ALLSTATE CORP Form 10-K February 20, 2014

Use these links to rapidly review the document TABLE OF CONTENTS Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk Part IV

Table of Contents

## **UNITED STATES** SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

#### **FORM 10-K**

#### ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE ý **SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE o **SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934** For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_

Commission file number 1-11840

## THE ALLSTATE CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

36-3871531

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

## 2775 Sanders Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (847) 402-5000

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

Title of each class

Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share

Name of each exchange on which registered

New York Stock Exchange Chicago Stock Exchange New York Stock Exchange

5.10% Fixed-to-Floating Rate Subordinated Debentures due 2053

| Depositary Shares each representing a 1 in a share of Fixed Rate Noncumulative Preferred Stock, Series A   |                       | New York Stock Excha       | ange  |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Depositary Shares each representing a 1 in a share of Fixed Rate Noncumulative Preferred Stock, Series C   |                       | New York Stock Excha       | ange  |
| Depositary Shares each representing a 1 in a share of Fixed Rate Noncumulative Preferred Stock, Series D   |                       | New York Stock Excha       | ange  |
| Securities registered pursuant to Section  | 12(g) of the Act:     | None                       |   |
| Indicate by check mark if the regi<br>Securities Act.  | istrant is a well-kn  | own seasoned issuer, as    | defined in Rule 405 of the  |
|  | Yes X                 | No                         |   |
| Indicate by check mark if the regithe Act.   | istrant is not requi  | red to file reports pursua | nt to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of                                      |
|  | Yes                   | No_X_                      |   |
| Indicate by check mark whether the of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 was required to file such reports), and (2)                                      | during the precedi    | ng 12 months (or for suc   | _   |
|  | Yes X                 | No                         |   |
| Indicate by check mark whether the fif any, every Interactive Data File requires (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the proto submit and post such files). | red to be submitted   | d and posted pursuant to   |   |
|  | Yes X                 | No                         |   |
| Indicate by check mark if disclosured this chapter) is not contained herein, and or information statements incorporated Form 10-K.                         | d will not be conta   | ined, to the best of regis |   |
| Indicate by check mark whether the filer, or a smaller reporting company. So reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the  | ee the definitions of | _                          | accelerated filer, a non-accelerated r," "accelerated filer" and "smaller |
| Large accelerated filer X  |                       |                            | Accelerated filer   |
| Non-accelerated filer (Do not che Indicate by check mark whether the Act).   | _                     |                            | Smaller reporting company d in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange                 |
|  | Yes                   | No_X_                      |   |

The aggregate market value of the common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant, computed by reference to the closing price as of the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, June 30, 2013, was approximately \$22.11 billion.

As of January 31, 2014, the registrant had 447,099,450 shares of common stock outstanding.

## **Documents Incorporated By Reference**

Portions of the following documents are incorporated herein by reference as follows:

Part III of this Form 10-K incorporates by reference certain information from the registrant's definitive proxy statement for its annual stockholders meeting to be held on May 20, 2014 (the "Proxy Statement") to be filed not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Form 10-K.

## Table of Contents

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

| DA DT I   |   | Page   |
|---|---|--|
| PART I<br>Item 1.   | Business Priorities Allstate Protection Segment Allstate Financial Segment Allstate Exclusive Agencies Other Business Segments Reserve for Property-Liability Claims and Claims Expense Regulation Internet Website Other Information about Allstate  | 1<br>1<br>4<br>5<br>6<br>6<br>10<br>13<br>13<br>14<br>14<br>25<br>25<br>25<br>25 |
| Item 1A. Item 1B. Item 2. Item 3. Item 4. PART II                           | Executive Officers of the Registrant  Risk Factors Unresolved Staff Comments Properties Legal Proceedings Mine Safety Disclosures   | 13<br>14<br>14<br>25<br>25<br>25<br>25<br>25                                     |
| Item 5. Item 6. Item 7. Item 7A. Item 8. Item 9. Item 9A. Item 9B. PART III | Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholders Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities Selected Financial Data Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk Financial Statements and Supplementary Data Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure Controls and Procedures Other Information | 26<br>27<br>28<br>108<br>108<br>199<br>199                                       |
| Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Item 14. PART IV                        | Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance  Executive Compensation  Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters  Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence  Principal Accounting Fees and Services   | 200<br>200<br>200<br>200<br>200<br>200   |
| <u>Item 15.</u><br>Signatures<br>Financial Sta                              | Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules tement Schedules   | 201<br>207<br>S-1  |

#### Table of Contents

#### Part I

#### Item 1. Business

The Allstate Corporation was incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware on November 5, 1992 to serve as the holding company for Allstate Insurance Company. Its business is conducted principally through Allstate Insurance Company, Allstate Life Insurance Company and other subsidiaries (collectively, including The Allstate Corporation, "Allstate"). Allstate is primarily engaged in the property-liability insurance and life insurance business. It conducts its business primarily in the United States.

The Allstate Corporation is the largest publicly held personal lines insurer in the United States. Widely known through the "You're In Good Hands With Allstate®" slogan, Allstate's strategy is to reinvent protection and retirement to help individuals in approximately 16 million households protect what they have today and better prepare for tomorrow. Customers can access Allstate products and services such as auto and homeowners insurance through approximately 11,600 exclusive Allstate agencies and financial representatives in the United States and Canada, as well as through independent agencies, contact centers and the internet. Allstate is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest personal property and casualty insurer in the United States on the basis of 2012 statutory direct premiums earned according to A.M. Best. In addition, according to A.M. Best, it is the nation's 17<sup>th</sup> largest issuer of life insurance business on the basis of 2012 ordinary life insurance in force and 24<sup>th</sup> largest on the basis of 2012 statutory admitted assets.

Allstate has four business segments:

Allstate Protection Discontinued Lines and Coverages

Allstate Financial Corporate and Other

To achieve its goals in 2014, Allstate is focused on the following priorities:

grow insurance policies in force;

maintain the underlying combined ratio;

proactively manage investments to generate attractive risk adjusted returns;

modernize the operating model; and

build long-term growth platforms.

In this annual report on Form 10-K, we occasionally refer to statutory financial information. All domestic United States insurance companies are required to prepare statutory-basis financial statements. As a result, industry data is available that enables comparisons between insurance companies, including competitors that are not subject to the requirement to prepare financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"). We frequently use industry publications containing statutory financial information to assess our competitive position.

#### ALLSTATE PROTECTION SEGMENT

#### **Products and Distribution**

Total Allstate Protection premiums written were \$28.16 billion in 2013. Our Allstate Protection segment accounted for 92% of Allstate's 2013 consolidated insurance premiums and contract charges. In this segment, we principally sell private passenger auto and homeowners insurance through agencies and directly through contact centers and the internet. These products are marketed under the Allstate®, Encompass®, and Esurance® brand names.

Our Unique Strategy Consumer Segments

1

#### Table of Contents

Allstate serves four different consumer segments with distinct interaction preferences (local advice and assistance versus self-directed) and brand preferences (brand-neutral versus brand-sensitive).

Allstate brand auto and homeowners insurance products are sold primarily through Allstate exclusive agencies and serve customers who prefer local personal advice and service and are brand-sensitive. Allstate brand sales and service are supported through contact centers and the internet. In 2013, the Allstate brand represented 91% of the Allstate Protection segment's written premium. In the U.S., we offer these Allstate brand products through approximately 9,600 Allstate exclusive agencies in approximately 9,300 locations. We also offer these products through approximately 1,800 independent agencies that are primarily in rural areas in the U.S. In Canada we offer Allstate brand products through approximately 710 employee producers working in five provinces across the country (Ontario, Ouebec, Alberta, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia).

Encompass brand auto, homeowners, and umbrella insurance products, sold predominantly in the form of a single annual household ("Package") policy are distributed through independent agencies which serve consumers who prefer personal advice and assistance from an independent adviser and are brand neutral. In 2013, the Encompass brand represented 4% of the Allstate Protection segment's written premium. Encompass brand products are distributed through approximately 2,500 independent agencies. Encompass is among the top 15 largest providers of personal property and casualty insurance products through independent agencies in the United States, based on statutory written premium information provided by A.M. Best for 2012.

Esurance brand auto and homeowners insurance products are sold directly to consumers online, through contact centers and through select agents, including Answer Financial. Esurance serves self-directed, brand-sensitive customers. In 2013, the Esurance brand represented 5% of the Allstate Protection segment's written premium.

Answer Financial, an independent personal lines insurance agency, serves self-directed, brand-neutral consumers who want a choice between insurance carriers. It offers comparison quotes for auto and homeowners insurance from approximately 25 insurance companies through its website and over the phone and receives fee income for this service.

The Allstate Protection segment also produces and sells specialty auto products including motorcycle, trailer, motor home and off-road vehicle insurance policies; other personal lines products including renter, condominium, landlord, boat, umbrella and manufactured home insurance policies; commercial lines products for small business owners; roadside assistance products; and service contracts and other products sold in conjunction with auto lending and vehicle sales transactions. We also participate in the involuntary or shared private passenger auto insurance business in order to maintain our licenses to do business in many states.

Through arrangements made with other companies, agencies, and brokers, the Allstate Protection segment may offer non-proprietary products to consumers when an Allstate product is not available. As of December 31, 2013, Allstate agencies had approximately \$1.2 billion of non-proprietary personal insurance premiums under management, primarily related to property business in hurricane exposed areas, and approximately \$160 million of non-proprietary commercial insurance premiums under management. In addition, Esurance had \$44 million of non-proprietary premiums written in 2013, primarily related to homeowners, renters and motorcycle insurance that Esurance does not offer in all states. Answer Financial had \$477 million of non-proprietary premiums written in 2013.

#### Competition

The markets for personal private passenger auto and homeowners insurance are highly competitive. The following charts provide the market shares of our principal competitors in the U.S. by direct written premium for the year ended December 31, 2012 according to A.M. Best.

#### **Private Passenger Auto Insurance**

#### **Homeowners Insurance**

| Insurer        | Market Share | Insurer        | Market Share |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| State Farm     | 17.9%        | State Farm     | 19.8%        |
| Allstate       | 10.1         | Allstate       | 8.8          |
| GEICO          | 9.7          | Farmers        | 5.9          |
| Progressive    | 8.4          | Liberty Mutual | 5.8          |
| Farmers        | 6.0          | USAA           | 4.7          |
| USAA           | 4.9          | Travelers      | 4.5          |
| Liberty Mutual | 4.8          | Nationwide     | 4.0          |
| Nationwide     | 4.1          |                |              |
|                |              | 2              |              |

#### **Table of Contents**

We monitor our market share compared to our competitors and expect our market share of private passenger auto insurance to increase for the year ended December 31, 2013, but drop to the third position in the table above.

In the personal property and casualty insurance market, we compete principally on the basis of the recognition of our brands, the scope of our distribution system, price, the breadth of our product offerings, product features, customer service, claim handling, and use of technology. In addition, our proprietary database of underwriting and pricing experience enables Allstate to use sophisticated pricing to more accurately price risks and to cross sell products within our customer base.

Our primary focus in using sophisticated pricing methods has been on acquiring and retaining profitable business. Our sophisticated pricing and underwriting methods use a number of risk evaluation factors. For auto insurance, these factors can include but are not limited to vehicle make, model and year; driver age and marital status; territory; years licensed; loss history; years insured with prior carrier; prior liability limits; prior lapse in coverage; and insurance scoring based on credit report information. For property insurance, these factors can include but are not limited to amount of insurance purchased; geographic location of the property; loss history; age, condition and construction characteristics of the property; and insurance scoring based on credit report information.

Allstate differentiates itself from competitors by focusing on the entire household and offering a comprehensive range of innovative product options and features through distribution channels that best suit each market segment. Allstate's Your Choice Auto® insurance allows qualified customers to choose from a variety of options, such as accident forgiveness, safe driving deductible rewards and a safe driving bonus. We believe that Your Choice Auto insurance promotes increased growth and increased retention. We also offer a Claim Satisfaction Guaranteesm that promises a return of premium to Allstate brand standard auto insurance customers dissatisfied with their claims experience. In addition, our Drivewise® program enables participating customers to be eligible for discounts and bonuses based on driving performance. We continue to enhance the program to improve the customer experience and value proposition. Allstate House and Home® insurance is our homeowners product that provides options of coverage for roof damage including graduated coverage and pricing based on roof type and age. Good Hands® Roadside Assistance is a service that provides pay on demand access to roadside services. Encompass's package policy simplifies the insurance experience by packaging a product with broader coverage and higher limits into a single annual household policy with one premium, one bill, one policy deductible and one renewal date. Esurance's DriveSense<sup>TM</sup> program enables participating customers to be eligible for discounts based on driving performance as measured by a device installed temporarily in the vehicle. Esurance's DriveSafe<sup>TM</sup> program is designed to help parents coach teens on safe driving by providing customizable driving statistics and the ability to limit cell phone use while the car is in motion, all controlled by a device installed in the vehicle.

#### **Geographic Markets**

The principal geographic markets for our auto, homeowners, and other personal property and casualty products are in the United States. Through various subsidiaries, we are authorized to sell various types of personal property and casualty insurance products in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. We also sell personal property and casualty insurance products in Canada.

The following table reflects, in percentages, the principal geographic distribution of premiums earned for the Allstate Protection segment for 2013, based on information contained in statements filed with state insurance departments. No other jurisdiction accounted for more than 5 percent of the premiums earned for the segment.

| Texas        | 9.8% |
|--------------|------|
| California   | 9.8  |
| New York     | 9.7  |
| Florida      | 7.7  |
| Pennsylvania | 5.3  |

We continue to take actions to support earning an acceptable return on the risks assumed in our property business and to reduce variability in our earnings. Accordingly, we expect to continue to adjust underwriting practices with respect to our property business in markets with significant catastrophe risk exposure.

### **Additional Information**

Information regarding the last three years' revenues and income from operations attributable to the Allstate Protection segment is contained in Note 20 of the consolidated financial statements. Note 20 also includes information regarding the last three years' identifiable assets attributable to our property-liability operations, which includes our

#### **Table of Contents**

Allstate Protection segment and our Discontinued Lines and Coverages segment. Note 20 is incorporated in this Part I, Item 1 by reference.

Information regarding the amount of premium earned for Allstate Protection segment products for the last three years is set forth in Part II, Item 7 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, in the table regarding premiums earned by brand. That table is incorporated in this Part I, Item 1 by reference.

#### ALLSTATE FINANCIAL SEGMENT

#### **Products and Distribution**

Our Allstate Financial segment provides life insurance and voluntary accident and health insurance. Our principal products are interest-sensitive, traditional and variable life insurance; and voluntary accident and health insurance. We sell Allstate Financial products through Allstate exclusive agencies and approximately 1,280 exclusive financial specialists, and workplace enrolling independent agents. The table below lists our current distribution channels with the associated products and target customers.

|                                    | <b>Distribution Channels</b>  | <b>Proprietary Products</b>  | <b>Target Customers</b>   |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Allstate<br>Life and<br>Retirement | Allstate exclusive agencies and exclusive financial specialists   | Term life insurance Whole life insurance Interest-sensitive life insurance Variable life insurance   | Middle market <sup>(1)</sup> and mass affluent consumers <sup>(2)</sup> with retirement and family financial protection needs |
| Allstate<br>Benefits               | Workplace enrolling independent agents  Allstate exclusive agencies and exclusive financial specialists | Workplace life and voluntary accident and health insurance: Interest-sensitive and term life insurance Disability income insurance Cancer, accident, critical illness and heart/stroke insurance Hospital indemnity Limited benefit medical insurance Dental insurance | Middle market consumers<br>with family financial<br>protection needs employed<br>by small, medium, and large<br>size firms    |

- (1) Consumers with \$35,000-\$75,000 in household income.
- (2) Consumers with greater than \$75,000 in household income.

Allstate exclusive agencies and exclusive financial specialists also sell the following non-proprietary products in addition to Allstate Financial products: mutual funds, fixed and variable annuities, disability insurance, and long-term care insurance. As of December 31, 2013, Allstate agencies have approximately \$9.9 billion of non-proprietary mutual funds and fixed and variable annuity account balances under management. New and additional deposits into these non-proprietary products were \$1.3 billion in 2013.

#### Competition

We compete on a wide variety of factors, including product offerings, brand recognition, financial strength and ratings, prices, distribution and the level of customer service. The market for life insurance continues to be highly fragmented and competitive. As of December 31, 2012, there were approximately 420 groups of life insurance companies in the United States, most of which offered one or more similar products. According to A.M. Best, as of December 31, 2012, the Allstate Financial segment is the nation's 17<sup>th</sup> largest issuer of life insurance and related business on the basis of 2012 ordinary life insurance in force and 24<sup>th</sup> largest on the basis of 2012 statutory admitted assets.

#### **Geographic Markets**

We sell life insurance and voluntary accident and health insurance throughout the United States. Through subsidiaries, we are authorized to sell various types of these products in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam.

The following table reflects, in percentages, the principal geographic distribution of statutory premiums and annuity considerations for the Allstate Financial segment for 2013, based on information contained in statements filed with

#### **Table of Contents**

state insurance departments. No other jurisdiction accounted for more than 5 percent of the statutory premiums and annuity considerations.

| California | 11.9% |
|------------|-------|
| Texas      | 8.9   |
| Florida    | 8.3   |
| New York   | 5.2   |

#### **Additional Information**

Information regarding the last three years' revenues and income from operations attributable to the Allstate Financial segment is contained in Note 20 of the consolidated financial statements. Note 20 also includes information regarding the last three years' identifiable assets attributable to the Allstate Financial segment. Note 20 is incorporated in this Part I, Item 1 by reference.

Information regarding premiums and contract charges for Allstate Financial segment products for the last three years is set forth in Part II, Item 7 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, in the table that summarizes premiums and contract charges by product. That table is incorporated in this Part I, Item 1 by reference.

#### ALLSTATE EXCLUSIVE AGENCIES

Allstate exclusive agencies offer for sale products targeted to consumers that prefer local advice and branded products from both the Allstate Protection and Allstate Financial segments. They offer Allstate brand auto and homeowners insurance policies; specialty auto products including motorcycle, trailer, motor home and off-road vehicle insurance policies; other personal lines products including renter, condominium, landlord, boat, umbrella and manufactured home insurance policies; commercial products for small business owners; and roadside assistance products. Allstate exclusive agencies and exclusive financial specialists offer various life insurance products, as well as voluntary accident and health insurance products. In addition, arrangements made with other companies, agencies, and brokers allow Allstate exclusive agencies the ability to make available non-proprietary products to consumers when an Allstate product is not available.

In the U.S., Allstate brand products are sold through approximately 9,600 Allstate exclusive agencies in approximately 9,300 locations. In addition, these agencies employ approximately 20,800 licensed sales professionals who are licensed to sell our products. We also offer these products through approximately 1,800 independent agencies in primarily rural areas in the U.S. In Canada we offer Allstate brand products through approximately 710 producers working in five provinces across the country (Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia). We grew the number of exclusive agencies in 2013 following several years of decline primarily resulting from agency consolidations and mergers, consistent with our prior plans. We pursue opportunities for growing Allstate brand exclusive agency distribution based on market opportunities.

We support exclusive agencies in a variety of ways to facilitate customer service and Allstate's overall growth strategy. For example, we offer assistance to Allstate exclusive agencies with sales and business processes and provide education and other resources to help them acquire more business and retain more customers. Our programs to support our exclusive agencies and help them grow larger include offering financing to agents to acquire other agencies and awarding additional resources to better performing agencies. We support our relationship with Allstate exclusive agencies through several national and regional working groups:

The Agency Executive Council, led by Allstate's senior leadership, engages exclusive agencies on our customer service and growth strategy. Membership includes approximately 20 Allstate exclusive agency owners selected on the basis of performance, thought leadership and credibility among their peer group.

The National Advisory Board brings together Allstate's senior leadership and a cross section of Allstate exclusive agents and exclusive financial specialists from around the country to address national business issues and develop solutions.

Regional Advisory Boards support Allstate exclusive agency owner engagement within each of Allstate's 15 regional offices in the U.S. and within Canada.

Allstate's strategy is to help improve individual agency success, new business sales, customer satisfaction, retention and productivity. Allstate is striving to help develop stronger, more valuable exclusive agencies with resources to build stronger customer relationships, provide differentiating levels of service by focusing on more complex customer needs, and support technology that enables customer self-service for simpler needs.

#### **Table of Contents**

The compensation structure for Allstate exclusive agencies rewards agencies for delivering high value to our customers and achieving certain business outcomes such as product profitability, net growth and a diverse product mix. The Allstate exclusive agent remuneration comprises a base commission, variable compensation and a bonus. Variable compensation has two components: agency success factors (local presence, Allstate Financial product sales and licensed staff), which must be achieved in order to qualify for the second component, customer experience (customer satisfaction survey). In addition, a bonus that is a percentage of premiums can be earned by agents. To qualify for the bonus, agents must achieve a loss ratio and an amount of sales of Allstate Financial products. The bonus is earned by increases in multi-line households and increases in Property-Liability policies in force and Allstate Financial policies in force. Other elements of exclusive agency compensation and support include start-up agency bonuses, marketing support payments, technology and data allowances, regional promotions and recognition trips based on achievement. There are no significant changes to the compensation framework planned for 2014.

Since Allstate brand customers prefer personal advice and assistance, beginning in 2013 all Allstate brand customers who purchase their policies directly through contact centers and the internet are immediately assigned an Allstate agency relationship at the time of purchase.

#### OTHER BUSINESS SEGMENTS

Our Corporate and Other segment is comprised of holding company activities and certain non-insurance operations. Note 20 of the consolidated financial statements contains information regarding the revenues, income from operations, and identifiable assets attributable to our Corporate and Other segment over the last three years.

Our Discontinued Lines and Coverages segment includes results from insurance coverage that we no longer write and results for certain commercial and other businesses in run-off. Our exposure to asbestos, environmental and other discontinued lines claims is presented in this segment. Note 20 of the consolidated financial statements contains information for the last three years regarding revenues, income from operations, and identifiable assets attributable to our property-liability operations, which includes both our Allstate Protection segment and our Discontinued Lines and Coverages segment. Note 20 is incorporated in this Part I, Item 1 by reference.

#### RESERVE FOR PROPERTY-LIABILITY CLAIMS AND CLAIMS EXPENSE

The following information regarding reserves applies to all of our property-liability operations, encompassing both the Allstate Protection segment and the Discontinued Lines and Coverages segment.

Reconciliation of Claims Reserves

The following tables are summary reconciliations of the beginning and ending property-liability insurance claims and claims expense reserves, displayed individually for each of the last three years. The first table presents reserves on a gross (before reinsurance) basis. The end of year gross reserve balances are reflected in the Consolidated Statements of

## Table of Contents

Financial Position. The second table presents reserves on a net (after reinsurance) basis. The total net property-liability insurance claims and claims expense amounts are reflected in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

| Gross |
|-------|
|-------|

| (\$ in millions)   | Year             | ende | d December                    | 31, |                  |
|--|------------------|------|-------------------------------|-----|------------------|
|  | 2013             |      | 2012                          |     | 2011             |
| Gross reserve for property-liability claims and claims expense, beginning of year Esurance acquisition on October 7, 2011  | \$<br>21,288     | \$   | 20,375<br>(13) <sub>(4)</sub> | \$  | 19,468<br>487    |
| Total gross reserve adjusted Incurred claims and claims expense  | 21,288           |      | 20,362                        |     | 19,955           |
| Provision attributable to the current year   | 18,380           |      | 20,356                        |     | 20,914           |
| Change in provision attributable to prior years (1)  | 1,248            |      | 179                           |     | 174              |
| Total claims and claims expense Claim payments Claims and claims expense attributable to current year                      | 19,628<br>11,738 |      | 20,535<br>12,936              |     | 21,088<br>14,105 |
| Claims and claims expense attributable to prior years  | 7,321            |      | 6,673                         |     | 6,563            |
| Total payments   | 19,059           |      | 19,609                        |     | 20,668           |
| Gross reserve for property-liability claims and claims expense, end of year as shown on the Loss Reserve Reestimates table | \$<br>21,857     | \$   | 21,288                        | \$  | 20,375           |

| Net   | Year ended December 31, |        |    |                               |    |               |  |
|---|-------------------------|--------|----|-------------------------------|----|---------------|--|
|   | 20                      | 13     |    | 2012                          |    | 2011          |  |
| Net reserve for property-liability claims and claims expense, beginning of year Esurance acquisition on October 7, 2011 | \$                      | 17,278 | \$ | 17,787<br>(13) <sub>(4)</sub> | \$ | 17,396<br>425 |  |
| Total net reserve adjusted Incurred claims and claims expense   |                         | 17,278 |    | 17,774                        |    | 17,821        |  |
| Provision attributable to the current year  |                         | 18,032 |    | 19,149                        |    | 20,496        |  |
| Change in provision attributable to prior years (2)   |                         | (121)  |    | (665)                         |    | (335)         |  |
| Total claims and claims expense<br>Claim payments   |                         | 17,911 |    | 18,484                        |    | 20,161        |  |
| Claims and claims expense attributable to current year  |                         | 11,658 |    | 12,545                        |    | 13,893        |  |
| Claims and claims expense attributable to prior years   |                         | 6,338  |    | 6,435                         |    | 6,302         |  |
| Total payments  |                         | 17,996 |    | 18,980                        |    | 20,195        |  |

Net reserve for property-liability claims and claims expense, end of year as shown on the Loss Reserve Reestimates table  $^{(3)}$  \$ 17,278 \$ 17,787

- In 2013, the gross change in provision attributable to prior years increased \$1.07 billion compared to 2012, primarily due to increases for Michigan and New Jersey unlimited personal injury protection and Discontinued Lines and Coverages reserves. In 2012 and 2011, the Company also increased Michigan unlimited personal injury protection reserves by \$832 million and \$394 million, respectively, and Discontinued Lines and coverages reserves (see the Property-Liability Claims and Claims Expense Reserves section for additional discussion).
- In 2013, the net change in provision attributable to prior years decreased \$544 million compared to 2012, primarily due to lower catastrophe reserve reestimates.
- (3) Reserves for claims and claims expense are net of reinsurance of \$4.66 billion, \$4.01 billion and \$2.59 billion as of December 31, 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively.
- (4)

  The Esurance opening balance sheet reserves were reestimated in 2012 resulting in a reduction in reserves due to lower severity. The adjustment was recorded as a reduction in goodwill and an increase in payables to the seller under the terms of the purchase agreement and therefore had no impact on claims expense or the loss ratio.

#### **Table of Contents**

The year-end 2013 gross reserves of \$21.86 billion for property-liability insurance claims and claims expense, as determined under GAAP, were \$5.97 billion more than the net reserve balance of \$15.89 billion recorded on the basis of statutory accounting practices for reports provided to state regulatory authorities. The principal differences are reinsurance recoverables from third parties totaling \$4.66 billion that reduce reserves for statutory reporting but are recorded as assets for GAAP reporting, and a liability for the reserves of the Canadian subsidiaries for \$1.12 billion. Remaining differences are due to variations in requirements between GAAP and statutory reporting.

