of our customers. Many of these customers operate in markets that are subject to highly cyclical fluctuations resulting from seasonality, market uncertainty, costs of goods sold, currency exchange rates, foreign competition, offshoring of production, oil and natural gas prices, geopolitical developments, and a variety of other factors beyond our control. Any of these factors could cause customers to idle or close facilities, delay purchases, reduce production levels, or experience reductions in the demand for their own products or services.

Any of these events could impair the ability of our customers to make full and timely payments or reduce the volume of products and services these customers purchase from us and could cause increased pressure on our selling prices and terms of sale.

We do not expect the cyclical nature of our industry to change and any downturn in our customers' industries could reduce our revenues and profitability or a significant or prolonged slowdown in activity in the United States (U.S.), Canada, or any other major world economy, or a segment of any such economy, could negatively impact our sales growth and results of operations.

The metals services business is very competitive and increased competition could reduce our revenues and gross margins.

The metals services industry is highly fragmented and competitive, consisting of a large number of small companies and a few relatively large companies. We face competition in all markets we serve. Competition is based principally on price, service, quality, production capabilities, inventory availability, and timely delivery. Competition in the various markets in which we participate comes from companies of various sizes, some of which have greater financial resources than we have and some of which have more established brand names in the local markets we serve. Increased competition could reduce our market share, force us to lower our prices, or to offer increased services at a higher cost, which could reduce our profitability.

Changing metals prices may have a significant impact on our liquidity, net sales, gross margins, operating income, and net income.

The metals services industry as a whole is cyclical and, at times, pricing and availability of metal can be volatile due to numerous factors beyond our control, including general domestic and international economic conditions, labor costs, sales levels, competition, levels of inventory held by other metals service centers, consolidation of metals producers, higher raw material costs for the producers of metals, import duties and tariffs, and currency exchange rates. This volatility can significantly affect the availability and cost of materials for us.

Our ability to pass on increases in costs in a timely manner depends on market conditions and may result in lower gross margins. We maintain substantial inventories of metal to accommodate the short lead times and just-in-time delivery requirements of our customers. Accordingly, we purchase metals in an effort to maintain our inventory at levels that we believe to be appropriate to satisfy the anticipated needs of our customers based upon historic buying practices, contracts with customers, and market conditions. When metals prices decline, customer demands for lower prices and our competitors' responses to those demands result in lower sale prices and, consequently, lower margins as we use existing metals inventory. Declines in prices or further reductions in sales volumes could adversely impact our ability to maintain our liquidity and to remain in compliance with certain financial covenants under our \$1 billion revolving credit facility (the "Ryerson Credit Facility"), as well as result in us incurring inventory or goodwill impairment charges. Changing metals prices therefore could significantly impact our liquidity, net sales, gross margins, operating income, and net income.

Changes in inflation may adversely affect gross margins.

Inflation impacts the costs at which we can procure product and the ability to increase prices to customers over time. Prolonged periods of deflation could adversely affect the degree to which we are able to increase sales through price increases.

Unexpected product shortages could negatively impact customer relationships, resulting in an adverse impact on results of operations.

Disruptions could occur due to factors beyond our control, including economic downturns, political unrest, port slowdowns, trade issues, including increased export or import duties or trade restrictions, and other factors, any of which could adversely affect a supplier's ability to manufacture or deliver products. For our sources of lower cost products from Asia and other areas of the world, the risk for disruptions has increased due to the additional lead time required and distances involved, and the current political climate seeking trade reform. If we were to experience difficulty in obtaining products, there could be a short-term adverse effect on results of operations and a longer-term adverse effect on customer relationships and our reputation. In addition, we have strategic relationships with a number of vendors. In the event we are unable to maintain those relations, there might be a loss of competitive pricing advantages which could, in turn, adversely affect results of operations.

Changes in customer or product mix could cause the gross margin percentage to decline.

From time to time, we experience changes in customer and product mix that affect gross margin. Changes in customer and product mix result primarily from business acquisitions, changes in customer demand, customer acquisitions, selling and marketing activities, and competition. If rapid growth with lower margin customers occurs, we will face pressure to maintain current gross margins, as these customers receive more discounted pricing due to their higher sales volume. There can be no assurance that we will be able to maintain historical gross margins in the future.

The volatility of the market could result in a material impairment of goodwill.

We evaluate goodwill annually on October 1 and whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate potential impairment. Events or changes in circumstances that could trigger an impairment review include significant underperformance relative to our historical or projected future operating results, significant changes in the manner or the use of our assets or the strategy for our overall business, and significant negative industry or economic trends. We test for impairment of goodwill by assessing various qualitative factors with respect to development in our business and the overall economy and calculating the fair value of a reporting unit using a combination of an income approach based on discounted future cash flows and a market approach at the date of valuation. Under the discounted cash flow method, the fair value of each reporting unit is estimated based on expected future economic benefits discounted to a present value at a rate of return commensurate with the risk associated with the investment. Projected cash flows are discounted to present value using an estimated weighted average cost of capital, which considers both returns to equity and debt investors. Please refer to the Section titled "Critical Accounting Estimates - Goodwill," of Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Conditions and Results of Operations," and Note 1 — "Summary of Accounting and Financial Policies" of Part II, Item 8 "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" for further information.

We may not be able to successfully consummate and complete the integration of future acquisitions, and if we are unable to do so, it could disrupt operations and cause unanticipated increases in costs and/or decreases in revenues and results of operations.

We have grown through a combination of internal expansion, acquisitions, and joint ventures. We intend to continue to grow through selective acquisitions, but we may not be able to identify appropriate acquisition candidates, obtain financing on satisfactory terms, consummate acquisitions, or integrate acquired businesses effectively and profitably into our existing operations. Restrictions contained in the agreements governing our notes, the Ryerson Credit Facility, or our other existing or future debt may also inhibit our ability to make certain investments, including acquisitions, and participations in joint ventures.

Acquisitions, partnerships, joint ventures, and other business combination transactions, both foreign and domestic, involve various inherent risks, such as uncertainties in assessing value, strengths, weaknesses, liabilities, and potential profitability. There is also risk relating to our ability to achieve identified operating and financial synergies anticipated to result from the transactions. Additionally, problems could arise from the integration of acquired businesses, including unanticipated changes in the business or industry or general economic conditions that affect the assumptions underlying the acquisition. Our future success will depend on our ability to complete the integration of these future acquisitions successfully into our operations. Specifically, after any acquisition, customers may choose to diversify their supply chains to reduce reliance on a single supplier for a portion of their metals needs. We may not be able to retain all of our and an acquisition's customers, which may adversely affect our business and sales. Integrating acquisitions, particularly large acquisitions, requires us to enhance our operational and financial systems and employ additional qualified personnel, management, and financial resources, and may adversely affect our business by diverting management away from



day-to-day operations. Further, failure to successfully integrate acquisitions may adversely affect our profitability by creating significant operating inefficiencies that could increase our operating expenses as a percentage of sales and reduce our operating income. In addition, we may not realize expected cost savings from acquisitions. Any one or more of these factors could cause us to not realize the benefits anticipated or have a negative impact on the fair value of the reporting units. Accordingly, goodwill and intangible assets recorded as a result of acquisitions could become impaired.

We may not be able to retain or expand our customer base if the North American manufacturing industry continues to erode through moving offshore or through acquisition and merger or consolidation activity in our customers' industries.

Our customer base primarily includes manufacturing and industrial firms. Some of our customers operate in industries that are undergoing consolidation through acquisition and merger activity; some are considering or have considered relocating production operations overseas or outsourcing particular functions overseas; and some customers have closed as they were unable to compete successfully with overseas competitors. Our facilities are predominately located in the United States and Canada. To the extent that our customers cease U.S. operations, relocate or move operations overseas to regions in which we do not have a presence, we could lose their business. Acquirers of manufacturing and industrial firms may have suppliers of choice that do not include us, which could impact our customer base and market share.

Certain of our operations are located outside of the United States, which subjects us to risks associated with international activities.

Certain of our operations are located outside of the United States, primarily in Canada, China, and Mexico. We are subject to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act ("FCPA"), which generally prohibits U.S. companies and their intermediaries from making corrupt payments or otherwise corruptly giving any thing of value to foreign officials for the purpose of obtaining or keeping business or otherwise obtaining favorable treatment, and requires companies to maintain adequate record-keeping and internal accounting practices. The FCPA applies to covered companies, individual directors, officers, employees, and agents. Under the FCPA, U.S. companies may be held liable for some actions taken by strategic or local partners or representatives. If we or our intermediaries fail to comply with the requirements of the FCPA, governmental authorities in the United States could seek to impose civil and/or criminal penalties.

We may be adversely affected by currency fluctuations in the U.S. dollar versus the Canadian dollar and the Chinese renminbi.

We have significant operations in Canada which incur the majority of their metal supply costs in U.S. dollars but earn the majority of their sales in Canadian dollars. Additionally, we have significant assets in China. We may from time to time experience losses when the value of the U.S. dollar strengthens against the Canadian dollar or the Chinese renminbi, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations. In addition, we are subject to translation risk when we consolidate our Canadian and Chinese subsidiaries' net assets into our balance sheet. Fluctuations in the value of the U.S. dollar versus the Canadian dollar or Chinese renminbi could reduce the value of these assets as reported in our financial statements, which could, as a result, reduce our stockholders' equity.

The Chinese government exerts substantial influence over the manner in which we must conduct our business activities, particularly with regards to the land our facilities are located on.

The Chinese government has exercised and continues to exercise substantial control over the Chinese economy through regulation and state ownership. Our ability to operate in China may be harmed by changes in its laws and

regulations, including those relating to taxation, import and export tariffs, environmental regulations, land use rights, property, and other matters. We believe that our operations in China are in material compliance with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements. However, the central or local governments of the jurisdictions in which we operate may impose new, stricter regulations or interpretations of existing regulations that would require additional expenditures and efforts on our part to ensure our compliance with such regulations or interpretations. Moreover, the Chinese court system does not provide the same property and contract right guarantees as do courts in the United States and, accordingly, disputes may be protracted and resolution of claims may result in significant economic loss.

Additionally, there is no private ownership of land in China and all land ownership is held by the government of China, its agencies, and collectives, which issue land use rights that are generally renewable. We lease the land where our Chinese facilities are located from the Chinese government. If the Chinese government decided to terminate our land use rights agreements, our assets could become impaired and our ability to meet customer orders could be impacted.

Damage to our information technology infrastructure could harm our business.

The unavailability of any of our computer-based systems for any significant period of time could have a material adverse effect on our operations. In particular, our ability to manage inventory levels successfully largely depends on the efficient operation of our

computer hardware and software systems. We use management information systems to track inventory information at individual facilities, communicate customer information, and aggregate daily sales, margin, and promotional information. Difficulties associated with upgrades, installations of major software or hardware, and integration with new systems could have a material adverse effect on results of operations. We could be required to expend substantial resources to integrate our information systems with the systems of companies we have acquired. The integration of these systems may disrupt our business or lead to operating inefficiencies. In addition, these systems are vulnerable to, among other things, damage or interruption from fire, flood, tornado, and other natural disasters, power loss, computer system and network failures, operator negligence, physical and electronic loss of data, or security breaches and computer viruses.

We are subject to cybersecurity risks and may incur increasing costs in an effort to minimize those risks.

We depend on the proper functioning and availability of our information technology platform, including communications and data processing systems, in operating our business. These systems include software programs that are integral to the efficient operation of our business. We have established security measures, controls, and procedures, including established recovery procedures for critical systems and business functions, to safeguard our information technology systems and to prevent unauthorized access to such systems and any data processed or stored in such systems, and we periodically evaluate and test the adequacy of such systems, measures, controls, and procedures; however, there can be no guarantee that such systems, measures, controls, and procedures will be effective. Security breaches could expose us to a risk of loss or misuse of our information, litigation, and potential liability. In addition, cyber incidents that impact the availability, reliability, speed, accuracy, or other proper functioning of these systems could have a significant impact on our operations, and potentially on our results. We may not have the resources or technical sophistication to anticipate or prevent rapidly evolving types of cyberattacks. A significant cyber incident, including system failure, security breach, disruption by malware, or other damage could interrupt or delay our operations, result in a violation of applicable privacy and other laws, damage our reputation, cause a loss of customers, or give rise to monetary fines and other penalties, which could be significant.

Any significant work stoppages can harm our business.

As of December 31, 2018, we employed approximately 4,300 persons in North America and 300 persons in China. Our North American workforce was comprised of approximately 1,800 office employees and approximately 2,500 plant employees. Sixteen percent of our plant employees were members of various unions, including the United Steel Workers and The International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Renewals of six union contracts covering approximately 107 employees were successfully negotiated in 2018. Four union contracts covering 89 employees are currently scheduled to expire in 2019.

Certain employee retirement benefit plans are underfunded and the actual cost of those benefits could exceed current estimates, which would require us to fund the shortfall.

As of December 31, 2018, our pension plan had an unfunded liability of \$181 million. Our actual costs for benefits required to be paid may exceed those projected and future actuarial assessments to the extent that those costs exceed the current assessment. Under those circumstances, the adjustments required to be made to our recorded liability for these benefits could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition and cash payments to fund these plans could have a material adverse effect on our cash flows. We may be required to make substantial future contributions to improve the plan's funded status.

Future funding for postretirement employee benefits other than pensions also may require substantial payments from current cash flow.

We provide postretirement life insurance and medical benefits to certain eligible retired employees. Our unfunded postretirement benefit obligation as of December 31, 2018 was \$70 million. Our actual costs for benefits required to be paid may exceed those projected and future actuarial assessments to the extent that those costs exceed the current assessment. Under those circumstances, adjustments will be required to be made to our recorded liability for these benefits.

Any prolonged disruption of our processing centers could harm our business.

We have dedicated processing centers that permit us to produce standardized products in large volumes while maintaining low operating costs. We may suffer prolonged disruption in the operations of any of these facilities, whether due to labor or technical difficulties, destruction, or damage to any of the facilities or otherwise.

If we are unable to retain, attract, and motivate management and key personnel, it may adversely affect our business.

In order to compete and have continued growth, we must attract, retain, and motivate executives and other key employees, including those in managerial, technical, sales, marketing, and support positions. We believe that our success is due, in part, to our experienced management team. Losing the services of one or more members of our management team such as our CEO, Edward J. Lehner, and CFO, Erich S. Schnauffer, could adversely affect our business and possibly prevent us from improving our operational, financial, and information management systems and controls. We compete to hire employees and then must train them and develop their skills and competencies. In the future, we may need to retain and hire additional qualified sales, marketing, administrative, operating, and technical personnel, and to train and manage new personnel. Our ability to implement our business plan is dependent on our ability to retain, hire, and train a large number of qualified employees each year. Our results of operations could be adversely affected by increased costs due to increased competition for employees, higher employee turnover, or increased employee benefit costs.

Our international operations and potential joint ventures may cause us to incur costs and risks that may distract management from effectively operating our North American business, and such operations or joint ventures may not be profitable.

We maintain foreign operations in Canada, China, and Mexico. International operations are subject to certain risks inherent in conducting business in, and with, foreign countries, including price controls, exchange controls, export controls, economic sanctions, duties, tariffs, limitations on participation in local enterprises, nationalization, expropriation and other governmental action, and changes in currency exchange rates. While we believe that our current arrangements with local partners provide us with experienced business partners in foreign countries, events or issues, including disagreements with our partners, may occur that require attention of our senior executives and may result in expenses or losses that erode the profitability of our foreign operations or cause our capital investments abroad to be unprofitable.

Lead time and the cost of our products could increase if we were to lose one of our primary suppliers.

