

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

FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

- ☒ ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025
- ☐ 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 001-36157

ESSENT GROUP LTD.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Bermuda

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

Not Applicable

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

Clarendon House
2 Church Street

Hamilton HM11, Bermuda

(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

(441) 297-9901

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Shares, \$0.015 par value	ESNT	New York Stock Exchange

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

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232-405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files.) Yes ☒ No ☐

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

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

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed a report on and attestation to its management's assessment of the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (15 U.S.C. 7262(b)) by the registered public accounting firm that prepared or issued its audit report. ☒

If securities are registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act, indicate by check mark whether the financial statements of the registrant included in the filing reflect the correction of an error to previously issued financial statements. ☐

Indicate by check mark whether any of those error corrections are restatements that required a recovery analysis of incentive-based compensation received by any of the registrant's executive officers during the relevant recovery period pursuant to §240.10D-1(b). ☐

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 June 30, 2025, the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, the aggregate market value of common shares held by non-affiliates of the registrant was approximately \$5,389,787,812 (based upon the last reported sales price on The New York Stock Exchange on such date).

The number of the registrant's common shares outstanding as of February 13, 2026 was 94,542,845.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's proxy statement for the 2026 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K where indicated. Such Proxy Statement will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission within 120 days of the registrant's fiscal year ended December 31, 2025.

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SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K, or Annual Report, includes forward-looking statements pursuant to the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements relate to expectations, beliefs, projections, future plans and strategies, anticipated events or trends and similar expressions concerning matters that are not historical facts or present facts or conditions, such as statements regarding our future financial condition or results of operations, our prospects and strategies for future growth, the introduction of new products and services, and the implementation of our marketing and branding strategies. In many cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as "may," "will," "should," "expects," "plans," "anticipates," "believes," "estimates," "predicts," "potential" or the negative of these terms or other comparable terminology.

The forward-looking statements contained in this Annual Report reflect our views as of the date of this Annual Report about future events and are subject to risks, uncertainties, assumptions and changes in circumstances that may cause events or our actual activities or results to differ significantly from those expressed in any forward-looking statement. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future events, results, actions, levels of activity, performance or achievements. A number of important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated by the forward-looking statements, including, but not limited to, those factors described in Part I, Item 1A "Risk Factors" and in Part II, Item 7 "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations."

Readers are urged to consider these factors carefully in evaluating the forward-looking statements and are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. All of the forward-looking statements we have included in this Annual Report are based on information available to us on the date of this Annual Report. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as otherwise required by law.

RISK FACTOR SUMMARY

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk and uncertainties. Below is a summary of the material risk factors associated with an investment in our securities. You should read this summary together with the more detailed description of each risk factor that immediately follows this summary. However, the risk factors described herein are not all of the risks we may face. Other risks not presently known to us or that we currently believe are immaterial may materially affect our business if they occur. Moreover, new risks emerge from time to time. Further, our business may also be affected by additional factors that apply to all companies operating in the U.S. and globally, which have not been included. In addition to this summary and the more detailed description of the risk factors, you should carefully consider other sections of this annual report on Form 10-K, which may include additional factors that could adversely affect our business, prior to investing in our securities.

Risks Related to the Operation of Our Business

- *Competition.* Intense competition among private mortgage insurers could result in competitors reducing pricing, loosening their underwriting guidelines or relaxing their risk management practices, which could, in turn, improve their competitive position in the industry and negatively impact our level of NIW.
- *Importance of Significant Customers.* Maintaining our business relationships and business volumes with our largest lending customers remains critical to the success of our business.
- *Alternatives to Private Mortgage Insurance.* The use of alternatives to private mortgage insurance, including government-supported mortgage insurance programs as well as home purchase or refinancing alternatives that do not use any form of mortgage insurance, could reduce or eliminate the demand for our product.
- *Reduction in Volume of Low Down Payment Mortgage Originations.* Changes in interest rates, alternatives to private mortgage insurance, and changes in tax laws relating to the deductibility of mortgage interest, among other factors, could negatively impact the origination volume of low down payment mortgages requiring private mortgage insurance.
- *Claims and Loss Reserve Estimates.* An increase in the number or size of claims, compared to what we anticipate, could adversely affect our results of operations or financial conditions. We establish reserves for mortgage insurance using estimated claim rates and claim amounts in estimating the ultimate loss. Because our reserving method does not account for the impact of future losses that could occur from loans that are not yet delinquent, our obligation for ultimate losses that we expect to occur under our policies in force at any period end is generally not reflected in our financial statements.
- *Deteriorating Economic Conditions.* A deterioration in macroeconomic conditions generally increases the likelihood that borrowers will lack sufficient income to pay their mortgages and otherwise likely negatively affects the value of homes, increasing the risk to us of a claim from a mortgage default.
- *Inadequate Premium Levels.* Our mortgage insurance premium rates may not be adequate to cover future losses.
- *Impact of Catastrophic Events.* Through our reinsurance arrangements with participants in the Lloyd's insurance markets we are exposed to, and to the extent that we enter into new non-mortgage reinsurance arrangements in the future we may be further exposed to, unpredictable catastrophic events, including, but not limited to, weather-related and other natural catastrophes, as well as political unrest, geopolitical uncertainty and instability, acts of terrorism and wars, pandemics and cyber-risks.
- *Investment Portfolio.* Changing market conditions could materially impact the future valuation of securities in our investment portfolio.
- *Financial Strength Ratings.* A downgrade in our financial strength ratings could adversely affect us in many ways, including requiring us to reduce our premiums in order to remain competitive, impacting our ability to obtain reinsurance, and limiting our access to the capital markets.
- *IT and Cybersecurity.* If our information technology systems were to fail or become outmoded, we may experience a significant disruption in our operations. Breaches in our information technology security could result in the loss or misuse of this information, which could, in turn, result in potential regulatory actions or litigation.
- *Reinsurance.* Due to market conditions or otherwise, reinsurance may not be available to us in amounts that we consider to be sufficient or at rates that we consider to be acceptable.

Risks Related to Regulation and Litigation

- *GSE Reform.* Legislative or regulatory actions or decisions to change the role of Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae") and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("Freddie Mac"), which we refer to together as the GSEs, in the U.S. housing market generally, or changes to the charters of the GSEs with regard to the use of credit enhancements generally and private mortgage insurance specifically, could reduce our revenues or adversely affect our profitability and returns.
- *GSE Eligibility.* Changes in the business practices of the GSEs, including actions or decisions to decrease or discontinue the use of mortgage insurance, changes in the GSEs' eligibility requirements for mortgage insurers, or changes in the terms on which mortgage insurance coverage may be cancelled, could reduce our revenues or adversely affect our profitability and returns.
- *QM and QRM Rules.* Changes in the definitions of "Qualified Mortgage" or "Qualified Residential Mortgage" could reduce the size of the mortgage origination market or create incentives to use government mortgage insurance programs over, or other alternatives to, private mortgage insurance.
- *Basel Rules.* Implementation of the Basel rules may discourage the use of private mortgage insurance.
- *Regulation.* Our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries are subject to broad government regulation in each of the jurisdictions in which they are licensed or authorized to do business, including regarding trade and claim practices, accounting methods, premium rates, marketing practices, advertising, policy forms, and capital adequacy.
- *Litigation.* The mortgage insurance industry faces litigation risk in the ordinary course of operations, including the risk of class action lawsuits and administrative enforcement by Federal and state agencies.

Risks Related to Taxes and Our Corporate Structure

- *Foreign Operations.* We and our non-U.S. subsidiaries may become subject to U.S. Federal income and branch profits taxation.
- *Tax-Related Matters.* Holders of 10% or more of our common shares may be subject to U.S. income taxation under the "controlled foreign corporation" rules. U.S. Persons who hold our shares may be subject to U.S. income taxation at ordinary income rates on their proportionate share of our "related party insurance income". U.S. Persons who dispose of our shares may be subject to U.S. Federal income taxation at the rates applicable to dividends on a portion of such disposition. U.S. Persons who hold our shares will be subject to adverse tax consequences if we are considered to be a "passive foreign investment company" ("PFIC"). U.S. tax-exempt organizations who own our shares may recognize unrelated business taxable income. Proposed U.S. tax legislation could have an adverse impact on us or holders of our common shares.
- *Bermuda Holding Company.* As a Bermuda exempted company, the rights of holders of our common shares are governed by our memorandum of association and bye-laws and Bermuda law, which may differ from the rights of shareholders of companies incorporated in other jurisdictions. We have the option, but not the obligation, under our bye-laws and subject to Bermuda law to require a shareholder to sell to us at fair market value the minimum number of common shares which is necessary to avoid or cure any adverse tax consequences or materially adverse legal or regulatory treatment to us as reasonably determined by our board. There are regulatory limitations on the ownership and transfer of our common shares imposed by the Bermuda Monetary Authority and the Pennsylvania Insurance Department. U.S. persons who own our shares may have more difficulty in protecting their interests than U.S. persons who are shareholders of a U.S. corporation.
- *Dividend Restrictions.* Dividend income to Essent Group Ltd. or intermediate holding companies from its insurance subsidiaries may be restricted by applicable state and Bermuda insurance laws.

Unless the context otherwise indicates or requires, the terms "we," "our," "us," "Essent," and the "Company," as used in this Annual Report, refer to Essent Group Ltd. ("Essent Group") and its directly and indirectly owned subsidiaries, including our primary operating subsidiaries, Essent Guaranty, Inc. ("Essent Guaranty"), Essent Reinsurance Ltd. ("Essent Re"), and Essent Title Insurance, Inc. ("Essent Title"), as a combined entity, except where otherwise stated or where it is clear that the terms mean only Essent Group Ltd. exclusive of its subsidiaries.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

OUR COMPANY

We serve the housing finance industry by providing private mortgage insurance and reinsurance, and title insurance and settlement services to mortgage lenders, borrowers and investors to support homeownership. We conduct our operations through two primary business segments: Mortgage Insurance and Reinsurance.

Our Mortgage Insurance segment offers private mortgage insurance for mortgages secured by residential properties located in the United States. We provide private mortgage insurance on residential first-lien mortgage loans in the U.S. ("mortgage insurance") through Essent Guaranty, a Pennsylvania-domiciled monoline mortgage guaranty insurance company licensed in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and approved by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and also offer other credit risk management solutions, including contract underwriting, to our customers. For the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023, we generated private mortgage insurance new insurance written, or NIW, of approximately \$46.6 billion, \$45.6 billion and \$47.7 billion, respectively. As of December 31, 2025, we had approximately \$248.4 billion of private mortgage insurance in force.

Our Reinsurance segment primarily reinsures U.S. mortgage risk in the GSE credit risk transfer market and provides underwriting consulting services to third-party reinsurers ("GSE and other risk share") through Bermuda-based Essent Re, a Class 3B insurer regulated by the Bermuda Monetary Authority. As of December 31, 2025, Essent Re provided insurance or reinsurance relating to GSE credit risk transfer and other reinsurance transactions covering approximately \$2.3 billion of risk.

Prior to December 31, 2025, we disclosed one reportable segment, Mortgage Insurance, which was comprised of "U.S. mortgage insurance" and "GSE and other mortgage risk share." Our mortgage insurance business and GSE and other mortgage risk share business each represented operating segments that were aggregated and disclosed as one reportable segment based on their shared economic characteristics and the similarities between the two operating segments. In the fourth quarter of 2025, Essent Re entered the Lloyd's of London market to reinsure certain property and casualty risks beginning in the first quarter of 2026. Considering the expansion of business and types of risks reinsured at Essent Re, our Chief Operating Decision Maker began to assess the performance of all third-party reinsurance as an operating segment as of December 31, 2025. To reflect this change, the GSE and other mortgage risk share operating segment is no longer aggregated with mortgage insurance and all third-party reinsurance is now disclosed as a separate reportable segment: Reinsurance. All prior period segment information has been recast to conform to the new segment presentation.

We also offer title insurance products both directly and through a network of title insurance agents, as well as title and settlement services. This operating segment was established upon our acquisitions of Agents National Title Insurance Company (renamed Essent Title Insurance, Inc. effective January 1, 2025), a Pennsylvania-domiciled title insurance underwriter licensed in 45 states and the District of Columbia, and Boston National Title, a national title agency, on July 1, 2023. Our title insurance operations are included in "Corporate and Other" within our segment-related disclosures.

See Notes 1 and 18 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements for further details of our businesses.

Essent Group Ltd. was organized as a limited liability company under the laws of Bermuda on July 1, 2008. Essent Group's registered office is located at Clarendon House, 2 Church Street, Hamilton HM11, Bermuda and our telephone number is (441) 297-9901. Our corporate website address is www.essentgroup.com. Essent Group files annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K and other information with the SEC. The SEC maintains a website (<http://www.sec.gov>) that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers, including us, that file electronically with the SEC. Our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K and other information filed by us with the SEC are available, without charge, on our website as soon as reasonably practicable after they are filed electronically with the SEC. Copies are also available, without charge, by writing to Secretary, Essent Group Ltd., Clarendon House, 2 Church Street, Hamilton HM11, Bermuda. The information on our corporate website is not a part of this Annual Report.

MORTGAGE INSURANCE

Overview

Private mortgage insurance plays a critical role in the U.S. housing finance system, extending affordable homeownership by facilitating the sale of low down payment loans into the secondary market. Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae") and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("Freddie Mac"), which we refer to together as the GSEs, are U.S. Federal government-sponsored enterprises which purchase residential mortgages from banks and other lenders and guaranty mortgage-backed securities that are offered to investors in the secondary mortgage market. The GSEs are restricted by their charters from purchasing or guaranteeing low down payment loans, defined as loans with less than a 20% down payment, that are not covered by certain credit protections. Private mortgage insurance satisfies the GSEs' credit protection requirements for low down payment loans. Essent and other private mortgage insurers provide credit protection to lenders and mortgage investors, supporting a robust secondary mortgage market in the United States by covering a portion of the unpaid principal balance of a mortgage and certain related expenses in the event of a default. In doing so, we provide private capital to mitigate mortgage credit risk, allowing lenders to make additional mortgage financing available to prospective homeowners.

Mortgage Insurance Industry

U.S. Mortgage Market

The U.S. residential mortgage market is one of the largest in the world, with over \$14.6 trillion of debt outstanding as of September 30, 2025, and includes a range of private and government-sponsored participants. Private industry participants include mortgage banks, mortgage brokers, commercial, regional and investment banks, savings institutions, credit unions, REITs, mortgage insurers and other financial institutions. Public participants include government agencies such as the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), the Veterans Administration (VA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development program and the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae), as well as government-sponsored enterprises such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The U.S. residential mortgage market encompasses both primary and secondary markets. The primary market consists of lenders originating home loans to borrowers, and includes loans made to support home purchases, which are referred to as purchase originations, and loans made to refinance existing mortgages, which are referred to as refinancing originations. The secondary market includes institutions buying and selling mortgages in the form of whole loans or securitized assets such as mortgage-backed securities.