As the tables above illustrate, Allstate's net reserve for property-liability insurance claims and claims expense at the end of 2012 decreased in 2013 by \$121 million, compared to reestimates of the gross reserves of an increase of \$1.25 billion. Net reserve reestimates in 2013, 2012 and 2011 were more favorable than the gross reserve reestimates due to reinsurance cessions.

#### Loss Reserve Reestimates

The following Loss Reserve Reestimates table illustrates the change over time of the net reserves established for property-liability insurance claims and claims expense at the end of the last eleven calendar years. The first section shows the reserves as originally reported at the end of the stated year. The second section, reading down, shows the cumulative amounts paid as of the end of successive years with respect to that reserve liability. The third section, reading down, shows retroactive reestimates of the original recorded reserve as of the end of each successive year which is the result of Allstate's expanded awareness of additional facts and circumstances that pertain to the unsettled claims. The last section compares the latest reestimated reserve to the reserve originally established, and indicates whether the original reserve was adequate to cover the estimated costs of unsettled claims. The table also presents the gross reestimated liability as of the end of the latest reestimation period, with separate disclosure of the related reestimated reinsurance recoverable.

The Loss Reserve Reestimates table is cumulative and, therefore, ending balances should not be added since the amount at the end of each calendar year includes activity for both the current and prior years. Unfavorable reserve reestimates are shown in this table in parentheses.

**Loss Reserve Reestimates** 

| nillions)                           | December 31,    |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |    |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----|--|--|--|
|                                     | 2003<br>& prior | 2004      | 2005      | 2006      | 2007      | 2008      | 2009      | 2010      | 2011      | 2012      |    |  |  |  |
| reserves for claims and             |                 |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |    |  |  |  |
| Expense rance                       | \$ 17,714       | \$ 19,338 | \$ 22,117 | \$ 18,866 | \$ 18,865 | \$ 19,456 | \$ 19,167 | \$ 19,468 | \$ 20,375 | \$ 21,288 | \$ |  |  |  |
| rable                               | 1,734           | 2,577     | 3,186     | 2,256     | 2,205     | 2,274     | 2,139     | 2,072     | 2,588     | 4,010     |    |  |  |  |
| e for                               |                 |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |    |  |  |  |
| claims and<br>expense<br>umulative) | 15,980          | 16,761    | 18,931    | 16,610    | 16,660    | 17,182    | 17,028    | 17,396    | 17,787    | 17,278    |    |  |  |  |
| ar later                            | 6,073           | 6,665     | 7,952     | 6,684     | 6,884     | 6,995     | 6,571     | 6,302     | 6,435     | 6,338     |    |  |  |  |
| ears later                          | 9,098           | 9,587     | 11,293    | 9,957     | 9,852     | 10,069    | 9,491     | 9,396     | 9,513     |           |    |  |  |  |
| years later                         | 10,936          | 11,455    | 13,431    | 11,837    | 11,761    | 11,915    | 11,402    | 11,287    |           |           |    |  |  |  |
| ears later                          | 12,088          | 12,678    | 14,608    | 12,990    | 12,902    | 13,071    | 12,566    |           |           |           |    |  |  |  |
| ears later                          | 12,866          | 13,374    | 15,325    | 13,723    | 13,628    | 13,801    |           |           |           |           |    |  |  |  |
| ars later                           | 13,326          | 13,866    | 15,839    | 14,239    | 14,154    |           |           |           |           |           |    |  |  |  |
| years later                         | 13,703          | 14,303    | 16,249    | 14,657    |           |           |           |           |           |           |    |  |  |  |
| ears later                          | 14,082          | 14,642    | 16,607    |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |    |  |  |  |
| ears later                          | 14,390          | 14,952    |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |    |  |  |  |
| ars later<br>e                      | 14,679          |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |    |  |  |  |
| nated as of:                        |                 |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |    |  |  |  |
| year                                | 15,980          | 16,761    | 18,931    | 16,610    | 16,660    | 17,182    | 17,028    | 17,396    | 17,787    | 17,278    |    |  |  |  |

16,830

17,070

16,869

17,061

17,122

17,157

15,750

ar later

16,293

17,960

16,438

| ai iaici     | 13,730     | 10,273     | 17,700     | 10,430     | 10,050     | 17,070     | 10,007     | 17,001     | 17,122     | 17,137     |   |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---|
| ears later   | 15,677     | 16,033     | 17,876     | 16,633     | 17,174     | 17,035     | 16,903     | 16,906     | 17,001     |            |   |
| years later  | 15,721     | 16,213     | 18,162     | 17,135     | 17,185     | 17,217     | 16,909     | 16,869     |            |            |   |
| ears later   | 15,915     | 16,337     | 18,805     | 17,238     | 17,393     | 17,260     | 16,892     |            |            |            |   |
| ears later   | 16,027     | 16,895     | 19,014     | 17,447     | 17,477     | 17,306     |            |            |            |            |   |
| ars later    | 16,496     | 17,149     | 19,215     | 17,542     | 17,560     |            |            |            |            |            |   |
| years later  | 16,763     | 17,344     | 19,300     | 17,671     |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |
| ears later   | 16,950     | 17,477     | 19,474     |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |
| ears later   | 17,093     | 17,683     |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |
| ars later    | 17,293     |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |
| reserve in   |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |
| of (less     |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |
| eestimated   |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |
| <b>:</b> :   |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |
| nt of        |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |
| ate          | (1,313)    | (922)      | (543)      | (1,061)    | (900)      | (124)      | 136        | 527        | 786        | 121        |   |
| t            | (8.2)%     | (5.5)%     | (2.9)%     | (6.4)%     | (5.4)%     | (0.7)%     | 0.8%       | 3.0%       | 4.4%       | 0.7%       | , |
| reestimated  |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |
| y-latest     | 22,098     | 22,777     | 25,117     | 22,332     | 22,133     | 21,924     | 21,328     | 21,261     | 21,463     | 22,536     |   |
| mated        |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |
| rable-latest | 4,805      | 5,094      | 5,643      | 4,661      | 4,573      | 4,618      | 4,436      | 4,392      | 4,462      | 5,379      |   |
|              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |
|              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |
| stimated     |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |
| y-latest     | 17,293     | 17,683     | 19,474     | 17,671     | 17,560     | 17,306     | 16,892     | 16,869     | 17,001     | 17,157     |   |
| cumulative   |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |
| nate         |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |
| se)          |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |
| se           | \$ (4,384) | \$ (3,439) | \$ (3,000) | \$ (3,466) | \$ (3,268) | \$ (2,468) | \$ (2,161) | \$ (1,793) | \$ (1,088) | \$ (1,248) |   |
|              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |   |

8

#### **Table of Contents**

| (\$ in millions)  |                    | Amount of reestimates for each segment December 31, |       |         |       |       |       |       |       |         |  |  |
|---|--------------------|---|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|--|--|
|   | 2003<br>&<br>prior | 2004  | 2005  | 2006    | 2007  | ,     | 2009  | 2010  | 2011  | 2012    |  |  |
| Net Discontinued Lines<br>and Coverages reestimate<br>Net Allstate Protection | \$(1,265)          | (630)   | (463) | (331)   | (284) | (266) | (242) | (214) | (193) | \$(142) |  |  |
| reestimate  | (48)               | (292)   | (80)  | (730)   | (616) | 142   | 378   | 741   | 979   | 263     |  |  |
| Amount of reestimate (net)  | \$(1,313)          | (922)   | (543) | (1,061) | (900) | (124) | 136   | 527   | 786   | \$ 121  |  |  |

As shown in the above table, the subsequent cumulative increase in the net reserves established up to December 31, 2004, in general, reflect additions to reserves in the Discontinued Lines and Coverages Segment, primarily for asbestos and environmental liabilities, which offset the effects of favorable severity trends experienced by Allstate Protection, as discussed more fully below. The cumulative increases in reserves established as of December 31, 2006 and 2007 are due to the shift of reserves to older accident years attributable to a reallocation of reserves related to employee postretirement benefits to more accident years, litigation settlements, reclassification of injury and non-injury reserves to older years along with reserve strengthening as discussed below.

The following table is derived from the Loss Reserve Reestimates table and summarizes the effect of reserve reestimates, net of reinsurance, on calendar year operations for the ten-year period ended December 31, 2013. The total of each column details the amount of reserve reestimates made in the indicated calendar year and shows the accident years to which the reestimates are applicable. The amounts in the total accident year column on the far right represent the cumulative reserve reestimates for the indicated accident year(s). Favorable reserve reestimates are shown in this table in parentheses. The changes in total have generally been favorable other than 2008 which was adversely impacted due to litigation filed in conjunction with a Louisiana deadline for filing suits related to Hurricane Katrina, as shown and discussed more fully below.

| (\$ in millions)        | Effect of net reserve reestimates on |          |          |          |              |                               |                   |          |          |       |           |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|-------|-----------|
|                         | 2004                                 | 2005     | 2006     | 2007     | calenda 2008 | r year o <sub>l</sub><br>2009 | perations<br>2010 | 2011     | 2012     | 2013  | Total     |
| <b>BY ACCIDENT YEAR</b> |                                      |          |          |          |              |                               |                   |          |          |       |           |
| 2003 & prior            | \$ (230)                             | \$ (73)  | \$ 44    | \$ 195   | \$ 112       | \$ 469                        | \$ 267            | \$ 187   | \$ 143   | 200   | \$ 1,314  |
| 2004                    |                                      | (395)    | (304)    | (14)     | 12           | 90                            | (13)              | 8        | (10)     | 6     | (620)     |
| 2005                    |                                      |          | (711)    | (264)    | 162          | 84                            | (45)              | 6        | (48)     | (32)  | (848)     |
| 2006                    |                                      |          |          | (89)     | (91)         | (141)                         | (106)             | 8        | 10       | (45)  | (454)     |
| 2007                    |                                      |          |          |          | (25)         | (158)                         | (92)              | (1)      | (11)     | (46)  | (333)     |
| 2008                    |                                      |          |          |          |              | (456)                         | (46)              | (26)     | (41)     | (37)  | (606)     |
| 2009                    |                                      |          |          |          |              |                               | (124)             | (148)    | (37)     | (63)  | (372)     |
| 2010                    |                                      |          |          |          |              |                               |                   | (369)    | (161)    | (20)  | (550)     |
| 2011                    |                                      |          |          |          |              |                               |                   |          | (510)    | (84)  | (594)     |
| 2012                    |                                      |          |          |          |              |                               |                   |          |          |       |           |
|                         |                                      |          |          |          |              |                               |                   |          |          |       |           |
|                         |                                      |          |          |          |              |                               |                   |          |          |       |           |
| TOTAL                   | \$ (230)                             | \$ (468) | \$ (971) | \$ (172) | \$ 170       | \$ (112)                      | \$(159)           | \$ (335) | \$ (665) | (121) | \$(3,063) |

In 2013, favorable prior year reserve reestimates were primarily due to auto severity development that was less than anticipated in previous estimates and catastrophe losses. The increased reserves in accident years 2003 & prior is due to reserve strengthening by the Discontinued Lines and Coverages segment and a reclassification of injury reserves to older years.

In 2012, favorable prior year reserve reestimates were primarily due to catastrophe losses and auto severity development that was less than anticipated in previous estimates. The increased reserves in accident years 2002 & prior is due to a reclassification of injury reserves to older years and reserve strengthening.

In 2011, favorable prior year reserve reestimates were primarily due to auto severity development that was less than anticipated in previous estimates and catastrophe losses. The increased reserves in accident years 2001 & prior is due to a reclassification of injury reserves to older years and reserve strengthening.

In 2010, favorable prior year reserve reestimates were primarily due to Allstate Protection catastrophe losses and auto severity development that was less than anticipated in previous estimates, partially offset by litigation settlements. The increased reserves in accident years 2000 & prior is due to the litigation settlements of \$100 million, a reclassification of injury reserves to older years and reserve strengthening.

In 2009, favorable prior year reserve reestimates were primarily due to Allstate Protection catastrophe losses that were less than anticipated in previous estimates. The shift of reserves to older accident years is attributable to a

#### **Table of Contents**

reallocation of reserves related to employee postretirement benefits to more accident years, and a reclassification of injury and 2008 non-injury reserves to older years.

In 2008, unfavorable prior year reserve reestimates were primarily due to Allstate Protection catastrophe losses that were more than anticipated in previous estimates.

In 2007, favorable prior year reserve reestimates were primarily due to Allstate Protection auto severity development that was less than what was anticipated in previous estimates. Decreased reserve reestimates for Allstate Protection more than offset increased reestimates of losses primarily related to environmental liabilities reported by the Discontinued Lines and Coverages segment.

In 2006, 2005 and 2004, favorable prior year reserve reestimates were primarily due to Allstate Protection auto injury severity and late reported loss development that was less than what was anticipated in previous reserve estimates and in 2006, also by catastrophe losses that were less than anticipated in previous estimates. Decreased reserve reestimates for Allstate Protection more than offset increased reestimates of losses primarily related to asbestos liabilities reported by the Discontinued Lines and Coverages segment.

For additional information regarding reserves, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Property-Liability Claims and Claims Expense Reserves."

#### REGULATION

Allstate is subject to extensive regulation, primarily at the state level. The method, extent, and substance of such regulation varies by state but generally has its source in statutes that establish standards and requirements for conducting the business of insurance and that delegate regulatory authority to a state agency. These rules have a substantial effect on our business and relate to a wide variety of matters, including insurer solvency, reserve adequacy, insurance company licensing and examination, agent and adjuster licensing, policy forms, rate setting, the nature and amount of investments, claims practices, participation in shared markets and guaranty funds, transactions with affiliates, the payment of dividends, underwriting standards, statutory accounting methods, trade practices, and corporate governance. Some of these matters are discussed in more detail below. For a discussion of statutory financial information, see Note 17 of the consolidated financial statements. For a discussion of regulatory contingencies, see Note 15 of the consolidated financial statements. Notes 15 and 17 are incorporated in this Part I, Item 1 by reference.

In recent years, the state insurance regulatory framework has come under increased federal scrutiny. As part of an effort to strengthen the regulation of the financial services market, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("Dodd-Frank") was enacted in 2010. Many regulations required pursuant to this law must still be finalized, and we cannot predict what the final regulations will require but do not expect a material impact on Allstate's operations. Dodd-Frank also created the Federal Insurance Office ("FIO") within the Treasury Department. The FIO monitors the insurance industry, provides advice to the Financial Stability Oversight Council ("FSOC"), represents the U.S. on international insurance matters, and studies the current regulatory system. FIO submitted a report to Congress in December 2013 addressing how to improve and modernize the system of insurance regulation. In addition, state legislators and insurance regulators continue to examine the appropriate nature and scope of state insurance regulation. We cannot predict whether any specific state or federal measures will be adopted to change the nature or scope of the regulation of insurance or what effect any such measures would have on Allstate. We are working for changes in the regulatory environment, including recognizing the need for better catastrophe preparedness, promoting the creation of government-sponsored, privately-funded solutions for mega-catastrophes that will make insurance more available and affordable, improving appropriate risk-based pricing, and promoting ways to make regulation more uniform and consistent across the country.

Agent and Broker Compensation. In recent years, several states considered new legislation or regulations regarding the compensation of agents and brokers by insurance companies. The proposals ranged in nature from new disclosure requirements to new duties on insurance agents and brokers in dealing with customers. Agents and brokers in New York are required to disclose certain information concerning compensation.

Limitations on Dividends By Insurance Subsidiaries. As a holding company with no significant business operations of its own, The Allstate Corporation relies on dividends from Allstate Insurance Company as one of the principal sources of cash to pay dividends and to meet its obligations, including the payment of principal and interest on debt. Allstate Insurance Company is regulated as an insurance company in Illinois and its ability to pay dividends is restricted by Illinois law. For additional information regarding those restrictions, see Part II, Item 5 of this report. The laws of the other jurisdictions that generally govern our other insurance subsidiaries contain similar limitations on the payment of dividends and in some jurisdictions the laws may be more restrictive.

#### **Table of Contents**

Insurance Holding Company Regulation. The Allstate Corporation and Allstate Insurance Company are insurance holding companies subject to regulation in the jurisdictions in which their insurance subsidiaries do business. In the U.S., these subsidiaries are organized under the insurance codes of California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York, Texas, and Wisconsin, and some of these subsidiaries are considered commercially domiciled in California and Florida. Generally, the insurance codes in these states provide that the acquisition or change of "control" of a domestic or commercially domiciled insurer or of any person that controls such an insurer cannot be consummated without the prior approval of the relevant insurance regulator. In general, a presumption of "control" arises from the ownership, control, possession with the power to vote, or possession of proxies with respect to, ten percent or more of the voting securities of an insurer or of a person that controls an insurer. In addition, certain state insurance laws require pre-acquisition notification to state agencies of a change in control with respect to a non-domestic insurance company licensed to do business in that state. While such pre-acquisition notification statutes do not authorize the state agency to disapprove the change of control, such statutes do authorize certain remedies, including the issuance of a cease and desist order with respect to the non-domestic insurer if certain conditions exist, such as undue market concentration. Thus, any transaction involving the acquisition of ten percent or more of The Allstate Corporation's common stock would generally require prior approval by the state insurance departments in California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York, Texas, and Wisconsin. The prior approval of the Florida insurance department would be necessary for the acquisition of five percent or more. Moreover, notification would be required in those other states that have adopted pre-acquisition notification provisions and where the insurance subsidiaries are admitted to transact business. Such approval requirements may deter, delay, or prevent certain transactions affecting the ownership of The Allstate Corporation's common stock.

*Rate Regulation.* Nearly all states have insurance laws requiring personal property and casualty insurers to file rating plans, policy or coverage forms, and other information with the state's regulatory authority. In many cases, such rating plans, policy forms, or both must be approved prior to use.

The speed with which an insurer can change rates in response to competition or in response to increasing costs depends, in part, on whether the rating laws are (i) prior approval, (ii) file-and-use, or (iii) use-and-file laws. In states having prior approval laws, the regulator must approve a rate before the insurer may use it. In states having file-and-use laws, the insurer does not have to wait for the regulator's approval to use a rate, but the rate must be filed with the regulatory authority prior to being used. A use-and-file law requires an insurer to file rates within a certain period of time after the insurer begins using them. Eighteen states, including California and New York, have prior approval laws. Under all three types of rating laws, the regulator has the authority to disapprove a rate filing.

An insurer's ability to adjust its rates in response to competition or to changing costs is often dependent on an insurer's ability to demonstrate to the regulator that its rates or proposed rating plan meets the requirements of the rating laws. In those states that significantly restrict an insurer's discretion in selecting the business that it wants to underwrite, an insurer can manage its risk of loss by charging a rate that reflects the cost and expense of providing the insurance. In those states that significantly restrict an insurer's ability to charge a rate that reflects the cost and expense of providing the insurance, the insurer can manage its risk of loss by being more selective in the type of business it underwrites. When a state significantly restricts both underwriting and pricing, it becomes more difficult for an insurer to maintain its profitability.

From time to time, the private passenger auto insurance industry comes under pressure from state regulators, legislators, and special interest groups to reduce, freeze, or set rates at levels that do not correspond with our analysis of underlying costs and expenses. Homeowners insurance can come under similar pressure, particularly in states subject to significant increases in loss costs from high levels of catastrophe losses. We expect this kind of pressure to persist. In addition, Allstate and other insurers are using increasingly sophisticated pricing models that are being reviewed by regulators and special interest groups. The result could be legislation or regulation that adversely affects the profitability or growth of the Allstate Protection segment. We cannot predict the impact on our business of possible future legislative and regulatory measures regarding rating.

*Involuntary Markets.* As a condition of maintaining our licenses to write personal property and casualty insurance in various states, we are required to participate in assigned risk plans, reinsurance facilities, and joint underwriting associations that provide various types of insurance coverage to individuals or entities that otherwise are unable to purchase such coverage from private insurers. Underwriting results related to these arrangements, which tend to be adverse, have been immaterial to our results of operations.

Michigan Catastrophic Claim Association. The Michigan Catastrophic Claim Association ("MCCA") is a mandatory insurance coverage and reinsurance indemnification mechanism for personal injury protection losses that provides indemnification for losses over a retention level that increases every other MCCA fiscal year. The retention level is

#### **Table of Contents**

\$530 thousand per claim and \$500 thousand per claim for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2013, respectively. It operates similar to a reinsurance program and is funded by participating companies through a per vehicle annual assessment. This assessment is included in our premiums that we charge our customers and when collected, we remit the assessment to the MCCA. The MCCA may not be funded on an actuarial basis and can accumulate unfunded claims liabilities. As required for a member company, we report covered paid and unpaid claims to the MCCA, when estimates of loss for a reported claim are expected to exceed the retention level. The MCCA reimburses members as claims are paid and billed by members to the MCCA. Because of the nature of the coverage, losses may be paid over the lifetime of an insured, and accordingly, significant levels of incurred claims reserves are recorded by member companies as well as offsetting reinsurance recoverables. The MCCA currently has unfunded claims liabilities with an obligation to indemnify its members. The MCCA's future operation and form are dependent upon the continuation of enabling state legislation. We do not anticipate any material adverse financial impact from this entity on Allstate.

Guaranty Funds. Under state insurance guaranty fund laws, insurers doing business in a state can be assessed, up to prescribed limits, in order to cover certain obligations of insolvent insurance companies.

National Flood Insurance Program. We voluntarily participate as a Write Your Own carrier in the National Flood Insurance Program ("NFIP"). The NFIP is administered and regulated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. We operate in a fiduciary capacity as a fiscal agent of the federal government in the issuing and administering of the Standard Flood Insurance Policy. This involves the collection of premiums belonging to the federal government and the paying of covered claims by directly drawing on funds of the United States Treasury. We receive expense allowances from the NFIP for underwriting administration, claims management, commissions and adjuster fees. The federal government is obligated to pay all claims that fall under the arrangement.

Investment Regulation. Our insurance subsidiaries are subject to regulations that require investment portfolio diversification and that limit the amount of investment in certain categories. Failure to comply with these rules leads to the treatment of non-conforming investments as non-admitted assets for purposes of measuring statutory surplus. Further, in some instances, these rules require divestiture of non-conforming investments.

Exiting Geographic Markets; Canceling and Non-Renewing Policies. Most states regulate an insurer's ability to exit a market. For example, states may limit, to varying degrees, an insurer's ability to cancel and non-renew policies. Some states restrict or prohibit an insurer from withdrawing one or more types of insurance business from the state, except pursuant to a plan that is approved by the state insurance department. Regulations that limit cancellation and non-renewal and that subject withdrawal plans to prior approval requirements may restrict an insurer's ability to exit unprofitable markets.

Variable Life Insurance and Registered Fixed Annuities. The sale and administration of variable life insurance and registered fixed annuities with market value adjustment features are subject to extensive regulatory oversight at the federal and state level, including regulation and supervision by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA").

Broker-Dealers, Investment Advisors, and Investment Companies. The Allstate entities that operate as broker-dealers, registered investment advisors, and investment companies are subject to regulation and supervision by the SEC, FINRA and/or, in some cases, state securities administrators.

Privacy Regulation. Federal law and the laws of many states require financial institutions to protect the security and confidentiality of customer information and to notify customers about their policies and practices relating to collection and disclosure of customer information and their policies relating to protecting the security and confidentiality of that information. Federal law and the laws of many states also regulate disclosures and disposal of customer information. Congress, state legislatures, and regulatory authorities are expected to consider additional regulation relating to privacy and other aspects of customer information.

Asbestos. Congress has considered legislation to address asbestos claims and litigation in the past, but unified support among various defendant and insurer groups considered essential to any possible reform has been lacking. We cannot predict the impact on our business of possible future legislative measures regarding asbestos.

Environmental. Environmental pollution and clean-up of polluted waste sites is the subject of both federal and state regulation. The Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 ("Superfund") and comparable state statutes ("mini-Superfund") govern the clean-up and restoration of waste sites by Potentially Responsible Parties ("PRPs"). Superfund and the mini-Superfunds (Environmental Clean-up Laws or "ECLs") establish a mechanism to assign liability to PRPs or to fund the clean-up of waste sites if PRPs fail to do so. The extent of liability to be allocated to a PRP is dependent on a variety of factors. By some estimates, there are thousands of potential waste

#### **Table of Contents**

sites subject to clean-up, but the exact number is unknown. The extent of clean-up necessary and the process of assigning liability remain in dispute. The insurance industry is involved in extensive litigation regarding coverage issues arising out of the clean-up of waste sites by insured PRPs and the insured parties' alleged liability to third parties responsible for the clean-up. The insurance industry, including Allstate, has disputed and is disputing many such claims. Key coverage issues include whether Superfund response, investigation, and clean-up costs are considered damages under the policies; trigger of coverage; the applicability of several types of pollution exclusions; proper notice of claims; whether administrative liability triggers the duty to defend; appropriate allocation of liability among triggered insurers; and whether the liability in question falls within the definition of an "occurrence." Identical coverage issues exist for clean-up and waste sites not covered under Superfund. To date, courts have been inconsistent in their rulings on these issues. Allstate's exposure to liability with regard to its insureds that have been, or may be, named as PRPs is uncertain. While comprehensive Superfund reform proposals have been introduced in Congress, only modest reform measures have been enacted.

#### INTERNET WEBSITE

Our Internet website address is allstate.com. The Allstate Corporation's annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and any amendments to such reports that we file or furnish pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 are available through our Internet website, free of charge, as soon as reasonably practicable after they are electronically filed or furnished to the SEC. In addition, our corporate governance guidelines, our code of ethics, and the charters of our Audit Committee, Compensation and Succession Committee, Executive Committee, Nominating and Governance Committee, and Risk and Return Committee are available on our website and in print to any stockholder who requests copies by contacting Investor Relations, The Allstate Corporation, 2775 Sanders Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062-6127, 1-800-416-8803.

#### OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT ALLSTATE

As of December 31, 2013, Allstate had approximately 38,800 full-time employees and 600 part-time employees.

Information regarding revenues generated outside of the United States is incorporated in this Part I, Item 1 by reference to Note 20 of the consolidated financial statements.

Allstate's four business segments use shared services, including human resources, investment, finance, information technology and legal services, provided by Allstate Insurance Company and other affiliates.

Although the insurance business generally is not seasonal, claims and claims expense for the Allstate Protection segment tend to be higher for periods of severe or inclement weather.

"Allstate" is one of the most recognized brand names in the United States. We use the names "Allstate," "Encompass," "Esurance" and "Lincoln Benefit Life®" extensively in our business, along with related service marks, logos, and slogans, such as "Good Hands®." Our rights in the United States to these names, service marks, logos, and slogans continue so long as we continue to use them in commerce. These service marks and many others used by Allstate are the subject of renewable U.S. and/or foreign service mark registrations. We believe that these service marks are important to our business and we intend to maintain our rights to them through continued use.