If, for any reason, our primary suppliers of aluminum, carbon steel, stainless steel, or other metals should curtail or discontinue their delivery of such metals in the quantities needed and at prices that are competitive, our business could suffer. The number of available suppliers could be reduced by factors such as industry consolidation and bankruptcies affecting steel and metal producers. For the year ended December 31, 2018, our top 25 suppliers represented approximately 74% of our purchases. We could be significantly and adversely affected if delivery were disrupted from a major supplier. If, in the future, we were unable to obtain sufficient amounts of the necessary metals at competitive prices and on a timely basis from our traditional suppliers, we may not be able to obtain such metals from alternative sources at competitive prices to meet our delivery schedules, which could have a material adverse effect on our sales and profitability.

Global metal overcapacity and imports of metal products into the United States have adversely affected, and may again adversely affect, United States metal prices, which could impact our sales and results of operations.

Global metal production capacity currently exceeds global consumption of metal products. Such excess capacity sometimes results in metal manufacturers in certain countries exporting steel at prices that are lower than prevailing domestic prices and sometimes at or below their cost of production. Excessive imports of metal into the United States, such as in recent years, have exerted and may continue to exert, downward pressure on United States steel prices which negatively affects our ability to increase our sales and results of operations.

The U.S. government has enacted several trade actions in 2018 including tariffs on imported steel and aluminum products under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act. It is expected that these trade actions, while in effect, will limit metal imports from non-exempt countries. These trade actions have favorably impacted Ryerson's average selling prices and gross margins in 2018. If these trade actions are relaxed, repealed, or if relatively higher U.S. metal prices make it attractive for foreign metal producers to export their products to the U.S., despite the presence of duties or tariffs, the resurgence of substantial imports of foreign steel could create downward pressure on U.S. metal prices which could have a material adverse effect on sales prices and future results of operations. Further, foreign administrations have responded to the trade actions imposed by the U.S. with trade actions in kind, adding further uncertainty to U.S. pricing and supply conditions. To the extent these tariffs and other trade actions result in a decrease in international demand for steel and aluminum, or products manufactured therefrom and, produced in the United States, or otherwise negatively impact demand for our products, our business may be adversely impacted.

We could incur substantial costs related to environmental, health, and safety laws.

Our operations are subject to increasingly stringent environmental, health, and safety laws. These include laws that impose limitations on the discharge of pollutants into the air and water and establish standards for the treatment, storage, and disposal of

regulated materials, and the investigation and remediation of contaminated soil, surface water, and groundwater. Failure to maintain or achieve compliance with these laws or with the permits required for our operations could result in substantial increases in operating costs and capital expenditures. In addition, we may be subject to fines and civil or criminal sanctions, third party claims for property damage or personal injury, worker's compensation or personal injury claims, cleanup costs, or temporary or permanent discontinuance of operations. Certain of our facilities are located in industrial areas, have a history of heavy industrial use and have been in operation for many years and, over time, we and other predecessor operators of these facilities have generated, used, handled, and disposed of hazardous and other regulated wastes. Environmental liabilities could exist, including cleanup obligations at these facilities or at off-site locations where materials from our operations were disposed of, which could result in future expenditures that cannot be currently quantified and which could have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, or cash flows. Such liabilities may be imposed without regard to fault or the legality of a party's conduct and may, in certain circumstances, be joint and several. Future changes to environmental, health, and safety laws, including those related to climate change, could result in material liabilities and costs, constrain operations or make such operations more costly for us, our suppliers, and our customers.

In October 2011, the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") named us as one of more than 100 businesses that may be a potentially responsible party for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site (the "PHS Site"). On January 6, 2017, the EPA issued an initial Record of Decision ("ROD") regarding the site. The ROD includes a combination of dredging, capping, and enhanced natural recovery that would take approximately thirteen years to construct plus additional time for monitored natural recovery, at an estimated present value cost of \$1.05 billion. At a meeting on December 4, 2018, the EPA announced that it expects parties to submit a plan to remediate the river and harbor per the original ROD within the next 2-3 years. It also expects allocation of amounts among the parties to be determined in the same time frame. It is willing to consider de minimus and de micromis settlements but is unlikely to approve any before completion of the remedial design process.

The EPA has not yet allocated responsibility for the contamination among the potentially responsible parties, including JT Ryerson. We do not currently have sufficient information available to us to determine whether the ROD will be executed as currently stated, whether and to what extent JT Ryerson may be held responsible for any of the identified contamination, and how much (if any) of the final plan's costs might ultimately be allocated to JT Ryerson. Therefore, management cannot predict the ultimate outcome of this matter or estimate a range of potential loss at this time.

Regulations related to conflict-free minerals may force us to incur additional expenses and place us at a competitive disadvantage.

On August 22, 2012, under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (the "Dodd-Frank Act"), the United States SEC adopted new requirements for reporting companies that use certain minerals and metals, known as "conflict minerals", in their products, whether or not these products are manufactured by third parties. These requirements require companies to diligence, disclose, and report whether or not such minerals originate from the Democratic Republic of Congo and adjoining countries. Since our supply chain is complex, we may not be able to conclusively verify the origins for all metals used in our products and we may face reputational challenges with our customers. Additionally, as there may be only a limited number of suppliers offering "conflict free" metals, we cannot be sure that we will be able to obtain necessary metals from such suppliers in sufficient quantities or at competitive prices. Accordingly, we could incur significant cost related to the compliance process, including potential difficulty or added costs in satisfying the disclosure requirements. Moreover, we may encounter challenges to satisfy those customers who require that all of the components of our products be certified as conflict free which could place us at a competitive disadvantage if we are unable to do so.

Tax changes could affect our effective tax rate, the value of our deferred tax assets, and future profitability.

Our future results could be adversely affected by changes in the effective tax rate or changes in the treatment of deferred tax assets as a result of changes in Ryerson's overall profitability, changes in the mix of earnings in countries with differing statutory tax rates, changes in tax legislation, the results of the examination of previously filed tax returns, and continuing assessment of the Company's tax exposures. In particular, although the passage of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017 reduced the U.S. tax rate to 21%, our future earnings could be negatively impacted by changes in tax legislation including changing tax rates and tax base such as limiting, phasing-out, or eliminating deductions or tax credits, changing rules for earnings repatriations and changing other tax laws in the U.S. or other countries. In addition, it is uncertain if, and to what extent, various states will conform to the new tax law and foreign countries will react by adopting tax legislation or taking other actions that could adversely affect our business.

We are subject to litigation that could strain our resources and distract management.

From time to time, we are involved in a variety of claims, lawsuits, and other disputes arising in the ordinary course of business. These suits concern issues including product liability, contract disputes, employee-related matters, and personal injury matters. It is not feasible to predict the outcome of all pending suits and claims, and the ultimate resolution of these matters as well as future lawsuits that could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, cash flows, or reputation.



We may face product liability claims that are costly and create adverse publicity.

If any of the products that we sell cause harm to any of our customers, we could be exposed to product liability lawsuits. If we were found liable under product liability claims, we could be required to pay substantial monetary damages. Further, even if we successfully defended ourselves against this type of claim, we could be forced to spend a substantial amount of money in litigation expenses, our management could be required to spend valuable time in the defense against these claims, and our reputation could suffer.

Our risk management strategies may result in losses.

From time to time, we may use fixed-price and/or fixed-volume supplier contracts to offset contracts with customers. Additionally, we may use foreign exchange contracts and interest rate swaps to hedge Canadian dollar, Euro, and floating rate debt exposures. These risk management strategies pose certain risks, including the risk that losses on a hedge position may exceed the amount invested in such instruments. Moreover, a party in a hedging transaction may be unavailable or unwilling to settle our obligations, which could cause us to suffer corresponding losses. A hedging instrument may not be effective in eliminating all of the risks inherent in any particular position. Our profitability may be adversely affected during any period as a result of use of such instruments.

#### Risks Related to Ownership of Our Common Stock

The market price for our common stock may be volatile.

Historically, there has been volatility in the market price for our common stock. Furthermore, the market price of our common stock could fluctuate substantially in the future in response to a number of factors, including, but not limited to, the risk factors described herein. Examples include:

- changes in commodity prices, especially metals;
- announcement of our quarterly operating results or the operating results of other metals service centers;
- changes in financial estimates or recommendations by stock market analysts regarding us or our competitors;
- the operating and stock performance of other companies that investors may deem comparable;
- press releases, earnings releases, or publicity relating to us or our competitors or relating to trends in the metals service center industry;
- inability to meet securities analysts' and investors' quarterly or annual estimates or targets of our performance;
- sales of our common stock by large or controlling shareholders;
- the amount of shares acquired for short-term investments;
- general domestic or international economic, market, and political conditions; and
- announcements by us or our competitors of significant acquisitions, dispositions or joint ventures, or other material events impacting the domestic or global metals industry.

In the past, the stock market has experienced significant price and volume fluctuations. This volatility has had a significant effect on the market prices of securities issued by many companies for reasons unrelated to their specific operating performance. These factors may adversely affect the trading price of our common stock, regardless of actual operating performance.

In addition, stock markets from time to time experience extreme price and volume fluctuations that may be unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of companies. In the past, some shareholders have brought securities class action lawsuits against companies following periods of volatility in the market price of their securities. We may in the future be the target of similar litigation. Securities litigation, regardless of whether our defense is ultimately successful, could result in substantial costs and divert management's attention and resources.



We have a substantial amount of indebtedness, which could adversely affect our financial position and prevent us from fulfilling our financial obligations.

We currently have a substantial amount of indebtedness. As of December 31, 2018, our total indebtedness was approximately \$1,153.3 million and we had approximately \$392 million of unused capacity under the Ryerson Credit Facility. Our substantial indebtedness may:

- make it difficult for us to satisfy our financial obligations, including making scheduled principal and interest payments on our outstanding notes and our other indebtedness;
- limit our ability to borrow additional funds for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, or other general corporate purposes;
- limit our ability to use our cash flow for future working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, or other general corporate purposes;
- require us to use a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to make debt service payments;
- limit our flexibility to plan for, or react to, changes in our business and industry;
- place us at a competitive disadvantage compared to our less leveraged competitors; and
- increase our vulnerability to the impact of adverse economic and industry conditions.

We may also incur additional indebtedness in the future. The terms of the Ryerson Credit Facility and the indenture governing our outstanding notes restrict but do not prohibit us from doing so, and the indebtedness incurred in compliance with these restrictions could be substantial. If new indebtedness is added to our current debt levels, the related risks that we now face could intensify.

The covenants in the Ryerson Credit Facility and the indenture governing our notes impose, and covenants contained in agreements governing indebtedness that we incur in the future may impose, restrictions that may limit our operating and financial flexibility.

The Ryerson Credit Facility and the indenture governing our outstanding notes contain a number of significant restrictions and covenants that limit our ability and the ability of our restricted subsidiaries, including JT Ryerson, to:

- incur additional debt;
- pay dividends on our capital stock or repurchase our capital stock;
- make certain investments or other restricted payments;
- create liens or use assets as security in other transactions;
- merge, consolidate, transfer, or dispose of substantially all of our assets; and
- engage in transactions with affiliates.

The terms of the Ryerson Credit Facility require that, in the event availability under the facility declines to a certain level, we maintain a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio at the end of each fiscal quarter. Total credit availability is limited by the amount of eligible accounts receivable, inventory, and qualified cash pledged as collateral under the agreement insofar as the Company is subject to a borrowing base comprised of the aggregate of these three amounts, less applicable reserves. As of December 31, 2018, total credit availability was \$392 million. See discussion regarding the Ryerson Credit Facility in the “Liquidity and Capital Resources” section of Item 7 “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.”

Additionally, subject to certain exceptions, the indenture governing the outstanding notes restricts JT Ryerson’s ability to pay Ryerson Holding dividends. Our future indebtedness may contain covenants more restrictive in certain respects than the restrictions contained in the Ryerson Credit Facility and the indenture governing the notes. Operating results below current levels or other adverse factors, including a significant increase in interest rates, could result in our being unable to comply with financial covenants that are contained in the Ryerson Credit Facility or that may be contained in any future indebtedness. In addition, complying with these covenants may also cause us to take actions that are not

favorable to holders of our notes and may make it more difficult for us to successfully execute our business strategy and compete against companies that are not subject to such restrictions.

We may not be able to generate sufficient cash to service all of our indebtedness.

We are highly leveraged. Our ability to make payments on our indebtedness depends on our ability to generate cash in the future. Our outstanding notes, the Ryerson Credit Facility, and our other outstanding indebtedness are expected to account for significant cash interest expenses. Accordingly, we will have to generate significant cash flows from operations to meet our debt service requirements. If we do not generate sufficient cash flow to meet our debt service and working capital requirements, we may be required to sell assets, seek additional capital, reduce capital expenditures, restructure or refinance all or a portion of our existing indebtedness, or seek additional financing. Moreover, insufficient cash flow may make it more difficult for us to obtain financing on terms that are acceptable to us, or at all.

The right to receive payment on the 2022 Notes and the guarantees will be subordinated to the liabilities of non-guarantor subsidiaries.

The notes and related guarantees are structurally subordinated to all indebtedness of our subsidiaries that are non-guarantors of the 2022 Senior Secured Notes (the "2022 Notes"). While the indenture governing the 2022 Notes limits the indebtedness and activities of these non-guarantor subsidiaries, holders of indebtedness of, and trade creditors of, non-guarantor subsidiaries, including lenders under bank financing agreements, are entitled to payments of their claims from the assets of such subsidiaries before those assets are made available for distribution to any guarantor, as direct or indirect shareholder. While the non-guarantor subsidiaries have agreed under the indenture not to pledge or encumber their assets (other than with respect to permitted liens) without equally and ratably securing the notes, they will not guarantee the 2022 Notes notwithstanding any such pledge or encumbrance in favor of the 2022 Notes.

The non-guarantor subsidiaries represented, respectively, 10.4% and 8.3% of our net sales and EBITDA for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018. In addition, these non-guarantor subsidiaries represented respectively, 11.2% and 4.8% of our assets and liabilities, as of December 31, 2018.

Accordingly, in the event that any of the non-guarantor subsidiaries or joint venture entities become insolvent, liquidates, or otherwise reorganizes:

- the creditors of the guarantors (including the holders of the 2022 Notes) will have no right to proceed against such subsidiary's assets; and
- the creditors of such non-guarantor subsidiary, including trade creditors, will generally be entitled to payment in full from the sale or other disposal of assets of such subsidiary, as direct or indirect shareholder, and will be entitled to receive any distributions from such subsidiary.

Because a portion of our indebtedness bears interest at rates that fluctuate with changes in certain prevailing short-term interest rates, we are vulnerable to interest rate increases.

A portion of our indebtedness, including the Ryerson Credit Facility, bears interest at rates that fluctuate with changes in certain short-term prevailing interest rates. As of December 31, 2018, we had approximately \$535.9 million of outstanding borrowings under the Ryerson Credit Facility, with an additional \$392 million available for borrowing under such facility. Assuming a consistent level of debt through-out 2018, a 100 basis point change in the interest rate on our floating rate debt effective from the beginning of the year would increase or decrease our interest expense under the Ryerson Credit Facility by approximately \$4.0 million on an annual basis. If interest rates increase dramatically, we could be unable to service our debt, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

Changes in our credit ratings and outlook may reduce access to capital and increase borrowing costs.

Our credit ratings are based on a number of factors, including our financial strength and factors outside of our control, such as conditions affecting our industry generally or the introduction of new rating practices and methodologies. We cannot provide assurances that our current credit ratings will remain in effect or that the ratings will not be lowered, suspended, or withdrawn entirely by the rating agencies. If rating agencies lower, suspend, or withdraw the ratings, the market price or marketability of our securities may be adversely affected. In addition, any negative change in ratings could make it more difficult for us to raise capital on acceptable terms, impact the ability to obtain adequate financing, and result in higher interest costs for our existing credit facilities, including the Ryerson Credit Facility, or on future financings.