GSEs

The GSEs are the most prominent participants in the secondary mortgage market, buying residential mortgages from banks and other primary lenders as part of their government mandate to provide liquidity and stability in the U.S. housing finance system. According to the Federal Reserve, the GSEs held or guaranteed approximately \$6.7 trillion, or 45.7%, of all U.S. residential mortgage debt outstanding as of September 30, 2025. The charters of the GSEs generally prohibit the GSEs from purchasing a low down payment loan unless that loan is insured by a GSE-approved mortgage insurer, the mortgage seller retains at least a 10% participation in the loan or the seller agrees to repurchase or replace the loan in the event of a default. Historically, private mortgage insurance has been the preferred method utilized to meet this GSE charter requirement. As a result, the private mortgage insurance industry in the United States is driven in large part by the business practices and mortgage insurance requirements of the GSEs.

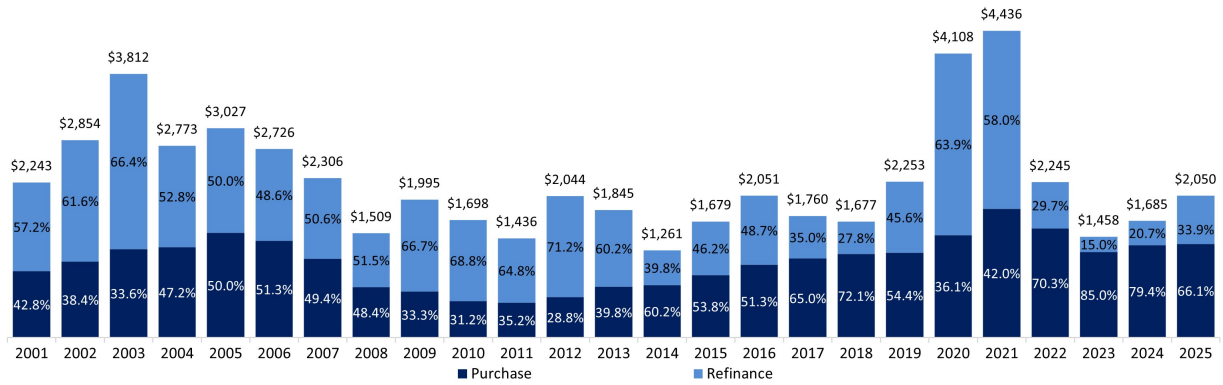
Mortgage Insurance

Mortgage insurance plays a critical role in the U.S. residential mortgage market by facilitating secondary market sales and providing lenders and investors a means to diversify their exposures and mitigate mortgage credit risk. Mortgage insurance is offered by both private companies, such as Essent Guaranty, and government agencies, such as the FHA and the VA. From 2006 through 2025, an average of 32.0% of total annual U.S. mortgage origination volume utilized mortgage insurance.

Mortgage insurance industry volumes are influenced by total mortgage originations and the mix between purchase and refinancing originations. Historically, mortgage insurance utilization has been meaningfully higher in purchase originations compared to refinancing originations. In 2025, total U.S. residential mortgage origination volume was estimated to be \$2.05 trillion, comprised of \$1.36 trillion of purchase originations and \$0.69 trillion of refinancing originations. The mortgage market in 2025 continued to be substantially and negatively impacted by elevated mortgage interest rates, precipitated in large part by actions of the Federal Reserve commencing in 2022 that were intended to combat inflation, as well as high housing prices and constrained supply.

The following graph provides detail on trends in total residential mortgage originations and the breakdown of the market between purchase and refinancing volume.

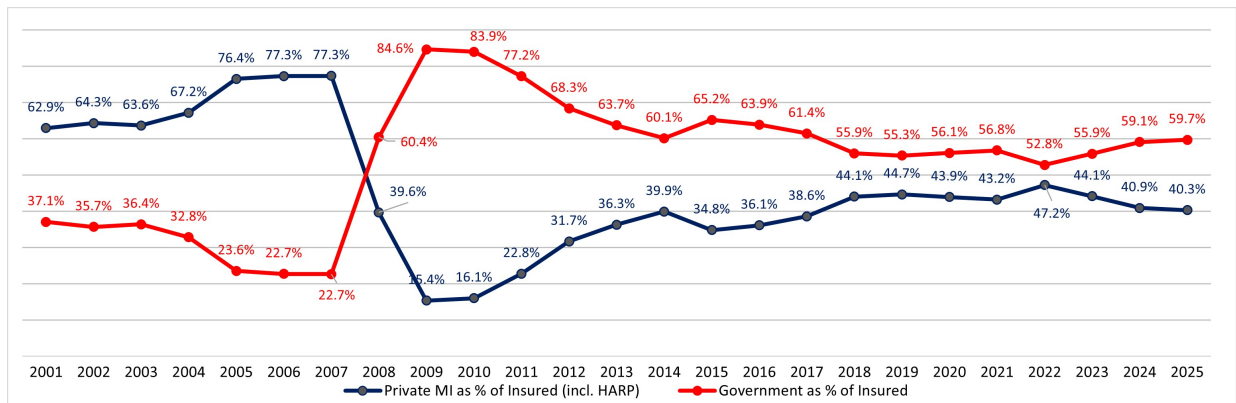
U.S. Residential Purchase vs. Refinancing Mortgage Originations (\$ in billions)



Source: Mortgage Bankers Association

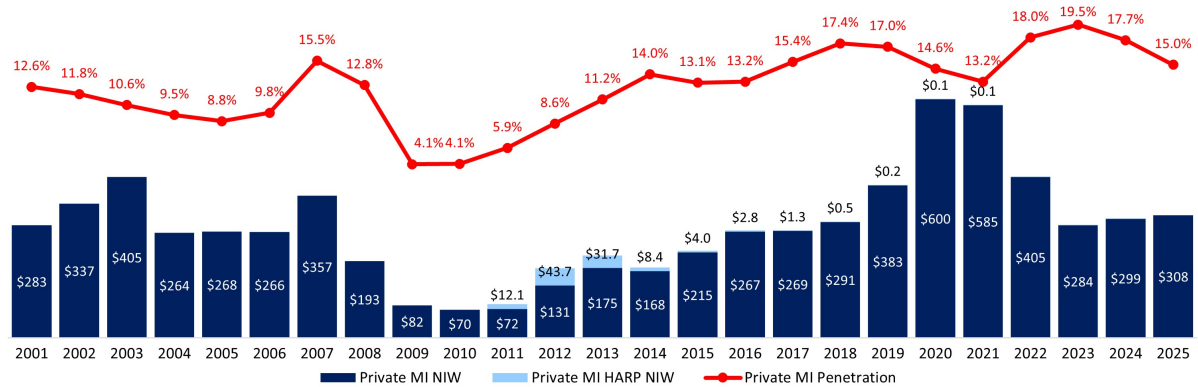
The charts below detail the relative share of the insured mortgage market covered by public and private participants, and historical NIW trends in the mortgage insurance market and private mortgage insurance penetration rates, which represents private mortgage insurance NIW to total U.S. residential mortgage origination volume. As depicted below, the severe economic and housing market dislocation experienced as a result of the 2007-2008 financial crisis had a profound impact on the private mortgage insurance industry. Incumbent insurers experienced record high claims activity and sustained significant financial losses, resulting in depleted capital positions. The private mortgage insurance industry, however, has more than doubled its share of the total insured market since 2009, leading to higher private mortgage insurance penetration of the total mortgage origination market. In 2025, private mortgage insurance represented an estimated 40% of the total insured market and covered 15% of the total U.S. mortgage origination volume.

Relative Share of Private and Public Mortgage Insurance



Source: Inside Mortgage Finance

Private mortgage insurance NIW (\$ in billions)



Source: Inside Mortgage Finance, except for total originations for the purpose of calculating private mortgage insurance penetration, which is based on Mortgage Bankers Association. Starting in 2011, private mortgage insurance penetration includes private mortgage insurance NIW originated under the Home Affordable Refinancing Program, or "HARP."

Private Mortgage Insurance

In general, there are two principal types of private mortgage insurance, primary and pool.

Primary Mortgage Insurance

Primary mortgage insurance provides protection on individual loans at specified coverage percentages. Primary mortgage insurance is typically offered to customers on individual loans at the time of origination on a flow (i.e., loan-by-loan) basis, but can also be written in bulk transactions (in which each loan in a portfolio of loans is insured in a single transaction). A substantial majority of our policies are primary mortgage insurance.

Customers that purchase our primary mortgage insurance select a specific coverage level for each insured loan. To be eligible for purchase by a GSE, a low down payment loan must comply with the coverage percentages established by that GSE. For loans not sold to the GSEs, the customer determines its desired coverage percentage. Generally, our risk across all policies written is approximately 27% of the underlying primary insurance in force, but may vary from policy to policy between 6% and 35% coverage.

We file our premium rates with the insurance departments of the 50 states and the District of Columbia as required. Premium rates cannot be changed after the issuance of coverage and premiums applicable to an individual loan are based on a broad spectrum of risk variables including coverage percentages, loan-to-value, or LTV, loan and property attributes, and borrower risk characteristics. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Factors Affecting Our Results of Operations—Net Premiums Written and Earned" and "—Key Performance Indicators—Average Net Premium Rate."

Premium payments for primary mortgage insurance coverage are typically made by the borrower. Mortgage insurance paid directly by the borrower is referred to as borrower-paid mortgage insurance ("BPMI"). If the borrower is not required to pay the premium, then the premium is paid by the lender, who may recover the premium through an increase in the note rate on the mortgage or higher origination fees. Loans for which premiums are paid by the lender are referred to as lender-paid mortgage insurance ("LPMI"). In either case, the payment of premium to us generally is the legal responsibility of the insured.

Premiums are generally calculated as a percentage of the original principal balance and may be paid as follows:

- monthly, where premiums are collected on a monthly basis over the life of the policy;
- in a single payment, where the entire premium is paid upfront at the time the mortgage loan is originated;
- annually, where premiums are paid in advance for the subsequent 12 months; or
- on a "split" basis, where an initial premium is paid upfront along with subsequent monthly payments.

As of December 31, 2025, substantially all of our policies are monthly or single premium policies.

In general, we may not terminate mortgage insurance coverage except in the event there is non-payment of premiums or certain material violations of our mortgage insurance policies. The insured may cancel mortgage insurance coverage at any time at their option or upon mortgage repayment. GSE guidelines generally provide that a borrower meeting certain conditions may require the mortgage servicer to cancel mortgage insurance coverage upon the borrower's request when the principal balance of the loan is 80% or less of the property's current value. The Homeowners Protection Act of 1998 ("HOPA") also requires the automatic termination of BPMI on most loans when the LTV ratio, based upon the original property value and amortized loan balance, reaches 78%, and provides for cancellation of BPMI upon a borrower's request when the LTV ratio, based on the current value of the property, reaches 80%, upon satisfaction of the conditions set forth in HOPA. See "[Regulation—Federal Mortgage—Related Laws and Regulations—Homeowners Protection Act of 1988](#)" below. In addition, some states impose their own mortgage insurance notice and cancellation requirements on mortgage loan servicers.

The GSEs have implemented certain guidelines that may provide more flexibility to certain borrowers to cancel mortgage insurance than is required for such loans under HOPA. For example, borrowers may request termination of mortgage insurance based on the current value of the property if certain loan-to-value and seasoning requirements are met and the borrower has an acceptable payment history. For loans seasoned between two and five years, the loan-to-value ratio must be 75% or less, and for loans seasoned more than five years, the loan-to-value ratio must be 80% or less. If the borrower has made substantial improvements to the property, the GSEs allow for cancellation once the loan-to-value ratio reaches 80% or less with no minimum seasoning requirement. In addition, GSE servicing guidelines currently require servicers to cancel BPMI on second homes with a 78% loan-to-value ratio, whereas HOPA applies to principal residences and excludes second homes.

Pool Insurance

Pool insurance is typically used to provide additional credit enhancement for certain secondary market and other mortgage transactions. Pool insurance generally covers the excess of the loss on a defaulted mortgage loan that exceeds the claim payment under the primary coverage, if such loan has primary coverage, as well as the total loss on a defaulted mortgage loan that did not have primary coverage. Pool insurance may have a stated aggregate loss limit for a pool of loans and may also have a deductible under which no losses are paid by the insurer until losses on the pool of loans exceed the deductible. In another variation, generally referred to as modified pool insurance, policies are structured to include an exposure limit for each individual loan as well as an aggregate loss limit or a deductible for the entire pool.

Master Policy

We issue a master policy to each customer approved as a counterparty by our risk department before accepting their applications for mortgage insurance. The master policy, along with its related endorsements and certificates, sets forth the general terms and conditions of our mortgage insurance coverage, including loan eligibility requirements, coverage terms, policy administration, premium payment obligations, exclusions or reductions in coverage, conditions precedent to payment of a claim, claim payment requirements, subrogation and other matters attendant to our coverage.

Mortgage insurance master policies generally protect mortgage insurers from the risk of material misrepresentations and fraud in the origination of an insured loan by establishing the right to rescind coverage in such event. Pursuant to the current minimum standards for mortgage insurer master policies enacted by the GSEs and the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), our current master policy provides rescission relief for loans that (i) remain current up to 36 months after origination, have not experienced more than two late payments of 30 days or more, and have never been 60 days late, or (ii) are current after 60 payments, and otherwise permits the provision of rescission relief concurrent with independent validation of representations, including validation by use of duly approved automated tools. Our current master policy also reserves rescission rights with respect to fraud committed by any party in connection with the origination or closing of a loan or application for mortgage insurance (provided, however, that the exclusion for fraud by borrowers may be sunset after the borrower has made 12 timely payments) and certain patterns of fraud or data inaccuracies and permits us to offer certain alternatives to rescission. See "[Risk Factors—Risks Relating to the Operation of Our Business—Changes in the business practices of the GSEs, including actions or decisions to decrease or discontinue the use of mortgage insurance or changes in the GSEs' eligibility requirements for mortgage insurers, could reduce our revenues or adversely affect our profitability and returns](#)" elsewhere in this Annual Report and "[Regulation—Direct U.S. Regulation—GSE Qualified Mortgage Insurer Requirements](#)" below.

Contract Underwriting

We provide contract underwriting services on a limited basis. As a part of these services, we assess whether data provided by the customer relating to a mortgage application complies with the customer's loan underwriting guidelines. These services are provided for loans that require private mortgage insurance, as well as for loans that do not require private mortgage insurance. Under the terms of our contract underwriting agreements with customers and subject to contractual limitations on liability, we agree to indemnify the customer against losses incurred in the event that we make an underwriting error which materially restricts or impairs the saleability of a loan, results in a material reduction in the value of a loan or results in the

customer being required to repurchase a loan. The indemnification may be in the form of monetary or other remedies, subject to per loan and annual limitations. See "Risk Factors—Risks Relating to the Operation of Our Business—*We face risks associated with our contract underwriting business.*"

Our Mortgage Insurance Portfolio

All of our mortgage insurance policies in force were written since May 2010. The following data presents information on our direct mortgage insurance portfolio.

