

MSCI Inc.  
Form 10-Q  
July 31, 2015  
Table of Contents

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

**FORM 10-Q**

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

**For the quarterly period ended June 30, 2015**

**OR**

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

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

**Commission file number 001-33812**

**MSCI INC.**

**(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)**

**Delaware**  
**(State of Incorporation)**

**13-4038723**  
**(I.R.S. Employer**

**Identification Number)**

**7 World Trade Center**

**250 Greenwich Street, 49th Floor**

**New York, New York**  
**(Address of Principal Executive Offices)**

**10007**  
**(Zip Code)**

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 804-3900**

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

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

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer   
Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company   
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

As of July 23, 2015, there were 109,660,488 shares of the registrant's common stock, par value \$0.01, outstanding.

**Table of Contents**

**MSCI INC.**  
**FORM 10-Q**  
**FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**  
**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|  | <b>Page</b> |
|--|-------------|
| <i>Part I</i>  |             |
| Item 1. <u>Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements</u>   | 5           |
| Item 2. <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | 21          |
| Item 3. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>                            | 38          |
| Item 4. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>   | 39          |
| <i>Part II</i>   |             |
| Item 1. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>   | 39          |
| Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>   | 39          |
| Item 2. <u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u>                           | 39          |
| Item 3. <u>Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u>   | 40          |
| Item 4. <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>   | 40          |
| Item 5. <u>Other Information</u>   | 40          |
| Item 6. <u>Exhibits</u>  | 40          |

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**Table of Contents**

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

MSCI Inc. files annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). You may read and copy any document MSCI Inc. files with the SEC at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for information on the public reference room. The SEC maintains a website that contains annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy and information statements and other information that issuers (including MSCI Inc.) file electronically with the SEC. MSCI Inc.'s electronic SEC filings are available to the public at the SEC's website, [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

MSCI Inc.'s website is [www.msci.com](http://www.msci.com). You can access MSCI Inc.'s Investor Relations homepage at <http://ir.msci.com>. MSCI Inc. makes available free of charge, on or through its Investor Relations homepage, its proxy statements, Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and any amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed with, or furnished to, the SEC. MSCI Inc. also makes available, through its Investor Relations homepage, via a link to the SEC's website, statements of beneficial ownership of MSCI Inc.'s equity securities filed by its directors, officers, 5% or greater shareholders and others under Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

You can access information about MSCI Inc.'s corporate governance at <http://ir.msci.com/corporate-governance.cfm>, including copies of the following:

Charters for MSCI Inc.'s Audit Committee, Compensation Committee and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee;

Corporate Governance Policies;

Procedures for Submission of Ethical Accounting Related Complaints; and

Code of Ethics and Business Conduct.

MSCI Inc.'s Code of Ethics and Business Conduct applies to all directors, officers and employees, including its Chief Executive Officer and its Chief Financial Officer. MSCI Inc. will post any amendments to the Code of Ethics and Business Conduct and any waivers that are required to be disclosed by the rules of either the SEC or the New York Stock Exchange LLC on its website. You can request a copy of these documents, excluding exhibits, at no cost, by contacting Investor Relations, MSCI Inc., 7 World Trade Center, 250 Greenwich Street, 49th Floor, New York, NY 10007; (212) 804-1583. The information on MSCI Inc.'s website is not incorporated by reference into this report or any other report filed or furnished by us with the SEC.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements relate to future events or to future financial performance and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause MSCI Inc.'s actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, levels of activity, performance or

achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by the use of words such as may, could, expect, intend, plan, seek, anticipate, estimate, predict, potential or continue, or the negative of these terms or other comparable terminology. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements because they involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that are, in some cases, beyond MSCI Inc.'s control and that could materially affect actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements.

Other factors that could materially affect actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements can be found in MSCI Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, as amended, and in quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K filed or furnished with the SEC. If any of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or if our underlying assumptions prove to be incorrect, actual results may vary significantly from what MSCI Inc. projected. Any forward-looking statement in this report reflects MSCI Inc.'s current views with respect to future events and is subject to these and other risks, uncertainties and assumptions relating to MSCI Inc.'s operations, results of operations, growth strategy and liquidity. MSCI Inc. assumes no obligation to publicly update or revise these forward-looking statements for any reason, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise, except as required by law.

**Table of Contents**

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA DISCLOSURE

MSCI Inc. uses its website and corporate Twitter account (@MSCI\_Inc) as channels of distribution of company information. The information MSCI Inc. posts through these channels may be deemed material. Accordingly, investors should monitor these channels, in addition to following MSCI Inc.'s press releases, SEC filings and public conference calls and webcasts. In addition, you may automatically receive email alerts and other information about MSCI Inc. when you enroll your email address by visiting the Email Alert Subscription section of our Investor Relations homepage at <http://ir.msci.com/alerts.cfm?>. The contents of MSCI Inc.'s website and social media channels are not, however, incorporated by reference into this report or any other report filed or furnished by us with the SEC.

Table of Contents

## PART I

**Item 1. Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements**  
**MSCI INC.**

**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION**

(in thousands, except per share and share data)

|  | As of               |                      |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|
|  | June 30,<br>2015    | December 31,<br>2014 |
|  | (unaudited)         |                      |
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |                     |                      |
| <b>Current assets:</b>   |                     |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents  | \$ 455,021          | \$ 508,799           |
| Accounts receivable (net of allowances of \$938 and \$857 at June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively)  | 214,487             | 178,717              |
| Deferred taxes   | 16,720              | 22,209               |
| Prepaid income taxes   | 53,682              | 29,180               |
| Prepaid and other assets   | 36,866              | 31,727               |
| <b>Total current assets</b>  | <b>776,776</b>      | <b>770,632</b>       |
| Property, equipment and leasehold improvements (net of accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$105,731 and \$92,808 at June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively) | 93,293              | 94,074               |
| Goodwill   | 1,565,453           | 1,564,904            |
| Intangible assets (net of accumulated amortization of \$395,743 and \$372,209 at June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively)  | 410,199             | 433,628              |
| Other non-current assets   | 29,907              | 30,937               |
| <b>Total assets</b>  | <b>\$ 2,875,628</b> | <b>\$ 2,894,175</b>  |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY</b>   |                     |                      |
| <b>Current liabilities:</b>  |                     |                      |
| Accounts payable   | \$ 2,170            | \$ 2,835             |
| Accrued compensation and related benefits  | 69,874              | 111,408              |
| Other accrued liabilities  | 47,825              | 47,894               |
| Deferred revenue   | 338,763             | 310,775              |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>   | <b>458,632</b>      | <b>472,912</b>       |
| Long-term debt   | 800,000             | 800,000              |



|                               |                  |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Deferred taxes                | 128,366          | 137,838          |
| Other non-current liabilities | 54,916           | 50,592           |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>      | <b>1,441,914</b> | <b>1,461,342</b> |

### Commitments and Contingencies (see Note 8)

#### Shareholders equity:

|  |                     |                     |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Preferred stock (par value \$0.01; 100,000,000 shares authorized; no shares issued)  |                     |                     |
| Common stock (par value \$0.01; 750,000,000 common shares authorized; 128,039,963 and 126,637,390 common shares issued and 110,578,431 and 112,072,469 common shares outstanding at June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively) | 1,280               | 1,266               |
| Treasury shares, at cost (17,461,532 and 14,564,921 common shares held at June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively)   | (785,787)           | (588,378)           |
| Additional paid in capital   | 1,161,410           | 1,022,221           |
| Retained earnings  | 1,081,671           | 1,022,695           |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss   | (24,860)            | (24,971)            |
| <b>Total shareholders equity</b>   | <b>1,433,714</b>    | <b>1,432,833</b>    |
| <b>Total liabilities and shareholders equity</b>   | <b>\$ 2,875,628</b> | <b>\$ 2,894,175</b> |

See Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

Table of Contents

## MSCI INC.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

(in thousands, except per share data)

|   | Three Months Ended<br>June 30, |            | Six Months Ended<br>June 30, |            |
|---|--------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|
|   | 2015                           | 2014       | 2015                         | 2014       |
|   | (unaudited)                    |            |                              |            |
| <b>Operating revenues</b>   | \$ 270,580                     | \$ 254,226 | \$ 533,349                   | \$ 493,914 |
| <b>Operating expenses:</b>  |                                |            |                              |            |
| Cost of services  | 76,753                         | 76,816     | 159,406                      | 152,243    |
| Selling, general and administrative   | 75,556                         | 71,516     | 148,021                      | 139,174    |
| Amortization of intangible assets   | 11,695                         | 11,442     | 23,397                       | 22,712     |
| Depreciation and amortization of property, equipment and leasehold improvements | 8,065                          | 5,921      | 15,272                       | 11,749     |
| <b>Total operating expenses</b>   | 172,069                        | 165,695    | 346,096                      | 325,878    |
| <b>Operating income</b>   | 98,511                         | 88,531     | 187,253                      | 168,036    |
| Interest income   | (185)                          | (192)      | (389)                        | (348)      |
| Interest expense  | 11,116                         | 5,366      | 22,224                       | 10,425     |
| Other expense (income)  | 164                            | (726)      | 342                          | 345        |
| <b>Other expense (income), net</b>  | 11,095                         | 4,448      | 22,177                       | 10,422     |
| <b>Income from continuing operations before provision for income taxes</b>      | 87,416                         | 84,083     | 165,076                      | 157,614    |
| Provision for income taxes  | 31,399                         | 27,280     | 59,435                       | 53,665     |
| <b>Income from continuing operations</b>  | 56,017                         | 56,803     | 105,641                      | 103,949    |
| <b>Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of income taxes</b>          |                                | 50,857     | (5,797)                      | 84,110     |
| <b>Net income</b>   | \$ 56,017                      | \$ 107,660 | \$ 99,844                    | \$ 188,059 |
| <b>Earnings per basic common share:</b>   |                                |            |                              |            |
| Earnings per basic common share from continuing operations                      | \$ 0.50                        | \$ 0.48    | \$ 0.94                      | \$ 0.89    |
| Earnings per basic common share from discontinued operations                    |                                | 0.44       | (0.05)                       | 0.71       |

|  |         |         |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>Earnings per basic common share</b>   | \$ 0.50 | \$ 0.92 | \$ 0.89 | \$ 1.60 |
| <b>Earnings per diluted common share:</b>  |         |         |         |         |
| Earnings per diluted common share from continuing operations                     | \$ 0.50 | \$ 0.48 | \$ 0.93 | \$ 0.88 |
| Earnings per diluted common share from discontinued operations                   |         | 0.43    | (0.05)  | 0.71    |
| <b>Earnings per diluted common share</b>   | \$ 0.50 | \$ 0.91 | \$ 0.88 | \$ 1.59 |
| <b>Weighted average shares outstanding used in computing earnings per share:</b> |         |         |         |         |
| <b>Basic</b>   | 112,143 | 116,702 | 112,330 | 117,140 |
| <b>Diluted</b>   | 112,931 | 117,664 | 113,225 | 118,128 |
| <b>Dividend declared per common share</b>  | \$ 0.18 | \$      | \$ 0.36 | \$      |

See Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

**Table of Contents****MSCI INC.****CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME****(in thousands)**

|  | <b>Three Months<br/>Ended<br/>June 30,</b> |             | <b>Six Months Ended<br/>June 30,</b> |             |
|--|--|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
|  | <b>2015</b>                                | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b>                          | <b>2014</b> |
|  | <b>(unaudited)</b>                         |             |                                      |             |
| Net income   | \$ 56,017                                  | \$ 107,660  | \$ 99,844                            | \$ 188,059  |
| Other comprehensive income (loss):                 |  |             |                                      |             |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments           | 6,151                                      | (2,758)     | (439)                                | (1,726)     |
| Income tax effect                                  | 766  | 1,065       | 634                                  | 665         |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments, net      | 6,917                                      | (1,693)     | 195                                  | (1,061)     |
| Pension and other post-retirement adjustments      | (271)                                      | 173         | (97)                                 | 166         |
| Income tax effect                                  | 64   | (2)         | 13                                   | 2           |
| Pension and other post-retirement adjustments, net | (207)                                      | 171         | (84)                                 | 168         |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax      | 6,710                                      | (1,522)     | 111                                  | (893)       |
| Comprehensive income                               | \$ 62,727                                  | \$ 106,138  | \$ 99,955                            | \$ 187,166  |

**See Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements**

Table of Contents

## MSCI INC.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(in thousands)

|   | <b>Six Months Ended<br/>June 30,<br/>2015      2014<br/>(unaudited)</b> |                |
|---|---|----------------|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>                                       |   |                |
| Net income  | \$ 99,844   | \$ 188,059     |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: |   |                |
| Amortization of intangible assets   | 23,397  | 25,452         |
| Stock-based compensation expense  | 14,539  | 12,457         |
| Depreciation and amortization of property, equipment and leasehold improvements   | 15,272  | 11,968         |
| Amortization of debt origination fees   | 893   | 888            |
| Deferred taxes  | (3,541)   | 3,475          |
| Amortization of discount on long-term debt  |   | 240            |
| Excess tax benefits from share-based compensation                                 | (13,232)  | (2,773)        |
| Gain on disposition of subsidiary, net of costs                                   |   | (84,615)       |
| Other non-cash adjustments  | 3,849   | 548            |
| Changes in assets and liabilities, net of assets and liabilities assumed:         |   |                |
| Accounts receivable   | (36,181)  | (59,081)       |
| Prepaid income taxes  | (11,541)  | (19,578)       |
| Prepaid and other assets  | 1,631   | (6,181)        |
| Accounts payable  | (669)   | 1,229          |
| Accrued compensation and related benefits   | (37,711)  | (42,237)       |
| Deferred revenue  | 27,989  | 54,484         |
| Other accrued liabilities   | 1,087   | 11,790         |
| Other   | 5,083   | (2,073)        |
| <b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>                                  | <b>90,709</b>   | <b>94,052</b>  |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>                                       |   |                |
| Disposition, net of cash provided   |   | 362,811        |
| Capital expenditures  | (15,550)  | (18,486)       |
| Capitalized software development costs  | (2,787)   | (3,478)        |
| Proceeds from the sale of capital equipment                                       | 55  | 8              |
| <b>Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities</b>                        | <b>(18,282)</b>   | <b>340,855</b> |
| <b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>                                       |   |                |
| Repayment of long-term debt   |   | (10,125)       |

|   |                   |                   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Repurchase of treasury shares   | (97,567)          | (108,903)         |
| Proceeds from exercise of stock options                                     | 1,760             | 5,406             |
| Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation                           | 13,232            | 2,773             |
| Payment of dividends  | (40,843)          |                   |
| <b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>                                | <b>(123,418)</b>  | <b>(110,849)</b>  |
| <b>Effect of exchange rate changes</b>                                      | <b>(2,787)</b>    | <b>747</b>        |
| <b>Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>                 | <b>(53,778)</b>   | <b>324,805</b>    |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period</b>                       | <b>508,799</b>    | <b>358,434</b>    |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of period</b>                             | <b>\$ 455,021</b> | <b>\$ 683,239</b> |
| Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:                           |                   |                   |
| Cash paid for interest  | \$ 20,747         | \$ 9,346          |
| Cash paid for income taxes  | \$ 78,347         | \$ 71,896         |
| Supplemental disclosure of non-cash investing activities:                   |                   |                   |
| Property, equipment and leasehold improvements in other accrued liabilities | \$ 5,731          | \$ 14,576         |

**See Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements**

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**Table of Contents**

**MSCI INC.**

**NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**(UNAUDITED)**

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

MSCI Inc., together with its wholly-owned subsidiaries (the Company or MSCI), is a global provider of investment decision support tools, including indexes, portfolio risk and performance analytics and multi-asset class market risk analytics products and services. The Company's flagship products are its global equity indexes and environmental, social and governance (ESG) products, its private real estate benchmarks, its portfolio risk and performance analytics covering global equity, its multi-asset class, market and credit risk analytics and its performance reporting products and services offered to investment consultants.