Platinum owns a significant percentage of our stock and has the right to nominate a majority of the members of the Corporation's board and will be able to exert control over matters subject to stockholder approval.

Platinum owns approximately 21,037,500 shares of our common stock, which is approximately 56% of our issued and outstanding common stock. Therefore, Platinum may be able to determine all matters requiring stockholder approval. For example, Platinum may be able to control elections of directors, amendments of our organizational documents, or approval of any merger, sale of assets, or other major corporate transaction. This may prevent or discourage unsolicited acquisition proposals or offers for our common stock that our stockholders may believe are in their best interest as stockholders.

The Company is party to an investor rights agreement (the "Investor Rights Agreement") with certain affiliates of Platinum which provides, among other things, that for so long as Platinum collectively beneficially owns (i) at least 30% of the voting power of the outstanding capital stock of the Company, Platinum will have the right to nominate for election to the board of directors of the Company no fewer than that number of directors that would constitute a majority of the number of directors if there were no vacancies on the board, (ii) at least 15% but less than 30% of the voting power of the outstanding capital stock of the Company, Platinum will have the right to nominate two directors and (iii) at least 5% but less than 15% of the voting power of the outstanding capital stock of the Company, Platinum will have the right to nominate one director. The agreement also provides that if the size of the board of directors is increased or decreased at any time, Platinum's nomination rights will be proportionately increased or decreased, respectively, rounded up to the nearest whole number. As a result of Platinum's ownership of a majority of the Company's outstanding capital stock as well its board nomination rights pursuant to the Investor Rights Agreement, Platinum may significantly influence or effectively control our policies and operations, including the appointment of management, future issuances of our common stock or other securities, and the payment of dividends. In addition, Platinum has significant control over our decisions to enter into any other corporate transaction.

The interests of Platinum may not in all cases be aligned with the interests of the other holders of our common stock. For example, a sale of a substantial number of shares of stock in the future by Platinum could cause our stock price to decline. Further, Platinum could cause us to make acquisitions that increase the amount of the indebtedness that is secured or senior to the Company's existing debt or sell revenue-generating assets, impairing our ability to make payments under such debt. Additionally, Platinum is in the business of making investments in companies and may from time to time acquire and hold interests in businesses that compete directly or indirectly with us. Accordingly, Platinum may also pursue acquisition opportunities that may be complementary to our business, and as a result, those acquisition opportunities may not be available to us. In addition, Platinum may have an interest in pursuing acquisitions, divestitures, and other transactions that, in their judgment, could enhance their equity investment, even though such transactions might involve risks to holders of our common stock.

We are exempt from certain corporate governance requirements because we are a "controlled company" within the meaning of the NYSE rules and, as a result, our stockholders do not have the protections afforded by these corporate governance requirements.

Because Platinum controls more than 50% of the voting power of our common stock, we are considered to be a "controlled company" for purposes of the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") listing requirements. Under the NYSE rules, a "controlled company" may elect not to comply with certain NYSE corporate governance requirements, including (1) the requirement that a majority of our Board of Directors consist of independent directors, (2) the requirement that the nominating and corporate governance committee of our Board of Directors be composed entirely of independent directors, (3) the requirement that the compensation committee of our Board of Directors be composed entirely of independent directors, and (4) the requirement for an annual performance evaluation of the nomination/corporate governance and compensation committees. Given that Platinum controls a majority of the voting power of our common stock, we are permitted, and have elected, to opt out of compliance with certain NYSE corporate governance

requirements. Accordingly, holders of our common stock do not have the same protections afforded to stockholders of companies that are subject to all of the NYSE corporate governance requirements.



Our corporate documents and Delaware law contain provisions that could discourage, delay, or prevent a change in control of the Company.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws contain provisions that may make the acquisition of our company more difficult without the approval of our Board of Directors. These provisions:

- establish a classified Board of Directors so that not all members of our Board of Directors are elected at one time;
- authorize the issuance of undesignated preferred stock, the terms of which may be established and the shares of which may be issued without stockholder approval, and which may include super voting, special approval, dividend, or other rights or preferences superior to the rights of the holders of common stock;
- provide that the Board of Directors is expressly authorized to make, alter, or repeal our amended and restated bylaws;
- prohibit stockholders from acting by written consent if less than a majority of the voting power of our outstanding stock is controlled by Platinum; and
- establish advance notice requirements for nominations for elections to our Board of Directors or for proposing matters that can be acted upon by stockholders at stockholder meetings.

These anti-takeover provisions and other provisions under Delaware law could discourage, delay, or prevent a transaction involving a change in control of our company, even if doing so would benefit our stockholders. These provisions could also discourage proxy contests and make it more difficult for our stockholders to elect directors of their choosing and to cause us to take other corporate actions they desire.

Any issuance of preferred stock could make it difficult for another company to acquire us or could otherwise adversely affect holders of our common stock, which could depress the price of our common stock.

Our Board of Directors will have the authority to issue preferred stock and to determine the preferences, limitations, and relative rights of shares of preferred stock and to fix the number of shares constituting any series and the designation of such series, without any further vote or action by our stockholders. Our preferred stock could be issued with voting, liquidation, dividend, and other rights superior to the rights of our common stock. The potential issuance of preferred stock may delay or prevent a change in control of us, discouraging bids for our common stock at a premium over the market price, and adversely affect the market price and the voting and other rights of the holders of our common stock.

We have not and do not intend to pay regular cash dividends on our stock.

We do not anticipate declaring or paying regular cash dividends on our common stock or any other equity security in the foreseeable future. The amounts that may be available to us to pay cash dividends are restricted under our debt agreements. Any payment of cash dividends on our common stock in the future will be at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend upon our results of operations, earnings, capital requirements, financial condition, future prospects, contractual restrictions, and other factors deemed relevant by our Board of Directors. Therefore, you should not rely on dividend income from shares of our common stock. For more information, see “Dividend Policy.” Your only opportunity to achieve a return on your investment in us may be if the market price of our common stock appreciates and you sell your shares at a profit, but there is no guarantee that the market price for our common stock will ever exceed the price that you pay for our common stock.

#### ITEM 1B.UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS.

Not applicable.



## ITEM 2. PROPERTIES.

As of December 31, 2018, the Company's facilities are set forth below:

## Operations in the United States

JT Ryerson maintains 84 operational facilities, including 6 locations that are dedicated to administration services. All of our metals service center facilities are in good condition and are adequate for JT Ryerson's existing operations. Approximately 40% of these facilities are leased. The lease terms expire at various times through 2028. Owned properties noted as vacated below have been closed and are in the process of being sold. JT Ryerson's properties and facilities are adequate to serve its present and anticipated needs.

Location	Own/Lease
Birmingham, AL	Owned
Mobile, AL	Owned
Fort Smith, AR	Owned
Hickman, AR**	Leased
Little Rock, AR**	Owned
Phoenix, AZ	Owned
Dos Palos, CA	Leased
Fresno, CA	Leased
Livermore, CA	Leased
Vernon, CA	Owned
Commerce City, CO	Owned
South Windsor, CT	Leased/Vacated
Wilmington, DE	Owned
Jacksonville, FL	Owned
Tampa Bay, FL	Owned
Lavonia, GA	Owned
Norcross, GA	Leased
Norcross, GA**	Owned
Des Moines, IA	Owned
Eldridge, IA**	Leased
Marshalltown, IA	Owned
Chicago, IL (Headquarters)*	Leased
Chicago, IL	Owned
Chicago, IL	Leased
Chicago, IL	Leased/Vacated
Dekalb, IL	Leased
Elgin, IL	Leased
Lisle, IL*	Leased
Burns Harbor, IN	Owned
Indianapolis, IN	Owned
Portage, IN	Leased
Wichita, KS	Leased
Shelbyville, KY**	Owned
Shreveport, LA	Owned
St. Rose, LA	Owned

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Devens, MA	Owned
Detroit, MI*	Leased
Grand Rapids, MI*	Leased
Lansing, MI	Leased
Minneapolis, MN	Owned
Plymouth, MN	Owned
Maryland Heights, MO	Leased
North Kansas City, MO	Owned
Jackson, MS	Owned

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Charlotte, NC**	Owned
Charlotte, NC	Leased
Greensboro, NC (2)	Owned
Pikeville, NC	Leased
Youngsville, NC	Leased
Omaha, NE	Owned
Lancaster, NY	Owned
Cincinnati, OH	Owned
Columbus, OH	Leased
Hamilton, OH*	Leased
Hilliard, OH	Owned
Streetsboro, OH	Leased
Strongsville, OH	Owned
Warren, OH	Leased/Vacated
Oklahoma City, OK	Owned
Tulsa, OK	Owned
Tigard, OR	Leased
Ambridge, PA**	Owned
Fairless Hills, PA**	Leased
Pittsburgh, PA*	Leased/Vacated
Charleston, SC**	Owned
Greenville, SC	Owned
Wellford, SC	Owned
Chattanooga, TN	Owned
Chattanooga, TN	Leased
Gallatin, TN	Leased
Knoxville, TN*	Leased
Memphis, TN	Owned
Dallas, TX	Owned
El Paso, TX	Leased
Houston, TX	Owned
Houston, TX (2)	Leased
McAllen, TX	Leased
Odessa, TX	Leased/Vacated
Salt Lake City, UT	Leased
Pounding Mill, VA	Owned
Richmond, VA	Owned
Renton, WA	Owned
Spokane, WA	Owned
Green Bay, WI	Owned
Green Bay, WI	Leased
Hammond, WI	Leased
Milwaukee, WI	Owned
Milwaukee, WI	Owned/Vacated

\*Office space only

\*\*Processing centers



### Operations in Canada

Ryerson Canada, a wholly-owned indirect Canadian subsidiary of Ryerson Holding, has nine operational facilities in Canada. All of the metals service center facilities are in good condition and are adequate for Ryerson Canada's existing and anticipated operations. Four facilities are leased. The lease terms expire at various times through 2025.

Location	Own/Lease
Calgary, AB	Owned
Edmonton, AB	Owned
Richmond, BC	Owned
Winnipeg, MB	Owned
Winnipeg, MB	Leased
Saint John, NB	Owned
Brampton, ON	Leased
Burlington, ON (includes Canadian Headquarters)	Leased
Laval, QC	Leased/Vacated
Vaudreuil, QC	Leased

### Operations in China

Ryerson China, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Ryerson Holding, has five service and processing centers in China, at Guangzhou, Dongguan, Kunshan, and Tianjin, performing coil processing, sheet metal fabrication, and plate processing. Ryerson China's headquarters office building is located in Kunshan. We own four buildings in China and have purchased the related land use rights. The remaining facility is leased. All of the facilities are in good condition and are adequate for Ryerson China's existing and anticipated operations.

### Operations in Mexico

Ryerson Mexico, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Ryerson Holding, has four facilities in Mexico. We have service centers in Monterrey, Tijuana, Hermosillo, and Queretaro, all of which are leased. The facilities are in good condition and are adequate for Ryerson Mexico's existing and anticipated operations.

### ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

In October 2011, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (the "EPA") named us as one of more than 100 businesses that may be a potentially responsible party for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site ("Portland Harbor"). On January 6, 2017, the EPA issued an initial Record of Decision ("ROD") regarding the site. The ROD includes a combination of dredging, capping, and enhanced natural recovery that would take approximately thirteen years to construct plus additional time for monitored natural recovery, at an estimated present value cost of \$1.05 billion. At a meeting on December 4, 2018, the EPA announced that it expects parties to submit a plan to remediate the river and harbor per the original ROD within the next 2-3 years. It also expects allocation of amounts among the parties to be determined in the same time frame. It is willing to consider de minimus and de micromis settlements but is unlikely to approve any before completion of the remedial design process.

The EPA has not yet allocated responsibility for the contamination among the potentially responsible parties, including JT Ryerson. We do not currently have sufficient information available to us to determine whether the ROD will be executed as currently stated, whether and to what extent JT Ryerson may be held responsible for any of the

identified contamination, and how much (if any) of the final plan's costs might ultimately be allocated to JT Ryerson. Therefore, management cannot predict the ultimate outcome of this matter or estimate a range of potential loss at this time.

There are various other claims and pending actions against the Company. The amount of liability, if any, for those claims and actions at December 31, 2018 is not determinable but, in the opinion of management, such liability, if any, will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position, results of operations, or cash flows. We maintain liability insurance coverage to assist in protecting our assets from losses arising from or related to activities associated with business operations.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES.

Not applicable.



PART II

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

Market Information for Common Stock

Our common stock has been listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "RYT" and was first traded on August 13, 2014.

Holdings

As of February 28, 2019, there were 2 stockholders of record of our common stock. Because many shares of our common stock are held by brokers and other institutions on behalf of stockholders, we are unable to estimate the total number of beneficial stockholders represented by these record holders.

Dividend Policy

We have not declared any cash dividends for the past two years and we do not anticipate declaring or paying any regular cash dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. Any payment of cash dividends on our common stock in the future will be at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will depend upon our results of operations, earnings, capital requirements, financial condition, future prospects, contractual restrictions, including under the Ryerson Credit Facility and our outstanding notes, and other factors deemed relevant by our Board of Directors.

## Performance Graph

The following graph and accompanying table show the cumulative total return to stockholders of Ryerson Holding's common stock relative to the cumulative total returns of the S&P 500 and a metals service center peer group (the "Peer Group"). The graph tracks the performance of a \$100 investment in each of the indices (with reinvestment of dividends) from August 13, 2014 to December 31, 2018. As of December 31, 2018 the Peer Group consisted of Reliance Steel & Aluminum Co. and Olympic Steel Inc., each of which has securities listed for trading on the NASDAQ; and Russel Metals Inc., which has securities listed for trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange. The returns of each member of the Peer Group are weighted according to that member's stock market capitalization. The stock price performance included in this graph is not necessarily indicative of future stock price performance.

## Comparison of 53 Month Cumulative Total Return

Assumes Initial Investment of \$100

December 2018

This graph is not deemed to be "filed" with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act), and should not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any of our prior or subsequent filings under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Exchange Act.

	8/13/14	12/31/14	12/31/15	12/31/16	12/31/17	12/31/18
Ryerson Holding	\$ 100.00	\$ 96.41	\$ 45.34	\$ 129.61	\$ 100.97	\$ 61.55
S&P 500	\$ 100.00	\$ 107.12	\$ 108.55	\$ 120.94	\$ 145.93	\$ 140.09
Peer Group	\$ 100.00	\$ 86.21	\$ 78.54	\$ 118.09	\$ 127.92	\$ 108.23

## Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers

None.

## Recent Sale of Unregistered Securities and Use of Proceeds

None.

## ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA.

The following table sets forth our selected historical consolidated financial information. Our selected historical Consolidated Statements of Operations data for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2017 and 2018 and the summary historical balance sheet data as of December 31, 2017 and 2018 have been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements included in Item 8. "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data." The selected historical Consolidated Statements of Operations data for the years



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ended December 31, 2014 and 2015 and the summary historical balance sheet data as of December 31, 2014, 2015, and 2016 were derived from the audited financial statements and related notes thereto, which are not included in this Form 10-K.

The following consolidated financial information should be read together with Item 7. “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and the audited Consolidated Financial Statements of Ryerson Holding Corporation and the Notes thereto included in Item 8. “Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.”