Insurance in Force by Policy Year

The following table sets forth our mortgage insurance in force, or IIF, as of December 31, 2025, by year of policy origination. IIF refers to the unpaid principal balance of mortgage loans that we insure directly.

(\$ in thousands)	\$	%
2025	\$ 43,664,410	17.6%
2024	37,940,873	15.3
2023	35,213,136	14.2
2022	45,373,683	18.3
2021	40,962,380	16.4
2020 and prior	45,201,915	18.2
	<u>\$ 248,356,397</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Portfolio Characteristics

The following tables reflect our IIF and direct mortgage insurance risk in force, or RIF, amounts by borrower credit scores at origination, LTV at origination, and IIF by loan type and amortization, each as of December 31, 2025 and 2024. RIF refers to the product of the coverage percentage applied to the unpaid principal balance of mortgage loans that we insure directly.

Portfolio by Credit Score

IIF by FICO score (\$ in thousands)	December 31,			
	2025		2024	
>=760	\$ 104,062,334	41.9%	\$ 99,221,741	40.7%
740-759	43,225,016	17.4	42,574,390	17.5
720-739	37,671,181	15.2	37,953,625	15.6
700-719	32,473,548	13.1	32,657,660	13.4
680-699	19,357,527	7.8	19,772,912	8.1
<=679	11,566,791	4.6	11,465,095	4.7
Total	<u>\$ 248,356,397</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>\$ 243,645,423</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Gross RIF(1) by FICO score (\$ in thousands)	December 31,			
	2025		2024	
>=760	\$ 28,228,907	41.4%	\$ 26,860,197	40.3%
740-759	11,997,094	17.6	11,799,832	17.7
720-739	10,452,268	15.4	10,512,364	15.8
700-719	9,049,840	13.3	9,067,640	13.6
680-699	5,357,151	7.9	5,440,776	8.2
<=679	2,968,187	4.4	2,932,708	4.4
Total	<u>\$ 68,053,447</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>\$ 66,613,517</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

(1) Gross RIF includes risk ceded under third-party reinsurance.

Portfolio by LTV

IIF by LTV (\$ in thousands)	December 31,			
	2025		2024	
85.00% and below	\$ 14,736,797	5.9%	\$ 14,738,289	6.0%
85.01% to 90.00%	58,288,674	23.5	60,636,883	24.9
90.01% to 95.00%	131,950,396	53.1	127,152,954	52.2
95.01% and above	43,380,530	17.5	41,117,297	16.9
Total	<u>\$ 248,356,397</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>\$ 243,645,423</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Gross RIF (1) by LTV (\$ in thousands)	December 31,			
	2025		2024	
85.00% and below	\$ 1,727,701	2.5%	\$ 1,745,933	2.6%
85.01% to 90.00%	14,312,312	21.0	14,961,779	22.5
90.01% to 95.00%	38,906,277	57.2	37,510,076	56.3
95.01% and above	13,107,157	19.3	12,395,729	18.6
Total	<u>\$ 68,053,447</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>\$ 66,613,517</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

(1) Gross RIF includes risk ceded under third-party reinsurance.

Portfolio by Loan Amortization Period

IIF by Loan Amortization Period (\$ in thousands)	December 31,			
	2025		2024	
FRM 30 years and higher	\$ 241,353,234	97.2%	\$ 238,335,608	97.8%
FRM 20-25 years	1,449,192	0.6	1,133,494	0.5
FRM 15 years	2,009,940	0.8	1,231,952	0.5
ARM 5 years and higher	3,544,031	1.4	2,944,369	1.2
Total	<u>\$ 248,356,397</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>\$ 243,645,423</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Portfolio by Geography

Our direct mortgage insurance in force portfolio is geographically diverse. As of December 31, 2025, only three states accounted for greater than 5% of our portfolio, as measured by either IIF or Gross RIF, and three metropolitan statistical areas accounted for greater than 3% of our portfolio, as measured by either IIF or Gross RIF. The following tables provide detail of the IIF and Gross RIF in our top ten most concentrated states and our top ten most concentrated U.S. metropolitan statistical areas as of December 31, 2025 and 2024.

Top Ten States

	December 31,	
	2025	2024
IIF by State		
CA	12.1%	12.5%
FL	12.0	11.9
TX	11.4	11.1
AZ	4.0	3.8
CO	4.0	4.1
GA	3.9	3.7
WA	3.4	3.4
NC	3.2	3.0
MI	2.6	2.5
NY	2.6	2.6
All Others	40.8	41.4
Total	100.0%	100.0%

	December 31,	
	2025	2024
Gross RIF by State		
FL	12.3%	12.1%
CA	12.1	12.4
TX	11.6	11.4
AZ	4.1	3.9
CO	3.9	4.0
GA	3.9	3.8
WA	3.4	3.4
NC	3.2	3.0
MI	2.6	2.5
UT	2.6	2.5
All Others	40.3	41.0
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Top Ten Metropolitan Statistical Areas

	December 31,	
	2025	2024
IIF by Metropolitan Statistical Area		
Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler AZ	3.3%	3.2%
Dallas-Plano-Irving, TX	3.2	3.0
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands TX	3.1	3.0
Denver-Aurora-Centennial CO	2.5	2.6
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario CA	2.4	2.5
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	2.3	2.2
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA	2.2	2.4
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford FL	1.8	1.8
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington MN-WI	1.8	1.7
Chicago-Naperville-Schaumburg, IL	1.6	1.7
All Others	75.8	75.9
Total	100.0%	100.0%

	December 31,	
	2025	2024
Gross RIF by Metropolitan Statistical Area		
Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler AZ	3.3%	3.2%
Dallas-Plano-Irving, TX	3.3	3.0
Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands TX	3.2	3.1
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario CA	2.5	2.5
Denver-Aurora-Centennial CO	2.5	2.6
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA	2.3	2.3
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale, CA	2.2	2.3
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford FL	1.9	1.9
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington MN-WI	1.7	1.7
Tampa, FL	1.7	1.6
All Others	75.4	75.8
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Mortgage Insurance Defaults and Claims

Defaults

The default and claim cycle for a mortgage insurance policy begins with receipt of a default notice from the servicer. We consider a loan to be in default when we are notified by the servicer that the borrower has missed at least two consecutive monthly payments. Defaults may occur for a variety of reasons including death or illness, divorce or other family problems, unemployment, changes in economic conditions, declines in property values that cause the outstanding mortgage amount to exceed the value of a home or other events.

We expect servicers to make timely collection efforts on borrowers who have defaulted, and to attempt to restore the defaulted mortgage, and our mortgage insurance coverage, to current status. If the servicer cannot restore a borrower to current status, the servicer may be able to offer the borrower a forbearance or loan modification alternatives. Where these alternatives cannot cure the default, the servicer is responsible for pursuing remedies for the default, including foreclosure or acceptable foreclosure alternatives, certain of which, such as short sales and deeds in lieu of foreclosure, require our prior approval under the terms of our master policy. We have delegated certain authority to the GSEs and their servicers to exercise some of these alternatives. Among other requirements, servicers operate under protocols established by the GSEs. See "Risk Factors—Risks

Relating to the Operation of Our Business—*If servicers fail to adhere to appropriate servicing standards or experience disruptions to their businesses, our losses could unexpectedly increase."*

The following tables show the number of primary insured loans and the percentage of loans insured by us that are in default as of December 31, 2025 and 2024:

Number of Loans in Default and Default Rate

	December 31,	
	2025	2024
Number of policies in force	807,230	813,013
Loans in default	20,210	18,439
Percentage of loans in default	2.50%	2.27%

Loan Defaults by Originating Year

Originating Year	December 31, 2025			December 31, 2024		
	Loans in Default	Percentage of policies written in period	Defaulted RIF (in thousands)	Loans in Default	Percentage of policies written in period	Defaulted RIF (in thousands)
2010 - 2016	666	0.1 %	35,282	900	0.2 %	47,056
2017	840	0.5	40,529	1,024	0.6	49,508
2018	1,120	0.6	58,060	1,280	0.7	65,762
2019	1,595	0.7	94,934	1,833	0.8	107,586
2020	2,405	0.7	165,262	2,623	0.7	183,033
2021	3,806	1.5	311,576	3,857	1.5	316,774
2022	3,911	2.2	377,740	3,862	2.2	380,474
2023	3,189	1.8	307,555	2,398	1.4	239,817
2024	2,182	1.7	214,794	662	0.5	64,784
2025	496	0.4	49,154	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	20,210		\$ 1,654,886	18,439		\$ 1,454,794

Historically, the peak default period for insured mortgage loans has been three to six years after loan origination. The weighted average life of our mortgage insurance portfolio was 38 months as of December 31, 2025. It is possible, however, that our level of defaults may increase as our portfolio seasons. We believe that, since the 2007-2008 financial crisis, underwriting practices in the industry have improved substantially and the quality of mortgage loans originated has been high. Consequently, we expect that the default rate and losses on the business we have underwritten to date will be favorable in comparison to the default rate and losses historically experienced by mortgage insurers prior to the financial crisis.

As of December 31, 2025, 20,210 of our insured loans, representing approximately 2.50% of our aggregate mortgage insurance policies in force, were in default status, compared to 18,439 loans in default as of December 31, 2024 and 14,819 loans in default as of December 31, 2023. During the fourth quarter of 2024, certain regions of the U.S. experienced hurricanes which have impacted our insured mortgage insurance portfolio's performance. On September 26, 2024, Hurricane Helene made landfall and caused property damage in certain counties in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. On October 9, 2024, Hurricane Milton made landfall causing damage in certain counties in Florida. Loans in default increased by 3,620 in the year ended December 31, 2024, including 2,119 defaults we identified as hurricane-related defaults. Based on prior industry experience, we expect the ultimate number of hurricane-related defaults that result in claims will be less than the default-to-claim experience of non-hurricane-related defaults.

Claims

Defaulted mortgages that are not cured result in claims. The insured customer must acquire title to the property before submitting a claim. The time in which a customer may acquire title to a property through foreclosure varies, depending on the state in which the property is located. Historically, on average, mortgage insurers do not receive a request for claim payment until approximately 18 months following a default on a first-lien mortgage. This time lag has increased in recent years as the

industry has experienced a slowdown in foreclosures (and, consequently, a slowdown in claims submitted to mortgage insurers) largely due to foreclosure moratoriums imposed by various government entities and lenders and increased scrutiny within the mortgage servicing industry on the foreclosure process.

Upon review and determination that a claim is valid, we generally have the following three settlement options:

- Percentage option—determined by multiplying the claim amount by the applicable coverage percentage, with the customer retaining title to the property. The claim amount is defined in the master policy as consisting of the unpaid loan principal, plus past due interest, subject to a defined maximum, and certain expenses associated with the default;
- Third-party sale option—pay the amount of the claim required to make the customer whole, commonly referred to as the "actual loss amount" (not to exceed our maximum liability as outlined under the percentage option), following an approved sale; or
- Acquisition option—pay the full claim amount and acquire title to the property.

We believe there are opportunities to mitigate losses between the time a loan defaults and the ultimate loss we may experience. Our loss mitigation and claims area is led by seasoned personnel supported by default tracking and claims processing capabilities within our integrated platform. Our loss mitigation staff is also actively engaged with servicers and the GSEs with regard to appropriate servicing and loss mitigation practices.

Mortgage Insurance Customers, Sales and Marketing

Our mortgage insurance customers consist of originators of residential mortgage loans, such as regulated depository institutions, mortgage banks, credit unions and other lenders. Our top ten customers generated 59.3% of our NIW on a flow basis during the year ended December 31, 2025, compared to 50.2% and 39.9% for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. For the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023, revenue from one customer exceeded 10% of our consolidated revenue. The loss of any of our larger customers could have a material adverse impact on us and our business. See "Risk Factors—Risks Relating to the Operation of Our Business—*Our revenues, profitability and returns would decline if we lose a significant customer.*"

We seek to maintain strong institutional relationships with all of our mortgage insurance customers. We provide them with ongoing risk, sales, training, service and product development support. We maintain regular and ongoing dialogue with our customers to develop an in-depth understanding of their strategies and needs, to share market perspectives and industry best practices, and to offer tailored solutions and training where necessary on a local level.

Our sales and marketing efforts are designed to help us establish and maintain in-depth, quality customer relationships. We emphasize a collaborative approach with our customers that includes a number of educational offerings and joint product development and marketing initiatives:

- *Regular Portfolio and Risk Management Reviews.* We conduct periodic insured mortgage portfolio reviews with customers, including detailed loan performance metrics.
- *Joint Product Development and Marketing Initiatives.* We emphasize the development of specialized products and programs that provide increased opportunities for customers and address targeted segments of the market. We recognize the value in developing new products collaboratively with our customers. We also work closely with customers to understand their strategic priorities and business objectives while identifying opportunities that will enhance and complement the customers' marketing activities.
- *Customer Service, Support and Trainings.* We have an experienced and knowledgeable customer services team that strives to provide premier service to our customers. We dedicate service representatives to our customers so they can establish relationships with their customer peers and become thoroughly familiar with unique customer systems, processes and service needs. We have developed mortgage industry training courses that are offered to our customers as a value added service. We have an experienced team that maintains the course materials so that they are relevant and current and who facilitate training sessions for our customers.

We have an experienced team of national and regional account managers strategically deployed nationwide that markets our mortgage insurance products and support services.

We assign national account managers to each of the national lenders, providing a point of communication between us and the customer's senior management team. These professionals are responsible for the development and execution of sales and marketing strategies aimed at growing customer volumes and ensuring each customer's needs are understood and helping them

to pursue their strategies. The national account managers also coordinate the direct communication of customers with our underwriting and risk management groups to provide a continual flow of information between the organizations.

We also have regional account managers and dedicated support staff operating in defined geographic regions. Our regional account managers play a similar role to our national account managers with respect to customer relationship management, education and customer training, serving as our primary point of contact for small and mid-sized regional lenders operating in a given territory. Regional account managers also support our national account team by assisting with our efforts to directly market and service the branch locations of certain national lenders.

We support our national and regional sales force, and improve their effectiveness in acquiring new customers, by raising our brand awareness through advertising and marketing campaigns, website enhancements, electronic communication strategies and sponsorship of industry and educational events.

We seek to hire qualified mortgage professionals for our sales force who generally have well-established relationships with industry-leading lenders and significant experience in both mortgage insurance and mortgage lending. Our approach is reflected in and supported by our compensation structure, pursuant to which we have successfully implemented a non-commission-based structure that includes an equity ownership program, which we believe aligns their efforts with our long-term corporate objectives, including providing better customer service and better risk selection.