On March 17, 2014, MSCI entered into a definitive agreement to sell Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. (ISS). As a result, the Company reported the operating results of ISS in Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of income taxes in the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income for the three and six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014. Unless otherwise indicated, the disclosures accompanying these unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements reflect the Company's continuing operations. The Company completed the sale of ISS on April 30, 2014. See Note 3, Disposition and Discontinued Operations, for further details.

**Basis of Presentation and Use of Estimates**

These unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements include the accounts of MSCI Inc. and its subsidiaries and include all adjustments of a normal, recurring nature necessary to present fairly the financial condition as of June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, the results of operations and comprehensive income for the three and six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014 and cash flows for the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014. The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes included in MSCI's Annual Report on Form 10-K, as amended, for the year ended December 31, 2014. The unaudited condensed consolidated financial statement information as of December 31, 2014 has been derived from the 2014 audited consolidated financial statements. The results of operations for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results for the entire year.

The Company's unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). These accounting principles require the Company to make certain estimates and judgments that can affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities as of the date of the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements, as well as the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the periods presented. Significant estimates and assumptions made by management include the deferral and recognition of revenue, research and development and software capitalization, the allowance for doubtful accounts, impairment of long-lived assets, accrued compensation, income taxes and other matters that affect the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements and related disclosures. The Company believes that estimates used in the preparation of these unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements are reasonable; however, actual results could differ materially from these estimates.

Intercompany balances and transactions are eliminated in consolidation.

***Concentrations***

For the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, BlackRock, Inc. accounted for 10.5% and 10.4%, respectively, of the Company's operating revenues.

## **2. RECENT ACCOUNTING STANDARDS UPDATES**

In May 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, or ASU 2014-09. The objective of ASU 2014-09 is to establish a single comprehensive model for entities to use in accounting for revenue arising from contracts with customers and will supersede most of the existing revenue recognition guidance, including industry-specific guidance. The core principle of ASU 2014-09 is that an entity recognizes revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods



**Table of Contents**

or services. In applying the new guidance, an entity will (1) identify the contract(s) with a customer; (2) identify the performance obligations in the contract; (3) determine the transaction price; (4) allocate the transaction price to the contract's performance obligations; and (5) recognize revenue when, or as, the entity satisfies a performance obligation. Companies have the option of using either a full retrospective or modified approach to adopt ASU 2014-09. On July 9, 2015, the FASB voted to defer the effective date of the new revenue standard by one year by changing the effective date to be for annual reporting periods (including interim periods within those periods) beginning after December 15, 2017 from December 15, 2016, with early adoption at the prior date permitted. The Company is evaluating the potential impact that the update will have on its unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

In April 2015, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-03, *Interest Imputation of Interest: Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs*, or ASU 2015-03. The objective of ASU 2015-03 is to simplify the presentation of debt issuance costs requiring that debt issuance costs related to a recognized debt liability be presented on the balance sheet as a direct deduction from the carrying amount of that debt liability, consistent with debt discounts. Currently, debt issuance costs are recognized and presented as a deferred charge (that is, an asset). The new guidance is effective for annual reporting periods (including interim periods within those periods) beginning after December 15, 2015, with early adoption permitted for financial statements that have not been previously issued. The Company is evaluating the potential impact of the adoption of ASU 2015-03, but does not expect the adoption to have a material effect on its unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

In April 2015, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-05, *Intangibles Goodwill and Other Internal-Use Software*, or ASU 2015-05. The amendments in ASU 2015-05 provide guidance to customers about whether a cloud computing arrangement includes a software license. If a cloud computing arrangement includes a software license, then the customer should account for the software license element of the arrangement consistent with the acquisition of other software licenses. If a cloud computing arrangement does not include a software license, the customer should account for the arrangement as a service contract. The guidance will not change GAAP for a customer's accounting for service contracts. The new guidance is effective for annual reporting periods (including interim periods within those periods) beginning after December 15, 2015, with early adoption permitted. The Company is evaluating the potential impact of the adoption of ASU 2015-05, but does not expect the adoption to have a material effect on its unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

**3. DISPOSITION AND DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS**

On March 17, 2014, MSCI entered into a definitive agreement to sell ISS. ISS was classified as a discontinued operation during the three months ended March 31, 2014. Since that time, MSCI has segregated the operating results of ISS in *Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of income taxes* in the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income for the three and six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014.

The sale of ISS was completed on April 30, 2014 for \$367.4 million, subject to final working capital adjustments. The value of the assets and liabilities of ISS that were disposed, directly attributable transaction costs and the resulting gain on disposal that had been reported in *Income from discontinued operations, net of income taxes* for the three and six months ended June 30, 2014 was as follows:

**(in thousands)**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Cash proceeds                             | \$ 367,355 |
| Less: Initial working capital adjustments | (316)      |

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Total proceeds  | 367,039          |
| Less assets sold and liabilities relieved resulting from disposal:  |                  |
| Cash and cash equivalents   | (4,544)          |
| Accounts receivable   | (15,765)         |
| Deferred taxes (current)  | (3,174)          |
| Prepaid taxes   | (617)            |
| Prepaid and other assets  | (4,500)          |
| Property, equipment and leasehold improvements (net of accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$4,213)            | (8,544)          |
| Goodwill  | (254,233)        |
| Intangible assets (net of accumulated amortization of \$50,283)   | (121,269)        |
| Other non-current assets  | (1,645)          |
| Accounts payable  | 574              |
| Accrued compensation and related benefits   | 6,783            |
| Other accrued liabilities   | 4,034            |
| Deferred revenue  | 51,767           |
| Deferred taxes (non-current)  | 59,129           |
| Other non-current liabilities   | 5,576            |
| Other comprehensive income including currency translation adjustments and pension and other post-retirement adjustments | 4,004            |
| Net assets sold   | (282,424)        |
| Less: Transaction costs   | (5,946)          |
| <b>Gain on sale of ISS</b>  | <b>\$ 78,669</b> |

**Table of Contents**

Amounts associated with discontinued operations reflected in the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income for the three and six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014 were as follows:

|  | <b>Three Months Ended<br/>June 30,</b> |                  |
|--|--|------------------|
|  | <b>2015</b>                            | <b>2014</b>      |
|  | <b>(in thousands)</b>                  |                  |
| Revenue from discontinued operations                                   | \$                                     | \$ 10,912        |
| Income from discontinued operations before provision for income taxes  | \$                                     | \$ 80,147        |
| Provision for income taxes   |  | 29,290           |
| <b>Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of income taxes</b> | <b>\$</b>                              | <b>\$ 50,857</b> |
|  |  |                  |
|  | <b>Six Months Ended<br/>June 30,</b>   |                  |
|  | <b>2015</b>                            | <b>2014</b>      |
|  | <b>(in thousands)</b>                  |                  |
| Revenue from discontinued operations                                   | \$                                     | \$ 43,122        |
| Income from discontinued operations before provision for income taxes  | \$                                     | \$ 86,364        |
| Provision for income taxes   | 5,797                                  | 2,254            |
| <b>Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of income taxes</b> | <b>\$ (5,797)</b>                      | <b>\$ 84,110</b> |

The three months ended March 31, 2014 included a \$30.6 million income tax benefit associated with establishing a net deferred tax asset on the difference between the ISS tax basis and book basis. This net deferred tax asset was realized in the three months ended June 30, 2014 upon the closing of the sale, which reflects the tax basis capital loss realized on this book gain.

The six months ended June 30, 2015 reflect the impact of an out-of-period income tax charge associated with tax obligations triggered upon the sale of ISS.

**4. RECLASSIFICATIONS OUT OF ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)**

As required by FASB's ASC Subtopic 220-10, *Comprehensive Income Overall*, the following tables present the amounts reclassified from Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) by the respective line item in the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income for the three and six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014.



Table of Contents**Reclassifications Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)<sup>(1)</sup>****(in thousands)**

| <b>Details about Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) Components</b>                     | <b>Amount Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)</b> |   | <b>Affect on the Line Item in the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income</b> |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | <b>Three and Six Months Ended June 30, 2015</b>                               | <b>Three and Six Months Ended June 30, 2014</b> |   |
| <b>Defined benefit pension plans</b>  |   |   |   |
| Amount recognized as a component of net periodic benefit expense for curtailments and settlements | \$  | \$ (186) <sup>(2)</sup>                         |   |
|   |   | 6   | Tax expense   |
|   | \$  | \$ (180)  | Net of tax  |
| <b>Foreign currency translation adjustment</b>  | \$  | \$ 4,184 <sup>(2)</sup>                         |   |
| <b>Total reclassifications for the period, net of tax</b>   | \$  | \$ 4,004  |   |

(1) Amounts in parentheses indicate expenses or losses moved to the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income.

(2) These accumulated other comprehensive income components were reclassified to Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of taxes as part of the gain on the disposition of ISS.

**5. EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE**

Basic earnings per share (EPS) is computed by dividing income available to MSCI common shareholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Common shares outstanding include common stock and vested restricted stock unit awards where recipients have satisfied either the explicit vesting terms or retirement-eligible requirements. Diluted EPS reflects the assumed conversion of all dilutive securities. There were no stock options or restricted stock units excluded from the calculation of diluted EPS for the three and six months ended June 30, 2015 because of their anti-dilutive effect. There were 104,272 stock options excluded from the calculation of diluted EPS for the three and six months ended June 30, 2014 because of their anti-dilutive effect.

**Table of Contents**

The Company computes EPS using the two-class method and determines whether instruments granted in share-based payment transactions are participating securities. The following table presents the computation of basic and diluted EPS:

|   | <b>Three Months Ended<br/>June 30,</b> |                | <b>Six Months Ended<br/>June 30,</b> |                |
|---|--|----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
|   | <b>2015</b>                            | <b>2014</b>    | <b>2015</b>                          | <b>2014</b>    |
| <b>(in thousands, except per share data)</b>                                    |  |                |                                      |                |
| Income from continuing operations, net of income taxes                          | \$ 56,017                              | \$ 56,803      | \$ 105,641                           | \$ 103,949     |
| Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of income taxes                 |  | 50,857         | (5,797)                              | 84,110         |
| Net income  | \$ 56,017                              | \$ 107,660     | \$ 99,844                            | \$ 188,059     |
| Less: Allocations of earnings to unvested restricted stock units <sup>(1)</sup> | (18)                                   | (153)          | (32)                                 | (268)          |
| Earnings available to MSCI common shareholders                                  | \$ 55,999                              | \$ 107,507     | \$ 99,812                            | \$ 187,791     |
| Basic weighted average common shares outstanding                                | 112,143                                | 116,702        | 112,330                              | 117,140        |
| Effect of dilutive securities:  |  |                |                                      |                |
| Stock options and restricted stock units  | 788                                    | 962            | 895                                  | 988            |
| Diluted weighted average common shares outstanding                              | 112,931                                | 117,664        | 113,225                              | 118,128        |
| Earnings per basic common share from continuing operations                      | \$ 0.50                                | \$ 0.48        | \$ 0.94                              | \$ 0.89        |
| Earnings per basic common share from discontinued operations                    |  | 0.44           | (0.05)                               | 0.71           |
| <b>Earnings per basic common share</b>  | <b>\$ 0.50</b>                         | <b>\$ 0.92</b> | <b>\$ 0.89</b>                       | <b>\$ 1.60</b> |
| Earnings per diluted common share from continuing operations                    | \$ 0.50                                | \$ 0.48        | \$ 0.93                              | \$ 0.88        |
| Earnings per diluted common share from discontinued operations                  |  | 0.43           | (0.05)                               | 0.71           |
| <b>Earnings per diluted common share</b>  | <b>\$ 0.50</b>                         | <b>\$ 0.91</b> | <b>\$ 0.88</b>                       | <b>\$ 1.59</b> |

- (1) Restricted stock units granted to employees prior to 2013 and restricted stock units granted to independent directors of the Company prior to April 30, 2015 have a right to participate in all of the earnings of the Company in the computation of basic EPS and, therefore, these restricted stock units are not included as incremental shares in the diluted EPS computation.

## 6. PROPERTY, EQUIPMENT AND LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS

Property, equipment and leasehold improvements at June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014 consisted of the following:

| Type   | Estimated<br>Useful<br>Lives | As of            |                      |
|--|------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
|  |                              | June 30,<br>2015 | December 31,<br>2014 |
| (in thousands)   |                              |                  |                      |
| Computer & related equipment                                   | 2 to 5 years                 | \$ 135,792       | \$ 118,537           |
| Furniture & fixtures   | 7 years                      | 10,169           | 9,569                |
| Leasehold improvements   | 1 to 21 years                | 49,804           | 49,756               |
| Work-in-process  |                              | 3,259            | 9,020                |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  |                              | <b>199,024</b>   | <b>186,882</b>       |
| Accumulated depreciation and amortization                      |                              | (105,731)        | (92,808)             |
| <b>Property, equipment and leasehold<br/>improvements, net</b> |                              | <b>\$ 93,293</b> | <b>\$ 94,074</b>     |

Depreciation and amortization expense of property, equipment and leasehold improvements was \$8.1 million and \$5.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Depreciation and amortization expense of property, equipment and leasehold improvements was \$15.3 million and \$11.7 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

**7. GOODWILL AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS*****Goodwill***

The Company carries goodwill as reflected in the table below:

|   | <b>Goodwill</b>     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>(in thousands)</b>                   |                     |
| Goodwill at December 31, 2014           | \$ 1,564,904        |
| Foreign exchange translation adjustment | 549                 |
| <b>Goodwill at June 30, 2015</b>        | <b>\$ 1,565,453</b> |



**Table of Contents****Intangible Assets**

Amortization expense related to intangible assets for the three months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014 was \$11.7 million and \$11.4 million, respectively. Amortization expense related to intangible assets for the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014 was \$23.4 million and \$22.7 million, respectively.