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY OF SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA AND OPERATING RESULTS

(Dollars in millions, except per ton and per share data)

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Statements of Operations Data:</b>					
Net sales	\$4,408.4	\$3,364.7	\$2,859.7	\$3,167.2	\$3,622.2
Cost of materials sold	3,650.3	2,782.2	2,289.1	2,599.5	3,028.4
Gross profit	758.1	582.5	570.6	567.7	593.8
Warehousing, delivery, selling, general, and administrative (1) (2)	614.7	481.4	447.5	451.9	512.2
Gain on sale of assets	—	—	—	(1.9 )	(1.8 )
Restructuring and other charges	4.2	—	1.0	2.5	—
Impairment charges on assets	—	—	—	7.7	—
Operating profit	139.2	101.1	122.1	107.5	83.4
Other income and (expense), net (2) (3)	76.7	6.6	(6.1 )	(9.3 )	(2.9 )
Interest and other expense on debt (4)	(99.2 )	(91.0 )	(89.9 )	(96.3 )	(107.4 )
Income (loss) before income taxes	116.7	16.7	26.1	1.9	(26.9 )
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	10.3	(1.3 )	7.2	3.7	(0.7 )
Net income (loss)	106.4	18.0	18.9	(1.8 )	(26.2 )
Less: Net income (loss) attributable to noncontrolling interest	0.4	0.9	0.2	(1.3 )	(0.5 )
Net income (loss) attributable to Ryerson Holding Corporation	\$106.0	\$17.1	\$18.7	\$(0.5 )	\$(25.7 )
<b>Earnings (loss) per share of common stock: (5)</b>					
Basic earnings (loss) per share	\$2.84	\$0.46	\$0.55	\$(0.02 )	\$(1.01 )
Diluted earnings (loss) per share	\$2.81	\$0.46	\$0.54	\$(0.02 )	\$(1.01 )
Weighted average shares outstanding — Basic	37.3	37.2	34.3	32.1	25.4
Weighted average shares outstanding — Diluted	37.7	37.3	34.4	32.1	25.4
<b>Balance Sheet Data (at period end):</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$23.2	\$77.4	\$80.7	\$63.2	\$60.0
Restricted cash	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.2	2.0
Working capital	844.1	701.2	665.4	643.0	846.0
Property, plant, and equipment, net	489.0	422.9	388.2	400.3	428.2
Total assets	2,086.3	1,711.9	1,558.7	1,545.2	1,855.6
Long-term debt, including current maturities	1,153.3	1,045.7	963.5	1,023.5	1,242.1
Total equity (deficit)	75.9	(7.4 )	(49.3 )	(140.9 )	(124.5 )
<b>Other Financial Data:</b>					
Cash flows provided by (used in) operations	\$57.4	\$(2.5 )	\$24.8	\$258.9	\$(73.3 )

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Cash flows used in investing activities	(200.2 )	(70.3 )	(19.8 )	(18.0 )	(34.0 )
Cash flows provided by (used in) financing activities	92.9	65.7	11.4	(232.0 )	100.5
Capital expenditures	38.4	25.1	23.0	22.3	21.6
Depreciation and amortization	52.9	47.1	42.5	43.7	45.6
Volume and Per Ton Data:					
Tons shipped (000)	2,268	2,000	1,903	1,897	2,024
Average selling price per ton	\$1,944	\$1,682	\$1,503	\$1,670	\$1,790
Gross profit per ton	334	291	300	299	293
Operating expenses per ton	273	241	236	243	252
Operating profit per ton	61	50	64	56	41

(1) The year ended December 31, 2014 includes \$32.7 million of one-time IPO-related expenses.

(2)As a result of adopting Accounting Standards Update 2017-07, "Compensation - Retirement Benefits: Improving the Presentation of Net Periodic Pension Cost and Net Periodic Post Retirement Benefit Cost," we have reclassified benefits of \$8.9 million, \$11.1 million, \$1.1 million, and \$3.0 million in the year ended December 31, 2017, 2016, 2015, and 2014, respectively, from Warehousing, delivery, selling, general, and administrative expense to Other income and (expense), net.

(3)The year ended December 31, 2018 includes a \$70.0 million gain on bargain purchase related to our Central Steel and Wire Company acquisition. The year ended December 31, 2017 includes an other-than-temporary impairment charge of \$0.2 million related to an equity investment. The year ended December 31, 2016 includes an other-than-temporary impairment charge of \$4.7 million related to an equity investment and a \$8.7 million loss on the retirement of debt related to the purchases and retirement of our 9.0% Senior Notes due 2017 (the “2017 Notes”) and 11.25% Senior Notes due 2018 (the “2018 Notes”). The year ended December 31, 2015 includes an other-than-temporary impairment charge of \$12.3 million in the first quarter of 2015 related to an equity investment and a \$0.3 million gain on the retirement of debt related to the purchases of a portion of our 2017 Notes and 2018 Notes. The year ended December 31, 2014 includes \$11.2 million of expense related to the premium paid to redeem \$99.5 million of 2018 Notes. Remaining amounts in each year are related to foreign currency gains (losses).

(4)The year ended December 31, 2018 included a \$0.5 million write off of debt issuance costs related to the repurchase of the 2022 Notes. The year ended December 31, 2015 includes a \$2.9 million write off of debt issuance costs associated with our prior credit facility upon entering into a new revolving credit facility on July 24, 2015.

(5) On July 23, 2014, our Board of Directors approved a 4.25 for 1.00 stock split (the “Stock Split”) of the Company’s common stock effective August 5, 2014. The following amounts related to earnings per share and shares outstanding have been adjusted for the Stock Split for all periods reported.

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

The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with Item 6. "Selected Financial Data" and the audited Consolidated Financial Statements of Ryerson Holding Corporation and Subsidiaries and the Notes thereto in Item 8. "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data." This discussion contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. See the section entitled "Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements." Our actual results and the timing of selected events could differ materially from those discussed in these forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors, including those discussed in Item 1A. "Risk Factors" and elsewhere in this Form 10-K.

### Overview

#### Business

Ryerson Holding Corporation ("Ryerson Holding"), a Delaware corporation, is the parent company of Joseph T. Ryerson & Son, Inc. ("JT Ryerson"), a Delaware corporation. Affiliates of Platinum Equity, LLC ("Platinum") own approximately 21,037,500 shares of our common stock, which is approximately 56% of our issued and outstanding common stock.

We are a leading metals service center, a value-added processor and distributor of industrial metals with operations in the United States through JT Ryerson, in Canada through our indirect wholly-owned subsidiary Ryerson Canada, Inc., a Canadian corporation ("Ryerson Canada"), and in Mexico through our indirect wholly-owned subsidiary Ryerson Metals de Mexico, S. de R.L. de C.V., a Mexican corporation ("Ryerson Mexico"). In addition to our North American operations, we conduct materials processing and distribution operations in China through an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary, Ryerson China Limited ("Ryerson China"). Unless the context indicates otherwise, Ryerson Holding, JT Ryerson, Ryerson Canada, Ryerson China, and Ryerson Mexico, together with their subsidiaries, are collectively referred to herein as "Ryerson," "we," "us," "our," or the "Company."

#### Industry and Operating Trends

We are a metals service center providing value-added processing and distribution of industrial metals with operations in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and China. We purchase large quantities of metal products from primary producers and sell these materials in smaller quantities to a wide variety of metals-consuming industries. More than 75% of the metals products sold are processed by us by bending, beveling, blanking, blasting, burning, cutting-to-length, drilling, embossing, flattening, forming, grinding, laser cutting, machining, notching, painting, perforating, polishing, punching, rolling, sawing, scribing, shearing, slitting, stamping, tapping, threading, welding, or other techniques to process materials to a specified thickness, length, width, shape, and surface quality pursuant to specific customer orders.

Similar to other metals service centers, we maintain substantial inventories of metals to accommodate the short lead times and just-in-time delivery requirements of our customers. Accordingly, we purchase metals to maintain our inventory at levels that we believe to be appropriate to satisfy the anticipated needs of our customers based upon customer forecasts, historic buying practices, supply agreements with customers, mill lead times, and market conditions. Our commitments to purchase metals are generally at prevailing market prices in effect at the time we place our orders. At the request of our customers, we have entered into swaps in order to mitigate our customers' risk of volatility in the price of metals and we have entered into metals hedges to mitigate our own risk of volatility in the price of metals. We have no long-term, fixed-price metals purchase contracts. When metals prices decline, customer demands for lower prices and our competitors' responses to those demands could result in lower sale prices and, consequently, lower gross profits and earnings as we sell existing metals inventory. When metals prices increase,

competitive conditions will influence how much of the price increase we may pass on to our customers.

The metals service center industry is cyclical and volatile in both demand and pricing, and difficult to predict. In 2018, we saw improved demand when viewed against the year ago period. According to the Metal Service Center Institute, U.S. service center volumes have increased by four percent compared to the year-ago period. In 2018, we experienced year-over-year growth in shipment volumes to nearly all of our end markets, most notably in the ground transportation and metal fabrication and machine shop sectors. We saw year-over-year shipment declines only in the HVAC and construction equipment sectors.

Overall, commodity prices trended higher in 2018. CRU hot-rolled carbon steel prices rose 21%, Midwest aluminum prices rose 3%, and stainless 304 surcharge prices rose 2% during the year. Higher commodity prices translated into higher selling prices for Ryerson, with per ton pricing increases of 16% during the year. Stronger demand and pricing were offset by higher procured metal costs, which resulted in flat gross margins in 2018.



## Recent Industry Developments

On March 1, 2018, the White House announced a 25% tariff on all imported steel products and 10% tariff on all imported aluminum products for an indefinite amount of time under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act. Subsequently, the White House announced steel quotas, in lieu of tariffs, with South Korea. On May 1, 2018, the White House further announced agreements-in-principle with Argentina, Australia, and Brazil for permanent exemptions from the tariffs in exchange for export quotas or voluntary export restraints, with the exception of Australia which has not agreed to quotas at the time of this release. In August 2018, steel tariffs were increased to 50% for Turkey to offset inflation in the Turkish Lira.

Further trade actions announced by the U.S. under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 imposed a 25% additional duty on \$34 billion worth of Chinese imports effective July 6, 2018. In September 2018, the U.S. imposed a 10% tariff on \$200 billion in additional Chinese imported goods to increase to 25% by March 1, 2019. Ryerson expects upward price pressure on metal products in the U.S. to the extent the Section 232 tariffs or other trade actions remain enacted with U.S. trading partners.

Foreign administrations have responded to the trade actions imposed by the U.S. with trade actions in kind, adding further uncertainty to U.S. pricing and supply conditions.

## Acquisitions

On April 2, 2018, we acquired Fanello Industries (“Fanello”), a privately-owned metal service company located in Lavonia, Georgia. Fanello is a processor and service provider that supplies blanking, stamping, laser cutting, bending, and machining metal solutions to a diverse group of industries in the Southeastern United States.

On July 2, 2018, JT Ryerson acquired Central Steel and Wire Company (“CS&W”). CS&W is a leading metal service center with locations across the Central and Eastern United States offering a wide selection of products and capabilities, with a commercial portfolio centered on bar, tube, plate, and steel products. CS&W expanded our long, tube, and plate portfolio. Our combined commercial, operational, and processing strengths will provide a broader and deeper array of products to our customers in the Midwest and Northeast United States. The fair value of the consideration totaled \$163.5 million. Included in the 2018 financial results is \$347.5 million of revenue and \$78.5 million, including a \$70.0 million bargain purchase gain, of net income from CS&W since the acquisition date. Please refer to Note 2 — “Acquisitions” of Part II, Item 8 “Financial Statements and Supplementary Data” for further information on our 2018 acquisition of CS&W.

## Components of Results of Operations

We generate substantially all of our revenue from sales of our metals products. The majority of revenue is recognized upon delivery of product to customers. The timing of shipment is substantially the same as the timing of delivery to customers given the proximity of our distribution sites to our customers. Revenues associated with products which we believe have no alternative use, and where the Company has an enforceable right to payment, are recognized on an over-time basis. Over-time revenues are recorded in proportion with the progress made toward completing the performance obligation.

Sales, cost of materials sold, gross profit, and operating expense control are the principal factors that impact our profitability:

**Net Sales.** Our sales volume and pricing are driven by market demand, which is largely determined by overall industrial production and conditions in specific industries in which our customers operate. Sales prices are also

primarily driven by market factors such as overall demand and availability of product. Our net sales include revenue from product sales, net of returns, allowances, customer discounts, and incentives.

Cost of materials sold. Cost of materials sold includes metal purchase and in-bound freight costs, third-party processing costs, and direct and indirect internal processing costs. The cost of materials sold fluctuates with our sales volume and our ability to purchase metals at competitive prices. Increases in sales volume generally enable us both to improve purchasing leverage with suppliers, as we buy larger quantities of metals inventories.

Gross profit. Gross profit is the difference between net sales and the cost of materials sold. Our sales prices to our customers are subject to market competition. Achieving acceptable levels of gross profit is dependent on our acquiring metals at competitive prices, our ability to manage the impact of changing prices, and efficiently managing our internal and external processing costs.

Operating expenses. Optimizing business processes and asset utilization to lower fixed expenses such as employee, facility, and truck fleet costs which cannot be rapidly reduced in times of declining volume, and maintaining low fixed cost structure in times of increasing sales volume, have a significant impact on our profitability. Operating expenses include costs related to warehousing and distributing our products as well as selling, general, and administrative expenses.

## Results of Operations

The following table sets forth our condensed consolidated statements of income data:

	Year Ended December 31, 2018	% of Net Sales	Year Ended December 31, 2017	% of Net Sales	Year Ended December 31, 2016	% of Net Sales
Net sales	\$ 4,408.4	100.0%	\$ 3,364.7	100.0%	\$ 2,859.7	100.0%
Cost of materials sold	3,650.3	82.8	2,782.2	82.7	2,289.1	80.0
Gross profit	758.1	17.2	582.5	17.3	570.6	20.0
Warehousing, delivery, selling, general, and administrative expenses	614.7	13.9	481.4	14.3	447.5	15.7
Restructuring and other charges	4.2	0.1	—	—	1.0	—
Operating profit	139.2	3.2	101.1	3.0	122.1	4.3
Other expenses	(22.5 )	(0.6 )	(84.4 )	(2.5 )	(96.0 )	(3.4 )
Income before income taxes	116.7	2.6	16.7	0.5	26.1	0.9
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	10.3	0.2	(1.3 )	—	7.2	0.2
Net income	106.4	2.4	18.0	0.5	18.9	0.7
Less: Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest	0.4	—	0.9	—	0.2	—
Net income attributable to Ryerson Holding Corporation	\$ 106.0	2.4 %	\$ 17.1	0.5 %	\$ 18.7	0.7 %
Basic earnings per share	\$ 2.84		\$ 0.46		\$ 0.55	
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 2.81		\$ 0.46		\$ 0.54	

The following table shows the Company's percentage of sales by major product line:

Product Line	Year Ended December 31,		
	2018	2017	2016
	(Percentage of Sales)		
Carbon Steel Flat	27 %	28 %	28 %
Carbon Steel Plate	11	10	9
Carbon Steel Long	14	12	13
Stainless Steel Flat	16	18	17
Stainless Steel Plate	4	4	4
Stainless Steel Long	4	4	3
Aluminum Flat	15	15	16
Aluminum Plate	3	3	3

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Aluminum Long	4	4	5
Other	2	2	2
Total	100%	100%	100%

31

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Comparison of the year ended December 31, 2018 with the year ended December 31, 2017

Net Sales

	Year Ended		Dollar change	Percentage change	
	December 31, 2018	2017			
	(\$ in millions)				
Net sales	\$4,408.4	\$3,364.7	\$1,043.7	31.0	%
Net sales, same-store	\$4,060.9	\$3,364.7	\$696.2	20.7	%

	Year Ended		Tons change	Percentage change	
	December 31, 2018	2017			
	(in thousands)				
Tons sold	2,268	2,000	268	13.4	%
Tons sold, same-store	2,081	2,000	81	4.1	%

	Year Ended		Price change	Percentage change	
	December 31, 2018	2017			
Average selling price per ton sold	\$1,944	\$1,682	\$262	15.6	%
Average selling price per ton sold, same-store	\$1,951	\$1,682	\$269	16.0	%

Revenue for the year ended December 31, 2018 increased from the same period a year ago due to higher average selling prices and higher tons sold reflecting improved economic conditions in the metals market. Net sales and tons sold also increased in 2018 due to the acquisition of CS&W on July 2, 2018. Excluding CS&W (same-store results), average selling price per ton increased for all of our product lines in 2018 with the largest increases in our carbon plate, aluminum plate, and stainless plate products. Prices increased for our product lines in 2018 compared to 2017 as the impact of Section 232 tariffs favorably impacted metal prices along with improved demand. As more fully discussed in Item 1A “Risk Factors” of this Annual Report on Form 10-K, the tariffs imposed on certain metal products under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 have led to significant increases in the prices of the products we sell and our profitability. A rapid decline in metal prices from current levels could result in a significant adverse effect on our revenues, gross profit, and net income. Excluding CS&W, tons sold also increased in 2018 for all of our product lines with the largest increases in shipments of our carbon plate, stainless plate, and aluminum flat product lines. Tons sold per ship day were 9,000 in 2018 as compared to 7,968 in 2017. Excluding CS&W, tons sold per ship day were 8,258 in 2018.