#### **Table of Contents**

## **Executive Officers of the Registrant**

The following table sets forth the names of our executive officers, their ages as of February 1, 2014, their positions, and the years of their first election as officers. "AIC" refers to Allstate Insurance Company.

|                   |     |  | Year First<br>Elected |
|-------------------|-----|--|-----------------------|
| Name              | Age | Position/Offices   | Officer               |
| Thomas J. Wilson  | 56  | Chairman of the Board, President, and Chief Executive Officer of The Allstate Corporation and of AIC.                  | 1995                  |
| Don Civgin        | 52  | President and Chief Executive Officer Allstate Financial.  | 2008                  |
| James D. DeVries  | 50  | Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of AIC (Human Resources).                                    | 2008                  |
| Judith P. Greffin | 53  | Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer of AIC.  | 2002                  |
| Sanjay Gupta      | 45  | Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer of AIC.   | 2012                  |
| Suren Gupta       | 52  | Executive Vice President, Allstate Technology and Operations of AIC.   | 2011                  |
| Susan L. Lees     | 56  | Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary of The Allstate Corporation and of AIC (Chief Legal Officer). | 2008                  |
| Katherine A. Mabe | 55  | President, Business to Business of AIC.  | 2011                  |
| Samuel H. Pilch   | 67  | Senior Group Vice President and Controller of The Allstate Corporation and of AIC.                                     | 1996                  |
| Steven E. Shebik  | 57  | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of The Allstate Corporation and of AIC.                           | 1999                  |
| Steven C. Verney  | 55  | Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Officer of AIC.  | 1999                  |
| Matthew E. Winter | 57  | President Allstate Personal Lines of AIC.  | 2009                  |

Each of the officers named above may be removed from office at any time, with or without cause, by the board of directors of the relevant company.

Messrs. Wilson, Civgin, DeVries, Pilch, Shebik and Verney, and Mmes. Greffin and Lees have held the listed positions for at least the last five years or have served Allstate in various executive or administrative capacities for at least five years.

Prior to joining Allstate in 2012, Mr. Sanjay Gupta served as Chief Marketing Officer of Ally Financial from 2008 to 2012 and Senior Vice President of Global Consumer and Small Business Marketing at Bank of America from 2001 to 2008.

Prior to joining Allstate in 2011, Mr. Suren Gupta served as Executive Vice President of Wells Fargo from 2003 to 2011.

Prior to joining Allstate in 2011, Ms. Mabe served as President and CEO of The Economical Insurance Group, Canada from 2010 to 2011 and President Specialty Products of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company from 2008 to 2010.

Prior to joining Allstate in 2009, Mr. Winter served as Vice Chairman of American International Group ("AIG") in 2009 and President and Chief Executive Officer of AIG American General Domestic Life Companies from 2006 to 2009.

### Item 1A. Risk Factors

This document contains "forward-looking statements" that anticipate results based on our estimates, assumptions and plans that are subject to uncertainty. These statements are made subject to the safe-harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. We assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statements as a result of new information or future events or developments.

#### **Table of Contents**

These forward-looking statements do not relate strictly to historical or current facts and may be identified by their use of words like "plans," "seeks," "expects," "will," "should," "anticipates," "estimates," "intends," "believes," "likely," "targets" and other words with similar meanings. These statements may address, among other things, our strategy for growth, catastrophe exposure management, product development, investment results, regulatory approvals, market position, expenses, financial results, litigation and reserves. We believe that these statements are based on reasonable estimates, assumptions and plans. However, if the estimates, assumptions or plans underlying the forward-looking statements prove inaccurate or if other risks or uncertainties arise, actual results could differ materially from those communicated in these forward-looking statements.

In addition to the normal risks of business, we are subject to significant risks and uncertainties, including those listed below, which apply to us as an insurer and a provider of other products and financial services. These risks constitute our cautionary statements under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and readers should carefully review such cautionary statements as they identify certain important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements and historical trends. These cautionary statements are not exclusive and are in addition to other factors discussed elsewhere in this document, in our filings with the SEC or in materials incorporated therein by reference.

#### Risks Relating to the Property-Liability business

#### As a property and casualty insurer, we may face significant losses from catastrophes and severe weather events

Because of the exposure of our property and casualty business to catastrophic events, our operating results and financial condition may vary significantly from one period to the next. Catastrophes can be caused by various natural and man-made events, including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, wildfires, tornadoes, tsunamis, hurricanes, tropical storms and certain types of terrorism or industrial accidents. We may incur catastrophe losses in our auto and property business in excess of: (1) those experienced in prior years, (2) the average expected level used in pricing, (3) our current reinsurance coverage limits, or (4) loss estimates from external hurricane and earthquake models at various levels of probability. Despite our catastrophe management programs, we are exposed to catastrophes that could have a material effect on our operating results and financial condition. For example, our historical catastrophe experience includes losses relating to Hurricane Katrina in 2005 totaling \$3.6 billion, the Northridge earthquake of 1994 totaling \$2.1 billion and Hurricane Andrew in 1992 totaling \$2.3 billion. We are also exposed to assessments from the California Earthquake Authority and various state-created insurance facilities, and to losses that could surpass the capitalization of these facilities. Our liquidity could be constrained by a catastrophe, or multiple catastrophes, which result in extraordinary losses or a downgrade of our debt or financial strength ratings.

In addition, we are subject to claims arising from weather events such as winter storms, rain, hail and high winds. The incidence and severity of weather conditions are largely unpredictable. There is generally an increase in the frequency and severity of auto and property claims when severe weather conditions occur.

# The nature and level of catastrophes in any period cannot be predicted and could be material to our operating results and financial condition

Along with others in the insurance industry, we use models developed by third party vendors as well as our own historic data in assessing our property insurance exposure to catastrophe losses. These models assume various conditions and probability scenarios. Such models do not necessarily accurately predict future losses or accurately measure losses currently incurred. Catastrophe models, which have been evolving since the early 1990s, use historical information and scientific research about hurricanes and earthquakes and also utilize detailed information about our in-force business. While we use this information in connection with our pricing and risk management activities, there are limitations with respect to its usefulness in predicting losses in any reporting period as actual catastrophic events vary considerably. Other limitations are evident in significant variations in estimates between models, material increases and decreases in results due to model changes and refinements of the underlying data elements and actual conditions that are not yet well understood or may not be properly incorporated into the models.

### Impacts of catastrophes and our catastrophe management strategy may adversely affect premium growth

Due to our catastrophe risk management efforts, the size of our homeowners business has been negatively impacted and may continue to be negatively impacted if we take further actions. Homeowners premium growth rates and retention could be more adversely impacted than we expect by adjustments to our business structure, size and underwriting practices in markets with significant catastrophe risk exposure. In addition, due to the diminished potential for cross-selling opportunities that cannot be fully replaced by brokering arrangements that allow our agents to write

#### **Table of Contents**

property products with other carriers, new business growth in our auto lines has been and could continue to be lower than expected.

# A regulatory environment that limits rate increases and requires us to underwrite business and participate in loss sharing arrangements may adversely affect our operating results and financial condition

From time to time, political events and positions affect the insurance market, including efforts to suppress rates to a level that may not allow us to reach targeted levels of profitability. For example, if Allstate Protection's loss ratio compares favorably to that of the industry, state or provincial regulatory authorities may impose rate rollbacks, require us to pay premium refunds to policyholders, or resist or delay our efforts to raise rates even if the property and casualty industry generally is not experiencing regulatory resistance to rate increases. Such resistance affects our ability, in all product lines, to obtain approval for rate changes that may be required to achieve targeted levels of profitability and returns on equity. Our ability to afford reinsurance required to reduce our catastrophe risk in designated areas may be dependent upon the ability to adjust rates for its cost.

In addition to regulating rates, certain states have enacted laws that require a property-liability insurer conducting business in that state to participate in assigned risk plans, reinsurance facilities and joint underwriting associations or require the insurer to offer coverage to all consumers, often restricting an insurer's ability to charge the price it might otherwise charge. In these markets, we may be compelled to underwrite significant amounts of business at lower than desired rates, possibly leading to an unacceptable return on equity, or as the facilities recognize a financial deficit, they may in turn have the ability to assess participating insurers, adversely affecting our results of operations and financial condition. Laws and regulations of many states also limit an insurer's ability to withdraw from one or more lines of insurance in the state, except pursuant to a plan that is approved by the state insurance department. Additionally, certain states require insurers to participate in guaranty funds for impaired or insolvent insurance companies. These funds periodically assess losses against all insurance companies doing business in the state. Our operating results and financial condition could be adversely affected by any of these factors.

### The potential benefits of our sophisticated risk segmentation process may not be fully realized

We believe that our sophisticated pricing and underwriting methods (which, in some situations, considers information that is obtained from credit reports and other factors) has allowed us to be more competitive and operate more profitably. However, because many of our competitors seek to adopt underwriting criteria and sophisticated pricing models similar to those we use, our competitive advantage could decline or be lost. Further, the use of increasingly sophisticated pricing models is being reviewed by regulators and special interest groups. Competitive pressures could also force us to modify our sophisticated pricing models. Furthermore, we cannot be assured that these sophisticated pricing models will accurately reflect the level of losses that we will ultimately incur.

# Allstate Protection's operating results and financial condition may be adversely affected by the cyclical nature of the property and casualty business

The property and casualty market can be cyclical and has experienced periods characterized by relatively high levels of price competition, less restrictive underwriting standards and relatively low premium rates, followed by periods of relatively lower levels of competition, more selective underwriting standards and relatively high premium rates. A downturn in the profitability cycle of the property and casualty business could have a material effect on our operating results and financial condition.

#### Unexpected increases in the severity or frequency of claims may adversely affect our operating results and financial condition

Unexpected changes in the severity or frequency of claims may affect the profitability of our Allstate Protection segment. Changes in bodily injury claim severity are driven primarily by inflation in the medical sector of the economy and litigation. Changes in auto physical damage claim severity are driven primarily by inflation in auto repair costs, auto parts prices and used car prices. Changes in homeowners claim severity are driven by inflation in the construction industry, in building materials and in home furnishings, and by other economic and environmental factors, including increased demand for services and supplies in areas affected by catastrophes. However, changes in the level of the severity of claims are not limited to the effects of inflation and demand surge in these various sectors of the economy. Increases in claim severity can arise from unexpected events that are inherently difficult to predict. Although we pursue various loss management initiatives in the Allstate Protection segment in order to mitigate future increases in claim severity, there can be no assurances that these initiatives will successfully identify or reduce the effect of future increases in claim severity.

#### **Table of Contents**

Our Allstate Protection segment may experience volatility in claim frequency from time to time, and short-term trends may not continue over the longer term. A significant increase in claim frequency could have an adverse effect on our operating results and financial condition.

# Actual claims incurred may exceed current reserves established for claims and may adversely affect our operating results and financial condition

Recorded claim reserves in the Property-Liability business are based on our best estimates of losses, both reported and incurred but not reported claims reserves ("IBNR"), after considering known facts and interpretations of circumstances. Internal factors are considered including our experience with similar cases, actual claims paid, historical trends involving claim payment patterns, pending levels of unpaid claims, loss management programs, product mix and contractual terms. External factors are also considered, such as court decisions and changes in law, regulatory requirements and economic conditions. Because reserves are estimates of the unpaid portion of losses that have occurred, including IBNR losses, the establishment of appropriate reserves, including reserves for catastrophes, is an inherently uncertain and complex process. The ultimate cost of losses may vary materially from recorded reserves and such variance may adversely affect our operating results and financial condition.

# Predicting claim expense relating to asbestos, environmental and other discontinued lines is inherently uncertain and may have a material effect on our operating results and financial condition

The process of estimating asbestos, environmental and other discontinued lines liabilities is complicated by complex legal issues concerning, among other things, the interpretation of various insurance policy provisions and whether losses are covered, or were ever intended to be covered, and whether losses could be recoverable through retrospectively determined premium, reinsurance or other contractual agreements. Asbestos-related bankruptcies and other asbestos litigation are complex, lengthy proceedings that involve substantial uncertainty for insurers. Actuarial techniques and databases used in estimating asbestos, environmental and other discontinued lines net loss reserves may prove to be inadequate indicators of the extent of probable loss. Ultimate net losses from these discontinued lines could materially exceed established loss reserves and expected recoveries and have a material effect on our operating results and financial condition.

#### Risks Relating to the Allstate Financial Segment

#### Changes in underwriting and actual experience could materially affect profitability and financial condition

Our product pricing includes long-term assumptions regarding investment returns, mortality, morbidity, persistency and operating costs and expenses of the business. We establish target returns for each product based upon these factors and the average amount of capital that we must hold to support in-force contracts taking into account rating agencies and regulatory requirements. We monitor and manage our pricing and overall sales mix to achieve target new business returns on a portfolio basis, which could result in the discontinuation or de-emphasis of products and a decline in sales. Profitability from new business emerges over a period of years depending on the nature and life of the product and is subject to variability as actual results may differ from pricing assumptions. Additionally, many of our products have fixed or guaranteed terms that limit our ability to increase revenues or reduce benefits, including credited interest, once the product has been issued.

Our profitability in this segment depends on the sufficiency of premiums and contract charges to cover mortality and morbidity benefits, the persistency of policies to ensure recovery of acquisition expenses, the adequacy of investment spreads, the management of market and credit risks associated with investments, and the management of operating costs and expenses within anticipated pricing allowances. Legislation and regulation of the insurance marketplace and products could also affect our profitability and financial condition.

## Changes in reserve estimates may adversely affect our operating results

The reserve for life-contingent contract benefits is computed on the basis of long-term actuarial assumptions of future investment yields, mortality, morbidity, persistency and expenses. We periodically review the adequacy of these reserves on an aggregate basis and if future experience differs significantly from assumptions, adjustments to reserves and amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs ("DAC") may be required that could have a material effect on our operating results.

#### Changes in market interest rates may lead to a significant decrease in the profitability of spread-based products

Our ability to manage the in-force Allstate Financial spread-based products, such as fixed annuities, is dependent upon maintaining profitable spreads between investment yields and interest crediting rates. When market interest rates decrease or remain at relatively low levels, proceeds from investments that have matured or have been prepaid or sold

#### **Table of Contents**

may be reinvested at lower yields, reducing investment spread. Lowering interest crediting rates on some products in such an environment can partially offset decreases in investment yield. However, these changes could be limited by regulatory minimum rates or contractual minimum rate guarantees on many contracts and may not match the timing or magnitude of changes in investment yields. Increases in market interest rates can have negative effects on Allstate Financial, for example by increasing the attractiveness of other investments to our customers, which can lead to increased surrenders at a time when the segment's fixed income investment asset values are lower as a result of the increase in interest rates. This could lead to the sale of fixed income securities at a loss. In addition, changes in market interest rates impact the valuation of derivatives embedded in equity-indexed annuity contracts that are not hedged, which could lead to volatility in net income.

# Changes in estimates of profitability on interest-sensitive life products may adversely affect our profitability and financial condition through the amortization of DAC

DAC related to interest-sensitive life contracts is amortized in proportion to actual historical gross profits and estimated future gross profits ("EGP") over the estimated lives of the contracts. The principal assumptions for determining the amount of EGP are mortality, persistency, expenses, investment returns, including capital gains and losses on assets supporting contract liabilities, interest crediting rates to contractholders, and the effects of any hedges. Updates to these assumptions (commonly referred to as "DAC unlocking") could result in accelerated amortization of DAC and thereby adversely affect our profitability and financial condition.

#### Reducing our concentration in spread-based business and exiting certain distribution channels may adversely affect reported results

We have been reducing our concentration in spread-based business and will no longer offer fixed annuities effective January 1, 2014. We also exited the independent master brokerage agencies and structured settlement annuity brokers distribution channels in 2013. The reduction in sales of these products could negatively impact investment portfolio levels, complicate settlement of contract benefits including forced sales of assets with unrealized capital losses, and affect goodwill impairment testing and insurance reserves deficiency testing.

#### Changes in tax laws may decrease sales and profitability of products and adversely affect our financial condition

Under current federal and state income tax law, certain products we offer, primarily life insurance, receive favorable tax treatment. This favorable treatment may give certain of our products a competitive advantage over noninsurance products. Congress and various state legislatures from time to time consider legislation that would reduce or eliminate the favorable policyholder tax treatment currently applicable to life insurance. Congress and various state legislatures also consider proposals to reduce the taxation of certain products or investments that may compete with life insurance. Legislation that increases the taxation on insurance products or reduces the taxation on competing products could lessen the advantage or create a disadvantage for certain of our products making them less competitive. Such proposals, if adopted, could have a material effect on our profitability and financial condition or ability to sell such products and could result in the surrender of some existing contracts and policies. In addition, changes in the federal estate tax laws could negatively affect the demand for the types of life insurance used in estate planning.

# We may not be able to mitigate the capital impact associated with statutory reserving requirements, potentially resulting in a need to increase prices, reduce sales of term or universal life products, and/or a return on equity below original levels assumed in pricing

To support statutory reserves for certain term and universal life insurance products with secondary guarantees, we currently utilize reinsurance and capital markets solutions for financing a portion of our statutory reserve requirements deemed to be non-economic. As we continue to underwrite term and universal life business, we expect to have additional financing needs to mitigate the impact of these reserve requirements. If we do not obtain additional financing as a result of market conditions or otherwise, this could require us to increase prices, reduce our sales of term or universal life products, and/or result in a return on equity below original levels assumed in pricing.

### Risks Relating to Investments

# We are subject to market risk and declines in credit quality which may adversely affect investment income and cause realized and unrealized losses

Although we continually reevaluate our investment management strategies, we remain subject to the risk that we will incur losses due to adverse changes in interest rates, credit spreads, equity prices or currency exchange rates. Adverse changes in these rates, spreads and prices may occur due to changes in monetary policy and the economic climate, the liquidity of a market or market segment, investor return expectations and/or risk tolerance, insolvency or

#### **Table of Contents**

financial distress of key market makers or participants, or changes in market perceptions of credit worthiness. We are also subject to market risk related to investments in real estate, loans and securities collateralized by real estate. Some of our investment strategies target individual investments with unique risks that are not highly correlated with broad market risks. Although we expect these investments to increase total portfolio returns over time, their performance may vary from and under-perform relative to the market in some periods.

We are subject to risks associated with potential declines in credit quality related to specific issuers or specific industries and a general weakening in the economy, which are typically reflected through credit spreads. Credit spread is the additional yield on fixed income securities and loans above the risk-free rate (typically referenced as the yield on U.S. Treasury securities) that market participants require to compensate them for assuming credit, liquidity and/or prepayment risks. Credit spreads vary (i.e. increase or decrease) in response to the market's perception of risk and liquidity in a specific issuer or specific sector and are influenced by the credit ratings, and the reliability of those ratings, published by external rating agencies. Although we have the ability to use derivative financial instruments to manage these risks, the effectiveness of such instruments is subject to the same risks. Adverse economic conditions or other factors could cause declines in the quality and valuation of our investment portfolio that could result in realized and unrealized losses.

A decline in market interest rates or credit spreads could have an adverse effect on our investment income as we invest cash in new investments that may earn less than the portfolio's average yield. In a declining interest rate environment, borrowers may prepay or redeem securities more quickly than expected as they seek to refinance at lower rates. A decline could also lead us to purchase longer-term or riskier assets in order to obtain adequate investment yields resulting in a duration gap when compared to the duration of liabilities. Alternatively, longer-term assets may be sold and reinvested in shorter-term assets in anticipation of rising interest rates. An increase in market interest rates or credit spreads could have an adverse effect on the value of our investment portfolio by decreasing the fair values of the fixed income securities that comprise a substantial majority of our investment portfolio. Declining equity markets could also cause the investments in our pension plans to decrease and decreasing interest rates could cause the funding target and the projected benefit obligation of our pension plans or the accumulated benefit obligation of our other postretirement benefit plans to increase, either or both resulting in a decrease in the funded status of the pension plans and a reduction in the accumulated other comprehensive income component of shareholders' equity, increases in pension and other postretirement benefit expense and increases in required contributions to the pension plans.

Deteriorating financial performance impacting securities collateralized by residential and commercial mortgage loans, collateralized corporate loans, and commercial mortgage loans may lead to write-downs and impact our results of operations and financial condition

Adverse changes in residential or commercial mortgage delinquencies, loss severities or recovery rates, declining residential or commercial real estate prices, corporate loan delinquencies or recovery rates, borrower ability to obtain alternative sources of financing, changes in credit or bond insurer strength ratings and the quality of service provided by service providers on securities in our portfolios could lead us to determine that write-downs are necessary in the future.

Concentration of our investment portfolios in any particular segment of the economy may have adverse effects on our operating results and financial condition

The concentration of our investment portfolios in any particular industry, collateral type, group of related industries, geographic sector or risk type could have an adverse effect on our investment portfolios and consequently on our results of operations and financial condition. Events or developments that have a negative impact on any particular industry, group of related industries or geographic region may have a greater adverse effect on the investment portfolios to the extent that the portfolios are concentrated rather than diversified.

The determination of the amount of realized capital losses recorded for impairments of our investments is subjective and could materially impact our operating results and financial condition

The determination of the amount of realized capital losses recorded for impairments vary by investment type and is based upon our ongoing evaluation and assessment of known and inherent risks associated with the respective asset class. Such evaluations and assessments are revised as conditions change and new information becomes available. We update our evaluations regularly and reflect changes in other-than-temporary impairments in our results of operations. The assessment of whether other-than-temporary impairments have occurred is based on our case-by-case evaluation of the underlying reasons for the decline in fair value. Our conclusions on such assessments are judgmental and include assumptions and projections of future cash flows which may ultimately prove to be incorrect as assumptions, facts and circumstances change. Furthermore, historical trends may not be indicative of future impairments and additional impairments may need to be recorded in the future.

#### **Table of Contents**

# The determination of the fair value of our fixed income and equity securities is subjective and could materially impact our operating results and financial condition

In determining fair values we principally use the market approach which utilizes market transaction data for the same or similar instruments. The degree of management judgment involved in determining fair values is inversely related to the availability of market observable information. The fair value of assets may differ from the actual amount received upon sale of an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Moreover, the use of different valuation assumptions may have a material effect on the assets' fair values. The difference between amortized cost or cost and fair value, net of deferred income taxes, certain life and annuity DAC, certain deferred sales inducement costs, and certain reserves for life-contingent contract benefits, is reflected as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income in shareholders' equity. Changing market conditions could materially affect the determination of the fair value of securities and unrealized net capital gains and losses could vary significantly.

#### Risks Relating to the Insurance Industry

# Our future growth and profitability are dependent in part on our ability to successfully operate in an insurance industry that is highly competitive

The insurance industry is highly competitive. Many of our primary insurance competitors have well-established national reputations and market similar products.

We have invested in growth strategies by acting on our customer value propositions for each of our brands, through our differentiated product offerings and our distinctive advertising campaigns. If we are unsuccessful in generating new business and retaining a sufficient number of our customers, our ability to increase premiums written could be impacted. In addition, if we experience unexpected increases in our underlying costs (such as the frequency or severity of claims costs) generated by our new business, it could result in decreases in our profitability and lead to price increases which could impair our ability to compete effectively for insurance business.

Because of the competitive nature of the insurance industry, there can be no assurance that we will continue to effectively compete with our industry rivals, or that competitive pressures will not have a material effect on our business, operating results or financial condition. This includes competition for producers such as exclusive and independent agents and their licensed sales professionals. In the event we are unable to attract and retain these producers or they are unable to attract and retain customers for our products, growth and retention could be materially affected. Furthermore, certain competitors operate using a mutual insurance company structure and therefore may have dissimilar profitability and return targets. Our ability to successfully operate may also be impaired if we are not effective in anticipating the impact on our business of changing technology, including automotive technology, developing the talent and skills of our human resources, attracting and assimilating new executive talent into our organization, or deploying human resource talent consistently with our business goals.

# Difficult conditions in the global economy and capital markets generally could adversely affect our business and operating results and these conditions may not improve in the near future

As with most businesses, we believe difficult conditions in the global economy and capital markets, such as significant negative macroeconomic trends, including relatively high and sustained unemployment, reduced consumer spending, lower residential and commercial real estate prices, substantial increases in delinquencies on consumer debt, including defaults on home mortgages, and the relatively low availability of credit could have an adverse effect on our business and operating results.

Stressed conditions, volatility and disruptions in global capital markets, particular markets or financial asset classes could adversely affect our investment portfolio. Disruptions in one market or asset class can also spread to other markets or asset classes. Although the disruption in the global financial markets has moderated, not all global financial markets are functioning normally, and the rate of recovery from the U.S. recession has been below historic averages. Several governments around the world have announced austerity actions to address their budget deficits that may lead to a decline in economic activity. While European policy makers have developed mechanisms to address funding concerns, risks to the European economy and financial markets remain.

General economic conditions could adversely affect us in the form of consumer behavior and pressure investment results. Consumer behavior changes could include decreased demand for our products. For example, as consumers purchase fewer automobiles, our sales of auto insurance may decline. Also, as consumers become more cost conscious, they may choose lower levels of auto and homeowners insurance. In addition, holders of some of our interest-sensitive life insurance and annuity products may engage in an elevated level of discretionary withdrawals of contractholder

#### **Table of Contents**

funds. Our investment results could be adversely affected as deteriorating financial and business conditions affect the issuers of the securities in our investment portfolio.

#### There can be no assurance that we can accurately predict the timing and impact of changes in the Federal Reserve's monetary policy

The Federal Reserve has indicated that it may change its highly accommodative monetary policy as the U.S. economic recovery strengthens and unemployment declines. There can be no assurance as to the long-term impact such actions will have on the financial markets or on economic conditions, including potential inflationary effects. Continued volatility and rising interest rates could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

#### Losses from legal and regulatory actions may be material to our operating results, cash flows and financial condition

As is typical for a large company, we are involved in various legal actions, including class action litigation challenging a range of company practices and coverage provided by our insurance products, some of which involve claims for substantial or indeterminate amounts. We are also involved in various regulatory actions and inquiries, including market conduct exams by state insurance regulatory agencies. In the event of an unfavorable outcome in one or more of these matters, the ultimate liability may be in excess of amounts currently accrued and may be material to our operating results or cash flows for a particular quarter or annual period and to our financial condition. The aggregate estimate of the range of reasonably possible loss in excess of the amount accrued, if any, disclosed in Note 15 of the consolidated financial statements is not an indication of expected loss, if any. Actual results may vary significantly from the current estimate.