The gross carrying and accumulated amortization amounts related to the Company's identifiable intangible assets are as follows:

|  | Estimated Remaining<br>Useful Lives | As of<br>June 30,<br>2015 | December 31,<br>2014 |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| (in thousands)                             |                                     |                           |                      |
| <b>Gross intangible assets:</b>            |                                     |                           |                      |
| Customer relationships                     | 5 to 21 years                       | \$ 360,835                | \$ 360,835           |
| Trademarks/trade names                     | 5 to 21.5 years                     | 223,382                   | 223,382              |
| Technology/software                        | 3 to 8.5 years                      | 193,293                   | 193,681              |
| Proprietary data                           | 13 years                            | 28,628                    | 28,627               |
| Covenant not to compete                    | 2 years                             | 900                       | 900                  |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                            |                                     | <b>807,038</b>            | <b>807,425</b>       |
| Foreign exchange translation<br>adjustment |                                     | (1,096)                   | (1,588)              |
| <b>Total gross intangible assets</b>       |                                     | <b>\$ 805,942</b>         | <b>\$ 805,837</b>    |
| <b>Accumulated amortization:</b>           |                                     |                           |                      |
| Customer relationships                     |                                     | \$ (131,186)              | \$ (119,058)         |
| Trademarks/trade names                     |                                     | (87,525)                  | (81,545)             |
| Technology/software                        |                                     | (171,096)                 | (167,083)            |
| Proprietary data                           |                                     | (5,641)                   | (4,589)              |
| Covenant not to compete                    |                                     | (413)                     | (187)                |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                            |                                     | <b>(395,861)</b>          | <b>(372,462)</b>     |
| Foreign exchange translation<br>adjustment |                                     | 118                       | 253                  |
| <b>Total accumulated amortization</b>      |                                     | <b>\$ (395,743)</b>       | <b>\$ (372,209)</b>  |
| <b>Net intangible assets:</b>              |                                     |                           |                      |
| Customer relationships                     |                                     | \$ 229,649                | \$ 241,777           |
| Trademarks/trade names                     |                                     | 135,857                   | 141,837              |
| Technology/software                        |                                     | 22,197                    | 26,598               |

|   |                   |                   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Proprietary data                        | 22,987            | 24,038            |
| Covenant not to compete                 | 487               | 713               |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                         | <b>411,177</b>    | <b>434,963</b>    |
| Foreign exchange translation adjustment | (978)             | (1,335)           |
| <b>Total net intangible assets</b>      | <b>\$ 410,199</b> | <b>\$ 433,628</b> |

The estimated amortization expense for the remainder of 2015 and succeeding years is presented below:

| <b>Years Ending December 31,</b> | <b>Amortization Expense<br/>(in thousands)</b> |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Remainder 2015                   | \$ 23,557                                      |
| 2016                             | 46,925   |
| 2017                             | 41,655   |
| 2018                             | 38,506   |
| 2019                             | 36,960   |
| Thereafter                       | 222,596  |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>\$ 410,199</b>                              |

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**Table of Contents****8. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

**Legal matters.** From time to time, the Company is party to various litigation matters incidental to the conduct of its business. The Company is not presently party to any legal proceedings the resolution of which the Company believes would have a material effect on its business, operating results, financial condition or cash flows.

**Leases.** The Company leases facilities under non-cancelable operating lease agreements. The terms of certain lease agreements provide for rental payments on a graduated basis. The Company recognizes rent expense on the straight-line basis over the lease period and has accrued for rent expense incurred but not paid. Rent expense for the three months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014 was \$6.7 million and \$6.8 million, respectively. Rent expense for the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014 was \$13.5 million and \$13.4 million, respectively.

**Return of capital.** On December 13, 2012, the Board of Directors approved a stock repurchase program authorizing the purchase of up to \$300.0 million worth of shares of MSCI's common stock beginning immediately and continuing through December 31, 2014 (the 2012 Repurchase Program).

Prior to 2014, the Company repurchased an aggregate of \$200.0 million worth of shares through multiple accelerated share repurchase (ASR) agreements under the 2012 Repurchase Program. On February 6, 2014, MSCI utilized the remaining \$100.0 million repurchase authorization provided by the 2012 Repurchase Program.

On February 4, 2014, the Board of Directors approved a stock repurchase program authorizing the purchase of up to \$300.0 million worth of shares of MSCI's common stock, which was increased to \$850.0 million on September 17, 2014 (the 2014 Repurchase Program). Share repurchases made pursuant to the 2014 Repurchase Program may take place through December 31, 2016 in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions from time to time based on market and other conditions. This authorization may be modified, suspended, terminated or extended by the Board of Directors at any time without prior notice.

On September 18, 2014, as part of the 2014 Repurchase Program, the Company entered into an ASR agreement to initiate share repurchases aggregating \$300.0 million (the September 2014 ASR Agreement). As a result of the September 2014 ASR Agreement, the Company received approximately 4.5 million shares of MSCI's common stock on September 19, 2014 and approximately 1.2 million shares of MSCI's common stock on May 21, 2015 for a combined average price of \$52.79 per share.

On June 2, 2015, the Company began purchasing shares of MSCI's common stock on the open market in accordance with SEC Rule 10b5-1 (the June 2015 10b5-1 Buyback Plan). Through June 30, 2015, the Company paid \$62.6 million to receive approximately 1.0 million shares of MSCI's common stock under the June 2015 10b5-1 Buyback Plan and paid an additional \$6.7 million for shares of MSCI's common stock that had not yet been received as of June 30, 2015.

Since the introduction of the initial 2012 Repurchase Program, the Company has paid \$669.4 million and has received an aggregate of approximately 14.4 million shares under the programs.

On September 17, 2014, the Board of Directors approved a plan to initiate a quarterly cash dividend. The Company has declared and paid cash dividends per common share during the periods indicated:

|  | <b>Dividends<br/>Per<br/>Share</b> | <b>Amount<br/>(in thousands)</b> |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>2014:</b>                           |                                    |                                  |
| Fourth quarter                         | \$ 0.18                            | \$ 20,393                        |
| <b>2015:</b>                           |                                    |                                  |
| First quarter                          | \$ 0.18                            | \$ 20,411                        |
| Second quarter                         | 0.18                               | 20,442                           |
| Total cash dividends declared and paid | \$ 0.36                            | \$ 40,853                        |

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**Table of Contents**

**Long-term debt.** On November 20, 2014, the Company completed its private offering of \$800.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 5.25% senior unsecured notes due 2024 (the Senior Notes ) and also entered into a \$200.0 million senior unsecured revolving credit agreement (the 2014 Revolving Credit Agreement ) by and among the Company, as borrower, certain of its subsidiaries, as guarantors (the subsidiary guarantors ), the lenders party thereto and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent. The Company used the net proceeds from the offering of the Senior Notes, together with cash on hand, to repay in full its then outstanding term loan indebtedness of \$794.8 million, which bore interest at LIBOR plus a margin of 2.25%.

The Senior Notes are scheduled to mature and be paid in full on November 20, 2024. At any time prior to November 15, 2019, the Company may redeem all or part of the Senior Notes upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior notice at a redemption price equal to the sum of (i) 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus (ii) a make-whole premium as of the date of redemption, plus (iii) accrued and unpaid interest and additional interest, if any, thereon, to the date of redemption. In addition, the Company may redeem all or part of the Senior Notes, together with accrued and unpaid interest, on or after November 15, 2019, at redemption prices set forth in the Indenture dated as of November 20, 2014, among the Company, the subsidiary guarantors and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee. At any time prior to November 15, 2017, the Company may use the proceeds of certain equity offerings to redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the Senior Notes, including any permitted additional notes, at a redemption price equal to 105.25% of the principal amount.

The 2014 Revolving Credit Agreement has an initial term of five years that may be extended, at the Company's request, for two additional one year terms.

Interest on the Senior Notes accrues at a fixed rate of 5.25% per annum and is payable semiannually in arrears on May 15 and November 15 of each year. The first interest payment was made on May 15, 2015. The Company will make interest payments to holders of record of the Senior Notes on the immediately preceding May 1 and November 1.

Long-term debt was \$800.0 million at both June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014.

In connection with the closing of the Senior Notes offering and entering into the 2014 Revolving Credit Agreement, the Company paid certain fees which, together with the existing fees related to prior credit facilities, are being amortized over the life of the Senior Notes and the 2014 Revolving Credit Agreement. At June 30, 2015, \$13.8 million of the deferred financing fees remain unamortized, \$1.8 million of which is included in Prepaid and other assets and \$12.0 million of which is included in Other non-current assets on the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Condition.

The Company amortized \$0.4 million of deferred financing fees in interest expense during each of the three months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014. The Company amortized \$0.9 million of deferred financing fees in interest expense during each of the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014. Approximately \$0.1 million and \$0.2 million of debt discount was amortized in interest expense during the three and six months ended June 30, 2014, respectively. There was no unamortized debt discount outstanding as of December 31, 2014.

At June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, the fair market value of the Company's debt obligations was \$811.0 million and \$831.0 million, respectively. The fair market value is determined in accordance with accounting standards related to the determination of fair value and represents Level 2 valuations, which are based on one or more quoted prices in markets that are not considered to be active or for which all significant inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly. The Company utilizes the market approach and obtains security pricing from a vendor who uses broker quotes and third-party pricing services to determine fair values.

***Derivatives and Hedging Activities.*** The Company is exposed to certain risks arising from both its business operations and economic conditions. The Company principally manages its exposures to a wide variety of business and operational risks through management of its core business activities. The Company manages economic risks, including interest rate, liquidity and credit risk primarily by managing the amount, sources and duration of its debt funding and the use of derivative financial instruments.

Certain of the Company's foreign operations expose the Company to fluctuations of foreign exchange rates. These fluctuations may impact the value of the Company's cash receipts and payments in terms of the Company's functional currency, the U.S. dollar. The Company enters into derivative financial instruments to protect the value or fix the amount of certain obligations in terms of its functional currency. The Company does not enter into derivative contracts for trading or other speculative purposes.

***Non-designated Hedges of Foreign Exchange Risk.*** Derivatives not designated as hedges are not speculative and are used to manage the Company's economic exposure to foreign exchange rate movements but do not meet the strict hedge accounting requirements. Changes in the fair value of derivatives not designated in hedging relationships are recorded directly in earnings. As of June 30, 2015, the Company had outstanding foreign currency forwards with a notional amount of \$26.6 million that were not designated as hedges in qualifying hedging relationships.

**Table of Contents**

The following table presents the fair values of the Company's derivative instruments and the location in which they are presented on the Company's Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition:

| (in thousands)                      | Unaudited Condensed<br>Consolidated Statements of<br>Financial Condition Location | As of<br>June 30, 2015 | As of<br>December 31, 2014 |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Non-designated hedging instruments: |   |                        |                            |
| Asset derivatives:                  |   |                        |                            |
| Foreign exchange contracts          | Prepaid and other assets  | \$ 21                  | \$                         |
| Liability derivatives:              |   |                        |                            |
| Foreign exchange contracts          | Other accrued liabilities   | \$ (87)                | \$ (243)                   |

The Company's foreign exchange forward contracts were classified within Level 2, as they were valued using pricing models that took into account the contract terms as well as multiple observable inputs where applicable, such as prevailing spot rates and forward points.

The following tables present the effect of the Company's financial derivatives and the location in which they are presented on the Company's Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Financial Condition and Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income for the periods indicated:

| Derivatives Not Designated as Hedging Instruments<br>(in thousands) | Location of Gain or<br>(Loss) Recognized in<br>Income on Derivatives | Amount of Gain or (Loss) Recognized<br>in Income on<br>Derivatives for the<br>Three Months Ended June 30,<br>2015 2014 |          |
|---|--|--|----------|
| Foreign exchange contracts  | Other expense & income   | \$ (1,000)   | \$ (407) |

| Derivatives Not Designated as Hedging Instruments<br>(in thousands) | Location of Gain or<br>(Loss) Recognized in<br>Income on Derivatives | Amount of Gain or (Loss) Recognized<br>in Income on<br>Derivatives for the<br>Six Months<br>Ended June 30,<br>2015 2014 |          |
|---|--|---|----------|
| Foreign exchange contracts  | Other expense & income   | \$ 412  | \$ (567) |

**9. INCOME TAXES**

The Company's provision for income taxes was \$59.4 million and \$53.7 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. These amounts reflect effective tax rates of 36.0% and 34.0% for the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

The effective tax rate of 36.0% for the six months ended June 30, 2015 reflects the Company's estimate of the effective tax rate for the period and is impacted by certain discrete items totaling \$0.6 million related to state taxes which decreased the Company's effective tax rate by 0.6 percentage points.

The effective tax rate of 34.0% for the six months ended June 30, 2014 reflects the Company's estimate of the effective tax rate for the period and is impacted by certain discrete items totaling \$2.7 million related to state taxes and the release of reserves associated with certain IRS examinations which decreased the Company's effective tax rate by 1.8 percentage points.

The Company is under examination by the IRS and other tax authorities in certain jurisdictions, including foreign jurisdictions, such as India, and states in which the Company has significant business operations, such as New York. The tax years currently under examination vary by jurisdiction but include years ranging from 2005 through 2014. As a result of having previously been a member of the Morgan Stanley consolidated group, the Company may have future settlements with Morgan Stanley related to the ultimate disposition of their New York State and New York City examination relating to the tax years 2007 through 2008 and their IRS



**Table of Contents**

examination relating to the tax years 2006 through 2008. The Company does not believe it has any material exposure to the New York State and New York City examination. Additionally, the Company believes it has adequate reserves for any tax issues that may arise out of the IRS examination relating to the tax years 2006 through 2008 and therefore does not believe any related settlement with Morgan Stanley will have a material impact.

The Company regularly assesses the likelihood of additional assessments in each of the taxing jurisdictions in which it files income tax returns. The Company has established unrecognized tax benefits that the Company believes are adequate in relation to the potential for additional assessments. Once established, the Company adjusts unrecognized tax benefits only when more information is available or when an event occurs necessitating a change. As part of the Company's periodic review of unrecognized tax benefits and based on new information regarding the status of federal and state examinations, the Company's unrecognized tax benefits were remeasured. It is reasonably possible that significant changes in the balance of unrecognized tax benefits may occur within the next 12 months. At this time, however, it is not possible to reasonably estimate the expected change to the total amount of unrecognized tax benefits and the impact on the effective tax rate over the next 12 months.

**10. SEGMENT INFORMATION**

ASC Subtopic 280-10, *Segment Reporting*, establishes standards for reporting information about operating segments. Operating segments are defined as components of an enterprise about which separate financial information is available that is evaluated regularly by the chief operating decision maker, or CODM, in deciding how to allocate resources and in assessing performance. MSCI's Chief Executive Officer, who is considered to be its CODM, reviews financial information presented on an operating segment basis for purposes of making operating decisions and assessing financial performance.

MSCI operates and reports as a single business segment.