Cost of Materials Sold

	Year Ended December 31,		% of Net Sales	% of Net Sales	Dollar change	Percentage change	
	2018	2017					
	(\$ in millions)						
Cost of materials sold	\$3,650.3	\$2,782.2	82.8%	82.7%	\$868.1	31.2	%

	Year Ended		Dollar change	Percentage change	
	December 31, 2018	2017			
Average cost of materials per ton sold	\$1,610	\$1,391	\$ 219	15.7	%

The increase in cost of materials sold in 2018 compared to 2017 was primarily due to an increase in the average cost of materials sold per ton and the increase in tons sold. The average cost of materials sold increased for all of our product lines during 2018 with our carbon plate, stainless plate, and stainless long product lines increasing more than our other products lines.

During 2018, LIFO expense was \$90 million related to increases in pricing for all product lines. During 2017, LIFO expense was \$44 million related to increases in pricing for all product lines. LIFO expense in 2017 was offset by a \$24 million credit to reverse the lower of cost or market inventory reserve.

## Gross Profit

	Year Ended December 31,				Dollar change	Percentage change	
	2018	2017	% of Net Sales	% of Net Sales			
	\$	\$					
	(\$ in millions)						
Gross profit	\$758.1	\$582.5	17.2%	17.3%	\$175.6	30.1	%

Gross profit dollars increased in 2018 compared to 2017 due to the increases in average selling price and tons sold as well as the acquisition of CS&W. During 2018, our revenue per ton increased at approximately the same pace as the increase in cost of materials sold per ton resulting in stable gross margins compared to the prior year.

## Operating Expenses

	Year Ended December 31,				Dollar change	Percentage change	
	2018	2017	% of Net Sales	% of Net Sales			
	\$	\$					
	(\$ in millions)						
Warehousing, delivery, selling, general, and administrative expenses	\$614.7	\$481.4	13.9%	14.3%	\$133.3	27.7	%
Warehousing, delivery, selling, general, and administrative expenses, same-store	\$548.4	\$481.4	13.5%	14.3%	\$67.0	13.9	%
Restructuring and other charges	\$4.2	\$—	0.1%	—	\$4.2	—	

Total operating expenses in 2018 were \$137.5 million higher than in 2017 primarily due to the acquisition of CS&W on July 2, 2018, which increased operating expenses by \$66.3 million excluding restructuring charges. In addition, improved demand, higher employment levels, and general inflationary factors impacted expenses with increases in the following categories:

- Higher incentive compensation expense of \$29.5 million;
- higher salaries and wages of \$11.9 million;
  - higher delivery expenses of \$9.4 million, primarily due to the increase in tons sold in 2018;
- higher facility expenses of \$6.2 million, primarily due to higher operating supply costs and higher depreciation expense;
- a restructuring charge of \$4.2 million in 2018 related primarily to severance costs for corporate staff reductions and two facility closures;
- higher sales expenses of \$2.8 million; and
- higher purchase consideration and other transaction costs of \$2.6 million.

On a per ton basis, operating expenses increased to \$273 per ton in 2018 from \$241 per ton in 2017.

## Operating Profit

	Year Ended December 31,				Dollar change	Percentage change
	2018	2017	% of Net Sales	% of Net Sales		
	\$	\$				
	(\$ in millions)					
Operating profit	\$139.2	\$101.1	3.2 %	3.0 %	\$ 38.1	37.7 %

Our operating profit increased in 2018 compared to 2017 primarily due to the increase in average selling price and tons sold discussed above.



## Other Expenses

	Year Ended December 31,				Dollar change	Percentage change
	2018		2017			
	\$	% of Sales	\$	% of Sales		
	(\$ in millions)					
Interest and other expense on debt	\$(99.2)	(2.3)%	\$(91.0)	(2.7)%	\$ (8.2 )	9.0 %
Other income and (expense), net	76.7	1.7	6.6	0.2	70.1	1,062.1

Interest and other expense on debt increased in 2018 compared to 2017, primarily due to a higher level of credit facility borrowings outstanding resulting from the acquisition of CS&W on July 2, 2018, from increased working capital requirements, and higher interest rates on credit facility borrowings in 2018. The other income in 2018 includes a \$70.0 million gain on the bargain purchase of CS&W, a \$6.2 million credit from net periodic benefit cost other than service cost, and \$2.5 million of foreign currency gains, partially offset by a \$1.7 million loss on the redemption of debt. The other income in 2017 was primarily related to an \$8.9 million credit from net periodic benefit cost other than service cost, partially offset by foreign currency losses.

## Provision for Income Taxes

The \$10.3 million income tax provision in 2018 primarily represents taxes at federal and local statutory rates where the Company operates, but generally excludes any tax benefit for losses in jurisdictions with historical losses. During 2018, the Company recorded benefits of \$1.3 million and \$3.6 million to reduce valuation allowances previously recorded against certain foreign deferred tax assets and state net operating losses, respectively. This benefit was offset by additional tax expense of \$1.5 million from the revaluation of deferred tax assets and liabilities at our new state tax rates resulting from our recent acquisition of CS&W. The effective tax rate for 2018 also reflects the reduced federal corporate income tax rate as a result of the enactment of the U.S. Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (“Tax Cuts and Jobs Act”) in December 2017.

The Company’s provision for income taxes in the fourth quarter of 2017 included \$7.2 million of estimated tax expense related to the one-time deemed repatriation transition tax (“Transition Tax”). An additional \$0.4 million of expense was recorded in 2018 as we refined our calculations. Of the \$7.6 million of estimated tax expense, \$0.9 million was reflected in our deferred tax balances and \$6.7 million was reflected in income taxes payable. Please refer to Note 17 — “Income Taxes” of Part II, Item 8 “Financial Statements and Supplementary Data” for further information on the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

## Noncontrolling Interest

In both 2018 and 2017, Ryerson China’s results of operations was income and the portion attributable to the noncontrolling interest was \$0.4 million and \$0.9 million, respectively.

## Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share was \$2.84 in 2018 and \$0.46 in 2017. Diluted earnings per share was \$2.81 in 2018 and \$0.46 in 2017. The changes in earnings per share are due to the results of operations discussed above.



Comparison of the year ended December 31, 2017 with the year ended December 31, 2016

#### Net Sales

	Year Ended		Dollar change	Percentage change	
	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2016			
	(\$ in millions)				
Net sales	\$3,364.7	\$2,859.7	\$505.0	17.7	%

	Year Ended		Tons change	Percentage change	
	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2016			
	(in thousands)				
Tons sold	2,000	1,903	97	5.1	%

	Year Ended		Price change	Percentage change	
	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2016			
Average selling price per ton sold	\$1,682	\$1,503	\$179	11.9	%

Revenue for the year ended December 31, 2017 increased from the year ended December 31, 2016 due to higher average selling prices and higher tons sold. Average selling price increased in 2017 from the price levels in 2016 reflecting improved economic conditions in the metals market. Average selling price increased for all of our product lines in the year ended December 31, 2017 with the largest increases in our carbon flat, stainless flat, and stainless plate products. Tons sold increased in 2017 with the largest increases in shipments in our stainless long, aluminum flat, and carbon plate product lines. Tons sold per ship day were 7,968 in 2017 as compared to 7,552 in 2016.

#### Cost of Materials Sold

	Year Ended December 31,		% of Net Sales	% of Net Sales	Dollar change	Percentage change
	2017	2016				
	(\$ in millions)					
Cost of materials sold	\$2,782.2	\$2,289.1	82.7%	80.0%	\$493.1	21.5%

	Year Ended		Cost change	Percentage change	
	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2016			
Average cost of materials per ton sold	\$1,391	\$1,203	\$188	15.6	%

The increase in cost of materials sold in 2017 compared to 2016 was primarily due to an increase in the average cost of materials sold per ton and the increase in tons sold. The average cost of materials sold for our carbon flat, carbon plate, and stainless flat product lines increased more than our other products during 2017, which was a faster increase than the increase in average selling price per ton for these products.

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During 2017, LIFO expense was \$44 million related to increases in pricing for all product lines. During 2016, LIFO expense was \$7 million related to increases in pricing for carbon products. In 2017, we recorded income of \$24 million to adjust the lower of cost or market inventory reserve compared to income of \$14 million in 2016.

### Gross Profit

	Year Ended December 31,			Dollar	Percentage		
	2017	2016					
	% of	% of					
	Net	Net					
	Sales	Sales	change	change			
(\$ in millions)							
Gross profit	\$582.5	17.3%	\$570.6	20.0%	\$ 11.9	2.1	%

Gross profit dollars increased in 2017 compared to 2016, but gross profit as a percentage of sales decreased to 17.3% in 2017 compared to 20.0% in 2016 as a competitive pricing environment combined with increasing commodity prices compressed gross profit margin. While our revenue per ton increased in 2017 as compared to 2016, cost of materials sold per ton increased at a faster pace, resulting in lower gross margins.

## Operating Expenses

	Year Ended December 31, 2017		2016		Dollar change	Percentage change
	\$	% of Net Sales	\$	% of Net Sales		
Warehousing, delivery, selling, general, and administrative expenses	\$481.4	14.3%	\$447.5	15.7%	\$33.9	7.6%
Restructuring and other charges	—	—	\$1.0	—	\$(1.0)	(100.0)%

Operating expenses in 2017 were higher than in 2016 primarily due to the following reasons:

• Higher salaries and wages of \$10.3 million resulting mainly from an increase in headcount after the acquisitions of Laserflex and Guy Metals in 2017;

• higher facility expenses of \$8.0 million, primarily due to higher depreciation expense and higher operating supply costs;

- higher delivery expenses of \$7.8 million, primarily due to the increase in tons sold in 2017;

• higher employee benefit costs of \$5.7 million in 2017, primarily due to higher medical expenses; and

• higher sales expenses of \$2.4 million.

These changes were partially offset by:

• Lower incentive compensation expense of \$3.2 million.

On a per ton basis, operating expenses increased to \$241 per ton in 2017 from \$236 per ton in 2016

## Operating Profit

	Year Ended December 31, 2017		2016		Dollar change	Percentage change
	\$	% of Net Sales	\$	% of Net Sales		
Operating profit	\$101.1	3.0%	\$122.1	4.3%	\$(21.0)	(17.2)%

Our operating profit decreased in 2017 compared to 2016 primarily due to the decrease in gross margin as a percent of sales discussed above.

## Other Expenses

	Year Ended December 31, 2017		2016		Dollar change	Percentage change
	\$	% of Net Sales	\$	% of Net Sales		
	\$		\$			

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Interest and other expense on debt	\$(91.0)	(2.7)%	\$(89.9)	(3.1)%	\$(1.1)	1.2%
Other income and (expense), net	6.6	0.2	(6.1)	(0.3)	12.7	(208.2)

Interest and other expense on debt increased in 2017 compared to 2016 as the interest rate on a portion of our outstanding Notes increased after we redeemed the \$569.9 million outstanding balance of our 9.00% Senior Notes due 2017 (the “2017 Notes”), repurchased \$121.9 million and thereafter redeemed the remaining outstanding \$48.5 million of our 11.25% Senior Notes due 2018 (the “2018 Notes”), and issued \$650.0 million of new 11.00% Senior Notes due 2022 (the “2022 Notes”) in 2016, partially offset by a reduction in the amount of our outstanding Notes and lower amortization of debt issuance costs expense. The other income in 2017 was primarily related to an \$8.9 million credit from net periodic benefit cost other than service cost, partially offset by foreign currency losses. The other expense in 2016 was primarily related to a \$8.7 million net loss on debt redemptions, a \$4.7 million charge due to an other-than-temporary impairment recognized on an equity investment, and foreign currency losses of \$3.9 million, partially offset by a credit of \$11.1 million from net periodic benefit cost other than service cost.

Provision for Income Taxes

The \$1.3 million income tax benefit in 2017 includes tax expense on earnings in the U.S. and changes in our valuation allowances, adjusted for the impact of certain one-time items associated with the U.S. Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the “Act”) passed on

December 22, 2017. These one-time adjustments included a benefit for the revaluation of our deferred tax assets of \$10.6 million and the tax associated with the deemed repatriation of foreign earnings of \$7.2 million under the Act. The \$7.2 million income tax expense in 2016 results predominantly from tax expense on earnings in the U.S. and the inability to benefit losses in our foreign subsidiaries due to valuation allowances.

The Company's 2017 provision for income taxes included \$7.2 million of estimated tax expense related to the one-time deemed repatriation transition tax ("Transition Tax"). Of the \$7.2 million of estimated tax expense, \$0.5 million is reflected in our deferred tax balances and \$6.7 million is reflected in income taxes payable. We chose to include an estimate of the Transition Tax in 2017 due to the complex nature of the calculation and the short amount of time between passing of the legislation and the filing of our financial statements. Please refer to Note 17 — "Income Taxes" of Part II, Item 8 "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" for further information on the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

#### Noncontrolling Interest

In 2017, Ryerson China's results of operations was income and the portion attributable to the noncontrolling interest was \$0.9 million. In 2016, Ryerson China's results of operations was income partially offset by a loss at our Brazil operations through Açofran Aços e Metais Ltda ("Açofran") in which we had a 50% direct ownership percentage, until we substantially liquidated our investment in Acofran during 2016. The portion of Ryerson China's and Açofran's results attributable to the noncontrolling interest in 2016 was income of \$0.2 million.

#### Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share was \$0.46 in 2017 and \$0.55 in 2016. Diluted earnings per share was \$0.46 in 2017 and \$0.54 in 2016. The changes in earnings per share are due to the results of operations discussed above as well as an increase in the weighted average shares outstanding after the issuance of 5 million shares of common stock in an underwritten public offering in July 2016.

#### Liquidity and Capital Resources

The Company's primary sources of liquidity are cash and cash equivalents, cash flows from operations, and borrowing availability under the \$1.0 billion revolving credit facility (the "Ryerson Credit Facility") that matures on November 16, 2021. Its principal source of operating cash is from the sale of metals and other materials. Its principal uses of cash are for payments associated with the procurement and processing of metals and other materials inventories, costs incurred for the warehousing and delivery of inventories and the selling and administrative costs of the business, capital expenditures, and for interest payments on debt.