# We are subject to extensive regulation and potential further restrictive regulation may increase our operating costs and limit our growth

As insurance companies, broker-dealers, investment advisers and/or investment companies, many of our subsidiaries are subject to extensive laws and regulations. These laws and regulations are complex and subject to change. Changes may sometimes lead to additional expenses, increased legal exposure, and additional limits on our ability to grow or to achieve targeted profitability. Moreover, laws and regulations are administered and enforced by a number of different governmental authorities, each of which exercises a degree of interpretive latitude, including state insurance regulators; state securities administrators; state attorneys general and federal agencies including the SEC, the FINRA and the U.S. Department of Justice. Consequently, we are subject to the risk that compliance with any particular regulator's or enforcement authority's interpretation of a legal issue may not result in compliance with another's interpretation of the same issue, particularly when compliance is judged in hindsight. In addition, there is risk that any particular regulator's or enforcement authority's interpretation of a legal issue may change over time to our detriment, or that changes in the overall legal environment may, even absent any particular regulator's or enforcement authority's interpretation of a legal issue changing, cause us to change our views regarding the actions we need to take from a legal risk management perspective, thus necessitating changes to our practices that may, in some cases, limit our ability to grow or to improve the profitability of our business. Furthermore, in some cases, these laws and regulations are designed to protect or benefit the interests of a specific constituency rather than a range of constituencies. For example, state insurance laws and regulations are generally intended to protect or benefit purchasers or users of insurance products, not holders of securities, which is generally the jurisdiction of the SEC, issued by The Allstate Corporation. In many respects, these laws and regulati

# Regulatory reforms, and the more stringent application of existing regulations, may make it more expensive for us to conduct our business

The federal government has enacted comprehensive regulatory reforms for financial services entities. As part of a larger effort to strengthen the regulation of the financial services market, certain reforms are applicable to the insurance industry, including the FIO established within the Treasury Department.

In recent years, the state insurance regulatory framework has come under public scrutiny, members of Congress have discussed proposals to provide for federal chartering of insurance companies, and the FIO and FSOC were established. In the future, if the FSOC were to determine that Allstate is a "systemically important" nonbank financial company, Allstate would be subject to regulation by the Federal Reserve Board. We can make no assurances regarding the potential impact of state or federal measures that may change the nature or scope of insurance and financial regulation.

#### **Table of Contents**

These regulatory reforms and any additional legislative change or regulatory requirements imposed upon us in connection with the federal government's regulatory reform of the financial services industry or arising from reform related to the international regulatory capital framework for financial services firms, and any more stringent enforcement of existing regulations by federal authorities, may make it more expensive for us to conduct our business, or limit our ability to grow or to achieve profitability.

#### Reinsurance may be unavailable at current levels and prices, which may limit our ability to write new business

Our personal lines catastrophe reinsurance program was designed, utilizing our risk management methodology, to address our exposure to catastrophes nationwide. Market conditions beyond our control impact the availability and cost of the reinsurance we purchase. No assurances can be made that reinsurance will remain continuously available to us to the same extent and on the same terms and rates as is currently available. For example, our ability to afford reinsurance to reduce our catastrophe risk in designated areas may be dependent upon our ability to adjust premium rates for its cost, and there are no assurances that the terms and rates for our current reinsurance program will continue to be available in future years. If we were unable to maintain our current level of reinsurance or purchase new reinsurance protection in amounts that we consider sufficient and at prices that we consider acceptable, we would have to either accept an increase in our catastrophe exposure, reduce our insurance writings, or develop or seek other alternatives.

# Reinsurance subjects us to the credit risk of our reinsurers and may not be adequate to protect us against losses arising from ceded insurance, which could have a material effect on our operating results and financial condition

The collectability of reinsurance recoverables is subject to uncertainty arising from a number of factors, including changes in market conditions, whether insured losses meet the qualifying conditions of the reinsurance contract and whether reinsurers, or their affiliates, have the financial capacity and willingness to make payments under the terms of a reinsurance treaty or contract. We also have credit risk exposure associated with the MCCA, a mandatory insurance coverage and reinsurance indemnification mechanism for personal injury protection losses that provides indemnification for losses over a retention level that increases every other MCCA fiscal year, which is operating with a deficit. Our reinsurance recoverable from the MCCA was \$3.46 billion as of December 31, 2013. Our inability to collect a material recovery from a reinsurer could have a material effect on our operating results and financial condition.

# A large scale pandemic, the continued threat of terrorism or military actions may have an adverse effect on the level of claim losses we incur, the value of our investment portfolio, our competitive position, marketability of product offerings, liquidity and operating results

A large scale pandemic, the continued threat of terrorism, within the United States and abroad, or military and other actions, and heightened security measures in response to these types of threats, may cause significant volatility and losses in our investment portfolio from declines in the equity markets and from interest rate changes in the United States, Europe and elsewhere, and result in loss of life, property damage, disruptions to commerce and reduced economic activity. Some of the assets in our investment portfolio may be adversely affected by declines in the equity markets and reduced economic activity caused by a large scale pandemic or the continued threat of terrorism. Additionally, a large scale pandemic or terrorist act could have a material effect on the sales, profitability, competitiveness, marketability of product offerings, liquidity, and operating results.

# A downgrade in our financial strength ratings may have an adverse effect on our competitive position, the marketability of our product offerings, our liquidity, access to and cost of borrowing, operating results and financial condition

Financial strength ratings are important factors in establishing the competitive position of insurance companies and generally have an effect on an insurance company's business. On an ongoing basis, rating agencies review our financial performance and condition and could downgrade or change the outlook on our ratings due to, for example, a change in one of our insurance company's statutory capital; a change in a rating agency's determination of the amount of risk-adjusted capital required to maintain a particular rating; an increase in the perceived risk of our investment portfolio; a reduced confidence in management or our business strategy; as well as a number of other considerations that may or may not be under our control. The insurance financial strength ratings of Allstate Insurance Company and Allstate Life Insurance Company and The Allstate Corporation's senior debt ratings from A.M. Best, Standard & Poor's and Moody's are subject to continuous review, and the retention of current ratings cannot be assured. A downgrade in any of these ratings could have a material effect on our sales, our competitiveness, the marketability of our product offerings, our liquidity, access to and cost of borrowing, operating results and financial condition.

#### Table of Contents

# Adverse capital and credit market conditions may significantly affect our ability to meet liquidity needs or our ability to obtain credit on acceptable terms

In periods of extreme volatility and disruption in the capital and credit markets, liquidity and credit capacity may be severely restricted. In such circumstances, our ability to obtain capital to fund operating expenses, financing costs, capital expenditures or acquisitions may be limited, and the cost of any such capital may be significant. Our access to additional financing will depend on a variety of factors such as market conditions, the general availability of credit, the overall availability of credit to our industry, our credit ratings and credit capacity, as well as lenders' perception of our long- or short-term financial prospects. Similarly, our access to funds may be impaired if regulatory authorities or rating agencies take negative actions against us. If a combination of these factors were to occur, our internal sources of liquidity may prove to be insufficient and in such case, we may not be able to successfully obtain additional financing on favorable terms.

# We may be required to recognize impairments in the value of our goodwill, which may adversely affect our operating results and financial condition

Goodwill represents the excess of amounts paid for acquiring businesses over the fair value of the net assets acquired. Goodwill is evaluated for impairment annually, or more frequently if conditions warrant, by comparing the carrying value (attributed equity) of a reporting unit to its estimated fair value. Market declines or other events impacting the fair value of a reporting unit could result in a goodwill impairment, resulting in a charge to income. Such a charge could have an adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

# Changes in accounting standards issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board or other standard-setting bodies may adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition

Our financial statements are subject to the application of generally accepted accounting principles, which are periodically revised, interpreted and/or expanded. Accordingly, we are required to adopt new guidance or interpretations, or could be subject to existing guidance as we enter into new transactions, which may have a material effect on our results of operations and financial condition that is either unexpected or has a greater impact than expected. For a description of changes in accounting standards that are currently pending and, if known, our estimates of their expected impact, see Note 2 of the consolidated financial statements.

#### The change in our unrecognized tax benefit during the next 12 months is subject to uncertainty

We have disclosed our estimate of unrecognized tax benefits and the reasonably possible increase or decrease in its balance during the next 12 months in Note 16 of the consolidated financial statements. However, actual results may differ from our estimate for reasons such as changes in our position on specific issues, developments with respect to the governments' interpretations of income tax laws or changes in judgment resulting from new information obtained in audits or the appeals process.

#### The realization of deferred tax assets is subject to uncertainty

The realization of our deferred tax assets, net of valuation allowance, if any, is based on our assumption that we will be able to fully utilize the deductions that are ultimately recognized for tax purposes. However, actual results may differ from our assumptions if adequate levels of taxable income are not attained.

#### The ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends may affect our liquidity and ability to meet our obligations

The Allstate Corporation is a holding company with no significant operations. The principal asset is the stock of its subsidiaries. State insurance regulatory authorities limit the payment of dividends by insurance subsidiaries, as described in Note 17 of the consolidated financial statements. In addition, competitive pressures generally require the subsidiaries to maintain insurance financial strength ratings. These restrictions and other regulatory requirements affect the ability of the subsidiaries to make dividend payments. Limits on the ability of the subsidiaries to pay dividends could adversely affect holding company liquidity, including our ability to pay dividends to shareholders, service our debt, or complete share repurchase programs in the timeframe expected.

#### Our ability to pay dividends or repurchase our stock is subject to limitations under terms of certain of our securities

Subject to certain limited exceptions, during any dividend period while our preferred stock is outstanding, unless the full preferred stock dividends for the preceding dividend period have been declared and paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof has been set aside and any declared but unpaid preferred stock dividends for any prior period have been paid, we may not repurchase or pay dividends on our common stock. If and when dividends on our preferred stock have not been declared and paid in full for at least six quarterly dividend periods, the authorized number

#### Table of Contents

of directors then constituting our board of directors will be increased by two additional directors, to be elected by the holders of our preferred stock together with the holders of all other affected classes and series of voting parity stock, voting as a single class, subject to certain conditions.

We are prohibited from declaring or paying dividends on our preferred stock if we fail to meet specified capital adequacy, net income or shareholders' equity levels. The prohibition is subject to an exception permitting us to declare dividends out of the net proceeds of common stock issued by us during the 90 days prior to the date of declaration even if we fail to meet such levels.

The terms of our outstanding subordinated debentures also prohibit us from declaring or paying any dividends or distributions on our common or preferred stock or redeeming, purchasing, acquiring, or making liquidation payments on our common stock or preferred stock if we have elected to defer interest payments on the subordinated debentures, subject to certain limited exceptions.

The failure in cyber or other information security systems, as well as the occurrence of events unanticipated in our disaster recovery systems and management continuity planning could result in a loss or disclosure of confidential information, damage to our reputation, additional costs and impairment of our ability to conduct business effectively

We depend heavily upon computer systems to perform necessary business functions. Despite our implementation of a variety of security measures, our computer systems could be subject to cyber attacks and unauthorized access, such as physical and electronic break-ins or unauthorized tampering. Like other global companies, we have experienced threats to our data and systems, including malware and computer virus attacks, unauthorized access, system failures and disruptions. Events such as these could jeopardize the confidential, proprietary and other information (including personal information of our customers, claimants or employees) processed and stored in, and transmitted through, our computer systems and networks, or otherwise cause interruptions or malfunctions in our operations, which could result in damage to our reputation, financial losses, litigation, increased costs, regulatory penalties and/or customer dissatisfaction or loss. These risks may increase in the future as we continue to expand our internet and mobile strategies and develop additional remote connectivity solutions to serve our customers.

In the event of a disaster such as a natural catastrophe, industrial accident, terrorist attack, war, cyber attack or computer virus, unanticipated problems with our disaster recovery systems, or a support failure from external providers, could have an adverse effect on our ability to conduct business and on our results of operations and financial condition, particularly if those events affect our computer-based data processing, transmission, storage, and retrieval systems or destroy data. If a significant number of our managers were unavailable in the event of a disaster, our ability to effectively conduct our business could be severely compromised.

Third parties to whom we outsource certain of our functions are also subject to the risks outlined above, any one of which may result in our incurring substantial costs and other negative consequences, including a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

### Changing climate conditions may adversely affect our financial condition, profitability or cash flows

Climate change, to the extent it produces changes in weather patterns, could affect the frequency or severity of weather events and wildfires, the affordability and availability of homeowners insurance, and the results for our Allstate Protection segment.

# Loss of key vendor relationships or failure of a vendor to protect personal information of our customers, claimants or employees could affect our operations

We rely on services and products provided by many vendors in the United States and abroad. These include, for example, vendors of computer hardware and software and vendors of services such as claim adjustment services and human resource benefits management services. In the event that one or more of our vendors suffers a bankruptcy or otherwise becomes unable to continue to provide products or services, or fails to protect personal information of our customers, claimants or employees, we may suffer operational impairments and financial losses.

#### We may not be able to protect our intellectual property and may be subject to infringement claims

We rely on a combination of contractual rights and copyright, trademark, patent and trade secret laws to establish and protect our intellectual property. Although we use a broad range of measures to protect our intellectual property rights, third parties may infringe or misappropriate our intellectual property. We may have to litigate to enforce and protect our intellectual property and to determine its scope, validity or enforceability, which could divert significant

#### **Table of Contents**

resources and prove unsuccessful. An inability to protect our intellectual property could have a material effect on our business.

We may be subject to claims by third parties for patent, trademark or copyright infringement or breach of usage rights. Any such claims and any resulting litigation could result in significant expense and liability. If our third party providers or we are found to have infringed a third-party intellectual property right, either of us could be enjoined from providing certain products or services or from utilizing and benefiting from certain methods, processes, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets or licenses. Alternatively, we could be required to enter into costly licensing arrangements with third parties or implement a costly work around. Any of these scenarios could have a material effect on our business and results of operations.

#### **Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments**

None.

#### Item 2. Properties

Our home office complex is located in Northbrook, Illinois. As of December 31, 2013, the Home Office complex consists of several buildings totaling 2.3 million square feet of office space on a 278-acre site.

We also operate from approximately 1,330 administrative, data processing, claims handling and other support facilities in North America. In addition to our home office facilities, 1.3 million square feet are owned and 7.4 million square feet are leased. Outside North America, we lease three properties in Northern Ireland comprising 161,460 square feet. We also have one lease in India for 99,260 square feet. Generally, only major Allstate facilities are owned. In a majority of cases, new lease terms and renewals are for five years or less.

The locations out of which the Allstate exclusive agencies operate in the U.S. are normally leased by the agencies as lessees.

#### Item 3. Legal Proceedings

Information required for Item 3 is incorporated by reference to the discussion under the heading "Regulation and Compliance" and under the heading "Legal and regulatory proceedings and inquiries" in Note 15 of the consolidated financial statements.

#### Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

25

#### Part II

#### Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

As of January 31, 2014, there were 93,107 record holders of The Allstate Corporation's common stock. The principal market for the common stock is the New York Stock Exchange but it is also listed on the Chicago Stock Exchange. Set forth below are the high and low New York Stock Exchange Composite listing prices of, and cash dividends declared for, the common stock during 2013 and 2012.

|                | High  | Low   | Close | Dividends<br>Declared |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------------|
| 2013           | J     |       |       |                       |
| First quarter  | 49.13 | 40.65 | 49.07 | .25                   |
| Second quarter | 50.69 | 45.60 | 48.12 | .25                   |
| Third quarter  | 52.98 | 47.32 | 50.55 | .25                   |
| Fourth quarter | 54.84 | 50.21 | 54.54 | .25                   |
| 2012           |       |       |       |                       |
| First quarter  | 33.33 | 26.98 | 32.92 | .22                   |
| Second quarter | 35.15 | 31.93 | 35.09 | .22                   |
| Third quarter  | 40.72 | 33.35 | 39.61 | .22                   |
| Fourth quarter | 42.81 | 37.92 | 40.17 | .22                   |

The payment of dividends by Allstate Insurance Company ("AIC") to The Allstate Corporation is limited by Illinois insurance law to formula amounts based on statutory net income and statutory surplus, as well as the timing and amount of dividends paid in the preceding twelve months. In the twelve-month period ending December 31, 2013, AIC paid dividends of \$1.95 billion. Based on the greater of 2013 statutory net income or 10% of statutory surplus, the maximum amount of dividends that AIC will be able to pay without prior Illinois Department of Insurance approval at a given point in time in 2014 is \$2.47 billion, less dividends paid during the preceding twelve months measured at that point in time. Notification and approval of intercompany lending activities is also required by the Illinois Department of Insurance for those transactions that exceed formula amounts based on statutory admitted assets and statutory surplus.

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

(1)

|                    | Total number<br>of<br>shares<br>(or units) | Average<br>price<br>paid per<br>share | of shares (or units) purchased as part of publicly announced plans or |    | Maximum number (or approximate dollar value) of shares (or units) that may yet be purchased under the plans or |  |  |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|----|--|--|--|
| Period             | purchased <sup>(1)</sup>                   | (or unit)                             | programs <sup>(2)</sup>   |    | programs <sup>(3)</sup>  |  |  |
| October 1, 2013 -  |  |                                       |   |    |  |  |  |
| October 31, 2013   | 3,224,616                                  | \$<br>52.5290                         | 3,219,396   | \$ | 419.4 million  |  |  |
| November 1, 2013 - |  |                                       |   |    |  |  |  |
| November 30, 2013  | 2,724,659                                  | \$<br>53.9871                         | 2,723,800   | \$ | 272.3 million  |  |  |
| December 1, 2013 - |  |                                       |   |    |  |  |  |
| December 31, 2013  | 2,579,523                                  | \$<br>53.4923                         | 2,488,257   | \$ | 139.2 million  |  |  |
| Total              | 8,528,798                                  | \$<br>53.2862                         | 8,431,453   |    |  |  |  |
|                    |  |                                       |   |    |  |  |  |

In accordance with the terms of its equity compensation plans, Allstate acquired the following shares in connection with stock option exercises by employees and/or directors. The stock was received in payment of the exercise price of the options and in satisfaction of withholding taxes due upon exercise or vesting.

October: 5,220 November: 859 December: 91,266

(2) From time to time, repurchases under our programs are executed under the terms of a pre-set trading plan meeting the requirements of Rule 10b5-1(c) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

On February 6, 2013, we announced the approval of an additional share repurchase program for \$1.00 billion, to be completed by March 31, 2014.

26

### Table of Contents

Item 6. Selected Financial Data

#### 5-YEAR SUMMARY OF SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

| (\$ in millions, except per share data and ratios) Consolidated Operating Results |    | 2013         |    | 2012          |    | 2011          |    | 2010         |    | 2009            |
|---|----|--------------|----|---------------|----|---------------|----|--------------|----|-----------------|
| Insurance premiums and contract charges   | \$ | 29,970       | \$ | 28,978        | \$ | 28,180        | \$ | 28,125       | \$ | 28,152          |
| Net investment income   | Ψ  | 3,943        | Ψ  | 4,010         | Ψ  | 3,971         | Ψ  | 4,102        | Ψ  | 4,444           |
| Realized capital gains and losses   |    | 594          |    | 327           |    | 503           |    | (827)        |    | (583)           |
| Total revenues  |    | 34,507       |    | 33,315        |    | 32,654        |    | 31,400       |    | 32,013          |
| Net income available to common shareholders                                       |    | 2,263        |    | 2,306         |    | 787           |    | 911          |    | 888             |
| Net income available to common shareholders per common share:                     |    |              |    |               |    |               |    |              |    |                 |
| Net income available to common shareholders per common share                      |    |              |    |               |    |               |    |              |    |                 |
| basic   |    | 4.87         |    | 4.71          |    | 1.51          |    | 1.69         |    | 1.65            |
| Net income available to common shareholders per common share                      |    | 101          |    | 1 60          |    | 1.50          |    | 1 40         |    | 1 61            |
| diluted Cash dividends declared per common share                                  |    | 4.81<br>1.00 |    | 4.68<br>0.88  |    | 1.50<br>0.84  |    | 1.68<br>0.80 |    | 1.64<br>0.80    |
| Cash dividends declared per common share  |    | 1.00         |    | 0.88          |    | 0.84          |    | 0.80         |    | 0.80            |
| Consolidated Financial Position   | _  |              |    |               |    |               |    |              |    |                 |
| Investments (1)   | \$ | 81,155       | \$ | 97,278        | \$ | 95,618        | \$ | 100,483      | \$ | 99,833          |
| Total assets Reserves for claims and claims expense, life-contingent              |    | 123,520      |    | 126,947       |    | 125,193       |    | 130,500      |    | 132,209         |
| contract benefits and contractholder funds (1)                                    |    | 58,547       |    | 75,502        |    | 77,113        |    | 81,113       |    | 84,659          |
| Long-term debt  |    | 6,201        |    | 6,057         |    | 5,908         |    | 5,908        |    | 5,910           |
| Shareholders' equity  |    | 21,480       |    | 20,580        |    | 18,298        |    | 18,617       |    | 16,184          |
| Shareholders' equity per diluted common share                                     |    | 45.31        |    | 42.39         |    | 36.18         |    | 34.58        |    | 29.90           |
| Equity  |    | 21,480       |    | 20,580        |    | 18,326        |    | 18,645       |    | 16,213          |
| Property-Liability Operations   |    |              |    |               |    |               |    |              |    |                 |
| Premiums earned   | \$ | 27,618       | \$ | 26,737        | \$ | 25,942        | \$ | 25,957       | \$ | 26,194          |
| Net investment income   |    | 1,375        |    | 1,326         |    | 1,201         |    | 1,189        |    | 1,328           |
| Net income available to common shareholders                                       |    | 2,754        |    | 1,968         |    | 403           |    | 1,053        |    | 1,546           |
| Operating ratios (2)  |    |              |    |               |    |               |    |              |    |                 |
| Claims and claims expense ("loss") ratio  |    | 64.9         |    | 69.1          |    | 77.7          |    | 73.0         |    | 71.6            |
| Expense ratio Combined ratio  |    | 27.1<br>92.0 |    | 26.4          |    | 25.7<br>103.4 |    | 25.1<br>98.1 |    | 24.6<br>96.2    |
| Combined ratio  |    | 92.0         |    | 95.5          |    | 103.4         |    | 98.1         |    | 96.2            |
| Allstate Financial Operations   |    |              |    |               |    |               |    |              |    |                 |
| Premiums and contract charges   | \$ | 2,352        | \$ | 2,241         | \$ | 2,238         | \$ | 2,168        | \$ | 1,958           |
| Net investment income   |    | 2,538        |    | 2,647         |    | 2,716         |    | 2,853        |    | 3,064           |
| Net income (loss) available to common shareholders Investments                    |    | 95<br>39,105 |    | 541<br>56,999 |    | 590<br>57,373 |    | 42<br>61,582 |    | (452)<br>62,216 |
| Investments   |    | 39,103       |    | 30,339        |    | 31,313        |    | 01,362       |    | 02,210          |

<sup>(1)</sup> As of December 31, 2013, \$11.98 billion of investments and \$12.84 billion of reserves for life-contingent contract benefits and contractholder funds are classified as held for sale relating to the pending sale of Lincoln Benefit Life Company (see Note 4 of the consolidated financial statements).

(2)

We use operating ratios to measure the profitability of our Property-Liability results. We believe that they enhance an investor's understanding of our profitability. They are calculated as follows: Claims and claims expense ("loss") ratio is the ratio of claims and claims expense to premiums earned. Loss ratios include the impact of catastrophe losses. Expense ratio is the ratio of amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs, operating costs and expenses and restructuring and related charges to premiums earned. Combined ratio is the ratio of claims and claims expense, amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs, operating costs and expenses and restructuring and related charges to premiums earned. The combined ratio is the sum of the loss ratio and the expense ratio. The difference between 100% and the combined ratio represents underwriting income (loss) as a percentage of premiums earned, or underwriting margin.

### Table of Contents

### Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

|   | Page |
|---|------|
| Overview  | 29   |
| 2013 Highlights                                       | 30   |
| Consolidated Net Income                               | 31   |
| Impact of Low Interest Rate Environment               | 31   |
| Application of Critical Accounting Estimates          | 33   |
| Property-Liability 2013 Highlights                    | 45   |
| Property-Liability Operations                         | 45   |
| Allstate Protection Segment                           | 47   |
| Discontinued Lines and Coverages Segment              | 60   |
| Property-Liability Investment Results                 | 61   |
| Property-Liability Claims and Claims Expense Reserves | 62   |
| Allstate Financial 2013 Highlights                    | 72   |
| Allstate Financial Segment                            | 73   |
| Investments 2013 Highlights                           | 83   |
| Investments   | 84   |
| Market Risk   | 93   |
| Pension Plans   | 96   |
| Goodwill  | 98   |
| Capital Resources and Liquidity 2013 Highlights       | 99   |
| Capital Resources and Liquidity                       | 100  |
| Enterprise Risk and Return Management                 | 107  |
| Regulation and Legal Proceedings                      | 108  |
| Pending Accounting Standards                          | 108  |
|   | 28   |

#### **Table of Contents**

#### **OVERVIEW**

The following discussion highlights significant factors influencing the consolidated financial position and results of operations of The Allstate Corporation (referred to in this document as "we," "our," "us," the "Company" or "Allstate"). It should be read in conjunction with the 5-year summary of selected financial data, consolidated financial statements and related notes found under Part II. Item 6. and Item 8. contained herein. Further analysis of our insurance segments is provided in the Property-Liability Operations (which includes the Allstate Protection and the Discontinued Lines and Coverages segments) and in the Allstate Financial Segment sections of Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A"). The segments are consistent with the way in which we use financial information to evaluate business performance and to determine the allocation of resources. Resources are allocated by the chief operating decision maker and performance is assessed for Allstate Protection, Discontinued Lines and Coverages and Allstate Financial. Allstate Protection performance and resources are managed by a committee of senior officers of the segment.

Allstate is focused on the following priorities in 2014:

grow insurance policies in force;

maintain the underlying combined ratio;

proactively manage investments to generate attractive risk adjusted returns;

modernize the operating model; and

build long-term growth platforms.

The most important factors we monitor to evaluate the financial condition and performance of our company include:

For Allstate Protection: premium, the number of policies in force ("PIF"), new business sales, retention, price changes, claim frequency (rate of claim occurrence per policy in force) and severity (average cost per claim), catastrophes, loss ratio, expenses, underwriting results, and relative competitive position.

For Allstate Financial: benefit and investment spread, asset-liability matching, amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs ("DAC"), expenses, operating income, net income, new business sales, invested assets, and premiums and contract charges.

For Investments: exposure to market risk, credit quality/experience, total return, net investment income, cash flows, realized capital gains and losses, unrealized capital gains and losses, stability of long-term returns, and asset and liability duration.

For financial condition: liquidity, parent holding company level of deployable assets, financial strength ratings, operating leverage, debt leverage, book value per share, and return on equity.