Mortgage Insurance Underwriting

We have established mortgage insurance underwriting guidelines that we believe protect our balance sheet and result in the insurance of high quality business. Most applications for mortgage insurance are submitted to us electronically, and we rely upon the lender's representations that the data submitted is true and correct when making our insurance decision. Our underwriting guidelines incorporate credit eligibility requirements that, among other things, restrict our coverage to mortgages that meet our requirements with respect to borrower FICO® scores, maximum debt-to-income levels, maximum LTV ratios and documentation requirements. Our underwriting guidelines also limit the mortgage insurance coverage we provide for mortgages made with certain high risk features, including those for cash-out refinance, second homes or investment properties.

We regularly seek to enhance our mortgage insurance underwriting guidelines through extensive data gathering, detailed loan level risk analysis, and assessments of trends in key macroeconomic factors such as housing prices, interest rates and employment. We utilize proprietary models that enable us to assess individual loan risks with a high degree of granularity and set pricing for our policies within a risk-adjusted return framework. See "—Risk Management" below. We have adopted a balanced underwriting approach, which considers our risk analysis, return objectives and market factors.

At present, our mortgage insurance underwriting guidelines are broadly consistent with those of the GSEs. Many of our customers use the GSEs' automated loan underwriting systems, Desktop Underwriter® and Loan Prospector®, for making credit determinations. We accept the underwriting decisions made by the GSEs' underwriting systems, subject to certain additional limitations and requirements. We monitor the GSEs for updates to these systems, and may engage in a deeper review for the more substantive releases. Our reviews may result in the maintenance or implementation of additional eligibility requirements. In addition, the performance results of loans scored via automated underwriting systems are monitored within our portfolio management protocols.

Our mortgage insurance policies are issued through one of two programs:

- *Delegated Underwriting.* We delegate to eligible customers the ability to underwrite the loans based on agreed-upon underwriting guidelines. To perform delegated underwriting, customers must be approved by our risk management group. See "—Risk Management—Loan Life Cycle Risk Management" below. Some customers prefer to assume underwriting responsibilities because it is more efficient within their loan origination process. Because this delegated underwriting is performed by third parties, we regularly perform quality assurance reviews on a sample of delegated loans to assess compliance with our guidelines. As of December 31, 2025, approximately 76% of our insurance in force had been originated on a delegated basis, compared to 74% as of December 31, 2024. See "Risk Factors—Risks Relating to the Operation of Our Business—Our delegated underwriting program may subject our mortgage insurance business to unanticipated claims."
- *Non-Delegated Underwriting.* Customers who choose not to participate in, or do not qualify for, our delegated underwriting program submit loan files to us so that we may reach a decision as to whether we will insure the loan. In addition, customers participating in our delegated underwriting program may choose not to use their delegated authority, and instead may submit loans for our independent underwriting. Some customers prefer our non-delegated program because we assume underwriting responsibility and will not rescind coverage if we make an underwriting error, subject to the terms of our master policy. We seek to ensure that our employees properly underwrite our loans through quality assurance sampling, loan performance monitoring and training. As of December 31, 2025,

approximately 24% of our insurance in force had been originated on a non-delegated basis, compared to 26% as of December 31, 2024.

We maintain mortgage insurance underwriting centers in Radnor, Pennsylvania and Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and employ additional underwriters who are based remotely throughout the United States. We believe that the geographical distribution of our underwriting staff allows us to make underwriting determinations across different time zones and to best serve customers across the United States. Although our employees conduct the substantial majority of our non-delegated underwriting, we engage underwriters on an outsourced basis from time to time in order to provide temporary underwriting capacity.

REINSURANCE

We conduct our primary reinsurance operations through our wholly owned, Bermuda-based subsidiary, Essent Reinsurance Ltd., a Class 3B insurance company licensed pursuant to Section 4 of the Bermuda Insurance Act 1978. Historically, our reinsurance operations have consisted largely on participation in credit risk transfer ("CRT") transactions sponsored by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which over the past decade have reduced their exposure to mortgage risk by shifting a portion of that risk to the private sector through capital markets offerings and reinsurance vehicles. Essent Re has also transacted in non-payment reinsurance and title reinsurance and reinsures mortgage risk in Australia and France. We also provide third-party insurers and reinsurers with underwriting consulting and risk management services focussing primarily on CRT transactions.

In the fourth quarter of 2025, Essent Re entered the Lloyd's of London market to reinsure certain property and casualty risks beginning in the first quarter of 2026. Lloyd's is a competitive insurance market where individual underwriters accept risks on behalf of groups, called syndicates, of individual and corporate members whose resources provide the security behind the Lloyd's policies that they underwrite. Lloyd's is the world's largest specialty insurance marketplace, underwriting £55.5 billion of premiums during the twelve months ended December 31, 2024, up 6.5% from the same period in the prior year. The Lloyd's global distribution network is where many of the world's most complex risks are placed, across more than 60 specialty lines of business. Over 50 leading insurance companies participate in the market with more than 400 registered Lloyd's brokers and a global network of over 2,900 local coverholders.

CORPORATE & OTHER

Overview

Corporate & Other activities include business activities associated with our title insurance operations, income and losses from holding company treasury operations, as well as general corporate operating expenses not attributable or allocated to our Mortgage Insurance and Reinsurance segments.

As a result of our acquisition of Agents National Title Insurance Company (renamed Essent Title Insurance, Inc. effective January 1, 2025), a title insurance underwriter, and Boston National Title, an independent title agency, effective July 1, 2023, we offer title insurance products through a network of title insurance agents and title and settlement services.

Title insurance is essential to the real estate closing process in most transactions in the U.S. involving real property mortgage lenders. Mortgage lenders and purchasers of real estate generally desire to be protected from loss or damage in the event of defects in the title of the subject property. Title insurance is a means of providing such protection. Title insurance policies insure the interests of owners or lenders against defects in the title to real property, and the policies typically include the duty to defend against claimed title defects. These defects include adverse ownership claims, liens, encumbrances or other matters affecting title. Title insurance policies generally are issued on the basis of a preliminary title report or commitment, which is typically prepared after a search of one or more of public records, maps, documents and prior title policies to ascertain the existence of easements, restrictions, rights of way, conditions, encumbrances or other matters affecting the title to, or use of, real property.

The size of the title insurance industry is closely tied to various macroeconomic factors, including, but not limited to, growth in the gross domestic product, inflation, unemployment, the availability of credit, consumer confidence, interest rates, and sales volumes and prices for new and existing homes, as well as the volume of refinancing of previously issued mortgages.

Most real estate transactions consummated in the U.S. require the use of title insurance by a lending institution before the transaction can be completed. Generally, revenues from title insurance policies are directly correlated with the value of the property underlying the title policy, and appreciation or depreciation in the overall value of the real estate market are major factors in total industry revenues. Industry revenues are also driven by factors affecting the volume of real estate closings, such as the state of the economy, the availability of mortgage funding, and changes in interest rates, which affect demand for new mortgage loans and refinancing transactions.

Title Insurance Industry

Title insurance plays a key role in the U.S. economy by insuring the secure transfer of real estate and facilitating the growth of homeownership. Through our title insurance operations, we provide our customers with title insurance and escrow and other title-related services that support their ability to effectively close real estate transactions.

In real estate transactions financed with a mortgage, virtually all real property mortgage lenders require their borrowers to obtain a title insurance policy at the time a mortgage loan is made. The beneficiaries of title insurance policies generally are real estate owners and mortgage lenders. A title insurance policy indemnifies the named insured and certain successors in interest against certain title defects, liens and encumbrances existing as of the date of the policy and not specifically excepted from its provisions. The policy typically provides coverage for the real property mortgage lender in the amount of its outstanding mortgage loan balance and for the owner in the amount of the purchase price of the property. In some cases, the policy might provide insurance in a greater amount, or for automatic increases in coverage over time. In a refinancing transaction, only a lender's policy is generally purchased because ownership of the property has not changed. In the case of an all-cash real estate purchase, no lender's policy is issued but typically an owner's title policy is issued. The potential for claims under a title insurance policy issued to a mortgage lender generally ceases upon repayment of the mortgage loan. The potential for claims under a title insurance policy issued to an owner generally ceases upon the sale or transfer of the insured property.

An owner's title insurance policy, like those that we issue in connection with the closing of a real estate transaction, provides owners with protection from losing their property due to unforeseen or unexpected title claims. Unlike other types of insurance, title insurance protects against past problems instead of future risk, such as the previous owner's debt, liens, or other claims of ownership that may have been in place prior to the purchase of the property. Under our policies, we defend insureds when covered claims are filed against their interest in the property.

Before issuing title policies, title insurers typically seek to limit their risk of loss by performing title searches and examinations and, in many instances, curing identified title defects. The premium for title insurance is typically due and earned in full when the real estate transaction is closed. Title insurance premiums paid in connection with a title insurance policy are based on (and typically are a percentage of) either the amount of the mortgage loan or the purchase price of the property insured. The premium charged by a title insurer or an agent is subject to regulation in most areas. Such regulations vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

The amount of the insured risk or "face amount" of insurance under a title insurance policy is generally equal to either the amount of the loan secured by the property or the purchase price of the property. The title insurer is also responsible for the cost of defending the insured title against covered claims. The insurer's actual exposure at any given time; however, generally is less than the total face amount of policies outstanding because the coverage of a lender's policy is reduced and eventually terminated as a result of payments on the mortgage loan. A title insurer also generally does not know when a property has been sold or refinanced except when it issues the replacement coverage. Because of these factors, the total liability of a title underwriter on outstanding policies cannot be precisely determined.

In a typical residential real estate sale transaction where title insurance is issued, a third party, such as a real estate broker or agent, lawyer or settlement agent, orders the title insurance on behalf of an insured or in certain instances, such as with respect to a lender, the insured orders on its own behalf. Once the order has been placed and a title insurance company or an agent has determined the current status of the title to the property to its satisfaction, the title insurer or agent prepares, issues and circulates a commitment or preliminary report. The commitment or preliminary report identifies the conditions, exceptions and/or limitations that the title insurer intends to attach to the policy and identifies items appearing on the title that, in certain circumstances, must be eliminated prior to closing. A title insurance company's predominant expense relates to such searches and examinations, the preparation of preliminary title reports, policies or commitments, facilitation and closing of real estate transactions. Claim losses generally result from errors made in the title search and examination process, from fraud, forgery and hidden defects such as incapacity, missing heirs of the property, closing-related errors, etc.

The closing or settlement function, sometimes called an escrow in the western states, is, depending on the local custom in the region, performed by a lawyer, an escrow company or a title insurance company or agent, generally referred to as a "settlement agent." Once documentation has been prepared and signed, and any required mortgage lender payoff demands are obtained, the transaction closes. The settlement agent typically records the appropriate title documents and arranges the transfer of funds to pay off prior loans and extinguish the liens securing such loans. Title policies are then issued, typically insuring the priority of the mortgage of the real property mortgage lender in the amount of its mortgage loan and the owner in the amount of the purchase price. Before a closing takes place, however, the title insurer or agent typically provides an update to the commitment to discover any adverse matters affecting title and, if any are found, works to eliminate them so that the title insurer or agent issues the title policy subject only to those exceptions to coverage which are acceptable to the title insurer, the owner and the owner's lender.

Title and Settlement Services Customers, Sales and Marketing

We market and distribute our title and settlement services to customers primarily to the residential sector of the real estate industry. We actively seek to develop new business relationships with persons in the real estate community, such as real estate sales agents and brokers, financial institutions, independent escrow companies and title agents, real estate developers, mortgage originators and servicers, and attorneys who order title insurance policies for their clients. Large customers, such as national residential mortgage lenders and developers, are an important part of our business. The buying criteria of locally based title agents and clients differ from those of large, geographically diverse customers in that the former tend to emphasize personal relationships and ease of transaction execution, while the latter generally place more emphasis on consistent product delivery across diverse geographical regions and the ability of service providers to meet their information systems requirements for electronic product delivery.

Title Insurance Underwriting

The search and examination function is performed by an independent agent, or directly produced by the underwriter, and the agent is responsible to ensure that the search and examination is completed. The agent thus retains the majority of the title premium collected, with the balance remitted to the title underwriter for bearing the risk of loss in the event that a claim is made under the title insurance policy. Independent agents may select among several title underwriters based upon their relationship with the underwriter, the amount of the premium “split” offered by the underwriter, the overall terms and conditions of the agency agreement and the scope of services offered to the agent. Premium splits vary by geographic region, and in some states are fixed by insurance regulatory requirements. Our relationship with each agent is governed by an agency agreement defining how the agent issues a title insurance policy on our behalf. The agency agreement also sets forth the agent’s liability to us for policy losses attributable to the agent’s errors. An agency agreement is usually terminable without cause upon 30 days’ notice or immediately for cause. In determining whether to engage or retain an independent agent, we consider the agent’s experience, financial condition and loss history. For each agent with whom we enter into an agency agreement, we maintain financial and loss experience records.

A title insurance underwriter’s direct title and settlement operations handle the entire process of issuing title insurance policies and conducting real estate closings without relying on third-party agents. These operations include title searches, title curative work, escrow services, and the final settlement of real estate transactions. By managing these functions in-house, the underwriter ensures greater control over risk assessment, compliance, and service quality while streamlining the process for buyers, sellers, and lenders. Additionally, operating direct title and settlement services allows the underwriter to capture the full premium and settlement fee, maximizing revenue and eliminating the need to share fees with independent title agents.

COMPETITION

We compete in highly competitive markets with major U.S. and non-U.S. insurers and reinsurers, some of which have greater financial, marketing and management resources.

The private mortgage insurance industry currently consists of six active private mortgage insurers approved by the GSEs: Essent Guaranty, Arch Mortgage Insurance Company, Enact Mortgage Insurance Corporation, Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Corporation, National Mortgage Insurance Corporation and Radian Guaranty Inc. Private mortgage insurers generally compete on the basis of pricing, customer relationships, underwriting guidelines, terms and conditions, financial strength, reputation, the strength of management and field organizations, the effective use of technology, and innovation in the delivery and servicing of insurance products.

We and the other private mortgage insurers compete directly with Federal and state governmental and quasi-governmental agencies that provide mortgage insurance, principally, the FHA and, to a lesser degree, the VA. Private mortgage insurers also face limited competition from state-sponsored mortgage insurance funds in several states, including California and New York. From time to time, other state legislatures and agencies consider expanding the authority of their state governments to insure residential mortgages.

The private mortgage insurance industry additionally competes with products designed to eliminate the need for private mortgage insurance, such as “piggyback loans,” which combine a first lien loan with a second lien in order to meet the 80% loan-to-value threshold required for sale to the GSEs without certain credit protections. We also compete with investors willing to hold credit risk on their own balance sheets without credit enhancement and, in some markets, with alternative forms of credit enhancement such as structured finance products and derivatives.