The following table summarizes the Company's cash flows:

	Year Ended December		
	31,		
	2018	2017	2016
	(In millions)		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$57.4	\$(2.5 )	\$24.8
Net cash used in investing activities	(200.2)	(70.3)	(19.8)
Net cash provided by financing activities	92.9	65.7	11.4
Effect of exchange rates on cash	(4.3 )	3.9	0.9

Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents \$(54.2 ) \$(3.2 ) \$17.3

The Company had cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2018 of \$23.2 million, compared to \$77.4 million at December 31, 2017, and \$80.7 million at December 31, 2016. The Company had \$1,153 million, \$1,046 million, and \$964 million of total debt outstanding, a debt-to-capitalization ratio of 94%, 101%, and 105%, and \$392 million, \$264 million, and \$225 million available under the Ryerson Credit Facility at December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively. The Company had total liquidity (defined as cash and cash equivalents, marketable securities, and availability under the Ryerson Credit Facility and foreign debt facilities) of \$441 million, \$338 million, and \$301 million at December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively. Total liquidity is not a U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) financial measure. We believe that total liquidity provides additional information for measuring our ability to fund our operations. Total liquidity does not represent, and should not be used as a substitute for, net income or cash flows from operations as determined in accordance with GAAP and total liquidity is not necessarily an indication of whether cash flow will be sufficient to fund our cash requirements.



Below is a reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents to total liquidity:

	December 31, 2018	December 31, 2017	December 31, 2016
	(In millions)		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$23	\$ 77	\$ 81
Less: Qualified cash pledged as collateral	—	(28 )	(31 )
Availability under Ryerson Credit Facility and foreign debt facilities	418	289	251
Total liquidity	\$441	\$ 338	\$ 301

Of the total cash and cash equivalents as of December 31, 2018, \$12 million was held in subsidiaries outside the United States which is deemed to be permanently reinvested. Ryerson does not currently foresee a need to repatriate funds from its non-U.S. subsidiaries. Although the Company has historically satisfied needs for more capital in the U.S. through debt or equity issuances, it could elect to repatriate funds held in foreign jurisdictions which could result in higher effective tax rates. The Company has not recorded a deferred tax liability for the effect of a possible repatriation of these assets as management intends to permanently reinvest these assets outside of the U.S. Specific plans for reinvestment include funding for future international acquisitions and funding of existing international operations.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$57.4 million in 2018 compared to net cash used in operating activities of \$2.5 million in 2017 and net cash provided by operating activities of \$24.8 million in 2016. Net income was \$106.4 million, \$18.0 million, and \$18.9 million in 2018, 2017, and 2016 respectively. Cash provided by operating activities of \$57.4 million during the year ended December 31, 2018 was primarily due to the net income of \$106.4 million, an increase in accounts payable of \$58.4 million reflecting a higher cost of materials purchased at year-end 2018 compared to year-end 2017, and non-cash depreciation and amortization expense of \$52.9 million, partially offset by a non-cash gain on the bargain purchase of CS&W of \$70.0 million, an increase in accounts receivable of \$64.8 million resulting from higher sales levels at year-end 2018 compared to year-end 2017, and pension contributions of \$27.0 million. Cash used in operating activities of \$2.5 million during the year ended December 31, 2017 was primarily due to an increase in accounts receivable of \$44.0 million resulting from higher sales levels at year-end 2017 compared to year-end 2016, an increase in inventory of \$42.9 million reflecting higher material costs in 2017, pension contributions of \$21.7 million, an increase in deferred income taxes of \$9.2 million, and the payment of \$7.9 million of retiree medical costs, partially offset by an increase in accounts payable of \$58.1 million reflecting a higher cost of materials purchased at year-end 2017 compared to year-end 2016, non-cash depreciation and amortization expense of \$47.1 million, and net income of \$18.0 million. Cash provided by operating activities of \$24.8 million during the year ended December 31, 2016 was primarily due to non-cash depreciation and amortization expense of \$42.5 million, an increase in accounts payable of \$20.4 million, and net income of \$18.9 million, partially offset by an increase in accounts receivable of \$22.5 million, pension contributions of \$22.1 million, and premiums and fees related to debt modification of \$15.7 million.

Net cash used in investing activities was \$200.2 million, \$70.3 million, and \$19.8 million in 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively. During 2018 we paid \$169.7 million, net of cash acquired, to purchase CS&W and Fanello Industries. During 2017 the Company paid \$49.2 million, net of cash acquired, to acquire all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of The Laserflex Corporation and Guy Metals, Inc. Capital expenditures for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016, were \$38.4 million, \$25.1 million, and \$23.0 million, respectively. The Company sold property, plant, and equipment and assets held for sale generating cash proceeds of \$5.9 million, \$3.8 million, and \$3.2 million during the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively.

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$92.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2018. In 2018, net cash provided by financing activities was primarily due to an increase in credit facility borrowings of \$149.9 million, largely to finance the acquisitions of CS&W and Fanello Industries, an increase in book overdrafts of \$6.3 million, and proceeds of \$4.5 million from sale-leaseback transactions, partially offset by a \$52.2 million repurchase of the 2022 Notes, and \$13.7 million of principal payments under capital lease obligations. Net cash provided by financing activities was \$65.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2017. In 2017, net cash provided by financing activities was primarily related to net proceeds of \$74.3 million from credit facility borrowings and proceeds of \$24.9 million from sale leaseback transactions, partially offset by a \$18.0 million net decrease in book overdrafts and \$14.4 million of principle payments under capital lease obligations. Net cash provided by financing activities was \$11.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2016. In 2016, net cash provided by financing activities was primarily related to the issuance of the 2022 Notes with a principle amount of \$650.0 million, net proceeds of \$71.5 million from the issuance of common stock, and \$37.0 million from an increase in credit facility borrowings, partially offset by the redemption of the \$569.9 million outstanding balance of the 2017 Notes and \$170.4 million of the 2018 Notes.

As market conditions warrant and subject to our contractual restrictions, liquidity position, and other factors, we may from time to time seek to repurchase or retire our outstanding debt through cash purchases and/or exchanges for other debt or equity securities in open market transactions, privately negotiated transactions, by tender offer, or otherwise. Any such cash repurchases by us may be funded by cash on hand or incurring new debt. The amounts involved in any such transactions, individually or in the aggregate, may

be material. Furthermore, any such repurchases or exchanges may result in our acquiring and retiring a substantial amount of such indebtedness, which would impact the trading liquidity of such indebtedness.

#### Total Debt

Total debt at December 31, 2018 increased \$107.6 million to \$1,153.3 million from \$1,045.7 million at December 31, 2017 as a result of acquisitions and capital expenditures during the year, funded by the Ryerson Credit Facility.

Total debt outstanding as of December 31, 2018 consisted of the following amounts: \$535.9 million borrowing under the Ryerson Credit Facility, \$599.5 million under the 2022 Notes, \$19.5 million of foreign debt, and \$8.3 million of other debt, less \$9.9 million of unamortized debt issuance costs. Availability under the Ryerson Credit Facility was \$392 million and \$264 million at December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively. Discussion of our outstanding debt follows.

#### Ryerson Credit Facility

On November 16, 2016, Ryerson entered into an amendment with respect to its \$1.0 billion revolving credit facility (as amended, the “Old Credit Facility”), to reduce the total facility size from \$1.0 billion to \$750 million, reduce the interest rate on outstanding borrowings by 25 basis points, reduce commitment fees on amounts not borrowed by 2.5 basis points, and to extend the maturity date to November 16, 2021. On June 28, 2018, Ryerson entered into a second amendment with respect to the Old Credit Facility to increase the facility size from \$750 million to \$1.0 billion (the Old Credit Facility as amended, the “Ryerson Credit Facility”).

At December 31, 2018, Ryerson had \$535.9 million of outstanding borrowings, \$12 million of letters of credit issued, and \$392 million available under the Ryerson Credit Facility compared to \$384.2 million of outstanding borrowings, \$12 million of letters of credit issued, and \$264 million available at December 31, 2017. Total credit availability is limited by the amount of eligible accounts receivable, inventory, and qualified cash pledged as collateral under the agreement insofar as Ryerson is subject to a borrowing base comprised of the aggregate of these three amounts, less applicable reserves. Eligible accounts receivable, at any date of determination, is comprised of the aggregate value of all accounts directly created by a borrower (and in the case of Canadian accounts, the Canadian borrower) in the ordinary course of business arising out of the sale of goods or the rendering of services, each of which has been invoiced, with such receivables adjusted to exclude various ineligible accounts, including, among other things, those to which a borrower (or guarantor, as applicable) does not have sole and absolute title and accounts arising out of a sale to an employee, officer, director, or affiliate of a borrower (or guarantor, as applicable). Eligible inventory, at any date of determination, is comprised of the net orderly liquidation value of all inventory owned by a borrower (and in the case of Canadian accounts, the Canadian borrower). Qualified cash consists of cash in an eligible deposit account that is subject to customary restrictions and liens in favor of the lenders.

The Ryerson Credit Facility has an allocation of \$940 million to the Company’s subsidiaries in the United States and an allocation of \$60 million to Ryerson Holding’s Canadian subsidiary that is a borrower. Amounts outstanding under the Ryerson Credit Facility bear interest at (i) a rate determined by reference to (A) the base rate (the highest of the Federal Funds Rate plus 0.50%, Bank of America, N.A.’s prime rate, and the one-month LIBOR rate plus 1.00%), or (B) a LIBOR rate or, (ii) for Ryerson Holding’s Canadian subsidiary that is a borrower, (A) a rate determined by reference to the Canadian base rate (the greatest of the Federal Funds Rate plus 0.50%, Bank of America-Canada Branch’s “base rate” for commercial loans in U.S. Dollars made at its “base rate”, and the 30 day LIBOR rate plus 1.00%), (B) the prime rate (the greater of Bank of America-Canada Branch’s “prime rate” for commercial loans made by it in Canada in Canadian Dollars and the one-month Canadian bankers’ acceptance rate plus 1.00%), or (C) the bankers’ acceptance rate. The spread over the base rate and prime rate is between 0.25% and 0.50% and the spread over the LIBOR for the bankers’ acceptances is between 1.25% and 1.50%, depending on the amount available to be borrowed

under the Ryerson Credit Facility. Overdue amounts and all amounts owed during the existence of a default bear interest at 2% above the rate otherwise applicable thereto. Ryerson also pays commitment fees on amounts not borrowed at a rate of 0.23%.

We attempt to minimize interest rate risk exposure through the utilization of interest rate swaps, which are derivative financial instruments. During March 2017, we entered into an interest rate swap to fix interest on \$150 million of our floating rate debt under the Ryerson Credit Facility at a rate of 1.658% through March 2020. The swap has reset dates and critical terms that match our existing debt and the anticipated critical terms of future debt. The weighted average interest rate on the outstanding borrowings under the Ryerson Credit Facility including the interest rate swap was 3.5 percent and 2.8 percent at December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

Borrowings under the Ryerson Credit Facility are secured by first-priority liens on all of the inventory, accounts receivables, lockbox accounts, and related assets of the borrowers and the guarantors.

The Ryerson Credit Facility also contains covenants that, among other things, restrict Ryerson Holding and its restricted subsidiaries with respect to the incurrence of debt, the creation of liens, transactions with affiliates, mergers and consolidations, sales of assets, and acquisitions. The Ryerson Credit Facility also requires that, if availability under the Ryerson Credit Facility declines to a certain level, Ryerson maintain a minimum fixed charge coverage ratio as of the end of each fiscal quarter, and includes defaults upon (among other things) the occurrence of a change of control of Ryerson and a cross-default to other financing arrangements.

The Ryerson Credit Facility contains events of default with respect to, among other things, default in the payment of principal when due or the payment of interest, fees, and other amounts due thereunder after a specified grace period, material misrepresentations, failure to perform certain specified covenants, certain bankruptcy events, the invalidity of certain security agreements or guarantees, material judgments, and the occurrence of a change of control of Ryerson. If such an event of default occurs, the lenders under the Ryerson Credit Facility will be entitled to various remedies, including acceleration of amounts outstanding under the Ryerson Credit Facility and all other actions permitted to be taken by secured creditors.

The lenders under the Ryerson Credit Facility could reject a borrowing request if any event, circumstance, or development has occurred that has had or could reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company. If Ryerson Holding, JT Ryerson, any of the other borrowers, or any restricted subsidiaries of JT Ryerson becomes insolvent or commences bankruptcy proceedings, all amounts borrowed under the Ryerson Credit Facility will become immediately due and payable.

Net proceeds of short-term borrowings that are reflected in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows represent borrowings under the Ryerson Credit Facility with original maturities less than three months.

#### 2022 Notes

On May 24, 2016, JT Ryerson issued \$650 million in aggregate principal amount of the 2022 Notes (the “2022 Notes”). The 2022 Notes bear interest at a rate of 11.00% per annum. The 2022 Notes are fully and unconditionally guaranteed on a senior secured basis by all of our existing and future domestic subsidiaries that are co-borrowers or that have guarantee obligations under the Ryerson Credit Facility.

The 2022 Notes and the related guarantees are secured by a first-priority security interest in substantially all of JT Ryerson’s and each guarantor’s present and future assets located in the United States (other than receivables, inventory, cash, deposit accounts and related general intangibles, certain other assets, and proceeds thereof), subject to certain exceptions and customary permitted liens. The 2022 Notes and the related guarantees are also secured on a second-priority basis by a lien on the assets that secure JT Ryerson’s and the Company’s obligations under the Ryerson Credit Facility.

The 2022 Notes will be redeemable, in whole or in part, at any time on or after May 15, 2019 at certain redemption prices. The redemption price for the 2022 Notes if redeemed during the twelve months beginning (i) May 15, 2019 is 105.50%, (ii) May 15, 2020 is 102.75%, and (iii) May 15, 2021 and thereafter is 100.00%. JT Ryerson may redeem some or all of the 2022 Notes before May 15, 2019 at a redemption price of 100.00% of the principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date, plus a “make-whole” premium. In addition, JT Ryerson may redeem up to 35% of the 2022 Notes before May 15, 2019 with respect to the 2022 Notes with the net cash proceeds from certain equity offerings at a price equal to 111.00%, with respect to the 2022 Notes, of the principal amount thereof, plus any accrued and unpaid interest, if any. JT Ryerson may be required to make an offer to purchase the 2022 Notes upon the sale of assets or upon a change of control.

The 2022 Notes contain customary covenants that, among other things, limit, subject to certain exceptions, our ability, and the ability of our restricted subsidiaries, to incur additional indebtedness, pay dividends on our capital stock or repurchase our capital stock, make investments, sell assets, engage in acquisitions, mergers or consolidations, create liens, or use assets as security in other transactions. Subject to certain exceptions, JT Ryerson may only pay dividends to Ryerson Holding to the extent of 50% of cumulative net income since the issuance of the 2022 Notes, once prior losses are offset.

During 2018, a principal amount of \$50.5 million of the 2022 Notes were repurchased for \$52.2 million and retired, resulting in the recognition of a \$1.7 million loss within other income and (expense), net on the Consolidated Statement of Operations.

The net proceeds from the issuance of the 2022 Notes, along with borrowings under the Ryerson Credit Facility, were used to (i) repurchase and/or redeem in full the \$569.9 million balance of JT Ryerson's 9.00% Senior Secured Notes due 2017 (the "2017 Notes"), plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon up to, but not including, the repayment date, (ii) repurchase \$95.0 million of JT Ryerson's 11.25% Senior Secured Notes due 2018 (the "2018 Notes"), and (iii) pay related fees, expenses, and premiums.