Summary of Results:

Consolidated net income available to common shareholders was \$2.26 billion in 2013 compared to \$2.31 billion in 2012 and \$787 million in 2011. The decrease in 2013 compared to 2012 was primarily due to higher net income available to common shareholders from Property-Liability and the curtailment gain reported in Corporate and Other being more than offset by the estimated loss on disposition related to the pending LBL sale recorded in Allstate Financial and the loss on extinguishment of debt and settlement charges reported in Corporate and Other. The increase in 2012 compared to 2011 was primarily due to higher net income available to common shareholders from Property-Liability, partially offset by lower net income available to common shareholders from Allstate Financial. Net income available to common shareholders per diluted common share was \$4.81, \$4.68 and \$1.50 in 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

Allstate Protection had underwriting income of \$2.36 billion in 2013 compared to \$1.25 billion in 2012 and an underwriting loss of \$857 million in 2011. The increase in 2013 compared to 2012 was primarily due to increases in underwriting income in homeowners, other personal lines and auto resulting from decreased catastrophe losses. The underwriting income in 2012 compared to the underwriting loss in 2011 was primarily due to underwriting income in homeowners and other personal

lines in 2012 compared to underwriting losses in 2011, partially offset by a decrease in auto underwriting income. The Allstate Protection combined ratio was 91.5, 95.3 and 103.3 in 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. Underwriting income (loss), a measure not based on accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"), is defined in the Property-Liability Operations section of the MD&A.

Allstate Financial net income available to common shareholders was \$95 million in 2013 compared to \$541 million in 2012 and \$590 million in 2011. The decrease in 2013 compared to 2012 was primarily due to the estimated loss on disposition related to the pending LBL sale. The decrease in 2012 compared to 2011 was primarily due to net realized capital losses in 2012 compared to net realized capital gains in 2011, lower net

#### **Table of Contents**

investment income and higher life and annuity contract benefits, partially offset by decreased interest credited to contractholder funds and lower amortization of DAC.

A number of capital management actions were completed in 2013, including refinancing long-term debt through a tender offer and new issuances to take advantage of low interest rates and the issuance of preferred stock that allows for more financial flexibility. Consolidated shareholders' equity increased to \$21.48 billion as of December 31, 2013 from \$20.58 billion as of December 31, 2012.

#### **2013 HIGHLIGHTS**

Consolidated net income available to common shareholders was \$2.26 billion in 2013 compared to \$2.31 billion in 2012. Net income available to common shareholders per diluted common share was \$4.81 in 2013 compared to \$4.68 in 2012.

Property-Liability net income available to common shareholders was \$2.75 billion in 2013 compared to \$1.97 billion in 2012.

The Property-Liability combined ratio was 92.0 in 2013 compared to 95.5 in 2012.

Allstate Financial net income available to common shareholders was \$95 million in 2013 compared to \$541 million in 2012.

On July 17, 2013, we entered into a definitive agreement with Resolution Life Holdings, Inc. to sell Lincoln Benefit Life Company ("LBL"), LBL's life insurance business generated through independent master brokerage agencies, and all of LBL's deferred fixed annuity and long-term care insurance business for \$600 million subject to certain adjustments as of the closing date. The estimated loss on disposition of \$521 million, after-tax, was recorded in 2013.

Total revenues were \$34.51 billion in 2013 compared to \$33.32 billion in 2012.

Property-Liability premiums earned totaled \$27.62 billion in 2013, an increase of 3.3% from \$26.74 billion in 2012.

Investments totaled \$81.16 billion as of December 31, 2013, decreasing from \$97.28 billion as of December 31, 2012. Investments classified as held for sale totaled \$11.98 billion as of December 31, 2013. Net investment income was \$3.94 billion in 2013, a decrease of 1.7% from \$4.01 billion in 2012.

Net realized capital gains were \$594 million in 2013 compared to \$327 million in 2012.

Book value per diluted common share (ratio of common shareholders' equity to total common shares outstanding and dilutive potential common shares outstanding) was \$45.31 as of December 31, 2013, an increase of 6.9% from \$42.39 as of December 31, 2012.

For the twelve months ended December 31, 2013, return on the average of beginning and ending period common shareholders' equity was 11.0%, a decrease of 0.9 points from 11.9% for the twelve months ended December 31, 2012.

As of December 31, 2013, shareholders' equity was \$21.48 billion. This total included \$2.56 billion in deployable assets at the parent holding company level.

In July 2013, we announced changes to our employee pension and other postretirement benefit offerings. The remeasurement of pension and other postretirement benefit obligations related to the changes resulted in a \$658 million increase to accumulated other comprehensive income and a curtailment gain of \$118 million, after-tax. In addition, settlement losses of \$150 million, after-tax, were recognized due to the level of lump sum benefit payments made during 2013.

In 2013, we repurchased \$1.90 billion of long-term debt, issued \$2.30 billion of long-term debt and issued \$807.5 million of preferred stock. We recognized a loss on extinguishment of debt of \$319 million, after-tax, in 2013.

### Table of Contents

### CONSOLIDATED NET INCOME

| (\$ in millions)   | 2  | 2013                | 2012                | 2011                |
|--|----|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Revenues Property-liability insurance premiums   | \$ | 27,618              | \$ 26,737           | \$<br>25,942        |
| Life and annuity premiums and contract charges   |    | 2,352               | 2,241               | 2,238               |
| Net investment income  |    | 3,943               | 4,010               | 3,971               |
| Realized capital gains and losses:   |    | (207)               | (220)               | (562)               |
| Total other-than-temporary impairment losses<br>Portion of loss recognized in other comprehensive income |    | (207)<br>(8)        | (239)               | (563)<br>(33)       |
| Torton of loss recognized in other complemensive meonic  |    | (6)                 | 0                   | (33)                |
| Net other-than-temporary impairment losses recognized in earnings  |    | (215)               | (233)               | (596)               |
| Sales and other realized capital gains and losses  |    | 809                 | 560                 | 1,099               |
| Total realized capital gains and losses  |    | 594                 | 327                 | 503                 |
| Total revenues   |    | 34,507              | 33,315              | 32,654              |
| Costs and expenses   |    | (17.011)            | (10.404)            | (20.1(1)            |
| Property-liability insurance claims and claims expense Life and annuity contract benefits                |    | (17,911)<br>(1,917) | (18,484)<br>(1,818) | (20,161)<br>(1,761) |
| Interest credited to contractholder funds  |    | (1,277) $(1,278)$   | (1,316)             | (1,645)             |
| Amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs  |    | (4,002)             | (3,884)             | (3,971)             |
| Operating costs and expenses   |    | (4,387)             | (4,118)             | (3,739)             |
| Restructuring and related charges  |    | (70)                | (34)                | (44)                |
| Loss on extinguishment of debt   |    | (491)               | (272)               | (267)               |
| Interest expense   |    | (367)               | (373)               | (367)               |
| Total costs and expenses   |    | (30,423)            | (30,027)            | (31,688)            |
| (Loss) gain on disposition of operations   |    | (688)               | 18                  | (7)                 |
| Income tax expense   |    | (1,116)             | (1,000)             | (172)               |
| Net income   |    | 2,280               | 2,306               | 787                 |
| Preferred stock dividends  |    | (17)                |                     |                     |
| Net income available to common shareholders  | \$ | 2,263               | \$ 2,306            | \$<br>787           |
| Property-Liability Allstate Financial  | \$ | 95                  | \$ 1,968<br>541     | \$<br>403<br>590    |
| Corporate and Other  |    | (586)               | (203)               | (206)               |

Net income available to common shareholders

\$ 2,263 \$

2,306 \$

787

#### IMPACT OF LOW INTEREST RATE ENVIRONMENT

Despite the increase in interest rates during 2013, our current reinvestment yields are generally lower than the overall portfolio income yield, primarily for our investments in fixed income securities and commercial mortgage loans. At the December 2013 meeting, the Federal Reserve Board announced its decision to reduce the amount of its purchases of both longer-term Treasury and agency mortgage-backed securities in the open market. The Federal Open Market Committee also reaffirmed its view that a highly accommodative stance of monetary policy will remain appropriate for a considerable time after the asset purchase program ends and the economic recovery strengthens and stated that it now anticipates that it likely will be appropriate to maintain the current target range for the federal funds rate well past the time that the unemployment rate declines below 6.5 percent, especially if projected inflation continues to run below the Committee's 2 percent longer-run goal. We anticipate that interest rates will continue to increase but remain below historic averages and the portfolio income yield for some period. We also expect capital markets to remain volatile.

Deferred annuity contracts with fixed and guaranteed crediting rates, or floors that limit crediting rate reductions, are adversely impacted by a prolonged low interest rate environment since we may not be able to reduce crediting rates sufficiently to maintain investment spreads. Financial results of long duration products that do not have stated crediting

#### **Table of Contents**

rate guarantees but for which underlying assets may have to be reinvested at interest rates that are lower than portfolio rates, such as structured settlements and term life insurance, may also be adversely impacted.

The following table summarizes the weighted average guaranteed crediting rates and weighted average current crediting rates as of December 31, 2013 for certain fixed annuities and interest-sensitive life contracts where management has the ability to change the crediting rate, subject to a contractual minimum. Other products, including equity-indexed, variable and immediate annuities, equity-indexed and variable life, and institutional products totaling \$6.39 billion of contractholder funds, have been excluded from the analysis because management does not have the ability to change the crediting rate or the minimum crediting rate is not considered meaningful in this context.

|  | Weighted<br>average<br>guaranteed<br>crediting | Weighted<br>average<br>current<br>crediting | Contractholder |
|--|--|---|----------------|
| (\$ in millions)   | rates  | rates                                       | funds          |
| Annuities with annual crediting rate resets Annuities with multi-year rate guarantees (1): | 2.93%  | 2.93% \$                                    | 6,653          |
| Resettable in next 12 months   | 1.01   | 4.18  | 1,227          |
| Resettable after 12 months   | 1.26   | 3.46  | 2,479          |
| Interest-sensitive life insurance  | 4.01   | 4.15  | 7,556          |

(1)

These contracts include interest rate guarantee periods which are typically 5 or 6 years.

Investing activity will continue to decrease our portfolio yield as long as market yields remain below the current portfolio yield. In the Allstate Financial segment, the portfolio yield has been less impacted by reinvestment in the current low interest rate environment, as much of the investment cash flows have been used to fund the managed reduction in spread-based liabilities. The declines in both invested assets and portfolio yield are expected to result in lower net investment income in future periods.

For the Allstate Financial Segment, we expect approximately 4.4% of the amortized cost of fixed income securities not subject to prepayment and approximately 7.8% of commercial mortgage loans to mature in 2014. Allstate Financial has \$25.77 billion of such fixed income securities and \$4.29 billion of such commercial mortgage loans as of December 31, 2013. Additionally, for asset-backed securities ("ABS"), residential mortgage-backed securities ("RMBS") and commercial mortgage-backed securities ("CMBS") that have the potential for prepayment and are therefore not categorized by contractual maturity, we received periodic principal payments of \$1.41 billion in 2013. To the extent portfolio cash flows are reinvested, the average pre-tax investment yield of 5.5% is expected to decline due to lower market yields. These amounts exclude assets classified as held for sale.

For the Property-Liability segment, we expect approximately 4.4% of the amortized cost of fixed income securities not subject to prepayment to mature in 2014. Property-Liability has \$25.33 billion of such assets as of December 31, 2013. Additionally, for ABS, RMBS and CMBS securities that have the potential for prepayment and are therefore not categorized by contractual maturity, we received periodic principal payments of \$528 million in 2013. We have been shortening the maturity profile of the fixed income securities in this segment to make the portfolio less sensitive to a future rise in interest rates. This approach to reducing interest rate risk results in realized capital gains, but will contribute to lower portfolio yields as sales proceeds are invested at lower market yields. The average pre-tax investment yield of 4.0% is expected to decline due to reinvesting at lower market yields.

In order to mitigate the unfavorable impact that the current interest rate environment has on investment results, we are:

Managing our exposure to interest rate risk by maintaining a shorter maturity profile in the Property-Liability portfolio.

Shifting the portfolio mix to have less reliance on investments whose returns come primarily from interest payments to investments in which we have ownership interests and a greater proportion of return is derived from idiosyncratic operating or market performance including equities and real estate.

Investing to the specific needs and characteristics of Allstate's businesses.

We expect volatility in accumulated other comprehensive income resulting from changes in unrealized net capital gains and losses and unrecognized pension cost.

These topics are discussed in more detail in the respective sections of the MD&A.

32

#### **Table of Contents**

#### APPLICATION OF CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to adopt accounting policies and make estimates and assumptions that affect amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements. The most critical estimates include those used in determining:

Fair value of financial assets

Impairment of fixed income and equity securities

Deferred policy acquisition costs amortization

Reserve for property-liability insurance claims and claims expense estimation

Reserve for life-contingent contract benefits estimation

In making these determinations, management makes subjective and complex judgments that frequently require estimates about matters that are inherently uncertain. Many of these policies, estimates and related judgments are common in the insurance and financial services industries; others are specific to our businesses and operations. It is reasonably likely that changes in these estimates could occur from period to period and result in a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

A brief summary of each of these critical accounting estimates follows. For a more detailed discussion of the effect of these estimates on our consolidated financial statements, and the judgments and assumptions related to these estimates, see the referenced sections of this document. For a complete summary of our significant accounting policies, see the notes to the consolidated financial statements.

**Fair value of financial assets** Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. We are responsible for the determination of fair value of financial assets and the supporting assumptions and methodologies. We use independent third-party valuation service providers, broker quotes and internal pricing methods to determine fair values. We obtain or calculate only one single quote or price for each financial instrument.

Valuation service providers typically obtain data about market transactions and other key valuation model inputs from multiple sources and, through the use of proprietary models, produce valuation information in the form of a single fair value for individual fixed income and other securities for which a fair value has been requested under the terms of our agreements. The inputs used by the valuation service providers include, but are not limited to, market prices from recently completed transactions and transactions of comparable securities, interest rate yield curves, credit spreads, liquidity spreads, currency rates, and other information, as applicable. Credit and liquidity spreads are typically implied from completed transactions and transactions of comparable securities. Valuation service providers also use proprietary discounted cash flow models that are widely accepted in the financial services industry and similar to those used by other market participants to value the same financial instruments. The valuation models take into account, among other things, market observable information as of the measurement date, as described above, as well as the specific attributes of the security being valued including its term, interest rate, credit rating, industry sector, and where applicable, collateral quality and other issue or issuer specific information. Executing valuation models effectively requires seasoned professional judgment and experience. For certain equity securities, valuation service providers provide market quotations for completed transactions on the measurement date. In cases where market transactions or other market observable data is limited, the extent to which judgment is applied varies inversely with the availability of market observable information.

For certain of our financial assets measured at fair value, where our valuation service providers cannot provide fair value determinations, we obtain a single non-binding price quote from a broker familiar with the security who, similar to our valuation service providers, may consider transactions or activity in similar securities among other information. The brokers providing price quotes are generally from the brokerage divisions of leading financial institutions with market making, underwriting and distribution expertise regarding the security subject to valuation.

The fair value of certain financial assets, including privately placed corporate fixed income securities, auction rate securities ("ARS") backed by student loans, equity-indexed notes, and certain free-standing derivatives, for which our valuation service providers or brokers do not provide fair value determinations, is determined using valuation methods and models widely accepted in the financial services industry. Our internal pricing methods are primarily based on models using discounted cash flow methodologies that develop a single best estimate of fair value. Our models generally incorporate inputs that we believe are representative of inputs other market participants would use to determine fair value of the same instruments, including yield curves, quoted market prices of comparable securities, published credit spreads, and other applicable market data as well as instrument-specific characteristics that include, but are not limited to, coupon rates, expected cash flows, sector of the issuer, and call provisions. Judgment is required

#### **Table of Contents**

in developing these fair values. As a result, the fair value of these financial assets may differ from the amount actually received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Moreover, the use of different valuation assumptions may have a material effect on the financial assets' fair values.

For most of our financial assets measured at fair value, all significant inputs are based on or corroborated by market observable data and significant management judgment does not affect the periodic determination of fair value. The determination of fair value using discounted cash flow models involves management judgment when significant model inputs are not based on or corroborated by market observable data. However, where market observable data is available, it takes precedence, and as a result, no range of reasonably likely inputs exists from which the basis of a sensitivity analysis could be constructed.

We gain assurance that our financial assets are appropriately valued through the execution of various processes and controls designed to ensure the overall reasonableness and consistent application of valuation methodologies, including inputs and assumptions, and compliance with accounting standards. For fair values received from third parties or internally estimated, our processes and controls are designed to ensure that the valuation methodologies are appropriate and consistently applied, the inputs and assumptions are reasonable and consistent with the objective of determining fair value, and the fair values are accurately recorded. For example, on a continuing basis, we assess the reasonableness of individual fair values that have stale security prices or that exceed certain thresholds as compared to previous fair values received from valuation service providers or brokers or derived from internal models. We perform procedures to understand and assess the methodologies, processes and controls of valuation service providers. In addition, we may validate the reasonableness of fair values by comparing information obtained from valuation service providers or brokers to other third party valuation sources for selected securities. We perform ongoing price validation procedures such as back-testing of actual sales, which corroborate the various inputs used in internal models to market observable data. When fair value determinations are expected to be more variable, we validate them through reviews by members of management who have relevant expertise and who are independent of those charged with executing investment transactions.

We also perform an analysis to determine whether there has been a significant decrease in the volume and level of activity for the asset when compared to normal market activity, and if so, whether transactions may not be orderly. Among the indicators we consider in determining whether a significant decrease in the volume and level of market activity for a specific asset has occurred include the level of new issuances in the primary market, trading volume in the secondary market, level of credit spreads over historical levels, bid-ask spread, and price consensuses among market participants and sources. If evidence indicates that prices are based on transactions that are not orderly, we place little, if any, weight on the transaction price and will estimate fair value using an internal model. As of December 31, 2013 and 2012, we did not alter fair values provided by our valuation service providers or brokers or substitute them with an internal model for such securities.

The following table identifies fixed income and equity securities and short-term investments, including those classified as held for sale, as of December 31, 2013 by source of fair value determination:

| (\$ in millions)                         | Fair<br>value | Percent<br>to total |  |  |
|--|---------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Fair value based on internal sources     | \$<br>5,830   | 7.4%                |  |  |
| Fair value based on external sources (1) | 72,897        | 92.6                |  |  |
|  |               |                     |  |  |
| Total                                    | \$<br>78,727  | 100.0%              |  |  |

(1)

Includes \$2.98 billion that are valued using broker quotes.

For additional detail on fair value measurements, see Note 7 of the consolidated financial statements.

**Impairment of fixed income and equity securities** For investments classified as available for sale, the difference between fair value and amortized cost for fixed income securities and cost for equity securities, net of certain other items and deferred income taxes (as disclosed in Note 6), is reported as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income on the Consolidated Statements of Financial Position and is not reflected in the operating results of any period until reclassified to net income upon the consummation of a transaction with an unrelated third

party or when a write-down is recorded due to an other-than-temporary decline in fair value. We have a comprehensive portfolio monitoring process to identify and evaluate each fixed income and equity security whose carrying value may be other-than-temporarily impaired.

#### **Table of Contents**

For each fixed income security in an unrealized loss position, we assess whether management with the appropriate authority has made the decision to sell or whether it is more likely than not we will be required to sell the security before recovery of the amortized cost basis for reasons such as liquidity, contractual or regulatory purposes. If a security meets either of these criteria, the security's decline in fair value is considered other than temporary and is recorded in earnings.

If we have not made the decision to sell the fixed income security and it is not more likely than not we will be required to sell the fixed income security before recovery of its amortized cost basis, we evaluate whether we expect to receive cash flows sufficient to recover the entire amortized cost basis of the security. We use our best estimate of future cash flows expected to be collected from the fixed income security, discounted at the security's original or current effective rate, as appropriate, to calculate a recovery value and determine whether a credit loss exists. The determination of cash flow estimates is inherently subjective and methodologies may vary depending on facts and circumstances specific to the security. All reasonably available information relevant to the collectability of the security, including past events, current conditions, and reasonable and supportable assumptions and forecasts, are considered when developing the estimate of cash flows expected to be collected. That information generally includes, but is not limited to, the remaining payment terms of the security, prepayment speeds, foreign exchange rates, the financial condition and future earnings potential of the issue or issuer, expected defaults, expected recoveries, the value of underlying collateral, vintage, geographic concentration, available reserves or escrows, current subordination levels, third party guarantees and other credit enhancements. Other information, such as industry analyst reports and forecasts, sector credit ratings, financial condition of the bond insurer for insured fixed income securities, and other market data relevant to the realizability of contractual cash flows, may also be considered. The estimated fair value of collateral will be used to estimate recovery value if we determine that the security is dependent on the liquidation of collateral for ultimate settlement. If the estimated recovery value is less than the amortized cost of the security, a credit loss exists and an other-than-temporary impairment for the difference between the estimated recovery value and amortized cost is recorded in earnings. The portion of the unrealized loss related to factors other than credit remains classified in accumulated other comprehensive income. If we determine that the fixed income security does not have sufficient cash flow or other information to estimate a recovery value for the security, we may conclude that the entire decline in fair value is deemed to be credit related and the loss is recorded in earnings.

There are a number of assumptions and estimates inherent in evaluating impairments of equity securities and determining if they are other than temporary, including: 1) our ability and intent to hold the investment for a period of time sufficient to allow for an anticipated recovery in value; 2) the length of time and extent to which the fair value has been less than cost; 3) the financial condition, near-term and long-term prospects of the issue or issuer, including relevant industry specific market conditions and trends, geographic location and implications of rating agency actions and offering prices; and 4) the specific reasons that a security is in an unrealized loss position, including overall market conditions which could affect liquidity.

Once assumptions and estimates are made, any number of changes in facts and circumstances could cause us to subsequently determine that a fixed income or equity security is other-than-temporarily impaired, including: 1) general economic conditions that are worse than previously forecasted or that have a greater adverse effect on a particular issuer or industry sector than originally estimated; 2) changes in the facts and circumstances related to a particular issue or issuer's ability to meet all of its contractual obligations; and 3) changes in facts and circumstances that result in changes to management's intent to sell or result in our assessment that it is more likely than not we will be required to sell before recovery of the amortized cost basis of a fixed income security or causes a change in our ability or intent to hold an equity security until it recovers in value. Changes in assumptions, facts and circumstances could result in additional charges to earnings in future periods to the extent that losses are realized. The charge to earnings, while potentially significant to net income, would not have a significant effect on shareholders' equity, since our securities are designated as available for sale and carried at fair value and as a result, any related unrealized loss, net of deferred income taxes and related DAC, deferred sales inducement costs and reserves for life-contingent contract benefits, would already be reflected as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income in shareholders' equity.

The determination of the amount of other-than-temporary impairment is an inherently subjective process based on periodic evaluations of the factors described above. Such evaluations and assessments are revised as conditions change and new information becomes available. We update our evaluations regularly and reflect changes in other-than-temporary impairments in results of operations as such evaluations are revised. The use of different methodologies and assumptions in the determination of the amount of other-than-temporary impairments may have a material effect on the amounts presented within the consolidated financial statements.

For additional detail on investment impairments, see Note 6 of the consolidated financial statements.

#### **Table of Contents**

**Deferred policy acquisition costs amortization** We incur significant costs in connection with acquiring insurance policies and investment contracts. In accordance with GAAP, costs that are related directly to the successful acquisition of new or renewal insurance policies and investment contracts are deferred and recorded as an asset on the Consolidated Statements of Financial Position.

DAC related to property-liability contracts is amortized into income as premiums are earned, typically over periods of six or twelve months. The amortization methodology for DAC related to Allstate Financial policies and contracts includes significant assumptions and estimates.

DAC related to traditional life insurance is amortized over the premium paying period of the related policies in proportion to the estimated revenues on such business. Significant assumptions relating to estimated premiums, investment returns, as well as mortality, persistency and expenses to administer the business are established at the time the policy is issued and are generally not revised during the life of the policy. The assumptions for determining the timing and amount of DAC amortization are consistent with the assumptions used to calculate the reserve for life-contingent contract benefits. Any deviations from projected business in force resulting from actual policy terminations differing from expected levels and any estimated premium deficiencies may result in a change to the rate of amortization in the period such events occur. Generally, the amortization periods for these policies approximates the estimated lives of the policies. The recovery of DAC is dependent upon the future profitability of the business. We periodically review the adequacy of reserves and recoverability of DAC for these policies on an aggregate basis using actual experience. We aggregate all traditional life insurance products and immediate annuities with life contingencies in the analysis. In the event actual experience is significantly adverse compared to the original assumptions and a premium deficiency is determined to exist, any remaining unamortized DAC balance must be expensed to the extent not recoverable and a premium deficiency reserve may be required if the remaining DAC balance is insufficient to absorb the deficiency. In 2013, 2012 and 2011, our reviews concluded that no premium deficiency adjustments were necessary, primarily due to projected profit from traditional life insurance more than offsetting the projected losses in immediate annuities with life contingencies.

DAC related to interest-sensitive life, fixed annuities and other investment contracts is amortized in proportion to the incidence of the total present value of gross profits, which includes both actual historical gross profits ("AGP") and estimated future gross profits ("EGP") expected to be earned over the estimated lives of the contracts. The amortization is net of interest on the prior period DAC balance using rates established at the inception of the contracts. Actual amortization periods generally range from 15-30 years; however, incorporating estimates of the rate of customer surrenders, partial withdrawals and deaths generally results in the majority of the DAC being amortized during the surrender charge period, which is typically 10-20 years for interest-sensitive life and 5-10 years for fixed annuities. The cumulative DAC amortization is reestimated and adjusted by a cumulative charge or credit to income when there is a difference between the incidence of actual versus expected gross profits in a reporting period or when there is a change in total EGP.

AGP and EGP primarily consist of the following components: contract charges for the cost of insurance less mortality costs and other benefits (benefit margin); investment income and realized capital gains and losses less interest credited (investment margin); and surrender and other contract charges less maintenance expenses (expense margin). The principal assumptions for determining the amount of EGP are persistency, mortality, expenses, investment returns, including capital gains and losses on assets supporting contract liabilities, interest crediting rates to contractholders, and the effects of any hedges, and these assumptions are reasonably likely to have the greatest impact on the amount of DAC amortization. Changes in these assumptions can be offsetting and we are unable to reasonably predict their future movements or offsetting impacts over time.