Competition in the reinsurance industry varies significantly on the basis of product and geography. Reinsurance companies compete on the basis of many factors, including premium charges, general reputation and perceived financial strength, the terms and conditions of the products offered, ratings assigned by independent rating agencies, speed of claims payments, reputation and experience in the particular risk to be underwritten, quality of service, the jurisdiction where the

reinsurer or insurer is licensed or otherwise authorized, capacity and coverages offered and various other factors. The GSE-sponsored mortgage CRT programs, which include the use of front and back-end transactions with reinsurers, have to date included approximately 25 unique (re)insurers that regularly participate in CRT transactions in addition to funded credit investors.

Competitors in the title insurance and settlement services industry include Fidelity National Financial, Inc., First American Financial Corporation, Old Republic International Corporation and Stewart Title Guaranty Company as well as a number of smaller title insurance operations. Numerous agency operations also provide aggressive competition. The addition or removal of regulatory barriers might result in changes to competition in the title insurance business. New competitors may include diversified financial services companies that have greater financial resources than we do and possess other competitive advantages. Competition among the major title insurance companies, expansion by regional companies and any new entrants with alternative products could affect our business operations and financial condition.

RATINGS

Financial strength ratings are important to the competitive position of insurance and reinsurance companies. We have received high financial strength ratings from A.M. Best, S&P and Moody's. These ratings represent independent opinions of an insurer's financial strength, operating performance and ability to meet policyholder obligations, and are not an evaluation directed toward the protection of investors or a recommendation to buy, sell or hold any of our securities. Essent Group and the senior notes issued by it also have issuer credit ratings. Rating organizations continually review the financial positions of our principal operating subsidiaries and joint ventures and ratings may be revised or revoked by the agencies which issue them. Additionally, rating organizations may change their capital models and rating methodologies, which could have a material impact on our ratings and business.

The financial strength ratings of our U.S. mortgage insurance subsidiary, Essent Guaranty, Inc., are A2 with a stable outlook by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. (Moody's), A- with a stable outlook by S&P Global Ratings (S&P), and A (Excellent) with a stable outlook by A.M. Best Company (AM Best).

The insurer financial strength ratings of Essent Re are A- with a stable outlook by S&P and A (Excellent) with a stable outlook by A.M. Best.

RISK MANAGEMENT

We have established risk management controls throughout our organization and have a risk management framework that we believe reduces the volatility of our financial results and capital position. The risk committee of our board of directors has formal oversight responsibility for the risks associated with our business and is supported by a management risk committee, chaired by our chief risk officer, comprised of senior members of our executive management team.

We believe that our risk management framework encompasses the major risks we face, including our mortgage and title insurance portfolios, investment risk, liquidity risk and regulatory compliance risk, among others. The majority of our risk analysis is directed toward the risks embedded in our mortgage insurance portfolio. As such, we have established a risk management approach that analyzes the risk across the full life cycle of a mortgage, into what we term the "loan life cycle."

Loan Life Cycle Risk Management

We generally break down the loan life cycle risk management process into three components:

- *Customer qualification*—customer review and approval process;
- *Policy acquisition*—loan underwriting, valuation and risk approval; and
- *Portfolio management*—loan performance and lender monitoring with continuous oversight through the settlement of a claim.

Customer qualification involves a process in which we perform diligence over a potential customer's financial resources, operational practices, management experience and track record of originating quality mortgages prior to formalizing a customer relationship. We leverage the experience of our management team to pre-screen lenders prior to formally engaging and performing a lender qualification review. Once engaged, our counterparty risk management team conducts a lender qualification review with oversight from the management risk committee. Approved lenders are subject to clear parameters regarding underwriting delegation status, credit guideline requirements and variances and collateral thresholds and volume mix expectations for loan diversification.

The policy acquisition process involves the establishment of underwriting guidelines, pricing schedules and aggregate risk limits. See "—Underwriting" above. These guidelines and schedules are coded in our credit risk rule engine which is utilized to

screen each loan underwritten, and are constructed to ensure prudent risk acquisition with adequate return on capital. These guidelines and schedules are maintained and periodically reviewed by our risk management team and adjusted to reflect the most current risk assessment based on ongoing experience in the insurance portfolio as well as industry loan quality trends.

The portfolio management process involves two main functions, quality assurance (QA), reviews, and a comprehensive surveillance protocol, in order to provide customers timely feedback that fosters high quality loan production. Through our QA process, we review a statistically significant sample of individual mortgages from our customers to ensure that the loans accepted through our underwriting process meet our pre-determined eligibility and underwriting criteria. The QA process allows us to identify trends in lender underwriting and origination practices, as well as to back-test underlying reasons for delinquencies, defaults and claims within our portfolio. The information gathered from the QA process is incorporated into our policy acquisition function and is intended to prevent continued aggregation of underperforming risks. Our surveillance protocol maintains oversight over customer and vendor activities, industry dynamics, production trends and portfolio performance. The portfolio management process also involves loss mitigation aimed to reduce both frequency and severity of non-performing risk. See "—Defaults and Claims" above.

Modeling and Analytics

Our risk management professionals are supported by substantial data analysis and sophisticated risk models. We have a dedicated modeling and analytics team which is responsible for delivering actionable models, tools, analysis and reporting to inform our credit underwriting and pricing decisions. The team analyzes mortgage, financial, economic and housing data to develop proprietary behavioral models that help us assess credit, prepayment and loss severity trends and collateral valuation models to help inform business decisions. Performance and profitability are evaluated across customers and products to identify the emergence of potential weaknesses and adverse risks. Geographic housing market analysis also is utilized in establishing market restrictions for certain products and segments. We utilize an economic capital framework to evaluate risk-adjusted returns. We also perform stress tests on our portfolio to analyze how our book of business may perform under adverse scenarios. We believe that our economic capital framework and stress testing analysis helps to inform our optimal capitalization targets, allowing us to prudently manage and protect our balance sheet.

Outward Reinsurance

We proactively manage our risk exposure and capital in part through the use of third-party reinsurance arrangements. We are parties to several types of reinsurance arrangements:

- fully collateralized excess of loss reinsurance coverage on mortgage insurance policies that we have already issued with special purpose insurers funding such reinsurance obligations through the issuance of mortgage insurance-linked notes;
- excess of loss reinsurance arrangements with third party reinsurers on mortgage and title insurance policies that we have already issued; and
- quota share reinsurance arrangements in which third party reinsurers agree to prospectively reinsure a pro rata portion of the risk on mortgage insurance policies that we write.

We believe that our reinsurance programs offer us a number of benefits, including:

- hedging against adverse losses in times of stress and mitigation of portfolio risk and volatility through the housing and economic cycle;
- providing capital relief under the various state insurance risk to capital framework, rating agency capital requirements and GSE PMIERS available asset requirements;
- providing a diversified source of capital to support and grow our business; and
- enhancing our counterparty strength and improving the sustainability of our franchise.

For additional information regarding our third-party reinsurance programs, see Note 5 to our consolidated financial statements entitled "Reinsurance" included elsewhere in this Annual Report.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

We operate highly automated businesses that rely on information technology. We accept mortgage and title insurance applications and requests for title closing services through electronic submission and issue electronic insurance approvals. In order to facilitate this process, we establish direct connections to the origination and servicing systems of our customers and

servicers, which may require a significant upfront investment. We also provide our customers secure access to our web-based mortgage insurance ordering and servicing systems to facilitate transactions.

We continue to upgrade and enhance our systems and technology, including:

- investing in new customer-facing technology that enables our customers to transact business faster and easier, whether over an internet browser or through direct system-to-system interfacing with our customers' loan origination and servicing systems;
- integrating our platform with third-party technology providers used by our customers in their loan origination process and for ordering mortgage insurance and provide title closing services;
- supporting a business rules engine that automatically enforces our eligibility guidelines and pricing rules at the time the mortgage insurance application is submitted;
- implementing advanced business process management software that focuses on improving our underwriting productivity and that may also be used to improve our quality assurance and loss management functions;
- deploying commercially available software combined with proprietary solutions to support title closing and settlement services; and
- development of a title insurance production system.

We believe that our technology, together with our information technology team, greatly enhances our operating efficiency and creates competitive advantages. Our team is experienced in large-scale project delivery, including mortgage insurance and title insurance administration systems and the development of web-enabled servicing capabilities. Technology costs are managed by standardizing our technology infrastructure, consolidating application systems, managing project execution risks and using contract employees as needed.

See "Item 1C - Cybersecurity" below for a discussion of our governance practices and processes for assessing, identifying and managing material risks from cybersecurity threats.

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

Our investment portfolio, including cash, comprises the largest single component of our balance sheet, representing 88.8% of our total assets at December 31, 2025. Our primary objectives with respect to our investment portfolio are to preserve capital, generate investment income and maintain sufficient liquidity to cover operating expenses and pay future insurance claims. Our investments are subject to market-wide risks and fluctuations in value, as well as risks inherent in particular securities. As of December 31, 2025, predominantly all of our investment securities were rated investment-grade.

We have adopted, and our board of directors has approved, an investment policy that defines specific limits for asset sectors, single issuer, credit rating, asset duration, industry and geographic concentration and eligible and ineligible investments. Our senior management is responsible for the execution of our investment strategy and compliance with the adopted investment policy, and review of investment performance and strategy with the investment committee of the board of directors on a quarterly basis.

Our current strategy for the investment portfolio is focused primarily on the following: selecting fixed income securities; maintaining sufficient liquidity to meet expected and unexpected financial obligations; mitigating interest rate risk through management of asset durations; continuously monitoring investment quality; and limiting investments in assets that are highly correlated to the residential mortgage market.

We engage external asset managers to assist with the trading, investment research, investment due diligence and portfolio allocation within the guidelines that we have set. Substantially all of our investments available for sale were managed by external managers as of December 31, 2025. Assets not managed by external managers primarily include securities on deposit with state regulatory agencies in connection with the insurance licenses. To date, we have not used any derivatives to hedge any investment or business risks that we are currently assuming. We measure investment performance against market benchmarks on both total return and return volatility dimensions.

As part of our overall investment strategy, we also allocate a percentage of our portfolio to limited partnership investments and traditional venture capital and private equity investments to generate informational and financial returns.

See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Financial Condition—Investments" for information regarding the performance of our investment portfolio.

REGULATION

Direct U.S. Regulation

Our U.S.-based mortgage insurance business and title insurance operations are subject to comprehensive, detailed regulation by Federal regulators and state insurance departments. State regulations are principally designed for the protection of the public and our insured policyholders, rather than for the benefit of investors. Although their scope varies, state insurance laws generally grant broad supervisory powers to agencies or to officials to examine insurance companies and to enforce rules or to exercise discretion affecting almost every significant aspect of the insurance business.

GSE Qualified Mortgage Insurer Requirements

Pursuant to their charters, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac purchase or guaranty low down payment loans insured by entities that they determine to be qualified mortgage insurance companies. Our primary mortgage insurance subsidiary, Essent Guaranty, Inc., is currently approved by both Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac as a mortgage insurer.

The FHFA, as the conservator of the GSEs since 2008, has the authority to establish the priorities of the GSEs and to control and direct their operations. The FHFA has established a strategic plan for the GSEs, including the development by the GSEs of aligned counterparty risk management standards for mortgage insurers that include uniform master policy and eligibility requirements. See "—Mortgage Insurance—Private Mortgage Insurance—Master Policy" above.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac maintain coordinated Private Mortgage Insurer Eligibility Requirements (the "PMIERs"). The PMIERs represent the standards by which private mortgage insurers are eligible to provide mortgage insurance on loans owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The PMIERs include financial strength requirements incorporating a risk-based framework that require approved insurers to have a sufficient level of liquid assets (which may be offset in part by third-party reinsurance obtained by private mortgage insurers on terms set forth in the PMIERs) from which to pay claims. The PMIERs also include enhanced operational performance expectations and define remedial actions that apply should an approved insurer fail to comply with these requirements. As of December 31, 2025, Essent Guaranty was in compliance with the PMIERs.

State Insurance Regulation

Each of our U.S. insurance subsidiaries is required by the insurance regulatory authority of its state of domicile, and the insurance regulatory authority of each other jurisdiction in which it is licensed to transact business, to make various filings with those insurance regulatory authorities and with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), including quarterly and annual financial statements prepared in accordance with statutory accounting principles. We are licensed to write mortgage insurance in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and to write title insurance in 45 states and the District of Columbia. Most states also regulate transactions between insurance companies and their affiliates and have restrictions on transactions that have the effect of inducing lenders to place business with the insurer. For a description of limits on dividends payable to Essent Group from our U.S. insurance subsidiaries, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Liquidity and Capital Resources" and Note 11 to our consolidated financial statements entitled "Dividends Restrictions" included elsewhere in this Annual Report.

In general, state regulation of our U.S. insurance businesses relates to:

- licenses to transact business;
- producer licensing;
- approval of policy forms;
- approval of premium rates;
- limits on insurable loans;
- quarterly, annual and other reports on our financial condition;
- the basis upon which assets and liabilities must be stated;
- requirements regarding contingency reserves;
- minimum capital levels and adequacy ratios;
- credit for reinsurance;

- limitations on the types of investment instruments which may be held in our investment portfolio;
- special deposits of securities;
- limits on dividends payable;
- advertising compliance;
- establishment of reserves;
- claims handling;
- privacy, data protection and cybersecurity;
- the use of artificial intelligence (AI);
- hazardous financial condition; and
- enterprise risk management.

Mortgage insurance premium rates are regulated to protect policyholders against the adverse effects of excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory rates and to encourage competition in the insurance marketplace. Any increase in premium rates must be actuarially justified, generally on the basis of the insurer's loss experience, expenses and future trend analysis. The general mortgage default experience may also be considered. Premium rates are subject to review and approval by state regulators, except in states where such approval has been exempted by statute or regulation. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Liquidity and Capital Resources" for information about regulations governing our capital adequacy, information about our current capital and our expectations regarding our future capital position.

Title insurance premiums are subject to regulation in most states and vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Some states promulgate rates, others require prior approval, and some simply require the filing of rates.

The insurance holding company laws and regulations of Pennsylvania, the state in which both of our U.S. insurance subsidiaries are domiciled as of January 1, 2025, regulate, among other things, certain transactions between Essent Group, our insurance subsidiaries and/or other parties affiliated with us and certain transactions involving our common shares, including transactions that constitute a change of control of Essent Group and, consequently, a change of control of our insurance subsidiaries. Specifically, these laws and regulations require that, before a person can acquire direct or indirect control of an insurer domiciled in Pennsylvania, prior written approval must be obtained from the Pennsylvania Insurance Department, which is required to consider various factors, including the financial strength of the acquirer, the integrity and management experience of the acquirer's board of directors and executive officers, and the acquirer's plans for the future operations of a reinsurer or insurer. Pursuant to applicable laws and regulations, "control" over an insurer is generally presumed to exist if any person, directly or indirectly, owns, controls, holds the power to vote or holds proxies representing, 10% or more of the voting securities of that reinsurer or insurer. Indirect ownership includes ownership of our common shares.