Revenue by geography is based on the shipping address of the customer. The following table sets forth revenue for the periods indicated by geographic area:

|                       | <b>Three Months Ended</b> |                | <b>Six Months Ended</b> |                |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
|                       | <b>June 30,</b>           |                | <b>June 30,</b>         |                |
|                       | <b>2015</b>               | <b>2014</b>    | <b>2015</b>             | <b>2014</b>    |
|                       | <b>(in thousands)</b>     |                |                         |                |
| <b>Revenues</b>       |                           |                |                         |                |
| Americas:             |                           |                |                         |                |
| United States         | \$ 130,057                | \$ 118,226     | \$ 255,673              | \$ 229,058     |
| Other                 | 10,375                    | 9,363          | 20,230                  | 18,790         |
| <b>Total Americas</b> | <b>140,432</b>            | <b>127,589</b> | <b>275,903</b>          | <b>247,848</b> |
| EMEA:                 |                           |                |                         |                |
| United Kingdom        | 42,155                    | 38,381         | 82,396                  | 75,857         |
| Other                 | 55,380                    | 57,500         | 110,309                 | 108,628        |

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|                        |            |            |            |            |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total EMEA             | 97,535     | 95,881     | 192,705    | 184,485    |
| Asia & Australia:      |            |            |            |            |
| Japan                  | 10,958     | 11,852     | 22,560     | 23,812     |
| Other                  | 21,655     | 18,904     | 42,181     | 37,769     |
| Total Asia & Australia | 32,613     | 30,756     | 64,741     | 61,581     |
| Total                  | \$ 270,580 | \$ 254,226 | \$ 533,349 | \$ 493,914 |

**Table of Contents**

Long-lived assets consist of property, equipment, leasehold improvements, goodwill and intangible assets, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization.

The following table sets forth long-lived assets on the dates indicated by geographic area:

|                                   | <b>June 30,<br/>2015</b> | <b>As of<br/>December 31,<br/>2014</b> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
|                                   | <b>(in thousands)</b>    |  |
| <b>Long-lived assets</b>          |                          |  |
| <b>Americas:</b>                  |                          |  |
| United States                     | \$ 1,923,417             | \$ 1,944,433                           |
| Other                             | 2,768                    | 3,293                                  |
| <b>Total Americas</b>             | <b>1,926,185</b>         | <b>1,947,726</b>                       |
| <b>EMEA:</b>                      |                          |  |
| United Kingdom                    | 119,855                  | 120,781                                |
| Other                             | 11,467                   | 13,345                                 |
| <b>Total EMEA</b>                 | <b>131,322</b>           | <b>134,126</b>                         |
| <b>Asia &amp; Australia:</b>      |                          |  |
| Japan                             | 690                      | 837                                    |
| Other                             | 10,748                   | 9,917                                  |
| <b>Total Asia &amp; Australia</b> | <b>11,438</b>            | <b>10,754</b>                          |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>\$ 2,068,945</b>      | <b>\$ 2,092,606</b>                    |

**11. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

On July 28, 2015, the Board of Directors declared a cash dividend of \$0.22 per share for third quarter 2015. The third quarter 2015 dividend is payable on August 31, 2015 to shareholders of record as of the close of trading on August 17, 2015.

**Table of Contents**

**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of MSCI Inc.

We have reviewed the accompanying condensed consolidated statement of financial condition of MSCI Inc. and its subsidiaries as of June 30, 2015, and the related condensed consolidated statements of income and of comprehensive income for the three-month and six-month periods ended June 30, 2015 and June 30, 2014 and the condensed consolidated statements of cash flows for the six-month periods ended June 30, 2015 and June 30, 2014. These interim financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management.

We conducted our review in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). A review of interim financial information consists principally of applying analytical procedures and making inquiries of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters. It is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying condensed consolidated interim financial statements for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We previously audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated statement of financial condition as of December 31, 2014, and the related consolidated statements of income, of comprehensive income, of shareholders' equity and of cash flows for the year then ended (not presented herein), and in our report dated February 27, 2015, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements. In our opinion, the information set forth in the accompanying condensed consolidated statement of financial condition information as of December 31, 2014, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the consolidated statement of financial condition from which it has been derived.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
New York, New York  
July 31, 2015

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

*The following discussion and analysis of the financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with the condensed consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this Form 10-Q and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K, as amended, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 (the Form 10-K). This discussion contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those discussed below. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, those identified below and those discussed in Item 1A. Risk Factors, in the Form 10-K.*

**Overview**

For more than 40 years, our research-based models and methodologies have helped the world's leading investors build and manage better portfolios. We believe clients rely on our products and services for deeper insights into the drivers of performance and risk in their portfolios, broad asset class coverage and innovative research and can use our products to help design and implement their investment strategies. Our line of products and services includes indexes, analytical tools, data, real estate benchmarks and environmental, social and governance (ESG) research. Our products and services address multiple markets, asset classes and geographies and are sold to a diverse client base, including asset owners, such as pension funds, endowments, foundations, central banks, family offices and insurance companies; institutional and retail asset managers, such as managers of pension assets, mutual funds, exchange traded funds (ETFs), real estate, hedge funds and private wealth; and financial intermediaries, such as banks, broker-dealers, exchanges, custodians and investment consultants. As of June 30, 2015, we had over 6,900 clients across 83 countries. We had offices in 35 cities in 22 countries to help serve our diverse client base, with 51.7% of our revenues coming from clients in the Americas, 36.1% in Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) and 12.2% in Asia and Australia.

Our principal sales model is to license annual, recurring subscriptions to our products and services for use at specified locations, often by a given number of users or for a certain volume of services, for an annual fee paid up-front. Additionally, our recurring subscriptions include our managed services offering whereby we oversee the production of risk and performance reports on behalf of our clients. Fees attributable to annual, recurring subscriptions are recorded as deferred revenues on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Condition and are recognized on our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statement of Income as the service is rendered. Furthermore, a portion of our revenues comes from clients who use our indexes as the basis for index-linked investment products such as ETFs or as the basis for passively managed funds and separate accounts. These clients commonly pay us a license fee for the use of our intellectual property based on the investment product's assets. We generate a limited amount of our revenues from certain exchanges that use our indexes as the basis for futures and options contracts and pay us a license fee for the use of our intellectual property based on their volume of trades. In addition, we generate revenues from subscription agreements for the receipt of periodic benchmark reports, digests and other publications, which are most often associated with our real estate products that are recognized upon delivery of such reports or data updates. We also receive revenues from one-time fees related to implementation, historical or customized reports, advisory and consulting services and from certain products and services that are designed for one-time usage.

In evaluating our financial performance, we focus on revenue growth for the Company in total and by product category as well as operating profit growth. In addition, we focus on operating metrics, including Run Rates and retention rates to manage the business. Our business is not highly capital intensive and, as such, we expect to continue to convert a high percentage of our operating profits into excess cash in the future. Our revenue growth strategy includes: (a) expanding and deepening our relationships with investment institutions worldwide; (b) developing new and enhancing existing product offerings, including combining existing product features or data derived from our products to create new products; and (c) actively seeking to acquire products, technologies and companies that will enhance, complement or expand our client base and our product offerings.

To maintain and accelerate our revenue and operating income growth, in recent years we have significantly invested in and expanded our operating functions and infrastructure, including additional product management, sales and client support staff and facilities in locations around the world and additional staff and supporting technology for our research and our data operations and technology functions (the Enhanced Investment Program ).

The purpose of the Enhanced Investment Program was to maximize our medium-term revenue and operating income growth, while at the same time ensuring that MSCI would remain a leading provider of investment decision support tools into the future. As a result, the rate of growth of our investments had, in recent years, exceeded that of our revenues, which had slowed the growth of, or even reduced, our operating profit. For example, for the year ended December 31, 2014, our revenues grew by 9.1% but our operating income decreased by 0.9% compared to the year ended December 31, 2013 due, in part, to increased investment in our business. However, we completed our Enhanced Investment Program in the year ended December 31, 2014, and have again achieved operating margin expansion in the first six months of 2015. We expect margin expansion to continue throughout 2015, exclusive of any non-recurring charges we may incur.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Factors Affecting the Comparability of Results**

#### *Share Repurchases*

On December 13, 2012, our Board of Directors approved a stock repurchase program authorizing the purchase of up to \$300.0 million worth of shares of MSCI's common stock beginning immediately and continuing through December 31, 2014 (the 2012 Repurchase Program). We utilized \$200.0 million of the repurchase authority through December 31, 2013.

On February 6, 2014, we utilized the remaining \$100.0 million repurchase authorization provided by the 2012 Repurchase Program.

On February 4, 2014, our Board of Directors approved a stock repurchase program authorizing the purchase of up to \$300.0 million worth of shares of our common stock, which was subsequently increased to \$850.0 million (the 2014 Repurchase Program). Share repurchases made pursuant to the 2014 Repurchase Program may take place through December 31, 2016 in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions from time to time based on market and other conditions.

On September 18, 2014, as part of the 2014 Repurchase Program, we entered into an ASR agreement to initiate share repurchases aggregating \$300.0 million (the September 2014 ASR Agreement). On September 19, 2014, we paid \$300.0 million in cash and received approximately 4.5 million shares of MSCI's common stock. On May 21, 2015, we completed the September ASR Program by receiving approximately 1.2 million shares. In total, 5.7 million shares were delivered for an average purchase price of \$52.79 per share. The repurchased shares are held in treasury.

On June 2, 2015, we began purchasing shares of our common stock on the open market in accordance with SEC Rule 10b5-1 (the June 2015 10b5-1 Buyback Plan). Through June 30, 2015, we paid \$62.6 million to receive approximately 1.0 million shares of our common stock under the June 2015 10b5-1 Buyback Plan and paid an additional \$6.7 million for shares of our common stock that had not yet been received as of June 30, 2015.

Since the introduction of the initial 2012 Repurchase Program through June 30, 2015, we have paid \$669.4 million and have received an aggregate of approximately 14.4 million shares under the programs.

The share repurchase programs have effectively decreased the weighted average shares outstanding used in calculating our basic and diluted earnings per share.

The discussion of our results of operations for the three months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014 is presented below. The results of operations for interim periods may not be indicative of future results.

#### *Senior Notes and Credit Agreement*

On November 20, 2014, we completed our private offering of \$800.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 5.25% senior unsecured notes due 2024 (the Senior Notes) and also entered into a new \$200.0 million senior unsecured revolving credit agreement (the 2014 Revolving Credit Agreement). We used the net proceeds from the offering of the Senior Notes, together with cash on hand, to repay in full our outstanding term loan indebtedness, which bore interest at a rate of 2.25% for the six months ended June 30, 2014.





**Table of Contents****Results of Operations*****Three Months Ended June 30, 2015 Compared to the Three Months Ended June 30, 2014***

The following table presents the results of operations for the periods indicated:

|  | <b>Three Months Ended<br/>June 30,</b> |                | <b>Increase/(Decrease)</b> |             |
|--|--|----------------|----------------------------|-------------|
|  | <b>2015</b>                            | <b>2014</b>    |                            |             |
| <b>(in thousands, except per share data)</b>                                       |  |                |                            |             |
| Operating revenues   | \$ 270,580                             | \$ 254,226     | \$ 16,354                  | 6.4%        |
| Operating expenses:  |  |                |                            |             |
| Cost of services   | 76,753                                 | 76,816         | (63)                       | (0.1%)      |
| Selling, general and administrative  | 75,556                                 | 71,516         | 4,040                      | 5.6%        |
| Amortization of intangible assets  | 11,695                                 | 11,442         | 253                        | 2.2%        |
| Depreciation and amortization of property,<br>equipment and leasehold improvements | 8,065                                  | 5,921          | 2,144                      | 36.2%       |
| <b>Total operating expenses</b>  | <b>172,069</b>                         | <b>165,695</b> | <b>6,374</b>               | <b>3.8%</b> |
| Operating income   | 98,511                                 | 88,531         | 9,980                      | 11.3%       |
| Other expense (income), net  | 11,095                                 | 4,448          | 6,647                      | 149.4%      |
| Income from continuing operations before<br>provision for income taxes             | 87,416                                 | 84,083         | 3,333                      | 4.0%        |
| Provision for income taxes   | 31,399                                 | 27,280         | 4,119                      | 15.1%       |
| Income from continuing operations  | 56,017                                 | 56,803         | (786)                      | (1.4%)      |
| Income (loss) from discontinued operations, net of<br>income taxes                 |  | 50,857         | (50,857)                   | (100.0%)    |
| Net income   | \$ 56,017                              | \$ 107,660     | \$ (51,643)                | (48.0%)     |
| Earnings per basic common share:   |  |                |                            |             |
| From continuing operations   | \$ 0.50                                | \$ 0.48        | \$ 0.02                    | 4.2%        |
| From discontinued operations   |  | 0.44           | (0.44)                     | (100.0%)    |
| Earnings per basic common share  | \$ 0.50                                | \$ 0.92        | \$ (0.42)                  | (45.7%)     |
| Earnings per diluted common share:   |  |                |                            |             |
| From continuing operations   | \$ 0.50                                | \$ 0.48        | \$ 0.02                    | 4.2%        |
| From discontinued operations   |  | 0.43           | (0.43)                     | (100.0%)    |

|                                   |         |         |           |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Earnings per diluted common share | \$ 0.50 | \$ 0.91 | \$ (0.41) | (45.1%) |
| Operating margin                  | 36.4%   | 34.8%   |           |         |

***Operating Revenues***

Our revenues are grouped into the following two product categories:

Performance products, consisting of index, real estate and ESG products; and

Analytics products, consisting of risk management analytics and portfolio management analytics products.

The following table summarizes operating revenues by product category for the periods indicated:

|                                    | <b>Three Months Ended</b> |                   | <b>Increase/(Decrease)</b> |             |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
|                                    | <b>June 30,</b>           |                   |                            |             |
|                                    | <b>2015</b>               | <b>2014</b>       | <b>(in thousands)</b>      |             |
| <b>Performance products:</b>       |                           |                   |                            |             |
| Subscriptions                      | \$ 111,850                | \$ 106,162        | \$ 5,688                   | 5.4%        |
| Asset-based fees                   | 51,160                    | 44,095            | 7,065                      | 16.0%       |
| <b>Total performance products</b>  | <b>163,010</b>            | <b>150,257</b>    | <b>12,753</b>              | <b>8.5%</b> |
| <b>Analytics products:</b>         |                           |                   |                            |             |
| Risk management analytics          | 80,917                    | 77,666            | 3,251                      | 4.2%        |
| Portfolio management analytics     | 26,653                    | 26,303            | 350                        | 1.3%        |
| <b>Total analytics products</b>    | <b>107,570</b>            | <b>103,969</b>    | <b>3,601</b>               | <b>3.5%</b> |
| <b>Total operating revenues</b>    | <b>\$ 270,580</b>         | <b>\$ 254,226</b> | <b>\$ 16,354</b>           | <b>6.4%</b> |
| Recurring subscriptions            | \$ 215,566                | \$ 205,265        | \$ 10,301                  | 5.0%        |
| Asset-based fees                   | 51,160                    | 44,095            | 7,065                      | 16.0%       |
| Non-recurring subscription revenue | 3,854                     | 4,866             | (1,012)                    | (20.8%)     |
| <b>Total operating revenues</b>    | <b>\$ 270,580</b>         | <b>\$ 254,226</b> | <b>\$ 16,354</b>           | <b>6.4%</b> |

**Table of Contents**

Total operating revenues grew 6.4% to \$270.6 million for the three months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$254.2 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014. This primarily reflects growth of 5.0% in recurring subscription revenues and 16.0% in asset-based fee revenue. Adjusting for the impact of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations, recurring subscription revenues would have grown 7.3% for the three months ended June 30, 2015 compared to the three months ended June 30, 2014.