Each reporting period, DAC amortization is recognized in proportion to AGP for that period adjusted for interest on the prior period DAC balance. This amortization process includes an assessment of AGP compared to EGP, the actual amount of business remaining in force and realized capital gains and losses on investments supporting the product liability. The impact of realized capital gains and losses on amortization of DAC depends upon which product liability is supported by the assets that give rise to the gain or loss. If the AGP is greater than EGP in the period, but the total EGP is unchanged, the amount of DAC amortization will generally increase, resulting in a current period decrease to earnings. The opposite result generally occurs when the AGP is less than the EGP in the period, but the total EGP is unchanged. However, when DAC amortization or a component of gross profits for a quarterly period is potentially negative (which would result in an increase of the DAC balance) as a result of negative AGP, the specific facts and circumstances surrounding the potential negative amortization are considered to determine whether it is appropriate for recognition in the consolidated financial statements. Negative amortization was not recorded for certain

#### **Table of Contents**

fixed annuities during 2012 and 2011 periods in which capital losses were realized on their related investment portfolio. For products whose supporting investments are exposed to capital losses in excess of our expectations which may cause periodic AGP to become temporarily negative, EGP and AGP utilized in DAC amortization may be modified to exclude the excess capital losses.

Annually, we review and update all assumptions underlying the projections of EGP, including persistency, mortality, expenses, investment returns, comprising investment income and realized capital gains and losses, interest crediting rates and the effect of any hedges. At each reporting period, we assess whether any revisions to assumptions used to determine DAC amortization are required. These reviews and updates may result in amortization acceleration or deceleration, which are commonly referred to as "DAC unlocking". If the update of assumptions causes total EGP to increase, the rate of DAC amortization will generally decrease, resulting in a current period increase to earnings. A decrease to earnings generally occurs when the assumption update causes the total EGP to decrease.

The following table provides the effect on DAC amortization of changes in assumptions relating to the gross profit components of investment margin, benefit margin and expense margin during the years ended December 31.

| (\$ in millions)  | 2  | 013     | 2012 | 2  | 2011 |
|-------------------|----|---------|------|----|------|
| Investment margin | \$ | (17) \$ | 3    | \$ | (3)  |
| Benefit margin    |    | 15      | 33   |    | (6)  |
| Expense margin    |    | 25      | (2)  |    | 16   |
|                   |    |         |      |    |      |
|                   |    |         |      |    |      |
| Net acceleration  | \$ | 23 \$   | 34   | \$ | 7    |

In 2013, DAC amortization deceleration for changes in the investment margin component of EGP primarily related to fixed annuities and interest-sensitive life insurance and was due to increased projected investment margins. The acceleration related to benefit margin was primarily due to interest-sensitive life insurance and was due to an increase in projected mortality. The acceleration related to expense margin related to interest-sensitive life insurance and was due to an increase in projected expenses. In 2012, DAC amortization acceleration for changes in the investment margin component of EGP primarily related to fixed annuities and was due to lower projected investment returns. The acceleration related to benefit margin was primarily due to increased projected mortality on variable life insurance, partially offset by increased projected persistency on interest-sensitive life insurance. The deceleration related to expense margin related to interest-sensitive life insurance and fixed annuities and was due to a decrease in projected expenses. In 2011, DAC amortization deceleration related to changes in the investment margin component of EGP primarily related to equity-indexed annuities and was due to an increase in projected investment margins. The deceleration related to benefit margin was primarily due to increased projected persistency on interest-sensitive life insurance. The acceleration related to expense margin primarily related to interest-sensitive life insurance and was due to an increase in projected expenses.

The following table displays the sensitivity of reasonably likely changes in assumptions included in the gross profit components of investment margin or benefit margin to amortization of the DAC balance as of December 31, 2013.

| (\$ in millions)   | Increase/(red | uction) in DAC |  |  |
|--|---------------|----------------|--|--|
| Increase in future investment margins of 25 basis points | \$            | 77             |  |  |
| Decrease in future investment margins of 25 basis points | \$            | (86)           |  |  |
| Decrease in future life mortality by 1%                  | \$            | 17             |  |  |
| Increase in future life mortality by 1%                  | \$            | (18)           |  |  |

Any potential changes in assumptions discussed above are measured without consideration of correlation among assumptions. Therefore, it would be inappropriate to add them together in an attempt to estimate overall variability in amortization.

For additional detail related to DAC, see the Allstate Financial Segment section of this document.

Reserve for property-liability insurance claims and claims expense estimation Reserves are established to provide for the estimated costs of paying claims and claims expenses under insurance policies we have issued. Property-Liability underwriting results are significantly influenced by estimates of property-liability insurance claims and claims expense reserves. These reserves are an estimate of amounts necessary to settle all outstanding claims, including claims that have been incurred but not reported ("IBNR"), as of the financial statement date.

#### **Table of Contents**

Characteristics of reserves Reserves are established independently of business segment management for each business segment and line of business based on estimates of the ultimate cost to settle claims, less losses that have been paid. The significant lines of business are auto, homeowners, and other personal lines for Allstate Protection, and asbestos, environmental, and other discontinued lines for Discontinued Lines and Coverages. Allstate Protection's claims are typically reported promptly with relatively little reporting lag between the date of occurrence and the date the loss is reported. Auto and homeowners liability losses generally take an average of about two years to settle, while auto physical damage, homeowners property and other personal lines have an average settlement time of less than one year. Discontinued Lines and Coverages involve long-tail losses, such as those related to asbestos and environmental claims, which often involve substantial reporting lags and extended times to settle.

Reserves are the difference between the estimated ultimate cost of losses incurred and the amount of paid losses as of the reporting date. Reserves are estimated for both reported and unreported claims, and include estimates of all expenses associated with processing and settling all incurred claims. We update most of our reserve estimates quarterly and as new information becomes available or as events emerge that may affect the resolution of unsettled claims. Changes in prior year reserve estimates (reserve reestimates), which may be material, are determined by comparing updated estimates of ultimate losses to prior estimates, and the differences are recorded as property-liability insurance claims and claims expense in the Consolidated Statements of Operations in the period such changes are determined. Estimating the ultimate cost of claims and claims expenses is an inherently uncertain and complex process involving a high degree of judgment and is subject to the evaluation of numerous variables.

The actuarial methods used to develop reserve estimates Reserve estimates are derived by using several different actuarial estimation methods that are variations on one primary actuarial technique. The actuarial technique is known as a "chain ladder" estimation process in which historical loss patterns are applied to actual paid losses and reported losses (paid losses plus individual case reserves established by claim adjusters) for an accident year or a report year to create an estimate of how losses are likely to develop over time. An accident year refers to classifying claims based on the year in which the claims occurred. A report year refers to classifying claims based on the year in which the claims are reported. Both classifications are used to prepare estimates of required reserves for payments to be made in the future. The key assumptions affecting our reserve estimates comprise data elements including claim counts, paid losses, case reserves, and development factors calculated with this data.

In the chain ladder estimation technique, a ratio (development factor) is calculated which compares current period results to results in the prior period for each accident year. A three-year or two-year average development factor, based on historical results, is usually multiplied by the current period experience to estimate the development of losses of each accident year into the next time period. The development factors for the future time periods for each accident year are compounded over the remaining future periods to calculate an estimate of ultimate losses for each accident year. The implicit assumption of this technique is that an average of historical development factors is predictive of future loss development, as the significant size of our experience database achieves a high degree of statistical credibility in actuarial projections of this type. The effects of inflation are implicitly considered in the reserving process, the implicit assumption being that a multi-year average development factor includes an adequate provision. Occasionally, unusual aberrations in loss patterns are caused by external and internal factors such as changes in claim reporting, settlement patterns, unusually large losses, process changes, legal or regulatory changes, and other influences. In these instances, analyses of alternate development factor selections are performed to evaluate the effect of these factors and actuarial judgment is applied to make appropriate development factor assumptions needed to develop a best estimate of ultimate losses.

How reserve estimates are established and updated Reserve estimates are developed at a very detailed level, and the results of these numerous micro-level best estimates are aggregated to form a consolidated reserve estimate. For example, over one thousand actuarial estimates of the types described above are prepared each quarter to estimate losses for each line of insurance, major components of losses (such as coverages and perils), major states or groups of states and for reported losses and IBNR. The actuarial methods described above are used to analyze the settlement patterns of claims by determining the development factors for specific data elements that are necessary components of a reserve estimation process. Development factors are calculated quarterly and periodically throughout the year for data elements such as claim counts reported and settled, paid losses, and paid losses combined with case reserves. The calculation of development factors from changes in these data elements also impacts claim severity trends, which is a common industry reference used to explain changes in reserve estimates. The historical development patterns for these data elements are used as the assumptions to calculate reserve estimates.

#### **Table of Contents**

Often, several different estimates are prepared for each detailed component, incorporating alternative analyses of changing claim settlement patterns and other influences on losses, from which we select our best estimate for each component, occasionally incorporating additional analyses and actuarial judgment, as described above. These micro-level estimates are not based on a single set of assumptions. Actuarial judgments that may be applied to these components of certain micro-level estimates generally do not have a material impact on the consolidated level of reserves. Moreover, this detailed micro-level process does not permit or result in a compilation of a company-wide roll up to generate a range of needed loss reserves that would be meaningful. Based on our review of these estimates, our best estimate of required reserves for each state/line/coverage component is recorded for each accident year, and the required reserves for each component are summed to create the reserve balance carried on our Consolidated Statements of Financial Position.

Reserves are reestimated quarterly and periodically throughout the year, by combining historical results with current actual results to calculate new development factors. This process incorporates the historic and latest actual trends, and other underlying changes in the data elements used to calculate reserve estimates. New development factors are likely to differ from previous development factors used in prior reserve estimates because actual results (claims reported or settled, losses paid, or changes to case reserves) occur differently than the implied assumptions contained in the previous development factor calculations. If claims reported, paid losses, or case reserve changes are greater or less than the levels estimated by previous development factors, reserve reestimates increase or decrease. When actual development of these data elements is different than the historical development pattern used in a prior period reserve estimate, a new reserve is determined. The difference between indicated reserves based on new reserve estimates and recorded reserves (the previous estimate) is the amount of reserve reestimate and is recognized as an increase or decrease in property-liability insurance claims and claims expense in the Consolidated Statements of Operations. Total Property-Liability reserve reestimates, after-tax, as a percent of net income available to common shareholders were favorable 3.5%, 18.7% and 27.7% in 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The 3-year average of reserve reestimates as a percentage of total reserves was a favorable 2.2% for Property-Liability, a favorable 2.9% for Allstate Protection and an unfavorable 4.2% for Discontinued Lines and Coverages, each of these results being consistent within a reasonable actuarial tolerance for our respective businesses. A more detailed discussion of reserve reestimates is presented in the Property-Liability Claims and Claims Expense Reserves section of this document.

The following table shows net claims and claims expense reserves by segment and line of business as of December 31:

| (\$ in millions) Allstate Protection   | 2013         | 2012         | 2011         |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Auto                                   | \$<br>11,616 | \$<br>11,383 | \$<br>11,404 |
| Homeowners                             | 1,821        | 2,008        | 2,439        |
| Other lines                            | 2,110        | 2,250        | 2,237        |
| Total Allstate Protection              | 15,547       | 15,641       | 16,080       |
| Discontinued Lines and Coverages       |              |              |              |
| Asbestos                               | 1,017        | 1,026        | 1,078        |
| Environmental                          | 208          | 193          | 185          |
| Other discontinued lines               | 421          | 418          | 444          |
| Total Discontinued Lines and Coverages | 1,646        | 1,637        | 1,707        |
| Total Property-Liability               | \$<br>17,193 | \$<br>17,278 | \$<br>17,787 |

#### Allstate Protection reserve estimates

Factors affecting reserve estimates Reserve estimates are developed based on the processes and historical development trends described above. These estimates are considered in conjunction with known facts and interpretations of circumstances and factors including our experience with similar cases, actual claims paid, historical trends involving claim payment patterns and pending levels of unpaid claims, loss management programs, product mix and contractual terms, changes in law and regulation, judicial decisions, and economic conditions. When we experience changes of the type previously mentioned, we may need to apply actuarial judgment in the determination and selection of development factors considered more reflective of the new trends, such as combining shorter or longer periods of historical results with current actual results to produce development factors based on two-year, three-year, or longer development periods to reestimate our reserves. For example, if a legal

change is expected to have a significant impact on the development of claim severity for a coverage which is part of a particular line of insurance in a specific state,

#### **Table of Contents**

actuarial judgment is applied to determine appropriate development factors that will most accurately reflect the expected impact on that specific estimate. Another example would be when a change in economic conditions is expected to affect the cost of repairs to damaged autos or property for a particular line, coverage, or state, actuarial judgment is applied to determine appropriate development factors to use in the reserve estimate that will most accurately reflect the expected impacts on severity development.

As claims are reported, for certain liability claims of sufficient size and complexity, the field adjusting staff establishes case reserve estimates of ultimate cost, based on their assessment of facts and circumstances related to each individual claim. For other claims which occur in large volumes and settle in a relatively short time frame, it is not practical or efficient to set case reserves for each claim, and a statistical case reserve is set for these claims based on estimation techniques described above. In the normal course of business, we may also supplement our claims processes by utilizing third party adjusters, appraisers, engineers, inspectors, and other professionals and information sources to assess and settle catastrophe and non-catastrophe related claims.

Historically, the case reserves set by the field adjusting staff have not proven to be an entirely accurate estimate of the ultimate cost of claims. To provide for this, a development reserve is estimated using the processes described above, and allocated to pending claims as a supplement to case reserves. Typically, the case and supplemental development reserves comprise about 90% of total reserves.

Another major component of reserves is incurred but not reported ("IBNR"). Typically, IBNR comprises about 10% of total reserves.

Generally, the initial reserves for a new accident year are established based on severity assumptions for different business segments, lines and coverages based on historical relationships to relevant inflation indicators, and reserves for prior accident years are statistically determined using processes described above. Changes in auto current year claim severity are generally influenced by inflation in the medical and auto repair sectors of the economy. We mitigate these effects through various loss management programs. Injury claims are affected largely by medical cost inflation while physical damage claims are affected largely by auto repair cost inflation and used car prices. For auto physical damage coverages, we monitor our rate of increase in average cost per claim against a weighted average of the Maintenance and Repair price index and the Parts and Equipment price index. We believe our claim settlement initiatives, such as improvements to the claim review and settlement process, the use of special investigative units to detect fraud and handle suspect claims, litigation management and defense strategies, as well as various other loss management initiatives underway, contribute to the mitigation of injury and physical damage severity trends.

Changes in homeowners current year claim severity are generally influenced by inflation in the cost of building materials, the cost of construction and property repair services, the cost of replacing home furnishings and other contents, the types of claims that qualify for coverage, deductibles and other economic and environmental factors. We employ various loss management programs to mitigate the effect of these factors.

As loss experience for the current year develops for each type of loss, it is monitored relative to initial assumptions until it is judged to have sufficient statistical credibility. From that point in time and forward, reserves are reestimated using statistical actuarial processes to reflect the impact actual loss trends have on development factors incorporated into the actuarial estimation processes. Statistical credibility is usually achieved by the end of the first calendar year; however, when trends for the current accident year exceed initial assumptions sooner, they are usually determined to be credible, and reserves are increased accordingly.

The very detailed processes for developing reserve estimates, and the lack of a need and existence of a common set of assumptions or development factors, limits aggregate reserve level testing for variability of data elements. However, by applying standard actuarial methods to consolidated historic accident year loss data for major loss types, comprising auto injury losses, auto physical damage losses and homeowner losses, we develop variability analyses consistent with the way we develop reserves by measuring the potential variability of development factors, as described in the section titled "Potential Reserve Estimate Variability" below.

Causes of reserve estimate uncertainty Since reserves are estimates of unpaid portions of claims and claims expenses that have occurred, including IBNR losses, the establishment of appropriate reserves, including reserves for catastrophe losses, requires regular reevaluation and refinement of estimates to determine our ultimate loss estimate.

At each reporting date, the highest degree of uncertainty in estimates of losses arises from claims remaining to be settled for the current accident year and the most recent preceding accident year. The greatest degree of uncertainty exists in the current accident year because the current accident year contains the greatest proportion of losses that have not been reported or settled but must be estimated as of the current reporting date. Most of these losses relate to

#### **Table of Contents**

damaged property such as automobiles and homes, and medical care for injuries from accidents. During the first year after the end of an accident year, a large portion of the total losses for that accident year are settled. When accident year losses paid through the end of the first year following the initial accident year are incorporated into updated actuarial estimates, the trends inherent in the settlement of claims emerge more clearly. Consequently, this is the point in time at which we tend to make our largest reestimates of losses for an accident year. After the second year, the losses that we pay for an accident year typically relate to claims that are more difficult to settle, such as those involving serious injuries or litigation. Private passenger auto insurance provides a good illustration of the uncertainty of future loss estimates: our typical annual percentage payout of reserves for an accident year is approximately 45% in the first year after the end of the accident year, 20% in the second year, 15% in the third year, 10% in the fourth year, and the remaining 10% thereafter.

Reserves for catastrophe losses Property-Liability claims and claims expense reserves also include reserves for catastrophe losses. Catastrophe losses are an inherent risk of the property-liability insurance industry that have contributed, and will continue to contribute, to potentially material year-to-year fluctuations in our results of operations and financial position. We define a "catastrophe" as an event that produces pre-tax losses before reinsurance in excess of \$1 million and involves multiple first party policyholders, or an event that produces a number of claims in excess of a preset, per-event threshold of average claims in a specific area, occurring within a certain amount of time following the event. Catastrophes are caused by various natural events including high winds, winter storms, tornadoes, hailstorms, wildfires, tropical storms, hurricanes, earthquakes and volcanoes. We are also exposed to man-made catastrophic events, such as certain types of terrorism or industrial accidents. The nature and level of catastrophes in any period cannot be predicted.

The estimation of claims and claims expense reserves for catastrophe losses also comprises estimates of losses from reported claims and IBNR, primarily for damage to property. In general, our estimates for catastrophe reserves are based on claim adjuster inspections and the application of historical loss development factors as described above. However, depending on the nature of the catastrophe, as noted above, the estimation process can be further complicated. For example, for hurricanes, complications could include the inability of insureds to promptly report losses, limitations placed on claims adjusting staff affecting their ability to inspect losses, determining whether losses are covered by our homeowners policy (generally for damage caused by wind or wind driven rain) or specifically excluded coverage caused by flood, estimating additional living expenses, and assessing the impact of demand surge, exposure to mold damage, and the effects of numerous other considerations, including the timing of a catastrophe in relation to other events, such as at or near the end of a financial reporting period, which can affect the availability of information needed to estimate reserves for that reporting period. In these situations, we may need to adapt our practices to accommodate these circumstances in order to determine a best estimate of our losses from a catastrophe. As an example, in 2005 to complete an estimate for certain areas affected by Hurricane Katrina and not yet inspected by our claims adjusting staff, or where we believed our historical loss development factors were not predictive, we relied on analysis of actual claim notices received compared to total PIF, as well as visual, governmental and third party information, including aerial photos, area observations, and data on wind speed and flood depth to the extent available.

Potential reserve estimate variability The aggregation of numerous micro-level estimates for each business segment, line of insurance, major components of losses (such as coverages and perils), and major states or groups of states for reported losses and IBNR forms the reserve liability recorded in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Position. Because of this detailed approach to developing our reserve estimates, there is not a single set of assumptions that determine our reserve estimates at the consolidated level. Given the numerous micro-level estimates for reported losses and IBNR, management does not believe the processes that we follow will produce a statistically credible or reliable actuarial reserve range that would be meaningful. Reserve estimates, by their very nature, are very complex to determine and subject to significant judgment, and do not represent an exact determination for each outstanding claim. Accordingly, as actual claims, and/or paid losses, and/or case reserve results emerge, our estimate of the ultimate cost to settle will be different than previously estimated.

To develop a statistical indication of potential reserve variability within reasonably likely possible outcomes, an actuarial technique (stochastic modeling) is applied to the countrywide consolidated data elements for paid losses and paid losses combined with case reserves separately for injury losses, auto physical damage losses, and homeowners losses excluding catastrophe losses. Based on the combined historical variability of the development factors calculated for these data elements, an estimate of the standard error or standard deviation around these reserve estimates is calculated within each accident year for the last twenty years for each type of loss. The variability of these reserve estimates within one standard deviation of the mean (a measure of frequency of dispersion often viewed to be an acceptable level of accuracy) is believed by management to represent a reasonable and statistically probable measure of potential variability. Based on our products and coverages, historical experience, the statistical credibility of our

#### **Table of Contents**

extensive data and stochastic modeling of actuarial chain ladder methodologies used to develop reserve estimates, we estimate that the potential variability of our Allstate Protection reserves, excluding reserves for catastrophe losses, within a reasonable probability of other possible outcomes, may be approximately plus or minus 4%, or plus or minus \$500 million in net income available to common shareholders. A lower level of variability exists for auto injury losses, which comprise approximately 80% of reserves, due to their relatively stable development patterns over a longer duration of time required to settle claims. Other types of losses, such as auto physical damage, homeowners losses and other personal lines losses, which comprise about 20% of reserves, tend to have greater variability but are settled in a much shorter period of time. Although this evaluation reflects most reasonably likely outcomes, it is possible the final outcome may fall below or above these amounts. Historical variability of reserve estimates is reported in the Property-Liability Claims and Claims Expense Reserves section of this document.

Reserves for Michigan and New Jersey unlimited personal injury protection Property-Liability claims and claims expense reserves include reserves for Michigan unlimited personal injury protection ("PIP") which is a mandatory coverage that provides unlimited personal injury protection to covered insureds involved in certain auto and motorcycle accidents. The administration of this program is through a private, non-profit association created by the state of Michigan, the Michigan Catastrophic Claim Association ("MCCA"). Due to increasing costs of providing healthcare related to serious injuries and advances in medical care extending the duration of treatment, the estimation process and assumptions for this reserve balance have been enhanced.

We were able to substantiate an increase in MCCA covered losses by reviewing MCCA actuarial reports, other MCCA members' reports and our PIP loss trends which have increased in severity. To address this exposure, we refined our estimation techniques in 2011 through 2013, including relying more on paid loss development methods and increasing our view of future claim development and longevity of claimants, as a result of conducting comprehensive claim file reviews to develop case reserve estimates of specific claims and other estimation refinements.

We provide similar PIP coverage in New Jersey for auto policies issued or renewed in New Jersey prior to 1991 that is administered by the New Jersey Unsatisfied Claim and Judgment Fund ("NJUCJF"). In 2013, we adopted similar actuarial estimating techniques as for the MCCA exposures to estimate loss reserves for unlimited PIP coverage for policies covered by the NJUCJF. The NJUCJF was merged into the New Jersey Property Liability Guaranty Association who collects the assessments.

Reserve estimates by their nature are very complex to determine and subject to significant judgments, and do not represent an exact determination for each outstanding claim. As actual claims, paid losses and/or case reserve results emerge, our estimate of the ultimate cost to settle may be different than previously estimated.

Adequacy of reserve estimates We believe our net claims and claims expense reserves are appropriately established based on available methodology, facts, technology, laws and regulations. We calculate and record a single best reserve estimate, in conformance with generally accepted actuarial standards, for each line of insurance, its components (coverages and perils) and state, for reported losses and for IBNR losses, and as a result we believe that no other estimate is better than our recorded amount. Due to the uncertainties involved, the ultimate cost of losses may vary materially from recorded amounts, which are based on our best estimates.

#### Discontinued Lines and Coverages reserve estimates

Characteristics of Discontinued Lines exposure Our exposure to asbestos, environmental and other discontinued lines claims arises principally from assumed reinsurance coverage written during the 1960s through the mid-1980s, including reinsurance on primary insurance written on large U.S. companies, and from direct excess insurance written from 1972 through 1985, including substantial excess general liability coverages on large U.S. companies. Additional exposure stems from direct primary commercial insurance written during the 1960s through the mid-1980s. Asbestos claims relate primarily to bodily injuries asserted by people who were exposed to asbestos or products containing asbestos. Environmental claims relate primarily to pollution and related clean-up costs. Other discontinued lines exposures primarily relate to general liability and product liability mass tort claims, such as those for medical devices and other products, workers' compensation claims and claims for various other coverage exposures other than asbestos and environmental.

In 1986, the general liability policy form used by us and others in the property-liability industry was amended to introduce an "absolute pollution exclusion," which excluded coverage for environmental damage claims, and to add an asbestos exclusion. Most general liability policies issued prior to 1987 contain annual aggregate limits for product liability coverage. General liability policies issued in 1987 and thereafter contain annual aggregate limits for product liability coverage and annual aggregate limits for all coverages. Our experience to date is that these policy form changes have limited the extent of our exposure to environmental and asbestos claim risks.

#### **Table of Contents**

Our exposure to liability for asbestos, environmental and other discontinued lines losses manifests differently depending on whether it arises from assumed reinsurance coverage, direct excess insurance or direct primary commercial insurance. The direct insurance coverage we provided that covered asbestos, environmental and other discontinued lines was substantially "excess" in nature.

Direct excess insurance and reinsurance involve coverage written by us for specific layers of protection above retentions and other insurance plans. The nature of excess coverage and reinsurance provided to other insurers limits our exposure to loss to specific layers of protection in excess of policyholder retention on primary insurance plans. Our exposure is further limited by the significant reinsurance that we had purchased on our direct excess business.

Our assumed reinsurance business involved writing generally small participations in other insurers' reinsurance programs. The reinsured losses in which we participate may be a proportion of all eligible losses or eligible losses in excess of defined retentions. The majority of our assumed reinsurance exposure, approximately 85%, is for excess of loss coverage, while the remaining 15% is for pro-rata coverage.

Our direct primary commercial insurance business did not include coverage to large asbestos manufacturers. This business comprises a cross section of policyholders engaged in many diverse business sectors located throughout the country.

How reserve estimates are established and updated We conduct an annual review in the third quarter to evaluate and establish asbestos, environmental and other discontinued lines reserves. Changes to reserves are recorded in the reporting period in which they are determined. Using established industry and actuarial best practices and assuming no change in the regulatory or economic environment, this detailed and comprehensive methodology determines asbestos reserves based on assessments of the characteristics of exposure (i.e. claim activity, potential liability, jurisdiction, products versus non-products exposure) presented by individual policyholders, and determines environmental reserves based on assessments of the characteristics of exposure (i.e. environmental damages, respective shares of liability of potentially responsible parties, appropriateness and cost of remediation) to pollution and related clean-up costs. The number and cost of these claims is affected by intense advertising by trial lawyers seeking asbestos plaintiffs, and entities with asbestos exposure seeking bankruptcy protection as a result of asbestos liabilities, initially causing a delay in the reporting of claims, often followed by an acceleration and an increase in claims and claims expenses as settlements occur.

After evaluating our insureds' probable liabilities for asbestos and/or environmental claims, we evaluate our insureds' coverage programs for such claims. We consider our insureds' total available insurance coverage, including the coverage we issued. We also consider relevant judicial interpretations of policy language and applicable coverage defenses or determinations, if any.