State insurance law, and not Federal bankruptcy law, would apply to any insolvency or financially hazardous condition of our U.S. insurance subsidiaries.

The NAIC established a Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Working Group (MGIWG) to determine and make recommendations to the NAIC's Financial Condition Committee regarding what, if any, changes to the Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Model Act (the "MGI Model Act") and other NAIC guidance are deemed necessary to the solvency regulation of mortgage guaranty insurers, including, but not limited to, revisions to Statement of Statutory Accounting Principles (SSAP) No. 58 - Mortgage Guaranty Insurance. The revised Model Act was approved by MGIWG in 2023 and was adopted by the NAIC in March 2024. The NAIC Statutory Accounting Principles (E) Working Group has initiated a project to update SSAP No. 58 to align with the revised MGI Model Act. At this time, we cannot predict which states, if any, will adopt the amended MGI Model Act or any of its specific provisions, the effect changes in the MGI Model Act will have on the mortgage guaranty insurance market generally, or on our business specifically, the additional costs associated with compliance with any such changes, or any changes to our operations that may be necessary to comply, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. We also cannot predict whether other regulatory initiatives will be adopted or what impact, if any, such initiatives, if adopted as laws, may have on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Statutory Accounting

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with state-regulated statutory accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities. It also requires disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Our mortgage insurance company is required to establish statutory accounting contingency loss reserves in an amount equal to 50% of our net earned premiums on mortgage guaranty insurance policies that we issue. These amounts generally cannot be withdrawn for a period of 10 years, except as permitted by applicable insurance law and regulations. With regulatory approval, a mortgage guaranty insurance company may make early withdrawals from the contingency reserve when incurred losses exceed 35% of net premiums earned in a calendar year. For further information, see Note 16 to our consolidated financial statements entitled "Statutory Accounting" included elsewhere in this Annual Report.

Pursuant to statutory accounting requirements, our title insurer must defer a portion of premiums as an unearned premium reserve for the protection of policyholders (in addition to their reserves for known claims) and must maintain qualified assets in an amount equal to the statutory requirements. The level of unearned premium reserve required to be maintained at any time is determined by a statutory formula based factors such as age, number of policies, the dollar amount of policy liabilities underwritten, and the age and dollar amount of statutory premiums written.

Privacy and Information Security

The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999 (GLBA) imposes privacy and data security requirements on financial institutions with which we transact business, including obligations to protect and safeguard consumers' nonpublic personal information and records, and limitations on the re-use of such information. The Federal Commission has issued the Standards for Safeguarding Customer Information, or the "Safeguards Rule," and the CFPB has issued the Privacy of Consumer Financial Information Rule, or "Privacy Rule," implementing sections of GLBA.

Many states have enacted legislation implementing their own financial privacy laws that, typically, replicate many of the requirements established, including obligations to protect social security numbers and provide notification in the event that a security breach results in a reasonable belief that unauthorized persons may have obtained access to consumer nonpublic information.

In 2017, the New York Department of Financial Services (NYDFS) adopted a Cybersecurity Regulation that applies to all individuals and entities licensed by the NYDFS, pursuant to which licensees must file for exemption or submit an annual compliance certification. In addition, The Cybersecurity Regulation mandates, among other things, the implementation and maintenance of a risk-based and documented data protection program, certain technical safeguards and controls, the designation of a Chief Information Security Officer, or CISO, and other specific governance and oversight measures, oversight of third party service providers, and the identification and documentation of material deficiencies and remediation plans. Covered entities that fail to comply with the Cybersecurity Regulation may be subject to NYDFS enforcement actions, the result of which could lead to civil penalties, and other legal and reputational costs. On November 1, 2023, NYDFS adopted its second amendment to the Cybersecurity Regulation, the majority of became effective in 2024. These amendments strengthen data protection requirements, including the implementation of specific technical and administrative security measures. Several other jurisdictions in which we operate have enacted similar laws but do not require certification of compliance by non-domestic licensees.

In addition, the NAIC's Insurance Data Security Model Law (the "Cybersecurity Model Law"), which is similar to New York's Cybersecurity Regulation, establishes standards for data security and for the investigation of and notification to insurance commissioners of cybersecurity events involving unauthorized access to, or the misuse of, certain nonpublic information. The Cybersecurity Model Law provides requirements to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of covered information systems and the sensitive or business information thereon. Over 25 states and jurisdictions have adopted a version of the Cybersecurity Model Law.

Beginning with California in 2020, several states have enacting, or are considering enacting, consumer privacy protection laws applicable to companies that do business in the respective states and meet certain threshold requirements. These laws generally create a privacy framework to protect identified data privacy rights and impose obligations relating to the processing and protection of consumer personal information. Several of these laws include broad exemptions for data or entities regulated under GLBA; however, there may be limited instances where the laws apply to portions of our business. It is reasonably possible that these new privacy laws will prompt other state and federal regulators to move forward with new privacy regulations that could impact our businesses or our customers' businesses.

The NAIC's Privacy Protections (H) Working Group (the "PPWG") is developing revisions to the NAIC's Privacy of

Consumer Financial and Health Information Regulation (“Model 672”). It has released a revised draft of Model 672 and has a dedicated drafting group tasked with leading its model update effort. The proposed amendments would expand the definition of nonpublic personal information; add consumer rights to request access, correction and deletion of nonpublic personal information; and add requirements for contracts with third-party service providers. The PPWG has indicated that in 2026 it will use state insurance privacy protections regarding the collection, data ownership and use rights, and disclosure of information gathered in connection with insurance transactions to draft a new/revised privacy protections model act to replace/update NAIC models such as Model 670 and/or Model 672.

Federal Mortgage-Related Laws and Regulations

Certain Federal laws directly or indirectly affect private mortgage insurers and title insurers. Private mortgage insurers are impacted indirectly by Federal laws and regulations affecting mortgage originators and lenders, purchasers of mortgage loans, such as the GSEs, and governmental insurers such as the FHA and the VA. For example, changes in Federal housing laws and regulation or other laws and regulations that affect the demand for private mortgage insurance may have a material adverse effect on us. In addition, mortgage origination and servicing transactions are subject to compliance with various Federal and state laws, including the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA), the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Fair Housing Act, the Truth In Lending Act (TILA), the Homeowners Protection Act of 1998 (HOPA), and the Fair Credit Reporting Act of 1970. Among other things, these laws and their implementing regulations prohibit payments for referrals of settlement service business, require fairness and non-discrimination in granting or facilitating the granting of credit, govern the circumstances under which companies may obtain and use consumer credit information, and provide for other consumer protections.

Dodd-Frank Act

The Dodd-Frank Act Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, which we refer to as the Dodd-Frank Act, amended certain provisions of TILA and RESPA that may have a significant impact on our business prospects. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), a Federal agency created by the Dodd-Frank Act, is charged with implementation and enforcement of these provisions.

Qualified Mortgage Regulations—Ability To Repay Requirements

The CFPB regulates the offering and provision of consumer financial products and services under Federal law, including residential mortgages, and is authorized to issue regulations governing a loan originator's determination that, at the time a loan is originated, the consumer has a reasonable ability to repay the loan. The Dodd-Frank Act provides for a statutory presumption that a borrower will have the ability to repay a loan if the loan has characteristics satisfying the qualified mortgage (QM), definition. Creditors who violate the ability-to-repay (ATR), standard can be liable for all interest and fees paid by the borrower as well as actual and statutory damages. Furthermore, the borrower may assert this as a defense by recoupment or set off without regard to any statute of limitation in any foreclosure action initiated by or on behalf of the creditor, assignee or any holder of the mortgage.

Pursuant to the CFPB's announced final rule regarding QMs, which we refer to as the QM Rule, a loan is deemed to be a QM if it meets certain specified requirements, including if:

- the term of the mortgage is less than or equal to 30 years;
- there is no negative amortization, interest only or balloon features;
- the lender properly documents the loan in accordance with the requirements;
- the total "points and fees" do not exceed certain thresholds, generally 3%; and
- the total debt-to-income ratio does not exceed 43%.

Under the QM Rule, a loan receives a conclusive presumption that the consumer had the ability to repay if the annual percentage rate does not exceed the average prime offer rate (APOR) for a comparable transaction by 1.5 percentage points or more as of the date the interest rate is set. A loan receives a rebuttable presumption that the consumer had the ability to repay if the annual percentage rate exceeds the average prime offer rate for a comparable transaction by 1.5 percentage points or more but by less than 2.25 percentage points.

We expect that most lenders will continue to be reluctant to make non-QM loans because they will not be entitled to the presumption against civil liability under the Dodd-Frank Act, and mortgage investors may be reluctant to purchase mortgages or mortgage-backed securities that are not QMs due to potential assignee liability for such loans. As a result, we believe that the QM regulations have a direct impact on establishing a subset of borrowers who can meet the regulatory standards and directly

affect the willingness of lenders and mortgage investors to extend mortgage credit and therefore the size of the residential mortgage market. See "Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Regulation and Litigation—*Our business prospects and operating results could be adversely impacted if, and to the extent that, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's ("CFPB") rule defining a qualified mortgage ("QM") reduces the size of the origination market or creates incentives to use government mortgage insurance programs.*"

Qualified Residential Mortgage Regulations—Risk Retention Requirements

The Dodd-Frank Act generally requires an issuer of an asset-backed security or a person who organizes and initiates an asset-backed transaction (a "securitizer") to retain at least 5% of the risk associated with securitized mortgage loans, although in some cases the retained risk may be allocated between the securitizer and the mortgage originator. This risk retention requirement does not apply to a mortgage loan that is a "qualified residential mortgage," (QRM), or that is insured or guaranteed by the FHA or other specified Federal agencies.

The QRM regulations align the definition of a QRM loan with that of a QM loan. If, however, the QRM definition is changed (or the QM definition is amended) in a manner that is unfavorable to us, such as to give no consideration to mortgage insurance in computing LTV or to require a large down payment for a loan to qualify as a QRM, the attractiveness of originating and securitizing loans with lower down payments may be reduced, which may adversely affect the future demand for mortgage insurance. See "Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Regulation and Litigation—*The amount of insurance we write could be adversely affected by the Dodd-Frank Act's risk retention requirements and the definition of Qualified Residential Mortgage ("QRM").*"

Mortgage Servicing Rules

The Dodd-Frank Act amended and expanded upon mortgage servicing requirements under TILA and RESPA, Regulation Z (promulgated pursuant to TILA) and Regulation X (promulgated pursuant to RESPA) subsequently amended to conform these regulations accordingly. Included within these rules are new or enhanced requirements for handling escrow accounts, responding to borrower assertions of error and inquiries from borrower, special handling of loans that are in default, and loss mitigation in the event of borrower default. A provision of the required loss mitigation procedures prohibits the loan holder or servicer from commencing foreclosure until 120 days after the borrower's delinquency. Complying with the new rules could cause the servicing of mortgage loans to become more burdensome and costly than it had been prior to the implementation of these rules. As to servicing of mortgage loans covered by our insurance policies, these rules could contribute to delays in realization upon collateral and have an adverse impact on resolution of claims.

Homeowners Protection Act of 1998

HOPA provides for the automatic termination, or cancellation upon a borrower's request, of private mortgage insurance upon satisfaction of certain conditions. HOPA requires that lenders give borrowers certain notices with regard to the automatic termination or cancellation of mortgage insurance. These provisions apply to borrower-paid mortgage insurance for purchase money, refinance and construction loans secured by the borrower's principal dwelling. FHA and VA loans are not covered by HOPA. Under HOPA, automatic termination of mortgage insurance would generally occur when the mortgage is first scheduled to reach an LTV of 78% of the home's original value, assuming that the borrower is current on the required mortgage payments. A borrower who has a "good payment history," as defined by HOPA, may generally request cancellation of mortgage insurance when the LTV is first scheduled to reach 80% of the home's original value or when actual payments reduce the loan balance to 80% of the home's original value, whichever occurs earlier. It is the servicer's responsibility to notify us when coverage is to be canceled under the HPA, either automatically or due to a borrower-requested cancellation, and we will process the servicer's request. If mortgage insurance coverage is not cancelled at the borrower's request or by the automatic termination provision, the mortgage servicer must terminate mortgage insurance coverage by the first day of the month following the date that is the midpoint of the loan's amortization, assuming the borrower is current on the required mortgage payments.

The GSEs have implemented certain guidelines that may provide more flexibility to certain borrowers to cancel BPMI than is otherwise required for such loans under HOPA. See "—Our Products and Services—Mortgage Insurance—Primary Mortgage Insurance" above.

Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974

Each of mortgage insurance and title insurance generally may be considered to be a "settlement service" for purposes of RESPA under applicable regulations. Subject to limited exceptions, RESPA prohibits persons from giving or accepting anything of value in connection with the referral of a settlement service. RESPA authorizes the CFPB, the U.S. Department of Justice, state attorneys general and state insurance commissioners to bring civil enforcement actions, and also provides for criminal penalties and private rights of action. In the past, a number of lawsuits have challenged the actions of private mortgage insurers under RESPA, alleging that the insurers have violated the referral fee prohibition by entering into captive reinsurance

arrangements or providing products or services to mortgage lenders at improperly reduced prices in return for the referral of mortgage insurance, including the provision of contract underwriting services. In addition to these private lawsuits, other private mortgage insurance companies have received "Civil Investigative Demands" from, and entered into consent orders with, the CFPB as part of its investigation to determine whether mortgage lenders and mortgage insurance providers engaged in acts or practices in connection with their captive mortgage insurance arrangements in violation of the RESPA, the Consumer Financial Protection Act and the Dodd-Frank Act. The CFPB's ruling in its enforcement order against PHH Corporation for alleged RESPA violations stemming from captive mortgage insurance arrangements was overturned on appeal by a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, a decision affirmed in January 2018 by the D.C. Circuit en banc. Although we did not participate in the practices that were the subject of the CFPB consent orders or the PHH case, the private mortgage insurance industry and our insurance subsidiaries are subject to substantial Federal and state regulation. Increased Federal or state regulatory scrutiny could lead to new legal precedents, new regulations or new practices, or regulatory actions or investigations, which could adversely affect our financial condition and operating results.

Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 (SAFE Act)

The SAFE Act requires mortgage loan originators to be licensed and/or registered with the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry, or the NMLS. The NMLS is a database established by the Conference of State Bank Supervisors and the American Association of Residential Mortgage Regulators. Among other things, the database was established to support the licensing of mortgage loan originators by each state. As part of this licensing and registration process, loan originators who are employees of institutions other than depository institutions or certain of their subsidiaries that are regulated by a Federal banking agency, must generally be licensed under the SAFE Act guidelines enacted by each state in which they engage in loan originator activities and registered with the NMLS. The SAFE Act generally prohibits employees of a depository institution (including certain of their subsidiaries that are regulated by a Federal banking agency) from originating residential mortgage loans without first registering with the NMLS and maintaining that registration. Certain of our underwriters are licensed pursuant to the SAFE Act.