Our performance products primarily consist of equity and real estate index subscriptions, equity index asset-based fees products and real estate and ESG products. Our performance products are used for performance benchmarking and attribution, index-linked investment product creation, the assessment of corporate management of ESG risks and opportunities, investment manager selection and investment research. We derive revenues from our performance products through index data and ESG subscriptions, fees based on assets in investment products linked to our indexes and non-recurring licenses of our historical index data. We also generate a limited amount of revenues based on the trading volume of futures and options contracts linked to our indexes. Revenues related to performance products increased 8.5% to \$163.0 million for the three months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$150.3 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014.

Subscription revenues from our performance products were up 5.4% to \$111.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$106.2 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014. The increase was primarily driven by growth in revenues from equity index benchmark and ESG products.

Asset-based fee revenues attributable to our performance products increased 16.0% to \$51.2 million for the three months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$44.1 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014. The increase was primarily driven by an increase of \$81.8 billion, or 22.7%, in the average value of assets under management ( AUM ) in ETFs linked to MSCI indexes. Higher trading volumes in futures and options contracts based on MSCI indexes and growth in assets from non-ETF passive funds also contributed to the increase.

As of June 30, 2015, the value of assets in ETFs linked to MSCI equity indexes was \$435.4 billion, up \$56.7 billion, or 15.0%, from \$378.7 billion as of June 30, 2014. Of the \$435.4 billion of assets in ETFs linked to MSCI equity indexes as of June 30, 2015, 55.7% were linked to indexes related to developed markets outside of the U.S., 21.3% were linked to emerging market indexes, 17.8% were linked to U.S. market indexes and 5.2% were linked to other global indexes.

The following table sets forth the value of assets in ETFs linked to MSCI indexes and the sequential change of such assets as of the end of each of the periods indicated:

| (in billions)                      | Period Ended   |               |                    |                   |                |               |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
|                                    | March 31, 2014 | June 30, 2014 | September 30, 2014 | December 31, 2014 | March 31, 2015 | June 30, 2015 |
| AUM in ETFs linked to MSCI Indexes | \$ 340.8       | \$ 378.7      | \$ 377.9           | \$ 373.3          | \$ 418.0       | \$ 435.4      |
| Sequential Change in Value         |                |               |                    |                   |                |               |
| Market Appreciation/(Depreciation) | \$ 1.3         | \$ 15.2       | \$ (17.2)          | \$ (8.3)          | \$ 13.0        | \$ (6.9)      |
| Cash Inflow/(Outflow)              | 6.6            | 22.7          | 16.4               | 3.7               | 31.7           | 24.3          |
| Total Change                       | \$ 7.9         | \$ 37.9       | \$ (0.8)           | \$ (4.6)          | \$ 44.7        | \$ 17.4       |

Source: Bloomberg and MSCI

The following table sets forth the average value of assets in ETFs linked to MSCI indexes for the periods indicated:

| (in billions)                      | Quarterly Average |          |           |          |          |          |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                                    | 2014              |          |           |          | 2015     |          |
|                                    | March             | June     | September | December | March    | June     |
| AUM in ETFs linked to MSCI Indexes | \$ 330.8          | \$ 359.6 | \$ 385.9  | \$ 373.6 | \$ 392.5 | \$ 441.4 |

Source: Bloomberg and MSCI

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**Table of Contents**

The historical values of the assets in ETFs linked to our indexes as of the last day of the month and the monthly average balance can be found under the link [AUM in ETFs Linked to MSCI Indexes](#) on our Investor Relations homepage at <http://ir.msci.com>. This information is updated on the second U.S. business day of each month. Information contained on our website, including our Investor Relations homepage, is not incorporated by reference into this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q or any other report filed by us with the SEC.

Our analytics products, which consist of risk management analytics and portfolio management analytics products, increased 3.5% to \$107.6 million for the three months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$104.0 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014.

Our risk management analytics products offer risk and performance assessment frameworks for managing and monitoring investments in organizations globally. These products allow clients to analyze investments in a variety of asset classes and are based on our proprietary integrated fundamental multi-factor risk models, value-at-risk methodologies, performance attribution frameworks and asset valuation models. We also offer products for monitoring, analyzing and reporting on institutional assets. Additionally, we provide products consisting of software applications which help users value, model and hedge physical assets and derivatives across a number of market segments including energy and commodity assets.

Revenues related to risk management analytics products increased 4.2% to \$80.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$77.7 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014. The increase in risk management analytics revenues was due to higher revenues from our RiskManager, HedgePlatform, BarraOne and InvestorForce products.

Our portfolio management analytics products consist primarily of equity portfolio analytics tools. Revenues related to portfolio management analytics products increased 1.3% to \$26.7 million for the three months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$26.3 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014. The increase was driven by higher revenues from our equity analytics products.

***Run Rate***

At the end of any period, we generally have subscription and investment product license agreements in place for a large portion of total revenues for the following 12 months. We measure the fees related to these agreements and refer to this as *Run Rate*. The *Run Rate* at a particular point in time represents the forward-looking revenues for the next 12 months from all subscriptions and investment product licenses we then provide to our clients under renewable contracts or agreements assuming all contracts or agreements that come up for renewal are renewed and assuming then-current currency exchange rates. For any license where fees are linked to an investment product's assets or trading volume, the *Run Rate* calculation reflects, for ETF fees, the market value on the last trading day of the period and for non-ETF funds and futures and options, the most recent periodic fee earned under such license or subscription. The *Run Rate* does not include fees associated with one-time and other non-recurring transactions. In addition, we remove from the *Run Rate* the fees associated with any subscription or investment product license agreement with respect to which we have received a notice of termination or non-renewal during the period and determined that such notice evidences the client's final decision to terminate or not renew the applicable subscription or agreement, even though such notice is not effective until a later date.

Because the *Run Rate* represents potential future revenues, there is typically a delayed impact on our operating revenues from changes in our *Run Rate*. In addition, the actual amount of revenues we will realize over the following 12 months will differ from the *Run Rate* because of:

revenues associated with new subscriptions and non-recurring sales;

modifications, cancellations and non-renewals of existing agreements, subject to specified notice requirements;

fluctuations in asset-based fees, which may result from changes in certain investment products' total expense ratios, market movements, including foreign currency exchange rates, or from investment inflows into and outflows from investment products linked to our indexes;

fluctuations in fees based on trading volumes of futures and options contracts linked to our indexes;

fluctuations in the number of hedge funds for which we provide investment information and risk analysis to hedge fund investors;

price changes;

revenue recognition differences under U.S. GAAP, including timing of implementation and report deliveries;

**Table of Contents**

fluctuations in foreign exchange rates; and

the impact of acquisitions and dispositions.

The following table sets forth the Run Rates as of the dates indicated and the growth percentages over the periods indicated:

|                                | As of            |                  |                   | Year-Over-<br>Year<br>Comparison | Sequential<br>Comparison |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                | June 30,<br>2015 | June 30,<br>2014 | March 31,<br>2015 |                                  |                          |
| (in thousands)                 |                  |                  |                   |                                  |                          |
| Run Rates:                     |                  |                  |                   |                                  |                          |
| Performance products           |                  |                  |                   |                                  |                          |
| Subscription                   | \$ 436,115       | \$ 393,848       | \$ 422,581        | 10.7%                            | 3.2%                     |
| Asset-based fees               | 201,221          | 176,554          | 190,581           | 14.0%                            | 5.6%                     |
| Performance products total     | 637,336          | 570,402          | 613,162           | 11.7%                            | 3.9%                     |
| Analytics products             |                  |                  |                   |                                  |                          |
| Risk management analytics      | 315,901          | 309,619          | 309,284           | 2.0%                             | 2.1%                     |
| Portfolio management analytics | 109,532          | 106,486          | 108,364           | 2.9%                             | 1.1%                     |
| Analytics products total       | 425,433          | 416,105          | 417,648           | 2.2%                             | 1.9%                     |
| Total Run Rate                 | \$ 1,062,769     | \$ 986,507       | \$ 1,030,810      | 7.7%                             | 3.1%                     |
| Subscription total             | \$ 861,548       | \$ 809,953       | \$ 840,229        | 6.4%                             | 2.5%                     |
| Asset-based fees total         | 201,221          | 176,554          | 190,581           | 14.0%                            | 5.6%                     |
| Total Run Rate                 | \$ 1,062,769     | \$ 986,507       | \$ 1,030,810      | 7.7%                             | 3.1%                     |

Total Run Rate grew 7.7% to \$1,062.8 million as of June 30, 2015 compared to \$986.5 million as of June 30, 2014. Subscription Run Rate grew 6.4% to \$861.5 million as of June 30, 2015 compared to June 30, 2014. Adjusting for the impact of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations and the acquisition of Governance Holdings Co. ( GMI Ratings ), subscription Run Rate grew 8.1% as of June 30, 2015 compared to June 30, 2014.

Total Run Rate from performance products grew 11.7% to \$637.3 million at June 30, 2015 compared to \$570.4 million at June 30, 2014.

Subscription Run Rate from performance products grew 10.7% to \$436.1 million at June 30, 2015 from \$393.8 million at June 30, 2014. Adjusting for the negative impact of foreign currency exchange rate changes and the positive impact related to the acquisition of GMI Ratings, subscription Run Rate increased 10.7%. The growth in performance



products subscription Run Rate was driven primarily by growth in equity index benchmark and data products, in addition to strong growth in ESG products.

Asset-based fee Run Rate from performance products increased 14.0% to \$201.2 million at June 30, 2015, from \$176.6 million at June 30, 2014. The increase was primarily driven by higher inflows into ETFs linked to MSCI indexes and non-ETF passive funds.

As of June 30, 2015, AUM in ETFs linked to MSCI indexes were \$435.4 billion, up \$56.7 billion, or 15.0%, from June 30, 2014. The increase in AUM for MSCI-linked ETFs consisted of market decreases of \$19.4 billion and net inflows of \$76.1 billion.

Total Run Rate from analytics products increased 2.2% to \$425.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$416.1 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014.

Risk management analytics products Run Rate increased 2.0% to \$315.9 million at June 30, 2015 compared to \$309.6 million at June 30, 2014. Adjusting for the impact of foreign currency rate changes, Run Rate increased 5.8% as of June 30, 2015 compared to June 30, 2014.

**Table of Contents**

Portfolio management analytics products Run Rate increased 2.9% to \$109.5 million at June 30, 2015 from \$106.5 million at June 30, 2014. Adjusting for the impact of foreign currency rate changes, Run Rate increased 5.5% as of June 30, 2015 compared to June 30, 2014.

*Subscription Sales*

The following table sets forth our net new recurring subscription sales and non-recurring sales for the periods presented:

|   | <b>Three Months Ended</b> |                          |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|
|   | <b>June 30,<br/>2015</b>  | <b>June 30,<br/>2014</b> |
|   | <b>(in thousands)</b>     |                          |
| New recurring subscription sales            | \$ 29,575                 | \$ 29,078                |
| Subscription cancellations                  | (12,170)                  | (13,173)                 |
| <b>Net new recurring subscription sales</b> | <b>\$ 17,405</b>          | <b>\$ 15,905</b>         |
| <br>Non-recurring sales                     | <br>\$ 5,700              | <br>\$ 5,671             |

*Aggregate and Core Retention Rates*

The following table sets forth our Aggregate Retention Rates by product category for the indicated three months ended:

|                                | <b>June 30,<br/>2015</b> | <b>June 30,<br/>2014</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Performance products           | 94.5%                    | 94.1%                    |
| Analytics products             |                          |                          |
| Risk management analytics      | 94.1%                    | 91.6%                    |
| Portfolio management analytics | 92.9%                    | 94.8%                    |
| Analytics products total       | 93.8%                    | 92.4%                    |
| Total                          | 94.2%                    | 93.2%                    |

The following table sets forth our Core Retention Rates by product category for the indicated three months ended:

|                      | <b>June 30,<br/>2015</b> | <b>June 30,<br/>2014</b> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Performance products | 94.5%                    | 94.1%                    |
| Analytics products   |                          |                          |

|                                |       |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Risk management analytics      | 94.1% | 91.6% |
| Portfolio management analytics | 92.9% | 95.8% |
| Analytics products total       | 93.8% | 92.7% |
| Total                          | 94.2% | 93.3% |

The Aggregate Retention Rates for a period are calculated by annualizing the cancellations for which we have received a notice of termination or for which we believe there is an intention to not renew during the period and we believe that such notice or intention evidences the client's final decision to terminate or not renew the applicable agreement, even though such notice is not effective until a later date. This annualized cancellation figure is then divided by the subscription Run Rate at the beginning of the year to calculate a cancellation rate. This cancellation rate is then subtracted from 100% to derive the annualized Aggregate Retention Rate for the

**Table of Contents**

period. The Aggregate Retention Rate is computed on a product-by-product basis. Therefore, if a client reduces the number of products to which it subscribes or switches between our products, we treat it as a cancellation. In addition, we treat any reduction in fees resulting from renegotiated contracts as a cancellation in the calculation to the extent of the reduction.

For the calculation of the Core Retention Rate, the same methodology is used except that the cancellations in the period are reduced by the amount of product swaps. We do not calculate Aggregate or Core Retention Rates for that portion of our Run Rate attributable to assets in investment products linked to our indexes or to trading volumes of futures and options contracts linked to our indexes.

In our businesses, Aggregate and Core Retention Rates are generally higher during the first three fiscal quarters and lower in the fourth fiscal quarter.

***Operating Expenses***

We group our operating expenses into four categories:

Cost of services;

Selling, general and administrative ( SG&A );

Amortization of intangible assets; and

Depreciation and amortization of property, equipment and leasehold improvements.

In both the cost of services and SG&A expense categories, compensation and benefits represent the majority of our expenses. Other costs associated with the number of employees such as office space and professional services are included in both the cost of services and SG&A expense categories and are consistent with the allocation of employees to those respective areas.