The Company applied the provisions of ASC 470-50, "Modifications and Extinguishments" in accounting for the issuance of the 2022 Notes, redemption of the 2017 Notes, and partial repurchase of the 2018 Notes. The evaluation of the accounting under ASC

470-50 was performed on a creditor by creditor basis in order to determine if the terms of the debt were substantially different and, as a result, whether to apply modification or extinguishment accounting. For the lenders where it was determined that the terms of the debt were not substantially different, modification accounting was applied. For the remaining lenders, extinguishment accounting was applied. In connection with this debt modification and extinguishment, the Company recorded a \$16.1 million loss within other income and (expense), net on the Consolidated Statement of Operations during 2016, primarily attributed to the costs incurred with third parties for arrangement fees, legal, and other services related to the modified debt, as well as redemption fees paid to the creditors, and unamortized debt issuance costs written off related to the extinguished debt. Additionally, the costs incurred with third parties for arrangement fees, legal, and other services related to the extinguished debt and redemption fees paid to the creditors related to the modified debt were capitalized and are being amortized over the life of the modified debt using the effective interest method.

During 2016, a principal amount of \$75.4 million of the 2018 Notes were repurchased for \$68.0 million and retired, resulting in the recognition of a \$7.4 million gain within other income and (expense), net on the Consolidated Statement of Operations. Including the \$16.1 million loss on the redemption of the \$569.9 million balance of the 2017 Notes and repurchase of \$95.0 million of the 2018 Notes, the Company recognized a total net loss of \$8.7 million within other income and (expense), net on the Consolidated Statement of Operations during year 2016.

#### Foreign Debt

At December 31, 2018, Ryerson China's total foreign borrowings were \$19.5 million, which were owed to banks in Asia at a weighted average interest rate of 4.3% per annum and secured by inventory and property, plant, and equipment. At December 31, 2017, Ryerson China's total foreign borrowings were \$21.3 million, which were owed to banks in Asia at a weighted average interest rate of 3.7% per annum and secured by inventory and property, plant, and equipment.

Availability under Ryerson China's credit facility was \$26 million and \$25 million at December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively. Letters of credit issued by our foreign subsidiaries totaled \$3 million at December 31, 2018 and 2017.

#### Pension Funding

The Company made contributions of \$27.0 million in 2018, \$21.7 million in 2017, and \$22.1 million in 2016 to improve the Company's pension plans funded status. At December 31, 2018, as reflected in Note 10 to the Consolidated Financial Statements, pension liabilities exceeded plan assets by \$181 million. The Company anticipates that it will have a minimum required pension contribution of approximately \$26 million in 2019 under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), Pension Protection Act in the U.S., and the Ontario Pension Benefits Act in Canada. Future contribution requirements depend on the investment returns on plan assets, the impact of discount rates on pension liabilities, and changes in regulatory requirements. The Company is unable to determine the amount or timing of any such contributions required by ERISA or whether any such contributions would have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position or cash flows. The Company believes that cash flow from operations and the Ryerson Credit Facility described above will provide sufficient funds to make the minimum required contribution in 2019.

#### Income Tax Payments

The Company made income tax payments of \$2.1 million, \$1.7 million, and \$1.8 million in 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

In the normal course of business with customers, vendors, and others, we have entered into off-balance sheet arrangements, such as letters of credit, which totaled \$15 million as of December 31, 2018. Additionally, other than normal course long-term operating leases included in the following Contractual Obligations table, we do not have any material off-balance sheet financing arrangements. None of these off-balance sheet arrangements are likely to have a material effect on our current or future financial condition, results of operations, liquidity, or capital resources.

41

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## Contractual Obligations

The following table presents contractual obligations at December 31, 2018:

	Payments Due by Period				
	Total	Less than 1 year	1 – 3 years	4 – 5 years	After 5 years
Contractual Obligations(1)(2)	(In millions)				
2022 Notes	\$600	\$—	\$—	\$600	\$—
Ryerson Credit Facility	536	—	536	—	—
Foreign Debt	19	19	—	—	—
Other Debt	8	8	—	—	—
Interest on 2022 Notes, Foreign Debt, Other Debt, and Ryerson Credit Facility(3)	279	85	169	25	—
Purchase Obligations(4)	12	12	—	—	—
Operating Leases	102	22	36	24	20
Pension Withdrawal Liability	1	—	—	—	1
Capital Leases	34	14	17	3	—
Transition Tax Liability	7	1	1	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,598</b>	<b>\$161</b>	<b>\$759</b>	<b>\$653</b>	<b>\$25</b>

(1) The contractual obligations disclosed above do not include our potential future pension funding obligations (see previous discussion under “Pension Funding” caption).

(2) Due to uncertainty regarding the completion of tax audits and possible outcomes, we do not know the timing of when our obligations related to unrecognized tax benefits will occur, if at all. See Note 17 “Income Taxes” of the notes to our consolidated financial statements for additional detail.

(3) Interest payments related to the variable rate debt were estimated using the weighted average interest rate for the Ryerson Credit Facility, including the effect of the interest rate swap.

(4) The purchase obligations with suppliers are entered into when we receive firm sales commitments with certain of our customers.

## Capital Expenditures

Capital expenditures during 2018, 2017, and 2016 totaled \$38.4 million, \$25.1 million, and \$23.0 million, respectively. Capital expenditures were primarily for machinery and equipment.

The Company anticipates capital expenditures, excluding acquisitions, to be approximately \$35 million in 2019. The spending includes maintenance expenditures and improvements to maintain, upgrade, and add to the Company’s North American processing capabilities.

## Restructuring

2018

In 2018, the Company recorded a \$3.6 million charge for employee-related costs primarily for severance costs for corporate staff reductions and two facility closures. The Company paid \$3.2 million of the employee costs related to these actions. The remaining \$0.4 million of employee-related costs are expected to be paid in 2019.

During 2018, the Company also recorded a \$0.6 million charge to increase the reserve for tenancy-related costs for a facility closed in 2013. The Company paid \$0.8 million in costs related to this facility closure. The remaining \$1.5 million of tenancy-related costs are expected to be paid through 2025.

2017

In 2017, the Company recorded an \$0.8 million charge in warehousing, delivery, selling, general, and administrative expense in the Consolidated Statements of Operations to increase the reserve for tenancy-related costs for a facility closed in 2013. The Company paid \$0.4 million in costs related to this facility closure and also reclassified an existing \$0.1 million liability for future lease payments to the restructuring reserve. In addition, the Company paid \$0.1 million in costs related to a facility closed in 2016.

42

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During 2017, the Company recorded a \$0.2 million reduction to the reserve for employee-related costs and credited warehousing, delivery, selling, general, and administrative expense in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. This action fully utilized the remaining reserve for employee-related costs.

2016

In 2016, the Company recorded a charge of \$1.0 million related to a facility closure, which consists of tenancy-related costs, primarily future lease payments. The Company paid \$0.2 million in costs related to this facility closure and also reclassified an existing \$0.2 million liability for future lease payments at this facility to the restructuring reserve. The Company also paid \$0.3 million in costs related to a facility closed in 2013 and recorded an addition of \$0.1 million to the reserve for tenancy-related costs, which was charged to warehousing, delivery, selling, general, and administrative expense in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

During 2016, the Company paid \$0.7 million in employee-related costs related to restructuring actions taken in the fourth quarter of 2015. The Company also recorded a \$0.3 million reduction to the reserve for employee-related costs and credited warehousing, delivery, selling, general, and administrative expense in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

#### Deferred Tax Amounts

At December 31, 2018, the Company had a net deferred tax liability of \$13 million comprised primarily of a deferred tax asset of \$48 million related to pension liabilities, a deferred tax asset related to postretirement benefits other than pensions of \$18 million, \$30 million of Alternative Minimum Tax (“AMT”) credit carryforwards, and deferred tax assets of \$71 million related to federal, local, and foreign tax loss carryforwards, offset by a valuation allowance of \$29 million and deferred tax liabilities of \$65 million related to fixed assets and \$127 million related to inventory. The Company’s deferred tax assets include \$46 million related to U.S. federal net operating loss (“NOL”) carryforwards, \$20 million related to state NOL carryforwards, and \$5 million related to foreign NOL carryforwards, available at December 31, 2018.

The U.S. Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the “Act”), enacted on December 22, 2017, significantly changed U.S. corporate income tax laws by, among other things, reducing the U.S. corporate income tax rate to 21% starting in 2018 and creating a territorial tax system with a one-time mandatory tax on previously deferred foreign earnings of U.S. subsidiaries. Under ASC Topic 740, “Income Taxes” the effects of changes in tax rates and laws on deferred tax balances are recognized in the period in which the new legislation is enacted. As a result of the Act, we recorded a benefit for the revaluation of our deferred tax assets of \$10.6 million during the fourth quarter of 2017 within the provision (benefit) for income taxes line of the Consolidated Statement of Operations.

In accordance with ASC 740 the Company assesses the realizability of its deferred tax assets. The Company records a valuation allowance when, based upon the evaluation of all available evidence, it is more-likely-than-not that all or a portion of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. In making this determination, we analyze, among other things, our recent history of earnings, the nature and timing of reversing book-tax temporary differences, tax planning strategies, and future income. After considering both the positive and negative evidence available, in the second quarter of 2009, the Company determined that it was more-likely-than-not that it would not realize a portion of its U.S. deferred tax assets. As a result, the Company established a valuation allowance against a portion of its U.S. deferred tax assets. The Company released a portion of the valuation allowance related to one of its U.S. subsidiaries, JT Ryerson, during 2012. The Company released most of the remaining U.S. related valuation allowance during 2013. In 2018, the Company further reduced its valuation allowance related to state and foreign net operating losses. As of December 31, 2017, the Company had a valuation allowance of \$24.4 million. As of December 31, 2018, the Company had a valuation allowance of \$29.3 million, an increase of \$4.9 million from the prior year mainly related to

changes in foreign deferred tax assets, U.S. foreign tax credits, and state net operating losses subject to valuation allowances.

As described in Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Statements, the Company assesses the need for a valuation allowance considering all available positive and negative evidence, including past operating results, projections of future taxable income, and the feasibility of ongoing tax planning strategies.

The Company will continue to maintain a valuation allowance on certain U.S. federal and state deferred tax assets until such time as in management's judgment, considering all available positive and negative evidence, the Company determines that these deferred tax assets are more likely than not realizable.

#### Critical Accounting Estimates

Preparation of this Form 10-K requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of our financial statements, and the reported amounts of sales and expenses during the reporting period. Our critical accounting policies, including the assumptions and judgments underlying them, are

disclosed in Item 8 within Note 1: “Summary of Accounting and Financial Policies”. These policies have been consistently applied and address such matters as revenue recognition, depreciation methods, inventory valuation, asset impairment recognition, and pension and postretirement expense. While policies associated with estimates and judgments may be affected by different assumptions or conditions, we believe our estimates and judgments associated with the reported amounts are appropriate in the circumstances. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

We consider the policies discussed below as critical to an understanding of our financial statements, as application of these policies places the most significant demands on management’s judgment, with financial reporting results relying on estimation of matters that are uncertain.

**Provision for allowances, claims, and doubtful accounts:** We perform ongoing credit evaluations of customers and set credit limits based upon review of the customers’ current credit information and payment history. We monitor customer payments and maintain a provision for estimated credit losses based on historical experience and specific customer collection issues that we have identified. Estimation of such losses requires adjusting historical loss experience for current economic conditions and judgments about the probable effects of economic conditions on certain customers. We cannot guarantee that the rate of future credit losses will be similar to past experience. Provisions for allowances and claims are based upon historical rates, expected trends, and estimates of potential returns, allowances, customer discounts, and incentives. We consider all available information when assessing the adequacy of the provision for allowances, claims, and doubtful accounts.

**Inventory valuation:** Our inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market. The valuation of our inventories at the lower of cost or market could be subject to certain estimates; however the measurement is primarily based on historical purchasing and sales information rather than forecasted metals pricing. Inventory costs reflect metal and in-bound freight purchase costs, third-party processing costs, and internal direct and allocated indirect processing costs. Cost is primarily determined by the LIFO method. We regularly review inventory on hand and record provisions for obsolete and slow-moving inventory based on historical and current sales trends. Changes in product demand and our customer base may affect the value of inventory on hand which may require higher provisions for obsolete inventory.

**Income Taxes:** Our income tax expense, deferred tax assets and liabilities, and reserve for uncertain tax positions reflect our best estimate of taxes to be paid. The Company is subject to income taxes in the U.S. and several foreign jurisdictions. The determination of the consolidated income tax expense requires judgment and estimation by management. It is possible that actual results could differ from the estimates that management has used to determine its consolidated income tax expense.

We record operating loss and tax credit carryforwards and the estimated effect of temporary differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and the reported amounts in the Consolidated Balance Sheet. We follow detailed guidelines in each tax jurisdiction when reviewing tax assets recorded on the balance sheet and provide for valuation allowances as required. Deferred tax assets are reviewed for recoverability based on historical taxable income, the expected reversals of existing temporary differences, tax planning strategies, and on forecasts of future taxable income. The forecasts of future taxable income require assumptions regarding volume, selling prices, margins, expense levels, and industry cyclicality. If we are unable to generate sufficient future taxable income in certain tax jurisdictions, we may be required to record additional valuation allowances against our deferred tax assets related to those jurisdictions.

The Company’s income tax provisions are based on calculations and assumptions that are subject to examination by the IRS and other tax authorities. Although the Company believes that the positions taken on filed tax returns are reasonable, it has established tax and interest reserves in recognition that various taxing authorities may challenge the positions taken. For uncertain tax positions, the Company applies the provisions of relevant authoritative guidance,

which requires application of a “more likely than not” threshold to the recognition and derecognition of tax positions. The Company’s ongoing assessments of the more likely than not outcomes of tax authority examinations and related tax positions require significant judgment and can increase or decrease the Company’s effective tax rate.

**Long-lived Assets and Other Intangible Assets:** Long-lived assets held and used are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. We estimate the future cash flows expected to result from the use of the asset and its eventual disposition. If the sum of the expected future cash flows (undiscounted and without interest charges) is less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment is recognized. Determining whether an impairment has occurred typically requires various estimates and assumptions, including determining which undiscounted cash flows are directly related to the potentially impaired asset, the useful life over which cash flows will occur, their amount, and the asset’s residual value, if any. Any related impairment loss is calculated based upon comparison of the fair value to the carrying value of the asset. Separate intangible assets that have finite useful lives are amortized over their useful lives. An impaired long-lived or intangible asset would be written down to fair value, based on various available valuation techniques, including the discounted cash flow method.

**Goodwill:** We assess the recoverability of the carrying value of recorded goodwill annually in the fourth quarter of each year or whenever indicators of potential impairment exist. We test for impairment of goodwill by assessing various qualitative factors with respect to developments in our business and the overall economy and calculating the fair value of a reporting unit using the discounted cash flow method, as necessary. Factors that may be considered indicators of impairment include: deterioration in general economic conditions; declines in the market conditions of our products, including metals prices; a sustained significant decline in our share price and market capitalization; reduced future cash flow estimates; and slower growth rates in our industry, among others. If we determine that it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than the carrying value based on our qualitative assessment, we will proceed to the goodwill impairment test. We compare the fair value of the reporting unit in which goodwill resides to its carrying value. If the carrying amount exceeds the fair value, an impairment loss is recognized in an amount equal to that excess, not to exceed the carrying amount of the goodwill. The fair value of the reporting units is estimated using a combination of an income approach and a market approach as this combination is deemed to be the most indicative of our fair value in an orderly transaction between market participants. An income approach based on discounted future cash flows requires us to estimate income from operations based on projected results and discount rates based on a weighted average cost of capital of comparable companies. A market approach estimates fair value using market multiples of various financial measures of comparable public companies. If these estimates or their related assumptions for commodity prices and demand change in the future, we may be required to record impairment charges for these assets.