Fair Credit Reporting Act

The Fair Credit Reporting Act of 1970, as amended (FCRA), imposes restrictions on the permissible use of credit report information. FCRA has been interpreted by some FTC staff and Federal courts to require mortgage insurance companies to provide "adverse action" notices to consumers in the event an application for mortgage insurance is declined or offered at less than the best available rate for the loan program applied for on the basis of a review of the consumer's credit report information. We provide such notices as required. Although they occurred before our establishment and we have not been involved, there has been class action litigation over these FCRA adverse action notices involving the mortgage insurance industry, including court-approved settlements.

Housing Finance Reform

Presently, the Federal government plays a dominant role in the U.S. housing finance system through the involvement of the GSEs and the FHA, VA and Ginnie Mae. There is broad policy consensus toward the need for private capital to play a larger role and government credit risk to be reduced. However, to date there has been a lack of consensus with regard to the specific changes necessary to return a larger role for private capital and how small the eventual role of government should become. Since the GSEs were placed into conservatorship in September 2008, there have been a wide ranging set of GSE and secondary market reform advocacy proposals put forward, including nearly complete privatization and elimination of the role of the GSEs, recapitalization of the GSEs and a number of alternatives that combine a Federal role with private capital, some of which eliminate the GSEs and others of which envision an ongoing role for the GSEs. Since 2011, a number of comprehensive GSE/secondary market legislative reform bills have also been introduced or discussed in the U.S. Congress, differing with regard to the future role of the GSEs, the overall structure of the secondary market and the role of the Federal government within the mortgage market. In addition, the size, complexity and centrality of the GSEs to the current housing finance system and the importance of housing to the economy make the transition to any new housing finance system difficult.

Any changes to the charters or statutory authorities of the GSEs would require Congressional action to implement. Congress, however, has not enacted any legislation to date. We believe that the continuing conservatorship of the GSEs by the FHFA makes it likely that the U.S. Congress will eventually address the role and purpose of the GSEs in the U.S. housing market and potentially legislate structural and other changes to the GSEs and the functioning of the secondary mortgage market. New Federal legislation could reduce the level of private mortgage insurance coverage used by the GSEs as credit enhancement, eliminate the requirement altogether or otherwise alter or eliminate the role of the GSEs, and thereby materially affect our ability to compete, demand for our products and the profitability of our business.

There can be no assurance that other Federal laws and regulations affecting these institutions and entities will not change, or that new legislation or regulations will not be adopted that will adversely affect the private mortgage insurance industry. See

"Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Regulation and Litigation—*Legislative or regulatory actions or decisions to change the role of the GSEs in the U.S. housing market generally, or changes to the charters of the GSEs with regard to the use of credit enhancements generally and private mortgage insurance specifically, could reduce our revenues or adversely affect our profitability and returns*" and "*—Changes in the business practices of the GSEs, including actions or decisions to decrease or discontinue the use of mortgage insurance or changes in the GSEs' eligibility requirements for mortgage insurers, could reduce our revenues or adversely affect our profitability and returns.*"

FHA Reform

We compete with the single-family mortgage insurance programs of the FHA, which is part of HUD. The most recent FHA report to Congress on the financial status of the FHA Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund (MMIF) showed the capital reserve ratio of the MMIF Forward Portfolio at 11.0% as of September 30, 2025, above the Congressionally mandated required minimum level of 2%.

Basel Committee Capital Adequacy Requirements

In 1988, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, which we refer to as the "Basel Committee," developed the Basel Capital Accord ("Basel I") which set out international benchmarks for assessing banks' capital adequacy requirements. In 2005, the Basel Committee issued an update to Basel I ("Basel II"), which, among other things, sets forth capital treatment of mortgage insurance purchased and held on balance sheet by banks in respect of their origination and securitization activities. Following the financial crisis of 2008, the Basel Committee made further revisions that established risk-based capital and leverage capital requirements for most United States banking organizations through further revisions to Basel II ("Basel III") (although banking organizations with less than \$10 billion in total assets may now choose to comply with an alternative community bank leverage ratio framework established by the Federal banking agencies in 2019). In December 2017, the Basel Committee published final revisions to the Basel III capital framework ("Basel IV"), which were generally targeted for implementation by each participating country by January 1, 2022 but have been delayed.

In July 2023, the Federal banking agencies issued a Notice of Public Rulemaking (NPR) known as the "Basel III Endgame". This proposal significantly alters the regulatory capital regime of U.S. banks including regional and mid-sized banks. The proposed changes would generally apply to banks with assets greater than \$100 billion. Under the proposal, mortgage risk weights would be increased and continue the current capital treatment for high loan to value mortgages with mortgage insurance, where private mortgage insurance doesn't mitigate credit risk and lower the capital charge. The comment period for the NPR ended in January 2024. If the Federal banking agencies decide to implement the Basel III Endgame as specifically drafted, mortgage insurance would not lower the LTV ratio of residential loans for capital purposes, and therefore may decrease the demand for mortgage insurance. The timing, scope, and content of any such proposed rulemaking and any potential impact it may have, as well as whether any new guidelines will be proposed or finalized in the United States in response to Basel IV remains uncertain due to changes resulting from the Trump Administration and the Federal Reserve.

See "Risk Factors—Risks Relating to Regulation and Litigation—*The implementation of the Basel rules may discourage the use of mortgage insurance.*"

Bermuda Insurance Regulation

The Insurance Act 1978 of Bermuda and related regulations, as amended, or the Insurance Act, regulates the reinsurance business of Essent Re, and provides that no person may carry on any insurance business in or from within Bermuda unless registered as an insurer under the Insurance Act by the Bermuda Monetary Authority (BMA). In deciding whether to grant registration, the BMA has broad discretion to act as it thinks fit in the public interest. The BMA is required by the Insurance Act to determine whether the applicant is a fit and proper body to be engaged in the insurance business and, in particular, whether it has, or has available to it, adequate knowledge and expertise to operate an insurance business. In addition, the BMA is required by the Insurance Act to determine whether a person who proposes to control 10%, 20%, 33% or 50% (as applicable) of the voting powers of a Bermuda-registered insurer or its parent company is a fit and proper person to exercise such degree of control.

The continued registration of an applicant as an insurer is subject to the applicant complying with the terms of its registration and such other conditions as the BMA may impose from time to time. The Insurance Act also grants to the BMA powers to supervise, investigate and intervene in the affairs of insurance companies.

The Insurance Act imposes on Bermuda insurance companies solvency and liquidity standards as well as auditing and reporting requirements. Certain significant aspects of the Bermuda insurance regulatory framework are set forth below.

Classification of Insurers

The Insurance Act distinguishes between insurers carrying on long-term business, insurers carrying on special purpose business and insurers carrying on general business. There are six classifications of insurers carrying on general business (Classes 1, 2, 3, 3A, 3B, and 4) with Class 1 insurers subject to the lightest regulation and Class 4 insurers subject to the strictest regulation.

Essent Re, which is incorporated in Bermuda to carry on general insurance and reinsurance business, is registered as a Class 3B insurer in Bermuda and is regulated as such under the Insurance Act. We are not, however, licensed in Bermuda to carry on long-term business. Long-term business broadly includes life insurance and disability insurance with terms in excess of five years. General business broadly includes all types of insurance that is not long-term business.

Cancellation of Insurer's Registration

An insurer's registration may be cancelled by the BMA on certain grounds specified in the Insurance Act. Failure of the insurer to comply with its obligations under the Insurance Act, or if the BMA believes that the insurer has not been carrying on business in accordance with sound insurance principles, would be such grounds.

Principal Representative

An insurer is required to maintain a principal office in Bermuda and to appoint and maintain a principal representative in Bermuda. For the purpose of the Insurance Act, Essent Re's principal representative is Artex Risk Solutions and its principal office for these purposes is the offices of Artex. Without a reason acceptable to the BMA, an insurer may not terminate the appointment of its principal representative, and the principal representative may not cease to act as such, unless 30 days' notice in writing to the BMA is given of the intention to do so. It is the duty of the principal representative to forthwith notify the BMA where the principal representative believes there is a likelihood of the insurer (for which the principal representative acts) becoming insolvent or that a reportable "event" has, to the principal representative's knowledge, occurred or is believed to have occurred. Examples of such a reportable "event" include failure by the insurer to comply substantially with a condition imposed upon the insurer by the BMA relating to a solvency margin or a liquidity or other ratio. Within 14 days of such notification to the BMA, the principal representative must furnish the BMA with a written report setting out all the particulars of the case that are available to the principal representative.

Independent Approved Auditor

A Class 3B insurer must appoint an independent auditor who will annually audit and report on the insurer's financial statements prepared under generally accepted accounting principles or international financial reporting standards, statutory financial statements and statutory financial returns each of which are required to be filed annually with the BMA. The auditor must be approved by the BMA as the independent auditor of the insurer. If the insurer fails to appoint an approved auditor or at any time fails to fill a vacancy for such auditor, the BMA may appoint an approved auditor for the insurer and shall fix the remuneration to be paid to the approved auditor within 14 days, if not agreed sooner by the insurer and the auditor.

Loss Reserve Specialist

A Class 3B insurer is required to submit an opinion of its approved loss reserve specialist with its statutory financial return in respect of its losses and loss expenses provisions. The loss reserve specialist will normally be a qualified casualty actuary and must be approved by the BMA.

Annual Financial Statements

A Class 3B insurer is required to prepare annual GAAP financial statements and statutory financial statements. The Insurance Act prescribes rules for the preparation and substance of statutory financial statements (which include, in statutory form, a balance sheet, income statement, a statement of capital and surplus, and notes thereto). The statutory financial statements include detailed information and analysis regarding premiums, claims, reinsurance and investments of the insurer. An insurer is required to file with the BMA the annual GAAP financial statements and statutory financial statements within four months from the end of the relevant financial year (unless specifically extended). The statutory financial statements do not form part of the public records maintained by the BMA but the GAAP financial statements are available for public inspection.

Annual Statutory Financial Return

An insurer is required to file with the BMA a statutory financial return no later than four months after its financial year end (unless specifically extended). The statutory financial return includes, among other matters, a report of the approved independent auditor on the statutory financial statements of the insurer, a general business solvency certificate, the statutory financial statements themselves and the opinion of the loss reserve specialist. The principal representative and at least two directors of the insurer must sign the solvency certificate. The directors are required to certify whether the minimum solvency margin has been met, and the independent approved auditor is required to state whether in its opinion it was reasonable for the directors to so certify. Where an insurer's accounts have been audited for any purpose other than compliance with the Insurance Act, a statement to that effect must be filed with the statutory financial return. The statutory financial return is not available for public inspection.

Minimum Solvency Margin, Enhanced Capital Requirement and Restrictions on Dividends and Distributions

A Class 3B insurer must maintain at all times a solvency margin and an enhanced capital requirement in accordance with the provisions of the Insurance Act. Each year the insurer is required to file with the BMA a capital and solvency return within four months of its relevant financial year end (unless specifically extended). The prescribed form of capital and solvency return comprises the insurer's Bermuda Solvency Capital Requirement model, a schedule of fixed income investments by rating categories, a schedule of net loss and loss expense provisions by line of business, a schedule of premiums written by line of business, a schedule of risk management and a schedule of fixed income securities.

The Insurance Act mandates certain actions and filings with the BMA if a Class 3B insurer fails to meet and/or maintain its enhanced capital requirement or solvency margin including the filing of a written report detailing the circumstances giving rise to the failure and the manner and time within which the insurer intends to rectify the failure. A Class 3B insurer is prohibited from declaring or paying a dividend if in breach of its enhanced capital requirement, solvency margin or minimum liquidity ratio or if the declaration or payment of such dividend would cause such a breach. Where an insurer fails to meet its solvency margin or minimum liquidity ratio on the last day of any financial year, it is prohibited from declaring or paying any dividends during the next financial year without the approval of the BMA. Class 3B insurers must obtain the BMA's prior approval for a reduction by 15% or more of the total statutory capital or for a reduction by 25% or more its total statutory capital and surplus as set forth in its previous year's statutory financial statements. These restrictions on declaring or paying dividends and distributions under the Insurance Act are in addition to those under the Companies Act which apply to all Bermuda companies.

Minimum Liquidity Ratio

The Insurance Act provides a minimum liquidity ratio for general business. An insurer engaged in general business is required to maintain the value of its relevant assets at not less than 75% of the amount of its relevant liabilities. Relevant assets include cash and time deposits, quoted investments, unquoted bonds and debentures, first liens on real estate, investment income due and accrued, accounts and premiums receivable and reinsurance balances receivable.

There are certain categories of assets which, unless specifically permitted by the BMA, do not automatically qualify as relevant assets, such as unquoted equity securities, investments in and advances to affiliates and real estate and collateral loans.

The relevant liabilities are total general business insurance reserves and total other liabilities less deferred income tax and sundry liabilities (by interpretation, those not specifically defined).

Supervision, Investigation and Intervention

The BMA may appoint an inspector with powers to investigate the affairs of an insurer if the BMA believes that an investigation is required in the interests of the insurer's policyholders or potential policyholders. In order to verify or supplement information otherwise provided to the inspector, the BMA may direct an insurer to produce documents or information relating to matters connected with its business.

An inspector may examine on oath any past or present officer, employee or insurance manager of the insurer under investigation in relation to its business and apply to the court in Bermuda for an order that other persons may also be examined on any matter relevant to the investigation. It shall be the duty of any insurer in relation to whose affairs an inspector has been appointed and of any past or present officer, employee or insurance manager of such insurer, to produce to the inspector on request all books, records and documents relating to the insurer under investigation which are in its or his custody or control and otherwise to give to the inspector all assistance in connection with the investigation which it or he is reasonably able to give.

If it appears to the BMA that there is a risk of an insurer becoming insolvent, or that it is in breach of the Insurance Act or any conditions imposed upon its registration, the BMA may, among other things, direct the insurer (1) not to take on any new

insurance business, (2) not to vary any insurance contract if the effect would be to increase its liabilities, (3) not to make certain investments, (4) to realize certain investments, (5) to maintain or transfer to the custody of a specified bank, certain assets, (6) not to declare or pay any dividends or other distributions or to restrict the making of such payments, (7) to limit its premium income, (8) not to enter into any specified transaction with any specified persons or persons of a specified class, (9) to provide such written particulars relating to the financial circumstances of the insurer as the BMA thinks fit, (10) to obtain the opinion of a loss reserve specialist and to submit it to the BMA and (11) to remove a controller or officer.