The following table shows operating expenses by each of the categories for the periods indicated:

|                           | <b>Three Months Ended</b> |             |                            |         |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------|
|                           | <b>June 30,</b>           |             |                            |         |
|                           | <b>2015</b>               | <b>2014</b> | <b>Increase/(Decrease)</b> |         |
|                           | <b>(in thousands)</b>     |             |                            |         |
| Cost of services:         |                           |             |                            |         |
| Compensation and benefits | \$ 59,444                 | \$ 56,668   | \$ 2,776                   | 4.9%    |
| Non-compensation expenses | 17,309                    | 20,148      | (2,839)                    | (14.1%) |
| Total cost of services    | 76,753                    | 76,816      | (63)                       | (0.1%)  |

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|  |                   |                   |                 |             |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| <b>Selling, general and administrative:</b>  |                   |                   |                 |             |
| Compensation and benefits  | 51,422            | 46,015            | 5,407           | 11.8%       |
| Non-compensation expenses  | 24,134            | 25,501            | (1,367)         | (5.4%)      |
| <b>Total selling, general and administrative</b>                                   | <b>75,556</b>     | <b>71,516</b>     | <b>4,040</b>    | <b>5.6%</b> |
| Amortization of intangible assets  | 11,695            | 11,442            | 253             | 2.2%        |
| Depreciation and amortization of property,<br>equipment and leasehold improvements | 8,065             | 5,921             | 2,144           | 36.2%       |
| <b>Total operating expenses</b>  | <b>\$ 172,069</b> | <b>\$ 165,695</b> | <b>\$ 6,374</b> | <b>3.8%</b> |
| <br>   |                   |                   |                 |             |
| Compensation and benefits  | \$ 110,866        | \$ 102,683        | \$ 8,183        | 8.0%        |
| Non-compensation expenses  | 41,443            | 45,649            | (4,206)         | (9.2%)      |
| Amortization of intangible assets  | 11,695            | 11,442            | 253             | 2.2%        |
| Depreciation and amortization of property,<br>equipment and leasehold improvements | 8,065             | 5,921             | 2,144           | 36.2%       |
| <br>   |                   |                   |                 |             |
| <b>Total operating expenses</b>  | <b>\$ 172,069</b> | <b>\$ 165,695</b> | <b>\$ 6,374</b> | <b>3.8%</b> |

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## **Table of Contents**

Operating expenses were \$172.1 million for the three months ended June 30, 2015, an increase of 3.8% compared to \$165.7 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014. Adjusting for the impact of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations, operating expenses would have grown 8.6% for the three months ended June 30, 2015 compared to the three months ended June 30, 2014.

Compensation and benefits expenses typically represent more than 60% of total operating expenses. These costs generally contribute to the majority of our expense increases from period to period, reflecting increased compensation and benefits expenses for current staff and changing staffing levels. We had 2,779 and 2,762 employees as of June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Continued growth of our emerging market centers around the world is an important factor in our ability to manage and control the growth of our compensation and benefit expenses.

During the three months ended June 30, 2015, compensation and benefits costs were \$110.9 million, an increase of 8.0% compared to \$102.7 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014. The increase in compensation and benefits costs was driven by an increase in severance and higher costs for current staff and the current impact of the prior year's increase in staffing levels.

Non-compensation expenses for the three months ended June 30, 2015 decreased 9.2% to \$41.4 million compared to \$45.6 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014. The decrease was driven by stronger cost discipline following the conclusion of the Enhanced Investment Program that was completed in the year ended December 31, 2014.

### ***Cost of Services***

Cost of services includes costs related to our research, data management and production, software engineering and product management functions. Costs in these areas include staff compensation and benefits, occupancy costs, market data fees and information technology services. Compensation and benefits generally contribute to a majority of our expense increases from period to period. Total cost of services was \$76.8 million for each of the three months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014.

Compensation and benefits expenses for the three months ended June 30, 2015 increased 4.9% to \$59.4 million compared to \$56.7 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014. The increase in compensation and benefits expenses was primarily impacted by higher severance costs.

Non-compensation expenses for the three months ended June 30, 2015 decreased 14.1% to \$17.3 million compared to \$20.1 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014. The decrease was primarily driven by lower costs related to travel & entertainment, information technology and other costs.

### ***Selling, General and Administrative***

SG&A includes expenses for our sales and marketing staff and our finance, human resources, legal and compliance, information technology infrastructure and corporate administration personnel. As with cost of services, the largest expense in this category relates to compensation and benefits. Other significant expenses are for occupancy costs, third-party professional fees and information technology costs. For the three months ended June 30, 2015, SG&A increased 5.6% to \$75.6 million compared to \$71.5 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014.

Compensation and benefits expenses increased 11.8% to \$51.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$46.0 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014. The increase was primarily impacted by higher costs related to severance as well as higher costs for current staff and the current impact of the prior year's increase in staffing levels.

Non-compensation expenses for the three months ended June 30, 2015 decreased 5.4% to \$24.1 million compared to \$25.5 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014. The decrease was primarily driven by lower costs related to travel & entertainment, recruiting and other expenses.

*Amortization of Intangible Assets*

Amortization of intangible assets expense was consistent between periods, totaling \$11.7 million and \$11.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

**Table of Contents*****Depreciation and Amortization of Property, Equipment and Leasehold Improvements***

Depreciation and amortization of property, equipment and leasehold improvements for the three months ended June 30, 2015 increased 36.2% to \$8.1 million compared to \$5.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014. The increase was related to higher depreciation associated with the investments made in information technology infrastructure.

***Other Expense (Income), Net***

Other expense (income), net for the three months ended June 30, 2015 increased to \$11.1 million compared to \$4.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014, with the increase primarily driven by \$5.8 million higher interest expense resulting from the higher interest rates associated with servicing debt under our Senior Notes.

***Income Taxes***

The provision for income tax expense increased to \$31.4 million for the three months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$27.3 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014. These amounts reflect effective tax rates of 35.9% and 32.4% for the three months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The increase in the effective tax rate is primarily due to a benefit of \$2.6 million related to state taxes and the release of reserves associated with certain IRS examinations recognized for the three months ended June 30, 2014. Excluding the impact of these items, the effective tax rate was 35.6% for the three months ended June 30, 2014.

***Income (Loss) from Discontinued Operations, Net of Income Taxes***

On April 30, 2014, we completed the sale of ISS for cash consideration of \$367.4 million, subject to final working capital adjustments. ISS, together with the previously sold CFRA product line, is reflected as discontinued operations in our unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements.

Income from discontinued operations, net of income taxes was \$50.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2014 and included a net gain of \$48.1 million resulting from the disposition of ISS.

**Results of Operations****Six Months Ended June 30, 2015 Compared to the Six Months Ended June 30, 2014**

The following table presents the results of operations for the periods indicated:

|                                     | <b>Six Months Ended<br/>June 30,</b> |             | <b>Increase/(Decrease)</b>                   |      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|--|------|
|                                     | <b>2015</b>                          | <b>2014</b> | <b>(in thousands, except per share data)</b> |      |
| Operating revenues                  | \$ 533,349                           | \$ 493,914  | \$ 39,435                                    | 8.0% |
| Operating expenses:                 |                                      |             |  |      |
| Cost of services                    | 159,406                              | 152,243     | 7,163  | 4.7% |
| Selling, general and administrative | 148,021                              | 139,174     | 8,847  | 6.4% |



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|  |                |                |               |             |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Amortization of intangible assets  | 23,397         | 22,712         | 685           | 3.0%        |
| Depreciation and amortization of property, equipment, and leasehold improvements | 15,272         | 11,749         | 3,523         | 30.0%       |
| <b>Total operating expenses</b>  | <b>346,096</b> | <b>325,878</b> | <b>20,218</b> | <b>6.2%</b> |
| Operating income   | 187,253        | 168,036        | 19,217        | 11.4%       |
| Other expense (income), net  | 22,177         | 10,422         | 11,755        | 112.8%      |
| Income from continuing operations before provision for income taxes              | 165,076        | 157,614        | 7,462         | 4.7%        |
| Provision for income taxes   | 59,435         | 53,665         | 5,770         | 10.8%       |
| Income from continuing operations  | 105,641        | 103,949        | 1,692         | 1.6%        |
| Income from discontinued operations, net of income taxes                         | (5,797)        | 84,110         | (89,907)      | (106.9%)    |
| Net income   | \$ 99,844      | \$ 188,059     | \$ (88,215)   | (46.9%)     |
| <b>Earnings per basic common share:</b>  |                |                |               |             |
| From continuing operations   | \$ 0.94        | \$ 0.89        | \$ 0.05       | 5.6%        |
| From discontinued operations   | (0.05)         | 0.71           | (0.76)        | (107.0%)    |
| Earnings per basic common share  | \$ 0.89        | \$ 1.60        | \$ (0.71)     | (44.4%)     |
| <b>Earnings per diluted common share:</b>  |                |                |               |             |
| From continuing operations   | \$ 0.93        | \$ 0.88        | \$ 0.05       | 5.7%        |
| From discontinued operations   | (0.05)         | 0.71           | (0.76)        | (107.0%)    |
| Earnings per diluted common share  | \$ 0.88        | \$ 1.59        | \$ (0.71)     | (44.7%)     |
| <b>Operating margin</b>  | <b>35.1%</b>   | <b>34.0%</b>   |               |             |

**Table of Contents****Operating Revenues**

The following table summarizes the revenue by product category for the periods indicated:

|                                    | <b>Six Months Ended</b> |                   | <b>Increase/(Decrease)</b> |              |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
|                                    | <b>June 30,</b>         |                   |                            |              |
|                                    | <b>2015</b>             | <b>2014</b>       | <b>(in thousands)</b>      |              |
| <b>Performance products:</b>       |                         |                   |                            |              |
| Subscriptions                      | \$ 221,894              | \$ 203,505        | \$ 18,389                  | 9.0%         |
| Asset-based fees                   | 97,040                  | 84,995            | 12,045                     | 14.2%        |
| <b>Total performance products</b>  | <b>318,934</b>          | <b>288,500</b>    | <b>30,434</b>              | <b>10.5%</b> |
| <b>Analytics products:</b>         |                         |                   |                            |              |
| Risk management analytics          | 161,393                 | 153,246           | 8,147                      | 5.3%         |
| Portfolio management analytics     | 53,022                  | 52,168            | 854                        | 1.6%         |
| <b>Total analytics products</b>    | <b>214,415</b>          | <b>205,414</b>    | <b>9,001</b>               | <b>4.4%</b>  |
| <b>Total operating revenues</b>    | <b>\$ 533,349</b>       | <b>\$ 493,914</b> | <b>\$ 39,435</b>           | <b>8.0%</b>  |
| Recurring subscriptions            | \$ 427,852              | \$ 400,237        | \$ 27,615                  | 6.9%         |
| Asset-based fees                   | 97,040                  | 84,995            | 12,045                     | 14.2%        |
| Non-recurring subscription revenue | 8,457                   | 8,682             | (225)                      | (2.6%)       |
| <b>Total operating revenues</b>    | <b>\$ 533,349</b>       | <b>\$ 493,914</b> | <b>\$ 39,435</b>           | <b>8.0%</b>  |

Total operating revenues for the six months ended June 30, 2015 increased 8.0% to \$533.3 million compared to \$493.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014. This primarily reflects growth of 6.9% in recurring subscription revenues and 14.2% in asset-based fee revenue. Adjusting for the impact of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations, recurring subscription revenues would have grown 9.2% for the six months ended June 30, 2015 compared to the six months ended June 30, 2014.

Revenues related to our performance products increased 10.5% to \$318.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$288.5 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014.

**Table of Contents**

Subscription revenues from our performance products were up 9.0% to \$221.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$203.5 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014, driven primarily by growth in revenues from our equity index benchmark products.

Asset-based fee revenues attributable to our performance products increased 14.2% to \$97.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$85.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014. The increase was primarily driven by growth in assets from MSCI indexes and higher trading volumes in MSCI-based futures and options contracts.

The following table sets forth the average value of assets in ETFs linked to MSCI indexes for the year-to-date periods indicated:

| (in billions)                      | Year-to-Date Average |          |           |          | 2015     |          |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                                    | March                | June     | September | December | March    | June     |
| AUM in ETFs linked to MSCI Indexes | \$ 330.8             | \$ 345.4 | \$ 358.9  | \$ 362.5 | \$ 392.5 | \$ 417.0 |

Source: Bloomberg and MSCI

Revenues related to our analytics products increased 4.4% to \$214.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$205.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014.

Within our analytics products, revenues related to risk management analytics products increased 5.3% to \$161.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$153.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014. The increase was primarily driven by higher revenues from our RiskManager and BarraOne products.

Within our analytics products, revenues related to portfolio management analytics products increased 1.6% to \$53.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$52.2 million for six months ended June 30, 2014. The increase in revenues was the result of higher revenues from our equity analytics products.

*Subscription Sales*

The following table sets forth our net new recurring subscription sales and non-recurring sales for the periods presented:

|                                      | Six Months Ended |               |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
|                                      | June 30, 2015    | June 30, 2014 |
|                                      | (in thousands)   |               |
| New recurring subscription sales     | \$ 59,100        | \$ 59,500     |
| Subscription cancellations           | (23,820)         | (27,151)      |
| Net new recurring subscription sales | \$ 35,280        | \$ 32,349     |
| Non-recurring sales                  | \$ 10,115        | \$ 10,469     |

**Aggregate and Core Retention Rates**

The following table sets forth our Aggregate Retention Rates by product category for the indicated six months ended:

|                                | <b>June 30,<br/>2015</b> | <b>June 30,<br/>2014</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Performance products           | 95.2%                    | 94.5%                    |
| Analytics products             |                          |                          |
| Risk management analytics      | 93.6%                    | 91.3%                    |
| Portfolio management analytics | 92.5%                    | 92.7%                    |
| Analytics products total       | 93.4%                    | 91.6%                    |
| Total                          | 94.3%                    | 93.0%                    |

The following table sets forth our Core Retention Rates by product category for the indicated six months ended:

|                                | <b>June 30,<br/>2015</b> | <b>June 30,<br/>2014</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Performance products           | 95.2%                    | 94.5%                    |
| Analytics products             |                          |                          |
| Risk management analytics      | 93.6%                    | 91.3%                    |
| Portfolio management analytics | 92.5%                    | 94.6%                    |
| Analytics products total       | 93.4%                    | 92.1%                    |
| Total                          | 94.3%                    | 93.3%                    |

**Table of Contents****Operating Expenses**

The following table shows operating expenses by each of the categories for the periods indicated:

|   | <b>Six Months Ended<br/>June 30,</b> |                   | <b>Increase/(Decrease)</b> |             |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
|   | <b>2015</b>                          | <b>2014</b>       |                            |             |
|   | <b>(in thousands)</b>                |                   |                            |             |
| <b>Cost of services:</b>  |                                      |                   |                            |             |
| Compensation and benefits   | \$ 124,705                           | \$ 112,950        | \$ 11,755                  | 10.4%       |
| Non-compensation expenses   | 34,701                               | 39,293            | (4,592)                    | (11.7%)     |
| <b>Total cost of services</b>   | <b>159,406</b>                       | <b>152,243</b>    | <b>7,163</b>               | <b>4.7%</b> |
| <b>Selling, general and administrative:</b>   |                                      |                   |                            |             |
| Compensation and benefits   | 101,632                              | 92,148            | 9,484                      | 10.3%       |
| Non-compensation expenses   | 46,389                               | 47,026            | (637)                      | (1.4%)      |
| <b>Total selling, general and administrative</b>                                    | <b>148,021</b>                       | <b>139,174</b>    | <b>8,847</b>               | <b>6.4%</b> |
| Amortization of intangible assets   | 23,397                               | 22,712            | 685                        | 3.0%        |
| Depreciation and amortization of property, equipment,<br>and leasehold improvements | 15,272                               | 11,749            | 3,523                      | 30.0%       |
| <b>Total operating expenses</b>   | <b>\$ 346,096</b>                    | <b>\$ 325,878</b> | <b>\$ 20,218</b>           | <b>6.2%</b> |
| <br>  |                                      |                   |                            |             |
| Compensation and benefits   | \$ 226,337                           | \$ 205,098        | \$ 21,239                  | 10.4%       |
| Non-compensation expenses   | 81,090                               | 86,319            | (5,229)                    | (6.1%)      |
| Amortization of intangible assets   | 23,397                               | 22,712            | 685                        | 3.0%        |
| Depreciation and amortization of property, equipment,<br>and leasehold improvements | 15,272                               | 11,749            | 3,523                      | 30.0%       |
| <br>  |                                      |                   |                            |             |
| <b>Total operating expenses</b>   | <b>\$ 346,096</b>                    | <b>\$ 325,878</b> | <b>\$ 20,218</b>           | <b>6.2%</b> |

Operating expenses were \$346.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015, an increase of 6.2% compared to \$325.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014. The increase included a non-cash charge of \$3.4 million attributable to the termination of a technology project related to our analytics products. Adjusting for the impact of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations, operating expenses would have grown 10.6% for the six months ended June 30, 2015 compared to the six months ended June 30, 2014.