Evaluation of both the insureds' estimated liabilities and our exposure to the insureds depends heavily on an analysis of the relevant legal issues and litigation environment. This analysis is conducted by our specialized claims adjusting staff and legal counsel. Based on these evaluations, case reserves are established by claims adjusting staff and actuarial analysis is employed to develop an IBNR reserve, which includes estimated potential reserve development and claims that have occurred but have not been reported. As of December 31, 2013 and 2012, IBNR was 55.4% and 57.8%, respectively, of combined net asbestos and environmental reserves.

For both asbestos and environmental reserves, we also evaluate our historical direct net loss and expense paid and incurred experience to assess any emerging trends, fluctuations or characteristics suggested by the aggregate paid and incurred activity.

Other Discontinued Lines and Coverages The following table shows reserves for other discontinued lines which provide for remaining loss and loss expense liabilities related to business no longer written by us, other than asbestos and environmental, as of December 31.

| (\$ in millions)         | 20 | 013 | 2012      | 2011      |
|--------------------------|----|-----|-----------|-----------|
| Other mass torts         | \$ | 183 | \$<br>166 | \$<br>169 |
| Workers' compensation    |    | 105 | 112       | 117       |
| Commercial and other     |    | 133 | 140       | 158       |
|                          |    |     |           |           |
| Other discontinued lines | \$ | 421 | \$<br>418 | \$<br>444 |

Other mass torts describes direct excess and reinsurance general liability coverage provided for cumulative injury losses other than asbestos and environmental. Workers' compensation and commercial and other include run-off from discontinued direct primary, direct excess and

reinsurance commercial insurance operations of various coverage

#### Table of Contents

exposures other than asbestos and environmental. Reserves are based on considerations similar to those described above, as they relate to the characteristics of specific individual coverage exposures.

Potential reserve estimate variability Establishing Discontinued Lines and Coverages net loss reserves for asbestos, environmental and other discontinued lines claims is subject to uncertainties that are much greater than those presented by other types of claims. Among the complications are lack of historical data, long reporting delays, uncertainty as to the number and identity of insureds with potential exposure and unresolved legal issues regarding policy coverage; unresolved legal issues regarding the determination, availability and timing of exhaustion of policy limits; plaintiffs' evolving and expanding theories of liability; availability and collectability of recoveries from reinsurance; retrospectively determined premiums and other contractual agreements; estimates of the extent and timing of any contractual liability; the impact of bankruptcy protection sought by various asbestos producers and other asbestos defendants; and other uncertainties. There are also complex legal issues concerning the interpretation of various insurance policy provisions and whether those losses are covered, or were ever intended to be covered, and could be recoverable through retrospectively determined premium, reinsurance or other contractual agreements. Courts have reached different and sometimes inconsistent conclusions as to when losses are deemed to have occurred and which policies provide coverage; what types of losses are covered; whether there is an insurer obligation to defend; how policy limits are determined; how policy exclusions and conditions are applied and interpreted; and whether clean-up costs represent insured property damage. Our reserves for asbestos and environmental exposures could be affected by tort reform, class action litigation, and other potential legislation and judicial decisions. Environmental exposures could also be affected by a change in the existing federal Superfund law and similar state statutes. There can be no assurance that any reform legislation will be enacted or that any such legislation will provide for a fair, effective and cost-efficient system for settlement of asbestos or environmental claims. We believe these issues are not likely to be resolved in the near future, and the ultimate costs may vary materially from the amounts currently recorded resulting in material changes in loss reserves. Historical variability of reserve estimates is demonstrated in the Property-Liability Claims and Claims Expense Reserves section of this document.

Adequacy of reserve estimates Management believes its net loss reserves for environmental, asbestos and other discontinued lines exposures are appropriately established based on available facts, technology, laws, regulations, and assessments of other pertinent factors and characteristics of exposure (i.e. claim activity, potential liability, jurisdiction, products versus non-products exposure) presented by individual policyholders, assuming no change in the legal, legislative or economic environment. Due to the uncertainties and factors described above, management believes it is not practicable to develop a meaningful range for any such additional net loss reserves that may be required.

Further discussion of reserve estimates For further discussion of these estimates and quantification of the impact of reserve estimates, reserve reestimates and assumptions, see Notes 9 and 15 to the consolidated financial statements and the Property-Liability Claims and Claims Expense Reserves section of this document.

**Reserve for life-contingent contract benefits estimation** Due to the long term nature of traditional life insurance, life-contingent immediate annuities and voluntary accident and health insurance products, benefits are payable over many years; accordingly, the reserves are calculated as the present value of future expected benefits to be paid, reduced by the present value of future expected net premiums. Long-term actuarial assumptions of future investment yields, mortality, morbidity, policy terminations and expenses are used when establishing the reserve for life-contingent contract benefits payable under these insurance policies. These assumptions, which for traditional life insurance are applied using the net level premium method, include provisions for adverse deviation and generally vary by characteristics such as type of coverage, year of issue and policy duration. Future investment yield assumptions are determined based upon prevailing investment yields as well as estimated reinvestment yields. Mortality, morbidity and policy termination assumptions are based on our experience and industry experience. Expense assumptions include the estimated effects of inflation and expenses to be incurred beyond the premium-paying period. These assumptions are established at the time the policy is issued, are consistent with assumptions for determining DAC amortization for these policies, and are generally not changed during the policy coverage period. However, if actual experience emerges in a manner that is significantly adverse relative to the original assumptions, adjustments to DAC or reserves may be required resulting in a charge to earnings which could have a material effect on our operating results and financial condition. We periodically review the adequacy of reserves and recoverability of DAC for these policies on an aggregate basis using actual experience. In the event actual experience is significantly adverse compared to the original assumptions and a premium deficiency is determined to exist, any remaining unamortized DAC balance must be expensed to the extent not recoverable and the establishment of a premium deficiency reserve may be required. In 2013, 2012 and 2011, our reviews concluded that no premium deficiency adjustments were necessary, primarily due to projected profit from traditional life insurance more than offsetting the projected losses in immediate annuities with life contingencies. We will continue to monitor the experience of our traditional life insurance and immediate annuities. We

#### **Table of Contents**

anticipate that mortality, investment and reinvestment yields, and policy terminations are the factors that would be most likely to require premium deficiency adjustments to these reserves or related DAC.

For further detail on the reserve for life-contingent contract benefits, see Note 10 of the consolidated financial statements.

#### PROPERTY-LIABILITY 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

Property-Liability net income available to common shareholders was \$2.75 billion in 2013 compared to \$1.97 billion in 2012.

Property-Liability premiums written totaled \$28.16 billion in 2013, an increase of 4.2% from \$27.03 billion in 2012.

The Property-Liability loss ratio was 64.9 in 2013 compared to 69.1 in 2012.

Catastrophe losses were \$1.25 billion in 2013 compared to \$2.35 billion in 2012.

Property-Liability prior year reserve reestimates totaled \$121 million favorable in 2013 compared to \$665 million favorable in 2012.

Property-Liability underwriting income was \$2.22 billion in 2013 compared to \$1.20 billion in 2012. Underwriting income, a measure not based on GAAP, is defined below.

Property-Liability investments were \$39.64 billion as of December 31, 2013, an increase of 3.7% from \$38.22 billion as of December 31, 2012. Net investment income was \$1.38 billion in 2013, an increase of 3.7% from \$1.33 billion in 2012.

Net realized capital gains were \$519 million in 2013 compared to \$335 million in 2012.

#### PROPERTY-LIABILITY OPERATIONS

Overview Our Property-Liability operations consist of two reporting segments: Allstate Protection and Discontinued Lines and Coverages. Allstate Protection comprises three brands where we accept underwriting risk: Allstate, Encompass and Esurance. Allstate Protection is principally engaged in the sale of personal property and casualty insurance, primarily private passenger auto and homeowners insurance, to individuals in the United States and Canada. Discontinued Lines and Coverages includes results from insurance coverage that we no longer write and results for certain commercial and other businesses in run-off. These segments are consistent with the groupings of financial information that management uses to evaluate performance and to determine the allocation of resources.

Underwriting income, a measure that is not based on GAAP and is reconciled to net income available to common shareholders below, is calculated as premiums earned, less claims and claims expense ("losses"), amortization of DAC, operating costs and expenses and restructuring and related charges, as determined using GAAP. We use this measure in our evaluation of results of operations to analyze the profitability of the Property-Liability insurance operations separately from investment results. It is also an integral component of incentive compensation. It is useful for investors to evaluate the components of income separately and in the aggregate when reviewing performance. Net income available to common shareholders is the GAAP measure most directly comparable to underwriting income. Underwriting income should not be considered as a substitute for net income available to common shareholders and does not reflect the overall profitability of the business.

The table below includes GAAP operating ratios we use to measure our profitability. We believe that they enhance an investor's understanding of our profitability. They are calculated as follows:

Claims and claims expense ("loss") ratio the ratio of claims and claims expense to premiums earned. Loss ratios include the impact of catastrophe losses.

Expense ratio the ratio of amortization of DAC, operating costs and expenses, and restructuring and related charges to premiums earned.

Combined ratio the ratio of claims and claims expense, amortization of DAC, operating costs and expenses, and restructuring and related charges to premiums earned. The combined ratio is the sum of the loss ratio and the expense ratio. The difference between 100% and the combined ratio represents underwriting income as a percentage of premiums earned, or underwriting margin.

We have also calculated the following impacts of specific items on the GAAP operating ratios because of the volatility of these items between fiscal periods.

Effect of catastrophe losses on combined ratio the percentage of catastrophe losses included in claims and claims expense to premiums earned. This ratio includes prior year reserve reestimates of catastrophe losses.

Effect of prior year reserve reestimates on combined ratio the percentage of prior year reserve reestimates included in claims and claims expense to premiums earned. This ratio includes prior year reserve reestimates of catastrophe losses.

### Table of Contents

Effect of business combination expenses and the amortization of purchased intangible assets on combined and expense ratio the percentage of business combination expenses and the amortization of purchased intangible assets to premiums earned.

Effect of restructuring and related charges on combined ratio the percentage of restructuring and related charges to premiums earned.

Effect of Discontinued Lines and Coverages on combined ratio the ratio of claims and claims expense and operating costs and expenses in the Discontinued Lines and Coverages segment to Property-Liability premiums earned. The sum of the effect of Discontinued Lines and Coverages on the combined ratio and the Allstate Protection combined ratio is equal to the Property-Liability combined ratio.

Summarized financial data, a reconciliation of underwriting income to net income available to common shareholders, and GAAP operating ratios for our Property-Liability operations are presented in the following table.

| (\$ in millions, except ratios) Premiums written  | \$<br><b>2013</b> 28,164               | \$<br><b>2012</b> 27,027               | \$<br><b>2011</b> 25,980               |
|---|--|--|--|
|   |  |  |  |
| Revenues Premiums earned Net investment income Realized capital gains and losses  | \$<br>27,618<br>1,375<br>519           | \$<br>26,737<br>1,326<br>335           | \$<br>25,942<br>1,201<br>85            |
| Total revenues  | 29,512                                 | 28,398                                 | 27,228                                 |
| Costs and expenses Claims and claims expense Amortization of DAC Operating costs and expenses Restructuring and related charges | (17,911)<br>(3,674)<br>(3,752)<br>(63) | (18,484)<br>(3,483)<br>(3,536)<br>(34) | (20,161)<br>(3,477)<br>(3,143)<br>(43) |
| Total costs and expenses  | (25,400)                               | (25,537)                               | (26,824)                               |
| Loss on disposition of operations<br>Income tax expense   | (1)<br>(1,357)                         | (893)                                  | (1)                                    |
| Net income available to common shareholders   | \$<br>2,754                            | \$<br>1,968                            | \$<br>403                              |
|   |  |  |  |
| Underwriting income (loss) Net investment income Income tax (expense) benefit on operations                                     | \$<br>2,218<br>1,375<br>(1,177)        | \$<br>1,200<br>1,326<br>(779)          | \$<br>(882)<br>1,201<br>30             |
| Realized capital gains and losses, after-tax<br>Loss on disposition of operations, after-tax                                    | 339 (1)                                | 221                                    | 54                                     |
| Net income available to common shareholders   | \$<br>2,754                            | \$<br>1,968                            | \$<br>403                              |

| Catastrophe losses (1)  | \$<br>1,251  | \$<br>2,345  | \$<br>3,815  |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|   |              |              |              |
| GAAP operating ratios Claims and claims expense ratio Expense ratio   | 64.9<br>27.1 | 69.1<br>26.4 | 77.7<br>25.7 |
| Combined ratio  | 92.0         | 95.5         | 103.4        |
|   |              |              |              |
| Effect of catastrophe losses on combined ratio (1)  | 4.5          | 8.8          | 14.7         |
|   |              |              |              |
| Effect of prior year reserve reestimates on combined ratio (1)  | (0.4)        | (2.5)        | (1.3)        |
|   |              |              |              |
| Effect of business combination expenses and the amortization of purchased intangible assets on combined ratio | 0.3          | 0.5          | 0.2          |
|   |              |              |              |
| Effect of restructuring and related charges on combined ratio   | 0.2          | 0.1          | 0.2          |
|   |              |              |              |
| Effect of Discontinued Lines and Coverages on combined ratio  | 0.5          | 0.2          | 0.1          |

<sup>(1)</sup>Prior year reserve reestimates included in catastrophe losses totaled \$88 million favorable in 2013, \$410 million favorable in 2012 and \$130 million favorable in 2011.

#### **Table of Contents**

#### ALLSTATE PROTECTION SEGMENT

**Overview and strategy** The Allstate Protection segment primarily sells private passenger auto and homeowners insurance to individuals through Allstate exclusive agencies supported by contact centers and the internet under the Allstate brand. We sell auto and homeowners insurance through independent agencies under both the Allstate brand and the Encompass brand. We also sell auto insurance direct to consumers online, through contact centers and through select agents, including Answer Financial, under the Esurance brand.

Our strategy is to position our products and distribution systems to meet the changing needs of the customer in managing the risks they face. This includes customers who want advice and assistance and those who are self-directed. In addition, there are customers who are brand-neutral. Our strategy is to serve all four of these consumer segments with unique products and in unique and innovative ways while leveraging our claims, pricing and operational capabilities. When we do not offer a product our customers need, we may make available non-proprietary products that meet their needs.

Allstate is executing a multi-year effort to focus on the customer experience. We utilize specific customer value propositions for each brand to improve our competitive position and performance. Over time, delivering on these customer value propositions may include investments in resources and require significant changes to our products, capabilities and processes.

Our strategy for the Allstate brand focuses on customers who prefer local personal advice and service and are brand-sensitive. Our customer-focused strategy for the Allstate brand aligns targeted marketing, product innovation, distribution effectiveness, and pricing toward acquiring and retaining an increased share of our target customers, which generally refers to consumers who want to purchase multiple products from one insurance provider including auto, homeowners and financial products, who have better retention and potentially present more favorable prospects for profitability over the course of their relationships with us.

The Allstate brand utilizes marketing delivered to target customers to promote our strategic priorities, with messaging that continues to communicate ease of doing business with Allstate and Allstate agencies, good value, as well as the importance of having proper coverage by highlighting our comprehensive product and coverage options.

The Allstate brand differentiates itself from competitors by offering a comprehensive range of innovative product options and features through a network of agencies that provide local advice and service. Product features include Allstate Your Choice Auto® with options such as accident forgiveness, safe driving deductible rewards and a safe driving bonus, and Allstate House and Home® that provides options of coverage for roof damage including graduated coverage and pricing based on roof type and age. In addition, we offer a Claim Satisfaction Guaranteesm that promises a return of premium to Allstate brand auto insurance customers dissatisfied with their claims experience. Our Drivewise® program enables participating customers to be eligible for discounts and bonuses based on driving performance and is currently available in 30 states. We will continue to focus on developing and introducing products and services that benefit today's consumers and further differentiate Allstate and enhance the customer experience. We will deepen customer relationships through value-added customer interactions and expanding our presence in households with multiple products by providing financial protection for customer needs. In certain areas with higher risk of catastrophes, we offer a homeowners product from North Light Specialty Insurance Company ("North Light"), our excess and surplus lines carrier. When an Allstate product is not available, we may make available non-proprietary products for customers through brokering arrangements. For example, in hurricane exposed areas, Allstate agencies sell non-proprietary property insurance products to customers who prefer to use a single agent for all their insurance needs.

We are undergoing a focused effort to enhance our capabilities by implementing uniform processes and standards to elevate the level and consistency of our customer experience. We continue to enhance technology to improve customer service, facilitate the introduction of new products and services and reduce infrastructure costs related to supporting agencies and handling claims. These actions and others are designed to optimize the effectiveness of our distribution and service channels by increasing the productivity of the Allstate brand's exclusive agencies. Beginning February 2013, Allstate brand customers are immediately assigned an Allstate agency relationship at the time of purchase. The majority of Allstate brand customers who purchased their policies directly through contact centers and the internet prior to February 2013 were assigned an Allstate exclusive agency relationship in the second quarter of 2013.

Other personal lines sold under the Allstate brand include renter, condominium, landlord, boat, umbrella and manufactured home insurance policies. Commercial lines include commercial products for small business owners. Other business lines include Allstate Roadside Services that provides roadside assistance products, Allstate Dealer

#### **Table of Contents**

Services that provides service contracts and other products sold in conjunction with auto lending and vehicle sales transactions, and Ivantage insurance agency.

Our strategy for the Encompass brand centers around a highly differentiated offering which simplifies the insurance experience by packaging a product with broader coverage and higher limits into a single annual household ("Package") policy with one premium, one bill, one policy deductible and one renewal date. It appeals to consumers with broad personal lines coverage needs who prefer an independent agent. As part of its Package policy strategy, Encompass is focused on engaging independent agencies through superior claims service, ease of doing business initiatives, product innovation, greater compensation alignment, and by de-emphasizing mono-line auto and homeowners products.

Our strategy for the Esurance brand focuses on self-directed and web-savvy consumers. To best serve these customers, Esurance develops its technology, website and mobile capabilities to continuously improve its hassle-free purchase and claims experience and offer innovative product options and features. Esurance's DriveSense<sup>TM</sup> program enables participating customers to be eligible for discounts based on driving performance as measured by a device installed temporarily in the vehicle. Esurance's DriveSafe<sup>TM</sup> program is designed to help parents coach teens on safe driving by providing customizable driving statistics and the ability to limit cell phone use while the car is in motion, all controlled by a device installed in the vehicle. Esurance continues to develop additional products to complement its auto line of business and provide a more comprehensive solution to its customers. Esurance expanded its renter product from 5 to 16 states, expanded auto from 35 to 41 states, introduced its motorcycle product in 6 states and introduced its homeowners product in 3 states during 2013. Esurance continues to focus on increasing its preferred driver mix, while raising advertising investment and marketing effectiveness to support growth.

Answer Financial, an independent personal lines insurance agency, serves self-directed, brand-neutral consumers who want a choice between insurance carriers and offers comparison quotes for auto and homeowners insurance from approximately 25 insurance companies through its website and over the phone. It receives fee income for this service.

Our pricing and underwriting strategies and decisions for all of our brands are primarily designed to achieve appropriate returns along with enhancing our competitive position. Our sophisticated pricing uses a number of risk evaluation factors including insurance scoring, to the extent permissible by applicable law, based on information that is obtained from credit reports, and other factors. A pricing strategy involves marketplace pricing and underwriting decisions that are based on these risk evaluation models and an evaluation of competitors. Our sophisticated pricing methodology allows us to attract and retain multiple risk segments. A combination of underwriting information, pricing and discounts are used to achieve a more competitive position.

We continue to manage our property catastrophe exposure with the goal of providing shareholders an acceptable return on the risks assumed in our property business and to reduce the variability of our earnings. Our property business includes personal homeowners, commercial property and other property insurance lines. As of December 31, 2013, we have less than a 1% likelihood of exceeding average annual aggregate catastrophe losses by \$2 billion, net of reinsurance, from hurricanes and earthquakes, based on modeled assumptions and applications currently available. The use of different assumptions and updates to industry models, and updates to our risk transfer program, could materially change the projected loss. Our growth strategies include areas previously restricted where we believe we can earn an appropriate return for the risk and as a result our exposure may increase, but remain lower than \$2 billion as noted above. In addition, we have exposure to severe weather events which impact catastrophe losses.

Property catastrophe exposure management includes purchasing reinsurance to provide coverage for known exposure to hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, fires following earthquakes and other catastrophes. We are also working for changes in the regulatory environment, including recognizing the need for better catastrophe preparedness, improving appropriate risk-based pricing and promoting the creation of government sponsored, privately funded solutions for mega-catastrophes that will make insurance more available and affordable.

Pricing of property products is typically intended to establish returns that we deem acceptable over a long-term period. Losses, including losses from catastrophic events and weather-related losses (such as wind, hail, lightning and freeze losses not meeting our criteria to be declared a catastrophe), are accrued on an occurrence basis within the policy period. Therefore, in any reporting period, loss experience from catastrophic events and weather-related losses may contribute to negative or positive underwriting performance relative to the expectations we incorporated into the products' pricing. We pursue rate increases where indicated, taking into consideration potential customer disruption, the impact on our ability to market our auto lines, regulatory limitations, our competitive position and profitability, using a methodology that appropriately addresses the changing costs of losses from catastrophes such as severe weather and the net cost of reinsurance.

### Table of Contents

### Allstate Protection outlook

Allstate Protection will continue to focus on its strategy of offering differentiated products and services to our customers while maintaining pricing discipline.

We expect that volatility in the level of catastrophes we experience will contribute to variation in our underwriting results; however, this volatility will be mitigated due to our catastrophe management actions, including the purchase of reinsurance.

We will continue to improve the efficiencies of our operations and cost structure.

We will invest in building long-term growth platforms.

**Premiums written** is the amount of premiums charged for policies issued during a fiscal period. Premiums are considered earned and are included in the financial results on a pro-rata basis over the policy period. The portion of premiums written applicable to the unexpired terms of the policies is recorded as unearned premiums on our Consolidated Statements of Financial Position.

The following table shows the unearned premium balance as of December 31 and the timeframe in which we expect to recognize these premiums as earned.

| (\$ in millions)                      | % earned after |              |                 |               |                |                  |  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|--|
|                                       | 2013           | 2012         | Three<br>months | Six<br>months | Nine<br>months | Twelve<br>months |  |
| Allstate brand:                       | -010           |              |                 |               |                |                  |  |
| Auto                                  | \$<br>4,533    | \$<br>4,388  | 70.9%           | 96.3%         | 99.1%          | 100.0%           |  |
| Homeowners                            | 3,496          | 3,396        | 43.4%           | 75.5%         | 94.2%          | 100.0%           |  |
| Other personal lines (1)              | 819            | 808          | 43.5%           | 75.5%         | 94.1%          | 100.0%           |  |
| Commercial lines                      | 236            | 226          | 43.7%           | 75.0%         | 93.9%          | 100.0%           |  |
| Other business lines (2)              | 468            | 336          | 21.7%           | 36.5%         | 48.5%          | 57.9%            |  |
| Total Allstate brand                  | 9,552          | 9,154        | 55.5%           | 83.6%         | 94.3%          | 97.9%            |  |
| Encompass brand:                      |                |              |                 |               |                |                  |  |
| Auto                                  | 335            | 321          | 43.5%           | 75.3%         | 94.0%          | 100.0%           |  |
| Homeowners                            | 253            | 222          | 43.4%           | 75.4%         | 94.1%          | 100.0%           |  |
| Other personal lines                  | 54             | 50           | 43.8%           | 75.6%         | 94.1%          | 100.0%           |  |
| <b>Total Encompass brand</b>          | 642            | 593          | 43.4%           | 75.3%         | 94.1%          | 100.0%           |  |
| Esurance brand:                       |                |              |                 |               |                |                  |  |
| Auto                                  | 328            | 265          | 73.8%           | 98.6%         | 99.7%          | 100.0%           |  |
| Other personal lines                  | 1              |              | 43.5%           | 75.5%         | 94.2%          | 100.0%           |  |
| Total Esurance brand                  | 329            | 265          | 73.7%           | 98.5%         | 99.6%          | 100.0%           |  |
| Allstate Protection unearned premiums | \$<br>10,523   | \$<br>10,012 | 54.8%           | 83.0%         | 94.3%          | 98.1%            |  |

- (1) Other personal lines include renter, condominium, landlord and other personal lines.
- Other business lines include Allstate Roadside Services, Allstate Dealer Services and other business lines.