Based on the impairment test performed as of October 1, 2015, the reporting unit's fair value exceeded its carrying value by more than 25%. Based on a qualitative assessment performed as of October 1, 2018, the Company concluded it was not more likely than not that the fair value of the reporting unit was less than its carrying amount. Therefore, we did not perform the quantitative goodwill impairment test during 2018. The discount rate for the reporting unit was estimated to be 14.5% at October 1, 2018. The Company determines a discount rate based on an estimate of a reasonable risk-adjusted return an investor would expect to realize on an investment in the reporting unit. Deterioration in market conditions in our industry or products, changes in expected future cash flows, expected growth rates, or discount rates could result in impairment charges in future periods.

**Purchase Price Accounting:** Business combinations are accounted for using the acquisition method of accounting. This method requires the Company to record assets and liabilities of the business acquired at their estimated fair market values as of the acquisition date. Any excess of the cost of the acquisition over the fair value of the net assets acquired is recorded as goodwill. The Company uses valuation specialists, where necessary, to perform appraisals and assist in the determination of the fair values of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed. These valuations require management to make estimates and assumptions that are critical in determining the fair values of the assets and liabilities.

**Pension and postretirement benefit plan assumptions:** We sponsor various benefit plans covering a portion of our employees for pension and postretirement medical costs. Statistical methods are used to anticipate future events when calculating expenses and liabilities related to the plans. The statistical methods include assumptions about, among other things, the discount rate, expected return on plan assets, rate of increase of health care costs, and the rate of future compensation increases. Our actuarial consultants also use subjective factors such as withdrawal and mortality rates when estimating expenses and liabilities. The discount rate used for U.S. plans reflects the market rate for high-quality fixed-income investments on our annual measurement date (December 31) and is subject to change each year. The discount rate was determined by matching, on an approximate basis, the coupons and maturities for a portfolio of corporate bonds (rated Aa or better by Moody's Investor Services or AA or better by Standard and Poor's) to the expected plan benefit payments defined by the projected benefit obligation. The discount rates used for plans outside the U.S. are based on the yield of long term high quality corporate bonds, the duration of the liability, and appropriate judgment.

When calculating pension expense for 2018, we assumed the pension plans' assets would generate a long-term rate of return of 6.70% for the JT Ryerson plan and 4.70% for the CS&W plan, and between 4.50% and 5.25% for the Canadian plans. The expected long-term rate of return assumption was developed based on historical experience and input from the trustee managing the plans' assets. The expected long-term rate of return on plan assets is based on a target allocation of assets, which is based on a goal of earning the highest rate of return while maintaining risk at acceptable levels. Our projected long-term rate of return for the JT Ryerson pension plan is slightly higher than some market indices due to the active management of our plans' assets, and is supported by the historical returns on our plans' assets. The plans strive to have assets sufficiently diversified so that adverse or unexpected results from one security class will not have an unduly detrimental impact on the entire portfolio. We regularly review actual asset allocation and the pension plans' investments are periodically rebalanced to the targeted allocation when considered appropriate. Pension expense increases as the expected rate of return on plan assets decreases. Lowering the expected long-term rate of return on plan assets by 50 basis points would have increased 2018 pension expense by approximately \$3 million.

Future pension obligations for the U.S. plans were discounted using rates between of 4.32% and 4.59% at December 31, 2018. Future pension obligations for the Canadian plans were discounted using weighted average rates between 3.56% and 3.58% at December 31, 2018. Lowering the discount rate by 50 basis points would increase the pension liability at December 31, 2018 by approximately \$42 million.



The calculation of other postretirement benefit expense and obligations requires the use of a number of assumptions, including the assumed discount rate for measuring future payment obligations and the health care cost trend rate. A one percentage point increase (decrease) in assumed health care trend rates would increase (decrease) our total service and interest cost for the year ended December 31, 2018 by \$0.2 million and \$(0.2) million, respectively. A decrease in the weighted average discount rate of 50 basis points would increase the postretirement benefit liability by approximately \$3 million.

The assumptions used in the actuarial calculation of expenses and liabilities may differ materially from actual results due to changing market and economic conditions, higher or lower withdrawal rates, or longer or shorter life spans of participants. These differences may result in a significant impact on the amount of pension or postretirement benefit expense we may record in the future.

Legal contingencies: We are involved in a number of legal and regulatory matters including those discussed in Note 11 in the Consolidated Financial Statements. We determine whether an estimated loss from a loss contingency should be accrued by assessing whether a loss is deemed probable and can be reasonably estimated. We analyze our legal matters based on available information to assess potential liability. We consult with outside counsel involved in our legal matters when analyzing potential outcomes. We cannot determine at this time whether any potential liability related to this litigation would materially affect our financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

#### Recent Accounting Pronouncements

Recent accounting pronouncements are discussed within Note 1 in the Consolidated Financial Statements.

#### ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK.

##### Interest rate risk

Market risk is the potential loss arising from adverse changes in market rates and prices, such as interest rates. We are exposed to market risk related to our fixed-rate and variable-rate long-term debt. Changes in interest rates may affect the market value of our fixed-rate debt. The estimated fair value of our long-term debt and the current portions thereof using quoted market prices of Company debt securities recently traded and market-based prices of similar securities for those securities not recently traded was \$1,158.5 million at December 31, 2018 and \$1,125.9 million at December 31, 2017 as compared with the carrying value of \$1,153.3 million and \$1,045.7 million at December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

We have a receive variable, pay fixed, interest rate swap to manage the exposure to variable interest rates of the Ryerson Credit Facility. In March 2017, we entered into a forward agreement for \$150 million of “pay fixed” interest at 1.658%, “receive variable” interest to manage the risk of increasing variable interest rates. We account for the interest rate swap as a cash flow hedge of floating-rate borrowings with changes in fair value being recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income. The fair value of the interest rate swap as of December 31, 2018 was an asset of \$1.5 million.

A hypothetical 1% increase in interest rates on variable rate debt would have increased interest expense in 2018 by approximately \$4.0 million.

##### Foreign exchange rate risk

We are subject to exposure from fluctuations in foreign currencies. We use foreign currency exchange contracts to hedge variability in cash flows when a payment currency is different from our functional currency. Foreign currency contracts are principally used to purchase U.S. dollars. We had foreign currency contracts with a U.S. dollar notional

amount of \$4.5 million outstanding at December 31, 2018 and a net asset value of \$0.2 million. We do not currently account for these contracts as hedges but rather mark these contracts to market with a corresponding offset to current earnings. For the year ended December 31, 2018, the Company recognized a gain of \$0.2 million associated with its foreign currency contracts. A hypothetical strengthening or weakening of 10% in the foreign exchange rates underlying the foreign currency contracts from the market rate as of December 31, 2018 would decrease or increase the fair value of the foreign currency contracts by \$0.2 million and \$0.1 million, respectively.

The currency effects of translating the financial statements of our foreign subsidiaries are included in accumulated other comprehensive loss and will not be recognized in the statement of operations until there is a liquidation or sale of those foreign subsidiaries.

### Commodity price risk

Metal prices can fluctuate significantly due to several factors including changes in foreign and domestic production capacity, raw material availability, metals consumption, and foreign currency rates. Declining metal prices could reduce our revenues, gross profit, and net income. From time to time, we may enter into fixed price sales contracts with our customers for certain of our inventory components. We may enter into metal commodity futures and options contracts to reduce volatility in the price of these metals.

As of December 31, 2018, we had 1,541 tons of nickel swap contracts, 36,365 tons of hot roll coil swap contracts, and 42,419 tons of aluminum swap contracts, with a net liability value of \$0.6 million, \$0.1 million, and \$3.1 million, respectively. We do not currently account for these contracts as hedges, but rather mark these contracts to market with a corresponding offset to current earnings. For the year ended December 31, 2018, the Company recognized a loss of \$3.1 million associated with its metal commodity derivatives.

A hypothetical strengthening or weakening of 10% in the commodity prices underlying the commodity derivative contracts from the market rate as of December 31, 2018 would increase or decrease the fair value of the commodity derivative contracts by \$3.7 million.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA.

Index to Consolidated Financial Statements

	Page
Financial Statements	
<u>Management’s Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting</u>	49
<u>Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	50
<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016</u>	52
<u>Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016</u>	53
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016</u>	54
<u>Consolidated Balance Sheets at December 31, 2018 and 2017</u>	55
<u>Consolidated Statements of Stockholders’ Equity for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016</u>	56
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>	57
Financial Statements Schedule	
<u>I—Condensed Financial Information of Registrant</u>	93
<u>II—Valuation and Qualifying Accounts</u>	98
All other schedules are omitted because they are not applicable. The required information is shown in the Financial Statements or Notes thereto.	
48	

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## MANAGEMENT'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

The management of Ryerson Holding Corporation (“the Company”) is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. The Company’s internal control system was designed to provide reasonable assurance to the Company’s management and Board of Directors regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements under all potential conditions. Therefore, effective internal control over financial reporting provides only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance with respect to the preparation and presentation of financial statements.

The Company’s management assessed the effectiveness of the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2018, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (2013 framework) (the COSO criteria). Based on its assessment under that framework and the criteria established therein, the Company’s management concluded that the Company’s internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2018. Management’s assessment and conclusion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2018 excludes the internal control over financial reporting related to Central Steel and Wire Company (acquired on July 2, 2018). Central Steel and Wire Company is included in the 2018 consolidated financial statements and constituted 13.2% and 4.9% of total assets and total liabilities, respectively, as of December 31, 2018 and 7.9% and 7.3% of net sales and pre-tax income, respectively, for the year then ended.

Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, has audited the Company’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2018, as stated in their report, which is included herein.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Stockholders' and the Board of Directors of Ryerson Holding Corporation

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Ryerson Holding Corporation and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2018 and 2017, the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2018, and the related notes and financial statement schedules listed in the Index at 15(a) (collectively referred to as the "consolidated financial statements"). In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company at December 31, 2018 and 2017, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2018, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2006.

Chicago, Illinois

March 5, 2019

50

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Stockholders' and the Board of Directors of Ryerson Holding Corporation

Opinion on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

We have audited Ryerson Holding Corporation and subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2018, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (2013 framework) (the COSO criteria). In our opinion, Ryerson Holding Corporation and subsidiaries (the Company) maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2018, based on the COSO criteria.

As indicated in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting, management's assessment of and conclusion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting did not include the internal controls of the Central Steel and Wire Company, which is included in the 2018 consolidated financial statements of the Company and constituted 13.2% and 4.9% of total assets and total liabilities, respectively as of December 31, 2018 and 7.9% and 7.3% of net sales and pre-tax income, respectively, for the year then ended. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting of the Company also did not include an evaluation of the internal control over financial reporting of Central Steel and Wire Company.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the 2018 consolidated financial statements of the Company and our report dated March 5, 2019 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

Basis for Opinion

The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.



We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects.

Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

#### Definition and Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

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

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Chicago, Illinois

March 5, 2019

51

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## RYERSON HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(In millions, except per share data)

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2018	2017	2016
Net sales	\$4,408.4	\$3,364.7	\$2,859.7
Cost of materials sold	3,650.3	2,782.2	2,289.1
Gross profit	758.1	582.5	570.6
Warehousing, delivery, selling, general, and administrative	614.7	481.4	447.5
Restructuring and other charges	4.2	—	1.0
Operating profit	139.2	101.1	122.1
Other expense:			
Other income and (expense), net	76.7	6.6	(6.1 )
Interest and other expense on debt	(99.2 )	(91.0 )	(89.9 )
Income before income taxes	116.7	16.7	26.1
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	10.3	(1.3 )	7.2
Net income	106.4	18.0	18.9
Less: Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest	0.4	0.9	0.2
Net income attributable to Ryerson Holding Corporation	\$106.0	\$17.1	\$18.7
Basic earnings per share	\$2.84	\$0.46	\$0.55
Diluted earnings per share	\$2.81	\$0.46	\$0.54

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

## RYERSON HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(In millions)

	Year Ended December		
	31,		
	2018	2017	2016
Net income	\$106.4	\$18.0	\$18.9
Other comprehensive income (loss), before tax:			
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(8.2 )	5.6	1.1
Gain (loss) on intra-entity foreign currency transactions	(3.0 )	3.2	1.3
Unrealized loss on equity securities	—	(0.3 )	(1.8 )
Other-than-temporary impairment on equity securities	—	0.2	4.7
Liquidation of investment in foreign entity	—	—	1.3
Gain on cash flow hedges	0.5	1.0	—
Changes in defined benefit pension and other			
post-retirement benefit plans	(22.3 )	18.0	(10.6)
Other comprehensive income (loss), before tax	(33.0 )	27.7	(4.0 )
Income tax provision (benefit) related to items of other			
comprehensive income (loss)	(4.5 )	6.0	(3.3 )
Comprehensive income, after tax	77.9	39.7	18.2
Less: Comprehensive income attributable to the			
noncontrolling interest	0.4	1.1	0.3
Comprehensive income attributable to Ryerson			
Holding Corporation	\$77.5	\$38.6	\$17.9

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

## RYERSON HOLDING CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(In millions)

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2018	2017	2016
<b>Operating activities:</b>			
Net income	\$106.4	\$18.0	\$18.9
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by			
(used in) operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	52.9	47.1	42.5
Stock-based compensation	3.3	2.2	1.4
Deferred income taxes	7.8	(9.2 )	4.7
Provision for allowances, claims, and doubtful accounts	3.7	1.5	3.1
Restructuring and other charges	4.2	—	1.0
Other-than-temporary impairment charge on equity securities	—	0.2	4.7
Gain on bargain purchase	(70.0 )	—	—
Loss on retirement of debt	1.7	—	8.7
Premium and fees paid related to debt modification	—	—	(15.7 )
Non-cash (gain) loss from derivatives	2.7	3.0	(5.4 )
Liquidation of investment in foreign entity	—	—	1.2
Other items	(0.5 )	(0.7 )	0.3
Change in operating assets and liabilities, net of effects of acquisitions:			
Receivables	(64.8 )	(44.0)	(22.5 )
Inventories	(21.4 )	(42.9)	(6.5 )
Other assets	(7.3 )	(8.3 )	12.7
Accounts payable	58.4	58.1	20.4
Accrued liabilities	16.8	4.6	(5.2 )
Accrued taxes payable/receivable	2.2	6.3	1.2
Deferred employee benefit costs	(38.7 )	(38.4)	(40.7 )
Net adjustments	(49.0 )	(20.5)	5.9
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	57.4	(2.5 )	24.8
<b>Investing activities:</b>			
Acquisitions, net of cash acquired	(169.7)	(49.2)	—
Capital expenditures	(38.4 )	(25.1)	(23.0 )
Proceeds from sale of property, plant, and equipment	5.9	3.8	3.2
Proceeds from insurance settlement	2.0	—	—
Other investing activities	—	0.2	—
Net cash used in investing activities	(200.2)	(70.3)	(19.8 )
<b>Financing activities:</b>			
Net proceeds from issuance of common stock	—	—	71.5
Long-term debt issued	—	—	650.0
Repayment of debt	(52.4 )	(0.2 )	(738.8)
Net proceeds of short-term borrowings	149.9	74.3	37.0
Purchase of subsidiary shares from noncontrolling interest	(0.2 )	—	—
Credit facility issuance costs	(0.6 )	—	(1.3 )

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Net increase (decrease) in bank overdrafts	6.3	(18.0)	3.6
Long-term debt issuance costs	—	—	(5.2 )
Principal payments on capital lease obligations	(13.7 )	(14.4)	(4.8 )
Contingent payment related to acquisitions	(0.9 )		