During the six months ended June 30, 2015, compensation and benefits costs were \$226.3 million, an increase of 10.4% compared to \$205.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014. The increase was primarily driven by higher costs related to severance and higher costs for current staff and the current impact of the prior year's increase in staffing levels, as well as a non-cash charge of \$2.9 million attributable to the termination of a technology project related to our analytics products.

Non-compensation expenses for the six months ended June 30, 2015 were \$81.1 million, a decrease of 6.1% compared to \$86.3 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014, primarily reflecting decreases in costs related to travel & entertainment and recruiting, partially offset by a non-cash charge of \$0.5 million attributable to the termination of a technology project related to our analytics products.

*Cost of Services*

For the six months ended June 30, 2015, total cost of services increased 4.7% to \$159.4 million compared to \$152.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014.

Compensation and benefits expenses for the six months ended June 30, 2015 increased 10.4% to \$124.7 million compared to \$113.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014. The increase in compensation and benefits expenses was primarily impacted by higher severance and higher costs for current staff and the current impact of the prior year's increase in staffing levels, as well as a non-cash charge of \$2.9 million related to the termination of a technology project in analytics products.

Non-compensation expenses for the six months ended June 30, 2015 decreased 11.7% to \$34.7 million compared to \$39.3 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014. The decrease was driven by stronger cost discipline following the conclusion of the Enhanced Investment Program that was completed in the year ended December 31, 2014. This was partially offset by a non-cash charge of \$0.5 million attributable to the termination of a technology project related to our analytics products.

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Selling, General and Administrative***

For the six months ended June 30, 2015, SG&A was \$148.0 million, an increase of 6.4% compared to \$139.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014.

Compensation and benefits expenses increased 10.3% to \$101.6 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015 compared to \$92.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014. The increase was primarily impacted by higher costs related to current staff and increased staffing levels.

Non-compensation expenses for the six months ended June 30, 2015 decreased 1.4% to \$46.4 million compared to \$47.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014. The decrease was primarily driven by lower costs related to recruiting, travel & entertainment, partially offset by an increase in marketing costs.

### ***Amortization of Intangible Assets***

Amortization of intangible assets expense totaled \$23.4 million and \$22.7 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

### ***Depreciation and Amortization of Property, Equipment and Leasehold Improvements***

Depreciation and amortization of property, equipment, and leasehold improvements totaled \$15.3 million and \$11.7 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The increase was related to higher depreciation associated with the investments made in our information technology infrastructure.

### ***Other Expense (Income), Net***

Other expense (income), net for the six months ended June 30, 2015 was \$22.2 million compared to \$10.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014, with the increase primarily driven by \$11.8 million higher interest expense resulting from higher interest rates associated with servicing debt under our Senior Notes.

### ***Income Taxes***

The provision for income tax expense for the six months ended June 30, 2015 was \$59.4 million, an increase of 10.8% compared to \$53.7 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014. These amounts reflect effective tax rates of 36.0% and 34.0% for the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The increase in the effective tax rate is primarily due to a \$2.7 million benefit related to state taxes and the release of reserves for the six months ended June 30, 2014. Excluding the benefit, the effective tax rate was 35.8% for the six months ended June 30, 2014.

### ***Income (loss) from Discontinued Operations, Net of Income Taxes***

Loss from discontinued operations, net of income taxes, for the six months ended June 30, 2015 reflects the impact of a \$5.8 million out-of-period income tax charge associated with tax obligations triggered upon the sale of ISS. Income from discontinued operations, net of income taxes was \$84.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014 and includes a net gain of \$78.7 million resulting from the sale of ISS.

### ***Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates***

We describe our significant accounting policies in Note 1, Introduction and Basis of Presentation, in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in the Form 10-K and also in Note 2, Recent Accounting Standards Updates, in the Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included herein. There have been no significant changes in our accounting policies or critical accounting estimates since the end of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014.

### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

We require capital to fund ongoing operations, internal growth initiatives and acquisitions. Our primary sources of liquidity are cash flows generated from our operations, existing cash and cash equivalents and credit capacity under our credit facility. We intend to use these sources of liquidity to service our existing and future debt obligations and fund our working capital requirements, capital expenditures, investments, acquisitions, dividend payments and repurchases of our common stock. In connection with our business strategy, we regularly evaluate acquisition opportunities. We believe our liquidity, along with other financing alternatives, will provide the necessary capital to fund these transactions and achieve our planned growth.

On July 28, 2015, the Board of Directors authorized the Company to explore financing options that could increase the Company's leverage and interest expense.



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**Table of Contents***Senior Notes and Credit Agreement*

On November 20, 2014, the Company completed its private offering of \$800.0 million in aggregate principal amount of 5.25% senior unsecured notes due 2024 (the Senior Notes ) and also entered into a \$200.0 million senior unsecured revolving credit agreement (the 2014 Revolving Credit Agreement ) by and among the Company, as borrower, certain of its subsidiaries, as guarantors, the lenders party thereto and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent. The Company used the net proceeds from the offering of the Senior Notes, together with cash on hand, to repay in full our outstanding term loan indebtedness of \$794.8 million, which bore interest at LIBOR plus a margin of 2.25%.

The Senior Notes are scheduled to mature and be paid in full on November 20, 2024. At any time prior to November 15, 2019, we may redeem all or part of the Senior Notes upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior notice at a redemption price equal to the sum of (i) 100% of the principal amount thereof, plus (ii) a make-whole premium as of the date of redemption, plus (iii) accrued and unpaid interest and additional interest, if any, thereon, to the date of redemption. In addition, we may redeem all or part of the Senior Notes on or after November 15, 2019, together with accrued and unpaid interest, at redemption prices set forth in the Indenture (defined below). At any time prior to November 15, 2017, we may use the proceeds of certain equity offerings to redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the Senior Notes, including any permitted additional notes, at a redemption price equal to 105.25% of the principal amount.

The 2014 Revolving Credit Agreement replaced the 2012 Revolving Credit Facility. The 2014 Revolving Credit Agreement has an initial term of five years that may be extended twice, at our request, in each case by one additional year.

Interest on the Senior Notes accrues at a fixed rate of 5.25% per annum and is payable semiannually in arrears on May 15 and November 15 of each year. The first interest payment was made on May 15, 2015. We will make interest payments to holders of record of the Senior Notes on the immediately preceding May 1 and November 1.

The Senior Notes and the 2014 Revolving Credit Agreement are fully and unconditionally, and jointly and severally, guaranteed by our direct or indirect wholly-owned domestic subsidiaries that account for more than 5% of our and our subsidiaries consolidated assets, other than certain excluded subsidiaries (the subsidiary guarantors ). Amounts due under the 2014 Revolving Credit Agreement are our and the subsidiary guarantors senior unsecured obligations and rank equally with the Senior Notes and any of our other unsecured, unsubordinated debt, senior to any of our subordinated debt and effectively subordinated to our secured debt to the extent of the assets securing such debt.

The indenture governing our Senior Notes (the Indenture ) among us, each of the subsidiary guarantors, and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee, contains covenants that limit our and certain of our subsidiaries ability to, among other things, incur liens, enter into sale/leaseback transactions and consolidate, merge or sell all or substantially all of our assets. In addition, the Indenture restricts our non-guarantor subsidiaries ability to create, assume, incur or guarantee additional indebtedness without such non-guarantor subsidiaries guaranteeing the Senior Notes on a *pari passu* basis.

The 2014 Revolving Credit Agreement contains affirmative and restrictive covenants that, among other things, limit our ability and the ability of our existing or future subsidiaries to:

incur liens and further negative pledges;

incur additional indebtedness or prepay, redeem or repurchase indebtedness;

make loans or hold investments;

merge, dissolve, liquidate, consolidate with or into another person;

enter into acquisition transactions;

enter into sale/leaseback transactions;

issue disqualified capital stock;

sell, transfer or dispose of assets;

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**Table of Contents**

pay dividends or make other distributions in respect of our capital stock or engage in stock repurchases, redemptions and other restricted payments;

create new subsidiaries;

permit certain restrictions affecting our subsidiaries;

change the nature of our business, accounting policies or fiscal periods;

enter into any transactions with affiliates other than on an arm's length basis; and

amend our organizational documents or amend, modify or change the terms of certain agreements relating to our indebtedness.

The 2014 Revolving Credit Agreement and the Indenture also contain customary events of default, including those relating to non-payment, breach of representations, warranties or covenants, cross-default and cross-acceleration, bankruptcy and insolvency events, invalidity or impairment of loan documentation or collateral, change of control and customary ERISA defaults. None of the restrictions above are expected to impact our ability to effectively operate the business.

The 2014 Revolving Credit Agreement also requires us and our subsidiaries to achieve financial and operating results sufficient to maintain compliance with the following financial ratios on a consolidated basis through the termination of the 2014 Revolving Credit Agreement: (1) the maximum Consolidated Leverage Ratio (as defined in the 2014 Revolving Credit Agreement) measured quarterly on a rolling four-quarter basis shall not exceed 3.75:1.00 and (2) the minimum Consolidated Interest Coverage Ratio (as defined in the 2014 Revolving Credit Agreement) measured quarterly on a rolling four-quarter basis shall be at least 4.00:1.00. As of June 30, 2015, our Consolidated Leverage Ratio was 1.67:1.00 and our Consolidated Interest Coverage Ratio was 11.22:1.00.

Our non-guarantor subsidiaries of the Senior Notes consist of: (i) domestic subsidiaries of the Company that account for 5% or less of consolidated assets of the Company and its subsidiaries and (ii) any foreign or domestic subsidiary of the Company that is deemed to be a controlled foreign corporation within the meaning of Section 957 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Our non-guarantor subsidiaries accounted for approximately \$192.3 million, or 18.6%, of our total revenue for the twelve months ended June 30, 2015, approximately \$35.9 million, or 10.1%, of our consolidated operating income for the twelve months ended June 30, 2015, and approximately \$386.3 million, or 13.4%, of our total assets and \$137.2 million, or 9.5%, of our total liabilities, in each case as of June 30, 2015.

*Share Repurchases*

On February 6, 2014, we entered into the February 2014 ASR Program to initiate share repurchases aggregating \$100.0 million. As a result, we received 1.7 million shares on February 7, 2014 and 0.6 million shares on May 5, 2014 for a combined average purchase price of \$43.10 per share.

On September 18, 2014, we entered into the September 2014 ASR Program. On September 19, 2014, we paid \$300.0 million in cash and received approximately 4.5 million shares of our common stock under the September 2014 ASR

Agreement. On May 21, 2015, we completed the September ASR Program, receiving approximately 1.2 million shares. In total, 5.7 million shares were delivered for an average purchase price of \$52.79 per share. The repurchased shares are held in treasury.

On June 2, 2015, we began purchasing shares of MSCI's common stock on the open market in accordance with SEC Rule 10b5-1. Through June 30, 2015, we paid \$62.6 million to receive approximately 1.0 million shares of MSCI's common stock under the June 2015 10b5-1 Buyback Plan and paid an additional \$6.7 million for shares of MSCI's common stock that had not yet been received as of June 30, 2015.

From July 1, 2015 through July 24, 2015, we paid an additional \$68.1 million and received 1.2 million more shares under the June 2015 10b5-1 Buyback Plan. Under the June 2015 10b5-1 Buyback Plan, we have purchased a total of 2.2 million shares for an average purchase price of \$62.62 per share.

#### *Cash Dividends*

On September 17, 2014, the Board of Directors approved a plan to initiate a quarterly cash dividend. In aggregate, the Company has declared and paid cash dividends totaling \$61.2 million since the initial quarterly cash dividend approval.

**Table of Contents**

On July 28, 2015, the Board of Directors declared a cash dividend of \$0.22 per share for third quarter 2015. The third quarter 2015 dividend is payable on August 31, 2015 to shareholders of record as of the close of trading on August 17, 2015.

**Cash Flows**

|                           | As of            |                      |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
|                           | June 30,<br>2015 | December 31,<br>2014 |
|                           | (in thousands)   |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 455,021       | \$ 508,799           |

Cash and cash equivalents were \$445.0 million and \$508.8 million as of June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively. As of June 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, \$97.1 million and \$102.3 million, respectively, of the cash and cash equivalents were held by foreign subsidiaries, which could be subject to U.S. federal income taxation on repatriation to the U.S. and some of which could be subject to local country taxes if repatriated to the United States. In addition, repatriation of some foreign cash is further restricted by local laws.

We believe that domestic cash flows from operations, together with existing cash and cash equivalents and short-term investments, will continue to be sufficient to fund our domestic operating activities and cash commitments for investing and financing activities, such as scheduled debt repayments and material capital expenditures, for at least the next 12 months and for the foreseeable future thereafter. In addition, we expect existing foreign cash flows from operations, together with existing cash and cash equivalents, will continue to be sufficient to fund our foreign operating activities and cash commitments for investing activities, such as material capital expenditures, for at least the next 12 months and for the foreseeable future thereafter.

*Cash (Used In) Provided by Operating, Investing and Financing Activities*

|   | Six Months Ended<br>June 30, |            |
|---|------------------------------|------------|
|   | 2015                         | 2014       |
|   | (in thousands)               |            |
| Cash provided by operating activities                 | \$ 90,709                    | \$ 94,052  |
| Cash (used in) provided by investing activities       | (18,282)                     | 340,855    |
| Cash used in financing activities                     | (123,418)                    | (110,849)  |
| Effect of exchange rates on cash and cash equivalents | (2,787)                      | 747        |
| Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents  | \$ (53,778)                  | \$ 324,805 |

*Cash Flows From Operating Activities*

Cash flows from operating activities consist of net income adjusted for certain non-cash items and changes in assets and liabilities. Cash provided by operating activities was \$90.7 million and \$94.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The year-over-year decrease reflects increased cash payments for expenses,

partially offset by improved billings and collections from customers.