49

# Table of Contents

A reconciliation of premiums written to premiums earned is shown in the following table.

| (\$ in millions)  | 2013                  | 2012                  | 2011 |                       |  |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|--|
| Premiums written: Allstate Protection Discontinued Lines and Coverages        | \$<br>28,164          | \$<br>27,026<br>1     | \$   | 25,981<br>(1)         |  |
| Property-Liability premiums written<br>Increase in unearned premiums<br>Other | 28,164<br>(572)<br>26 | 27,027<br>(322)<br>32 |      | 25,980<br>(33)<br>(5) |  |
| Property-Liability premiums earned  | \$<br>27,618          | \$<br>26,737          | \$   | 25,942                |  |
| Premiums earned: Allstate Protection Discontinued Lines and Coverages         | \$<br>27,618          | \$<br>26,737          | \$   | 25,942                |  |
| Property-Liability  | \$<br>27,618          | \$<br>26,737          | \$   | 25,942                |  |

Premiums written by brand are shown in the following table.

| (\$ in<br>millions)                      | All      | lstate bra | nd       | Enco    | mpass b | rand    | Esurance brand Al |         |       |          | state Protection |          |  |
|--|----------|------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------|---------|-------|----------|------------------|----------|--|
|  | 2013     | 2012       | 2011     | 2013    | 2012    | 2011    | 2013              |         |       | 2013     | 2012             | 2011     |  |
| Auto                                     | \$16,752 | \$16,398   | \$16,478 | \$ 641  | \$ 618  | \$ 605  |                   |         | ,     | ,        | \$18,040         |          |  |
| Homeowners                               | 6,289    | 6,060      | 5,893    | 461     | 398     | 362     |                   |         |       | 6,750    | 6,458            | 6,255    |  |
| Other                                    |          |            |          |         |         |         |                   |         |       |          |                  |          |  |
| personal lines                           | 1,539    | 1,515      | 1,484    | 104     | 97      | 90      | 2                 |         |       | 1,645    | 1,612            | 1,574    |  |
| Subtotal<br>Personal lines<br>Commercial | 24,580   | 23,973     | 23,855   | 1,206   | 1,113   | 1,057   | 1,310             | 1,024   | 181   | 27,096   | 26,110           | 25,093   |  |
| lines                                    | 466      | 454        | 472      |         |         |         |                   |         |       | 466      | 454              | 472      |  |
| Other                                    |          |            |          |         |         |         |                   |         |       |          |                  |          |  |
| business lines                           | 602      | 462        | 416      |         |         |         |                   |         |       | 602      | 462              | 416      |  |
| Total                                    | \$25,648 | \$24,889   | \$24,743 | \$1,206 | \$1,113 | \$1,057 | \$1,310           | \$1,024 | \$181 | \$28,164 | \$27,026         | \$25,981 |  |

78

(1) Represents period from October 7, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

Premiums earned by brand are shown in the following table.

| (\$ in millions) | All      | state bra | nd       | Enco    | Encompass brand |         |         | nce b | rand  | <b>Allstate Protection</b> |          |          |  |
|------------------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|-----------------|---------|---------|-------|-------|----------------------------|----------|----------|--|
|                  | 2013     | 2012      | 2011     | 2013    | 2012            | 2011    | 2013    | 2012  | 2011  | 2013                       | 2012     | 2011     |  |
| Auto             | \$16,578 | \$16,352  | \$16,476 | \$ 626  | \$ 609          | \$ 622  | \$1,245 | \$967 | \$201 | \$18,449                   | \$17,928 | \$17,299 |  |
| Homeowners       | 6,183    | 5,980     | 5,835    | 430     | 379             | 365     |         |       |       | 6,613                      | 6,359    | 6,200    |  |
| Other            |          |           |          |         |                 |         |         |       |       |                            |          |          |  |
| personal lines   | 1,527    | 1,501     | 1,475    | 100     | 93              | 91      | 2       |       |       | 1,629                      | 1,594    | 1,566    |  |
|                  |          |           |          |         |                 |         |         |       |       |                            |          |          |  |
| Subtotal         |          |           |          |         |                 |         |         |       |       |                            |          |          |  |
| Personal lines   | 24,288   | 23,833    | 23,786   | 1,156   | 1,081           | 1,078   | 1,247   | 967   | 201   | 26,691                     | 25,881   | 25.065   |  |
| Commercial       | 21,200   | 20,000    | 25,700   | 1,150   | 1,001           | 1,070   | 1,2 . , | 701   | 201   | 20,071                     | 25,001   | 20,000   |  |
| lines            | 456      | 462       | 495      |         |                 |         |         |       |       | 456                        | 462      | 495      |  |
| Other            | 150      | .02       | 1,75     |         |                 |         |         |       |       | 150                        | .02      | 1,7,0    |  |
| business lines   | 471      | 394       | 382      |         |                 |         |         |       |       | 471                        | 394      | 382      |  |
|                  | .,1      | 57.       | 302      |         |                 |         |         |       |       | .,1                        | 571      | 302      |  |
|                  |          |           |          |         |                 |         |         |       |       |                            |          |          |  |
| Total            | \$25,215 | \$24,689  | \$24,663 | \$1,156 | \$1,081         | \$1,078 | \$1,247 | \$967 | \$201 | \$27,618                   | \$26,737 | \$25,942 |  |

Premium measures and statistics that are used to analyze the business are calculated and described below.

PIF: Policy counts are based on items rather than customers. A multi-car customer would generate multiple item (policy) counts, even if all cars were insured under one policy.

Average premium-gross written ("average premium"): Gross premiums written divided by issued item count. Gross premiums written include the impacts from discounts, surcharges and ceded reinsurance premiums and exclude the impacts from mid-term premium adjustments and premium refund accruals. Average premiums represent the appropriate policy term for each line. Allstate and Esurance brands are 6 months for auto and 12 months for homeowners. Encompass brand is 12 months for auto and homeowners.

Renewal ratio: Renewal policies issued during the period, based on contract effective dates, divided by the total policies issued 6 months prior for auto (12 months prior for Encompass brand) or 12 months prior for homeowners.

New issued applications: Item counts of automobiles or homeowners insurance applications for insurance policies that were issued during the period, regardless of whether the customer was previously insured by another Allstate Protection brand. Does not include automobiles that are added by existing customers.

#### **Table of Contents**

Auto premiums written totaled \$18.70 billion in 2013, a 3.7% increase from \$18.04 billion in 2012, following a 4.5% increase in 2012 from \$17.26 billion in 2011.

|                                       | Allstate brand |    |        |    |        | <b>Encompass brand</b> |      |    |      |    |      | Esurance brand |       |    |       |      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----|--------|----|--------|------------------------|------|----|------|----|------|----------------|-------|----|-------|------|
|                                       | 2013           |    | 2012   |    | 2011   | 2                      | 2013 | 2  | 2012 | 2  | 011  | 2              | 2013  | 2  | 2012  | 2011 |
| PIF (thousands)                       | 19,362         |    | 19,084 |    | 19,328 |                        | 774  |    | 731  |    | 695  |                | 1,286 |    | 1,029 | 786  |
| Average premium (1)                   | \$<br>468      | \$ | 458    | \$ | 452    | \$                     | 880  | \$ | 890  | \$ | 914  | \$             | 485   | \$ | 493   | N/A  |
| Renewal ratio (%)                     | 88.6           |    | 87.9   |    | 87.9   |                        | 78.7 |    | 75.8 |    | 69.5 |                | 80.7  |    | 80.5  | 78.5 |
| Approved rate changes (2):            |                |    |        |    |        |                        |      |    |      |    |      |                |       |    |       |      |
| # of states                           | 39             |    | 42     |    | 35     |                        | 29   |    | 31   |    | 19   |                | 31    |    | 29    | N/A  |
| Countrywide (%) (3)<br>State specific | 1.9            |    | 3.0    |    | 4.7    |                        | 5.9  |    | 4.1  |    | 3.5  |                | 4.8   |    | 4.4   | N/A  |
| $(\%)^{(4)(5)}$                       | 3.2            |    | 5.0    |    | 8.3 (6 | )                      | 7.0  |    | 5.2  |    | 6.1  |                | 6.5   |    | 5.6   | N/A  |

- (1) Policy term is six months for Allstate and Esurance brands and twelve months for Encompass brand.
- Rate changes that are indicated based on loss trend analysis to achieve a targeted return will continue to be pursued. Rate changes do not include rating plan enhancements, including the introduction of discounts and surcharges that result in no change in the overall rate level in the state. These rate changes do not reflect initial rates filed for insurance subsidiaries initially writing business in a state. Rate changes for Allstate brand exclude Canada and specialty auto.
- (3) Represents the impact in the states where rate changes were approved during the period as a percentage of total countrywide prior year-end premiums written.
- (4) Represents the impact in the states where rate changes were approved during the period as a percentage of its respective total prior year-end premiums written in those states.
- Based on historical premiums written in those states, rate changes approved for auto totaled \$379 million, \$539 million and \$780 million in 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively.
- (6)
  2011 includes the impact of Florida rate increases averaging 18.6% and New York rate increases averaging 11.2% taken across multiple companies.

#### N/A reflects not available.

Allstate brand auto premiums written totaled \$16.75 billion in 2013, a 2.2% increase from \$16.40 billion in 2012. Factors impacting premiums written were the following:

- 1.5% increase in PIF as of December 31, 2013 compared to December 31, 2012.
- 12.5% increase in new issued applications to 2,749 thousand in 2013 from 2,443 thousand in 2012.
- 2.2% increase in average premium in 2013 compared to 2012.
- 0.7 point increase in the renewal ratio in 2013 compared to 2012.

In 2013, the Ontario government gave the Financial Services Commission of Ontario the authority to implement an average reduction of premium rates by 15%. Regulator approval of the rate filings remains pending and is not expected to be finalized until early 2014. The rate

reductions are expected to be effective for new business in the second half of 2014 and renewal contracts in late 2014. They are estimated to reduce premiums written by approximately \$45 million and premiums earned by approximately \$15 million in 2014.

Allstate brand auto premiums written totaled \$16.40 billion in 2012, a 0.5% decrease from \$16.48 billion in 2011. Factors impacting premiums written were the following:

1.3% decrease in PIF as of December 31, 2012 compared to December 31, 2011 due to fewer new issued applications and fewer policies available to renew.

3.6% decrease in new issued applications to 2,443 thousand in 2012 from 2,534 thousand in 2011.

1.3% increase in average premium in 2012 compared to 2011.

the renewal ratio in 2012 was comparable to 2011.

Encompass brand auto premiums written totaled \$641 million in 2013, a 3.7% increase from \$618 million in 2012. The increase was primarily due to a 5.9% increase in PIF as of December 31, 2013 compared to December 31, 2012 and actions taken to enhance the Package policy. New issued applications increased 9.2% to 155 thousand in 2013 from 142 thousand in 2012. The renewal ratio increased 2.9 points in 2013 compared to 2012. Encompass discontinued writing new auto business in Florida in September 2012 and non-renewals began in February 2013.

Encompass brand auto premiums written totaled \$618 million in 2012, a 2.1% increase from \$605 million in 2011. The increase was primarily due to a 5.2% increase in PIF as of December 31, 2012 compared to December 31, 2011 and actions taken to enhance the Package policy. New issued applications increased 25.7% to 142 thousand in 2012 from 113 thousand in 2011 primarily due to increases in efforts to improve agency engagement. The renewal ratio increased 6.3 points in 2012 compared to 2011 driven primarily by retaining more Package business as a result of our household-focused strategy.

### Table of Contents

Esurance brand auto premiums written totaled \$1.31 billion in 2013, a 27.7% increase from \$1.02 billion in 2012. The increase was primarily due to a 25.0% increase in PIF as of December 31, 2013 compared to December 31, 2012. New issued applications increased 23.5% to 747 thousand in 2013 from 605 thousand in 2012. Growth in new issued applications was driven by increased advertising, which resulted in an increase in quotes. Our conversion rate was comparable to the prior year. The renewal ratio increased 0.2 points in 2013 compared to 2012.

Esurance brand auto premiums written totaled \$1.02 billion in 2012. Esurance brand auto premiums written totaled \$181 million in 2011 for the period from the October 7, 2011 acquisition date to December 31, 2011. PIF increased 30.9% as of December 31, 2012 compared to December 31, 2011.

Homeowners premiums written totaled \$6.75 billion in 2013, a 4.5% increase from \$6.46 billion in 2012, following a 3.2% increase in 2012 from \$6.26 billion in 2011. Excluding the cost of catastrophe reinsurance, premiums written increased 3.4% in 2013 compared to 2012. For a more detailed discussion on reinsurance, see the Property-Liability Claims and Claims Expense Reserves section of the MD&A and Note 11 of the consolidated financial statements.

|                        |      | A     | ate bran |       | <b>Encompass brand</b> |       |    |       |    |       |    |        |
|------------------------|------|-------|----------|-------|------------------------|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|--------|
|                        | 2013 |       |          | 2012  |                        | 2011  |    | 2013  |    | 2012  |    | 2011   |
| PIF (thousands)        |      | 6,077 |          | 6,213 |                        | 6,588 |    | 356   |    | 327   |    | 306    |
| Average premium        |      |       |          |       |                        |       |    |       |    |       |    |        |
| (12 months)            | \$   | 1,115 | \$       | 1,074 | \$                     | 991   | \$ | 1,374 | \$ | 1,311 | \$ | 1,297  |
| Renewal ratio (%)      |      |       |          |       |                        |       |    |       |    |       |    |        |
| (12 months)            |      | 87.7  |          | 87.4  |                        | 88.4  |    | 86.6  |    | 83.3  |    | 79.8   |
| Approved rate          |      |       |          |       |                        |       |    |       |    |       |    |        |
| changes (1):           |      |       |          |       |                        |       |    |       |    |       |    |        |
| # of states            |      | 41    |          | 42    |                        | 41 (3 | )  | 31    |    | 33 (3 | 3) | 27 (3) |
| Countrywide (%)        |      | 3.6   |          | 6.3   |                        | 8.6   |    | 7.4   |    | 6.0   |    | 3.1    |
| State specific (%) (2) |      | 5.2   |          | 8.6   |                        | 11.0  |    | 8.2   |    | 6.4   |    | 4.1    |

- (1) Includes rate changes approved based on our net cost of reinsurance. Rate changes for Allstate brand exclude Canada.
- Based on historical premiums written in those states, rate changes approved for homeowners totaled \$254 million, \$412 million and \$533 million in 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively.
- (3) Includes Washington D.C.

Allstate brand homeowners premiums written totaled \$6.29 billion in 2013, a 3.8% increase from \$6.06 billion in 2012. Factors impacting premiums written were the following:

- 2.2% decrease in PIF as of December 31, 2013 compared to December 31, 2012 due to fewer policies available to renew.
- 31.6% increase in new issued applications to 625 thousand in 2013 from 475 thousand in 2012.
- 3.8% increase in average premium in 2013 compared to 2012 primarily due to rate changes.
- 0.3 point increase in the renewal ratio in 2013 compared to 2012.
- \$56 million decrease in the cost of our catastrophe reinsurance program to \$425 million in 2013 from \$481 million in 2012.

For Allstate brand homeowners, we continue to address rate adequacy and improve underwriting and claim effectiveness. Our primary focus continues to be on improving returns in our homeowners business which is progressing as expected. The rate of PIF decline continues to moderate due to several factors including:

Selectively entering areas previously closed to new business where we believe we will earn an appropriate return for the risk.

Continued rollout of our Allstate House and Home product which provides options of coverage for roof damage including graduated coverage and pricing based on roof type and age. Allstate House and Home accounted for 75% of Allstate brand homeowners new issued applications in 2013. House and Home has been rolled out in 27 states, making it available to approximately 60% of the U.S. population as of December 31, 2013. States with House and Home show new business growth greater than the countrywide average.

A decreased need for profitability improvement actions which has helped retention return to more normal levels.

In states with severe weather and risk, North Light and non-proprietary products will remain a critical component to our overall homeowners strategy to profitably grow and serve our customers.

#### Table of Contents

Allstate brand homeowners premiums written totaled \$6.06 billion in 2012, a 2.8% increase from \$5.89 billion in 2011. Factors impacting premiums written were the following:

- 5.7% decrease in PIF as of December 31, 2012 compared to December 31, 2011 due to fewer policies available to renew and fewer new issued applications.
- 2.5% decrease in new issued applications to 475 thousand in 2012 from 487 thousand in 2011 due to new business underwriting restrictions in certain states.
- 8.4% increase in average premium in 2012 compared to 2011 primarily due to rate changes.
- 1.0 point decrease in the renewal ratio in 2012 compared to 2011.
- \$14 million decrease in the cost of our catastrophe reinsurance program to \$481 million in 2012 from \$495 million in 2011.

Encompass brand homeowners premiums written totaled \$461 million in 2013, a 15.8% increase from \$398 million in 2012. The increase was primarily due to an 8.9% increase in PIF as of December 31, 2013 compared to December 31, 2012 and actions taken to enhance the Package policy. New issued applications increased 12.9% to 79 thousand in 2013 from 70 thousand in 2012. The renewal ratio increased 3.3 points in 2013 compared to 2012.

Encompass brand homeowners premiums written totaled \$398 million in 2012, a 9.9% increase from \$362 million in 2011. The increase was primarily due to a 6.9% increase in PIF as of December 31, 2012 compared to December 31, 2011 and actions taken to enhance the Package policy. New issued applications increased 40.0% to 70 thousand in 2012 from 50 thousand in 2011. The renewal ratio increased 3.5 points in 2012 compared to 2011 driven primarily by retaining more package business.

Other personal lines Allstate brand other personal lines premiums written totaled \$1.54 billion in 2013, a 1.6% increase from \$1.52 billion in 2012, following a 2.1% increase in 2012 from \$1.48 billion in 2011. The increase in 2013 primarily relates to renter and condominium insurance.

Commercial lines premiums written totaled \$466 million in 2013, a 2.6% increase from \$454 million in 2012, following a 3.8% decrease in 2012 from \$472 million in 2011.

Other business lines premiums written totaled \$602 million in 2013, a 30.3% increase from \$462 million in 2012, following an 11.1% increase in 2012 from \$416 million in 2011. The increase in 2013 is primarily due to increased sales of vehicle service contracts at Allstate Dealer Services and new and expanded partnerships where Allstate Roadside Services provides roadside assistance to the partners' customer base.

Table of Contents

**Underwriting results** are shown in the following table.

| (\$ in millions) Premiums written  | \$<br><b>2013</b> 28,164                               | \$<br><b>2012</b> 27,026                               | \$<br><b>2011</b> 25,981                               |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  | ·  |
| Premiums earned Claims and claims expense Amortization of DAC Other costs and expenses Restructuring and related charges                   | \$<br>27,618<br>(17,769)<br>(3,674)<br>(3,751)<br>(63) | \$<br>26,737<br>(18,433)<br>(3,483)<br>(3,534)<br>(34) | \$<br>25,942<br>(20,140)<br>(3,477)<br>(3,139)<br>(43) |
| Underwriting income (loss)   | \$<br>2,361  | \$<br>1,253  | \$<br>(857)  |
| Catastrophe losses   | \$<br>1,251  | \$<br>2,345  | \$<br>3,815  |
| Underwriting income (loss) by line of business Auto Homeowners Other personal lines Commercial lines Other business lines Answer Financial | \$<br>668<br>1,422<br>198<br>41<br>51<br>(19)          | \$<br>469<br>690<br>(10)<br>51<br>77<br>(24)           | \$<br>663<br>(1,331)<br>(188)<br>(14)<br>20<br>(7)     |
| Underwriting income (loss)   | \$<br>2,361  | \$<br>1,253  | \$<br>(857)  |
| Underwriting income (loss) by brand Allstate brand Encompass brand Esurance brand Answer Financial   | \$<br>2,551<br>47<br>(218)<br>(19)                     | \$<br>1,539<br>(70)<br>(192)<br>(24)                   | \$<br>(660)<br>(146)<br>(44)<br>(7)                    |
| Underwriting income (loss)   | \$<br>2,361  | \$<br>1,253  | \$<br>(857)  |

Allstate Protection had underwriting income of \$2.36 billion in 2013 compared to \$1.25 billion in 2012, primarily due to increases in underwriting income in homeowners and auto, and underwriting income in other personal lines in 2013 compared to an underwriting loss in 2012. Homeowners underwriting income was \$1.42 billion in 2013 compared to \$690 million in 2012, primarily due to decreased catastrophe

losses, decreased loss costs excluding catastrophe losses and increased premiums earned, partially offset by lower favorable reserve reestimates and higher expenses. Other personal lines underwriting income was \$198 million in 2013 compared to an underwriting loss of \$10 million in 2012, primarily due to decreased catastrophe losses, decreased loss costs excluding catastrophe losses, increased premiums earned and lower unfavorable reserve reestimates, partially offset by higher expenses. Auto underwriting income was \$668 million in 2013 compared to \$469 million in 2012, primarily due to increased premiums earned and decreased catastrophe losses including favorable Sandy reserve reestimates, partially offset by higher incurred losses excluding catastrophe losses, higher expenses and lower favorable reserve reestimates.

Allstate Protection had underwriting income of \$1.25 billion in 2012 compared to an underwriting loss of \$857 million in 2011, primarily due to underwriting income in homeowners in 2012 compared to an underwriting loss in 2011 and a decrease in underwriting loss in other personal lines in 2012 compared to 2011, partially offset by a decrease in auto underwriting income. Homeowners underwriting income was \$690 million in the 2012 compared to an underwriting loss of \$1.33 billion in 2011, primarily due to decreases in catastrophe losses and average earned premiums increasing faster than loss costs, partially offset by higher expenses. Other personal lines underwriting loss was \$10 million in 2012 compared to \$188 million in 2011, primarily due to decreased catastrophe losses and lower unfavorable reserve reestimates. Auto underwriting income decreased \$194 million to \$469 million in 2012 from \$663 million in 2011 primarily due to the inclusion of a full year of Esurance brand's underwriting losses in 2012 and increases in catastrophe losses.

Catastrophe losses were \$1.25 billion in 2013 compared to \$2.35 billion in 2012 and \$3.82 billion in 2011.

We define a "catastrophe" as an event that produces pre-tax losses before reinsurance in excess of \$1 million and involves multiple first party policyholders, or an event that produces a number of claims in excess of a preset, per-event threshold of average claims in a specific area, occurring within a certain amount of time following the event. Catastrophes are caused by various natural events including high winds, winter storms, tornadoes, hailstorms, wildfires, tropical storms, hurricanes, earthquakes and volcanoes. We are also exposed to man-made catastrophic events, such as

### Table of Contents

certain types of terrorism or industrial accidents. The nature and level of catastrophes in any period cannot be reliably predicted.

Catastrophe losses by the size of event are shown in the following table.

| (\$ in millions)               |                     |         | 2013                             |        |                           |   |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------|----------------------------------|--------|---------------------------|---|
|                                | Number<br>of events | c       | llaims<br>and<br>laims<br>spense |        | ombined<br>ratio<br>mpact | Average<br>catastrophe<br>loss per<br>event |
| Size of catastrophe loss       | or events           | C.A.    | pense                            | •      | трист                     | CVCIII                                      |
| \$101 million to               |                     |         |                                  |        |                           |   |
| \$250 million                  | 2                   | 2.6% \$ | 297                              | 23.7%  | 1.1                       | \$ 149                                      |
| \$50 million to                |                     |         |                                  |        |                           |   |
| \$100 million                  | 5                   | 6.6     | 386                              | 30.9   | 1.4                       | 77  |
| Less than \$50 million         | 69                  | 90.8    | 656                              | 52.4   | 2.3                       | 10  |
| Total                          | 76                  | 100.0%  | 1,339                            | 107.0  | 4.8                       | 18  |
| Prior year reserve reestimates |                     |         | (88) (1)                         | (7.0)  | (0.3)                     |   |
| Total catastrophe losses       |                     | \$      | 1,251                            | 100.0% | 4.5                       |   |

(1)
Reserve reestimates related to Sandy in 2013 totaled \$42 million favorable, including \$52 million favorable for auto, \$29 million unfavorable for homeowners and \$19 million favorable for other personal lines.

Catastrophe losses by the type of event are shown in the following table.

| (\$ in millions)               | 201         | 3         | 201         | 2         | 2011 |       |           |  |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------|-------|-----------|--|
|                                |             | Number    |             | Number    |      |       | Number    |  |
|                                |             | of events |             | of events |      |       | of events |  |
| Hurricanes/Tropical storms     | \$<br>14    | 1         | \$<br>1,200 | 3         | \$   | 619   | 3         |  |
| Tornadoes                      | 169         | 3         | 297         | 5         |      | 1,234 | 7         |  |
| Wind/Hail                      | 1,089       | 64        | 1,198       | 64        |      | 1,775 | 68        |  |
| Wildfires                      | 41          | 5         | 53          | 11        |      | 67    | 9         |  |
| Other events                   | 26          | 3         | 7           | 1         |      | 250   | 4         |  |
| Prior year reserve reestimates | (88)        |           | (410)       |           |      | (130) |           |  |
| Total catastrophe losses       | \$<br>1,251 | 76        | \$<br>2,345 | 84        | \$   | 3,815 | 91        |  |

Catastrophe losses, including prior year reserve reestimates, excluding hurricanes named or numbered by the National Weather Service, fires following earthquakes and earthquakes totaled \$1.35 billion, \$1.32 billion and \$3.30 billion in 2013, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

55

# Table of Contents

**Combined ratio** Loss ratios by product, and expense and combined ratios by brand, are shown in the following table.

|                             |      |                  |       |        |               |                |               |                   |       | Effect of                              |
|-----------------------------|------|------------------|-------|--------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-------|--|
|                             |      |                  |       |        |               |                |               |                   |       | business                               |
|                             |      |                  |       |        |               |                |               |                   | (     | combination                            |
|                             |      |                  |       |        |               |                |               |                   |       | expenses<br>and                        |
|                             |      |                  |       |        |               |                |               |                   |       | the                                    |
|                             |      |                  |       |        |               |                |               |                   | :     | amortization                           |
|                             |      |                  |       |        |               |                |               |                   |       | of                                     |
|                             |      |                  |       |        |               |                |               |                   |       | purchased                              |
|                             |      |                  |       |        | Effect o      |                |               | ffect of          |       | intangible                             |
|                             |      |                  |       | catast | -             | losses         | prior         | •                 |       | assets on                              |
|                             | т    | Datia (1         | `     | 00m    | on<br>bined 1 | ma <b>ti</b> a |               | estimat<br>nbined |       | combined<br>ratio                      |
|                             |      | Ratio (1<br>2012 | •     |        |               | 2011           |               |                   |       | rauo<br>201 <b>3</b> 201 <b>2</b> 2011 |
| Allstate brand loss         | 2013 | 2012             | 2011  | 2013   | 2012          | 2011           | 2013          | 2012              | 2011  | 201 <b>3</b> 012011                    |
| ratio:                      |      |                  |       |        |               |                |               |                   |       |  |
| Auto                        | 68.5 | 70.3             | 70.2  | 1.0    | 3.8           | 2.5            | (1.2)         | (2.1)             | (2.4) | )                                      |
| Homeowners                  | 53.4 | 64.1             | 98.0  | 15.6   | 23.2          | 50.0           |               | (5.2)             | (1.2) | )                                      |
| Other personal lines        | 58.6 | 72.3             | 84.5  | 3.5    | 12.3          | 19.1           | 1.8           | 2.2               | 7.2   |  |
| Commercial lines            | 60.7 | 60.4             | 74.7  | 0.4    | 0.6           | 7.7            | (7.9)         | (10.4)            | (0.8) | )                                      |
| <b>Total Allstate brand</b> |      |                  |       |        |               |                | (0.0)         |                   |       |  |
| loss ratio                  | 63.6 | 68.3             | 77.3  | 4.7    | 8.9           | 14.8           | (0.9)         | (2.7)             | (1.5) | )                                      |
| Allstate brand              | 26.2 | 25.5             | 25.4  |        |               |                |               |                   |       |  |
| expense ratio               | 26.3 | 25.5             | 25.4  |        |               |                |               |                   |       |  |
|                             |      |                  |       |        |               |                |               |                   |       |  |
| Allstate brand              |      |                  |       |        |               |                |               |                   |       |  |
| combined ratio              | 89.9 | 93.8             | 102.7 | 4.7    | 8.9           | 14.8           | (0.9)         | (2.7)             | (1.5) | )                                      |
|                             |      |                  |       |        |               |                | , ,           | , ,               | , ,   |  |
|                             |      |                  |       |        |               |                |               |                   |       |  |
|                             |      |                  |       |        |               |                |               |                   |       |  |
| T 1 1                       |      |                  |       |        |               |                |               |                   |       |  |
| Encompass brand loss ratio: |      |                  |       |        |               |                |               |                   |       |  |
| Auto                        | 73.5 | 78.5             | 82.0  | 0.3    | 3.6           | 1.8            | (4.8)         | (3.9)             | 2.3   |  |
| Homeowners                  | 56.3 | 76.5             | 88.5  | 12.6   | 28.8          | 39.7           | (4.8) $(1.2)$ | (3.9) $(3.2)$     |       |  |
| Other personal lines        | 54.0 | 67.7             | 00.5  | 12.0   | 20.0          | 37.1           | (1.2)         | (3.2)             | 0.5   |  |
| F                           |      | ~                |       |        |               |                |               |                   |       |  |