Our primary uses of cash from operating activities are for the payment of cash compensation expenses, office rent, technology costs, market data costs, interest expenses and income taxes. The payment of cash for compensation and benefits is historically at its highest level in the first quarter when we pay discretionary employee compensation related to the previous fiscal year.

*Cash Flows From Investing Activities*

Cash used in investing activities was \$18.3 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015 compared to cash provided by investing activities was \$340.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014. The year-over-year decrease primarily reflects the \$362.8 million cash payment received upon the disposition of ISS in the six months ended June 30, 2014.

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**Table of Contents***Cash Flows From Financing Activities*

Cash used in financing activities was \$123.4 million and \$110.8 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. The year-over-year increase primarily reflects the impact of the payment of dividends, which began in the three months ended December 31, 2014. Partially offsetting this was the impact of lower treasury share repurchases and lower repayments on our debt as well as higher excess tax benefits associated with the conversion of options and restricted stock units to shares.

**Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

We do not have any relationships with unconsolidated entities or financial partnerships, such as entities often referred to as structured finance or special purpose entities, which would have been established for the purpose of facilitating off-balance sheet arrangements or other contractually narrow or limited purposes.

**Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk*****Foreign Currency Risk***

We are subject to foreign currency exchange fluctuation risk. Exchange rate movements can impact the U.S. dollar-reported value of our revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities denominated in non-U.S. dollar currencies or where the currency of such items is different than the functional currency of the entity where these items were recorded.

A significant portion of our revenues from our index-linked investment products are based on fees earned on the value of assets invested in securities denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. For all operations outside the United States where the Company has designated the local non-U.S. dollar currency as the functional currency, revenues and expenses are translated using average monthly exchange rates and assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars using month-end exchange rates. For these operations, currency translation adjustments arising from a change in the rate of exchange between the functional currency and the U.S. dollar are accumulated in a separate component of shareholders' equity. In addition, transaction gains and losses arising from a change in exchange rates for transactions denominated in a currency other than the functional currency of the entity are reflected in Other expense (income), net in our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income.

Revenues from index-linked investment products represented approximately \$97.0 million, or 18.2%, and \$85.0 million, or 17.2%, of our total revenues for the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. While our fees for index-linked investment products are substantially invoiced in U.S. dollars, the fees are based on the investment products' assets, approximately two-thirds of which are invested in securities denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. Accordingly, declines in such other currencies against the U.S. dollar will decrease the fees payable to us under such licenses. In addition, declines in such currencies against the U.S. dollar could impact the attractiveness of such investment products, resulting in net fund outflows, which would further reduce the fees payable under such licenses.

We generally invoice our clients in U.S. dollars; however, we invoice a portion of our clients in Euros, British pounds sterling, Japanese yen and a limited number of other non-U.S. dollar currencies. For the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, approximately 12.9% and 15.5% of our total revenues, respectively, were invoiced in currencies other than U.S. dollars. For the six months ended June 30, 2015, 54.2% of our revenues invoiced in foreign currency were in Euros, 23.6% were in British pounds sterling and 12.4% were in Japanese yen. For the six months ended June 30,

2014, 53.8% of our revenues invoiced in foreign currency were in Euros, 24.1% were in British pounds sterling and 11.5% were in Japanese yen.

We are exposed to additional foreign currency risk in certain of our operating costs. Approximately \$143.1 million, or 41.3%, and \$159.5 million, or 44.2%, of our total operating costs for the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, were denominated in foreign currencies, the significant majority of which were denominated in British pounds sterling, Indian rupees, Hungarian forints, Euros, Hong Kong dollars, Swiss francs, Chinese yuan and Mexican pesos. Expenses incurred in foreign currency may increase as we expand our business outside the United States.

We have certain monetary assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than local functional amounts and when these balances were remeasured into their local functional currency, either a gain or a loss resulted from the change of the value of the functional currency as compared to the originating currencies. We manage foreign currency exchange rate risk, in part, through the use of derivative financial instruments comprised principally of forward contracts on foreign currency which are not designated as hedging instruments for accounting purposes. The objective of the derivative instruments is to minimize the income statement impact associated with amounts denominated in certain foreign currencies. As a result of these positions, we recognized total foreign currency exchange losses of \$2.5 million and \$1.6 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. These amounts were recorded in Other expense (income), net in our Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income.



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**Table of Contents****Item 4. Controls and Procedures**

Our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have evaluated our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) or 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, (the Exchange Act), as of June 30, 2015, and have concluded that these disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time specified in the SEC's rules and forms. These disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to management, including the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. Based on this evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this report.

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) during the three months ended June 30, 2015 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

**OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

The interim financial information included in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the three and six month periods ended June 30, 2015 and 2014 has not been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC). In reviewing such information, PwC has applied limited procedures in accordance with professional standards for reviews of interim financial information. Readers should restrict reliance on PwC's reports on such information accordingly. PwC is not subject to the liability provisions of Section 11 of the Securities Act of 1933 for its reports on interim financial information, because such reports do not constitute reports or parts of registration statements prepared or certified by PwC within the meaning of Sections 7 and 11 of the Securities Act of 1933.

**PART II****Item 1. Legal Proceedings**

Various lawsuits, claims and proceedings have been or may be instituted or asserted against the Company, which arise in the ordinary course of business. While the amounts claimed could be substantial, the ultimate liability cannot be determined because of the considerable uncertainties that exist. Therefore, it is possible that MSCI's business, operating results, financial condition or cash flows in a particular period could be materially affected by certain contingencies. However, based on facts currently available, management believes that the disposition of matters that are currently pending or asserted will not, individually or in the aggregate, have a material effect on MSCI's business, operating results, financial condition or cash flows.

**Item 1A. Risk Factors**

There have been no material changes since December 31, 2014 to the significant risk factors and uncertainties known to the Company that, if they were to materialize or occur, would individually or in the aggregate, have a material effect on MSCI's business, operating results, financial condition or cash flows.

For a discussion of the risk factors affecting the Company, see Risk Factors in Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014.

**Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds**

There have been no unregistered sales of equity securities.

**Table of Contents**

The table below sets forth the information with respect to purchases made by or on behalf of the Company of its common shares during the three months ended June 30, 2015.

**Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

| <b>Period</b>                  | <b>Total Number of Shares Purchased<sup>(1)</sup></b> | <b>Average Price Paid Per Share</b> | <b>Total Number of Shares Purchased Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs<sup>(2)</sup></b> | <b>Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs<sup>(2)</sup></b> |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Month #1</b>                |   |                                     |  |   |
| (April 1, 2015-April 30, 2015) | 16,953  | \$ 61.31                            |  | \$ 550,000,000  |
| <b>Month #2</b>                |   |                                     |  |   |
| (May 1, 2015-May 31, 2015)     | 1,664,924   | \$ 55.98 <sup>(3)</sup>             | 1,145,823  | \$ 550,000,000  |
| <b>Month #3</b>                |   |                                     |  |   |
| (June 1, 2015-June 30, 2015)   | 1,014,347   | \$ 61.90                            | 1,011,705  | \$ 487,374,000  |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>2,696,224</b>                                      | <b>\$ 58.24</b>                     | <b>2,157,528</b>   | <b>\$ 487,374,000</b>   |

- (1) Includes (i) shares withheld to satisfy tax withholding obligations on behalf of employees that occur upon vesting and delivery of outstanding shares underlying restricted stock units; (ii) shares withheld to satisfy tax withholding obligations and exercise price on behalf of employees that occur upon exercise and delivery of outstanding shares underlying stock options; and (iii) shares held in treasury under the MSCI Inc. Director Deferral Plan. The value of the shares withheld were determined using the fair market value of the Company's common stock on the date of withholding, using a valuation methodology established by the Company. The amount also includes shares repurchased under the 2014 Repurchase Program.
- (2) See Note 8, Commitments And Contingencies in the Notes to the Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included herein for further information regarding our stock repurchase programs.
- (3) Reflects the impact of the receipt of 1,145,823 million shares at an average price of \$52.79 per share upon the settlement of the September 2014 ASR.

**Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities**

None.

**Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures**

Not applicable.

**Item 5. Other Information**

On July 27, 2015, the Compensation Committee (the Committee) of the Board of Directors approved a redesign of the Company's cash bonus compensation program to more closely align management's interests with those of shareholders by introducing a more formulaic approach that takes into account specific financial criteria when determining cash bonuses. Specifically, the Committee approved a cash bonus plan (the Bonus Plan) for fiscal year 2015 for the members of the Company's Executive Committee, including each of the Company's current named executive officers: Henry A. Fernandez (Chief Executive Officer and President), Robert Qutub (Chief Financial Officer), C.D. Baer Pettit (Head of the Product Group and Head of Index Products) and Christopher F. Corrado (Chief Information Officer).

The Company's executive compensation program has historically been based on the concept of Total Reward, which focused on the aggregate of three components: base pay, annual cash bonus, and long-term incentives. With the approval of the Bonus Plan, the Company is transitioning from its Total Reward philosophy to a compensation approach that considers each of these three components separately. The Bonus Plan reflects a shift to a more formulaic cash variable compensation approach that will measure one-year performance results against financial targets and certain strategic goals. The actual determination of a cash bonus for each Executive Committee member will continue to be subject to the limits under the Company's Performance Formula and Incentive Plan (the Formula Plan) in compliance with Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. In transitioning to a more formulaic approach for cash bonuses, the Committee is also assessing the appropriate design of long-term equity-based compensation, aiming to more closely align management's interests with those of shareholders.

The Committee believes that subjecting a portion of each Executive Committee member's cash bonus compensation to pre-established performance targets, as provided under the Bonus Plan, will continue to promote shareholder value creation by more closely aligning executive compensation with Company performance and strategic goal attainment.

Each participant in the Bonus Plan is eligible to earn an annual target cash bonus. The table below sets forth the 2015 target cash bonus opportunities for the Company's named executive officers under the Bonus Plan.

| <b>Named Executive Officer</b> | <b>2015 Target<br/>Bonus Opportunity<br/>(\$)</b> |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Mr. Fernandez                  | 1,198,125   |
| Mr. Qutub                      | 685,000   |
| Mr. Pettit                     | 850,000   |
| Mr. Corrado                    | 575,000   |

Participants may receive between 0% and 150% of their target bonus opportunity based on attainment of the level of financial performance metrics (weighted at 70%) and individual performance metrics (weighted at 30%). For fiscal year 2015, the financial performance metrics are allocated equally based on total Company revenue and operating income for Messrs. Fernandez, Qutub and Corrado; and allocated 20% on total Company revenue, 20% on net new Sales and 30% on Contribution Margin (Product Revenue less Product Expenses (direct and allocated)) for Mr. Pettit. The financial performance targets are based on the 2015 operating plan approved by the Board of Directors on January 14, 2015. To receive his or her annual cash bonus, each participant must be actively employed by the Company on the date the cash bonuses are paid and must be an employee in good standing.

Following the end of the applicable fiscal year, the Committee will determine whether and to what extent each performance metric has been attained and the amounts, if any, payable to each participant under the Bonus Plan and, in doing so, the Committee may exercise discretion to decrease, but not increase, any amounts payable under the Bonus Plan as the Committee deems appropriate, in each case, in accordance with the terms of the Formula Plan.

On July 27, 2015, in order to continue to promote the alignment of executive compensation and shareholder value creation, the Committee approved an amendment to the 2015 performance stock unit ( PSU ) award agreements (including the special one-time PSUs described in the Form 8-K we filed with the SEC on February 2, 2015) to provide that unvested PSUs will, from the date of the amendment, accrue the right to receive dividend equivalent payments with payment at the same time as, and subject to the same vesting and forfeiture provisions applicable to, the PSUs to which such dividend equivalent payments relate. Dividend equivalent payments will be paid in the form of cash or shares of MSCI common stock (or a combination thereof), except where local law requires payment in shares, and will accrue from the date of the amendment until the grantee becomes a record holder of the shares of MSCI common stock underlying the award. Prior to this amendment, 2015 annual and special PSU award agreements provided for the accrual of dividend equivalent payments only for vested PSUs, which would be paid in the form of cash or shares of MSCI common stock, as applicable, with payment at the same time as dividends were paid to MSCI s stockholders generally.

The amendment applies to all unvested annual and special PSU awards granted in 2015 and will apply to all future awards of PSUs, unless otherwise determined by the Committee.

Copies of the amended forms of award agreement for the annual and special PSUs are filed as Exhibits 10.2 and 10.3, respectively, to this Form 10-Q and are incorporated herein by reference.

#### **Item 6. Exhibits**

An exhibit index has been filed as part of this report on page EX-1.

Table of Contents

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Dated: July 31, 2015

MSCI INC.

(Registrant)

By: /s/ Robert Qutub  
Robert Qutub

Chief Financial Officer

(Principal Financial Officer)

**Table of Contents****EXHIBIT INDEX****MSCI INC.****QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

| Exhibit<br>Number | Description  |
|-------------------|--|
| 3.1               | Third Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation (filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Form 10-Q (File No. 001-33812), filed with the SEC on May 4, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein)   |
| 3.2               | Amended and Restated By-laws (filed as Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Form 10-Q (File No. 001-33812), filed with the SEC on May 4, 2012 and incorporated by reference herein)  |
| 10.1              | MSCI Inc. Change in Control Severance Plan (filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Form 8-K (File No. 001-33812), filed with the SEC on May 29, 2015 and incorporated by reference herein)   |
| * 10.2            | Form of Performance Award Agreement for Performance Stock Units for Executive Officers under the MSCI Inc. 2007 Amended and Restated Equity Incentive Compensation Plan  |
| * 10.3            | Form of Special Performance Award Agreement for Performance Stock Units under the MSCI Inc. 2007 Amended and Restated Equity Incentive Compensation Plan   |
| 11                | Statement Re: Computation of Earnings Per Common Share (The calculation of per share earnings is in Part I, Item 1, Note 5 to the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements (Earnings Per Common Share) and is omitted in accordance with Section (b)(11) of Item 601 of Regulation S-K) |
| * 15.1            | Letter of awareness from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, dated July 31, 2015, concerning unaudited interim financial information   |
| * 31.1            | Rule 13a-14(a) Certification of the Chief Executive Officer  |
| * 31.2            | Rule 13a-14(a) Certification of the Chief Financial Officer  |
| ** 32.1           | Section 1350 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer  |
| * 101.INS         | XBRL Instance Document   |
| * 101.SCH         | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document  |
| * 101.CAL         | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document  |
| * 101.LAB         | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document  |
| * 101.PRE         | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document   |
| * 101.DEF         | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document   |

\* Filed herewith.

\*\* Furnished herewith.

Indicates a management compensation plan, contract or arrangement.

EX-1