Disclosure of Information

In addition to powers under the Insurance Act to investigate the affairs of an insurer, the BMA may require certain information from an insurer (or certain other persons) to be produced to the BMA. Further, the BMA has been given powers to assist other regulatory authorities, including foreign insurance regulatory authorities, with their investigations involving insurance and reinsurance companies in Bermuda but subject to restrictions. For example, the BMA must be satisfied that the assistance being requested is in connection with the discharge of regulatory responsibilities of the foreign regulatory authority. Further, the BMA must consider whether cooperation is in the public interest. The grounds for disclosure are limited and the Insurance Act provides for sanctions for breach of the statutory duty of confidentiality.

HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

We believe that attracting, developing and retaining quality employees is imperative to building a successful and sustainable business model. We make significant investments in our employees, providing a wide range of continuing education opportunities to support their professional growth and success.

As of December 31, 2025, we had a total of 514 employees, including 507 employees based in our Radnor, PA, Winston-Salem, NC, New York, NY, Reston, VA, Pittsburgh, PA, Columbia, MO and Charlotte, NC locations, or remotely throughout the United States, and 7 employees located in Hamilton, Bermuda. None of our employees are represented by a labor union and we consider our employee relations to be good. We also periodically engage contractors who provide services to us on a temporary basis.

We believe that our “do the right thing” culture has enabled us to achieve our approximately 90% retention rate over the past 5 years (excluding our recently acquired title and settlement services operations). We design compelling job opportunities, aligned with our mission, in a fast-paced, results-driven work environment. The process through which we recruit employees has an impact on the quality, diversity and timing of filling positions. Open positions may be filled internally through our internal posting process or externally through a combination of broadly available Internet job boards as well as college placement services, trade journals and professional recruiting firms.

Employee engagement begins at the time of hire by paying a fair and livable wage and providing medical, dental, vision, prescription, life and long- and short-term disability coverage to full-time employees. We contribute generously to the retirement savings plans of our U.S.-based employees, with an immediately vested non-discretionary matching contribution to our 401(k) plan in an amount equal to 100% of up to the first 5% of an employee’s eligible compensation. We believe that all employees should make good decisions, do the right thing and act like owners and we have made all employees owners through a share grant program. Nearly every member of our current workforce has outstanding awards for equity shares in our company.

We offer varied employee training, development, mentorship and leadership opportunities and encourage our employees to continue to develop in their careers. We provide compliance and job-related training to all newly hired employees, as well as annual compliance training, to ensure their ongoing success. We also provide many opportunities throughout the year to participate in sales, underwriting, risk management and other related training. We also offer a tuition reimbursement program and offer certifications and professional training opportunities, including MBA certifications, Nationwide Multistate Licensing System & Registry (NMLS) continuing education for underwriters and other professional training in areas including but not limited to cybersecurity, risk, accountancy, actuarial sciences, human resources, underwriting, information technology, appraisals, marketing and project management.

We value honest and timely feedback. We use a third-party firm to periodically conduct anonymous employee-wide engagement surveys, as well as targeted “pulse” surveys, to identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement and to ensure continued engagement and retention of our employees.

We believe a diverse and inclusive workforce provides for a broad array of viewpoints, talents and skills and assists in building a sustainable future. We are focused on cultivating a diverse and inclusive culture where our employees can freely bring diverse perspectives and varied experiences to work. We seek to hire and retain highly talented employees and empower them to create value for our shareholders. In our employee recruitment and selection process and operation of our business, we adhere to equal employment opportunity policies and encourage the participation of our employees in training programs that

will enhance their effectiveness in the performance of their duties. As of December 31, 2025, approximately 63% of our workforce was comprised of women and minorities.

For additional information, please see the section titled “Social Issues and Human Capital” in our 2026 Proxy Statement.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Our current business and future results may be affected by a number of risks and uncertainties, including those described below. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only risks and uncertainties we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial also may impair our business operations. If any of the following risks actually occur, our business, results of operations and financial condition could suffer. The risks discussed below also include forward-looking statements and our actual results may differ substantially from those discussed in these forward-looking statements.

Risks Relating to the Operation of Our Businesses

Intense competition within the private mortgage insurance industry could result in the loss of customers, lower premiums, wider credit guidelines and other changes which could lower our revenues or raise our costs.

The private mortgage insurance industry is intensely competitive, with six private mortgage insurers currently approved and eligible to write business for the GSEs. We compete with other private mortgage insurers on the basis of pricing, terms and conditions, underwriting guidelines, loss mitigation practices, financial strength, reputation, customer relationships, service and other factors. One or more private mortgage insurers may seek increased market share from government-supported insurance programs, such as those sponsored by the FHA, or from other private mortgage insurers by reducing pricing, loosening their underwriting guidelines or relaxing their risk management practices, which could, in turn, improve their competitive position in the industry and negatively impact our level of NIW. A decline in industry NIW might result in increased competition as certain private mortgage insurance companies may seek to maintain their NIW levels within a smaller market. In addition, the perceived increase in the credit quality of loans that currently are being insured, the relative financial strength of the existing mortgage insurance companies and the possibility of the private mortgage insurance market acquiring a greater share of the overall mortgage insurance market may encourage new entrants into the private mortgage insurance industry, which could further increase competition in our business.

Our revenues, profitability and returns would decline if we lose a significant customer.

Our mortgage insurance business depends on our relationships with our largest lending customers. Our top ten customers generated 59.3% of our NIW during year ended December 31, 2025, compared to 50.2% and 39.9% for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2025, one customer represented more than 10% of our consolidated revenues. Maintaining our business relationships and business volumes with our largest lending customers remains critical to the success of our business.

Our master policies do not, and by law cannot, require our customers to do business with us. Under the terms of our master policy, our customers, or the parties they designate to service the loans we insure, have the unilateral right to cancel our insurance coverage at any time for any loan that we insure. Upon cancellation of coverage, subject to the type of coverage, we may be required to refund unearned premiums, if any.

In addition, adverse macroeconomic conditions could subject customers to serious financial constraints that may jeopardize the viability of their business plans or their access to additional capital, forcing them to consider alternatives such as bankruptcy or consolidation with others in the industry. Other factors, such as rising interest rates, which could reduce mortgage origination volumes generally, rising costs associated with regulatory compliance and the relative cost of capital, may also result in consolidation among our customers. In the event our customers consolidate, they may revisit their relationships with individual private mortgage insurers, such as us, which could result in a loss of customers or a reduction in our business. The loss of business from a significant customer could have a material adverse effect on the amount of new business we are able to write, and consequently, our revenue, and we can provide no assurance that any loss of business from a significant customer would be replaced from other new or existing lending customers.

The amount of insurance we may be able to write could be adversely affected if lenders and investors select alternatives to private mortgage insurance.

We compete for business with alternatives to private mortgage insurance, consisting primarily of government-supported mortgage insurance programs as well as home purchase or refinancing alternatives that do not use any form of mortgage insurance.

Government-supported mortgage insurance programs include, but are not limited to federal mortgage insurance programs, including those offered by the FHA and VA, and state-supported mortgage insurance funds, including, but not limited to, those funds supported by the states of California and New York.

Alternatives to private mortgage insurance include, but are not limited to:

- lenders and other investors holding mortgages in their portfolios and self-insuring;
- investors using other risk mitigation techniques in conjunction with reduced levels of private mortgage insurance coverage, or accepting credit risk without credit enhancement;
- mortgage sellers retaining at least a 10% participation in a loan or mortgage sellers agreeing to repurchase or replace a loan upon an event of default; and
- lenders originating mortgages using "piggyback structures" which avoid private mortgage insurance, such as a first mortgage with an 80% loan-to-value ratio and a second mortgage with a 10%, 15% or 20% loan-to-value ratio (referred to as 80-10-10, 80-15-5 or 80-20 loans, respectively) rather than a first mortgage with a 90%, 95% or 100% loan-to-value ratio that has private mortgage insurance.

Any of these alternatives to private mortgage insurance could reduce or eliminate the demand for our product, cause us to lose business or limit our ability to attract the business that we would prefer to insure. Government-supported mortgage insurance programs are not subject to the same capital requirements, risk tolerance or business objectives that we and other private mortgage insurance companies are, and therefore, generally have greater financial flexibility in setting their pricing, guidelines and capacity, which could put us at a competitive disadvantage. In addition, loans insured under FHA and other Federal government-supported mortgage insurance programs are eligible for securitization in Ginnie Mae securities, which may be viewed by investors as more desirable than Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac securities due to the explicit backing of Ginnie Mae securities by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Federal government.

Consequently, if the FHA or other government-supported mortgage insurance programs maintain or increase their share of the mortgage insurance market, our business could be affected. Factors that could cause the FHA or other government-supported mortgage insurance programs to maintain or increase their share of the mortgage insurance market include:

- a reduction in the premiums charged for government mortgage insurance or a loosening of underwriting guidelines;
- past and potential future capital constraints in the private mortgage insurance industry;
- increases in premium rates or tightening of underwriting guidelines by private mortgage insurers based on past loan performance or other risk concerns;
- increased levels of loss mitigation activity by private mortgage insurers on older vintage portfolios when compared to the more limited loss mitigation activities of government insurance programs;
- imposition of additional loan level delivery fees by the GSEs on loans that require mortgage insurance;
- increases in GSE guaranty fees and the difference in the spread between Fannie Mae mortgage-backed securities and Ginnie Mae mortgage-backed securities;
- the perceived operational ease of using government insurance compared to the products of private mortgage insurers;
- differences in the enforcement of program requirements by the FHA relative to the enforcement of policy terms by private entities;
- the implementation of new or the amendment of current regulations under the Dodd-Frank Act (particularly with respect to the Qualified Mortgage and Qualified Residential Mortgage rules) and the Basel III Endgame, which may be more favorable to the FHA than to private mortgage insurers (see "Risks Related to Regulation and Litigation—*Our business prospects and operating results could be adversely impacted if, and to the extent that, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's ("CFPB") rule defining a qualified mortgage ("QM") reduces the size of the origination market or creates incentives to use government mortgage insurance programs*", "Risks Related to Regulation and Litigation—*The amount of insurance we write could be adversely affected by the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act's risk retention requirements and the definition of Qualified Residential Mortgage ("QRM")*" and "Risks Related to Regulation and Litigation—*The implementation of the Basel rules discourage the use of mortgage insurance*"); and
- increases in FHA loan limits above GSE loan limits.

Further, at the direction of the FHFA, the GSEs may continue to consider new, and to pursue existing, credit risk sharing programs. These programs have included the use of structured finance vehicles and off-shore reinsurance. The growth of these programs and the perception that some of these risk-sharing structures have beneficial features in comparison to private mortgage insurance (e.g. lower costs, reduced counterparty risk due to collateral on hand or more diversified insurance exposures) may create increased competition for mortgage insurance going forward on loans traditionally sold to the GSEs with private mortgage insurance. As part of their expanded risk sharing programs, the GSEs have also piloted programs to directly place mortgage insurance rather than have lenders place the mortgage insurance with private mortgage insurers. No assurances can be given that these practices may not be expanded to cover more loans traditionally insured by lenders with private mortgage insurance prior to sale to the GSEs, which could impact our business.

In addition, in the event that a government-supported mortgage insurance program in one of our markets reduces prices significantly or alters the terms and conditions of its mortgage insurance or other credit enhancement products in furtherance of political, social or other goals rather than a profit motive, we may be unable to compete in that market effectively, which could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and operating results.

If the volume of low down payment home mortgage originations declines, the amount of mortgage insurance that we write could decline, which would reduce our revenues.

Our ability to write new mortgage insurance business depends, among other things, on the origination volume of low down payment mortgages that require mortgage insurance. Factors that affect the volume of low down payment mortgage originations include:

- the level of home mortgage interest rates;
- the health of the domestic economy as well as conditions in regional and local economies;
- housing affordability;
- the deductibility of mortgage interest and mortgage insurance for income tax purposes;
- population trends, including the rate of household formation;
- the rate of home price appreciation, which in times of significant refinancing can affect whether refinance loans have loan-to-value ratios that require private mortgage insurance;
- government housing policies encouraging loans to borrowers that may need low down payment financing, such as first-time homebuyers;
- the extent to which the guaranty fees, loan-level price adjustments, credit underwriting guidelines and other business terms provided by the GSEs affect lenders' willingness to extend credit for low down payment mortgages;
- requirements for ability-to-pay determinations prior to extending credit as discussed below;
- restrictions on mortgage credit due to more stringent underwriting standards and the risk retention requirements for securitized mortgage loans affecting lenders as discussed below; and
- changes in the credit standards, premiums or other terms of obtaining FHA, VA or USDA insurance, which competes directly with private mortgage insurance.

If the volume of low down payment loan originations declines, then our ability to write new policies may suffer, and our revenue and results of operations may be negatively impacted.

We expect our claims to increase as our portfolio matures.

We believe that, based upon our experience and industry data, claims incidence for mortgage insurance is generally highest in the third through sixth years after loan origination. As a result of the significant decrease in our persistency rate largely as a result of a high level of refinancings in 2020 and 2021 triggered by historically low interest rates precipitated by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, approximately 93% of our aggregate insurance in force as of December 31, 2025 corresponds to policies we have written since January 1, 2020. The actual default rate and the average reserve per default that we experience as our portfolio matures is difficult to predict, particularly in light of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, and is dependent on the specific characteristics of our current in-force book (including the credit score of the borrower, the loan-to-value ratio of the mortgage, geographic concentrations, etc.), as well as the profile of new business we write in the future. In addition, the default rate and the average reserve per default will be affected by future macroeconomic factors such as housing prices, interest rates and employment as well as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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losses and claims could be further increased in the future in the event of general economic weakness or decreases in housing values. An increase in the number or size of claims, compared to what we anticipate, could adversely affect our results of operations or financial conditions.

Because we establish loss reserves only upon a loan default rather than based on estimates of our ultimate losses on risk in force, losses may have a disproportionate adverse effect on our earnings in certain periods.

In accordance with industry practice and statutory accounting rules applicable to mortgage guaranty insurance companies, we establish loss reserves only for loans in default. Reserves are established for reported insurance losses and loss adjustment expenses based on when notices of default on insured mortgage loans are received. Reserves are also established for estimated losses incurred in connection with defaults that have not yet been reported. We establish reserves using estimated claim rates and claim amounts in estimating the ultimate loss. Because our reserving method does not account for the impact of future losses that could occur from loans that are not yet delinquent, our obligation for ultimate losses that we expect to occur under our policies in force at any period end is not reflected in our financial statements, except in the case where a premium deficiency exists. As a result, future losses may have a material impact on future results as defaults occur.

A downturn in the U.S. economy, a decline in the value of borrowers' homes from their value at the time their loans close and natural disasters, acts of terrorism or other catastrophic events may result in more homeowners defaulting and could increase our losses.

Losses result from events that reduce a borrower's ability to continue to make mortgage payments, such as increasing unemployment and whether the home of a borrower who defaults on his or her mortgage can be sold for an amount that will cover unpaid principal and interest and the expenses of the sale. In general, favorable economic conditions reduce the likelihood that borrowers will lack sufficient income to pay their mortgages and also favorably affect the value of homes, thereby reducing and in some cases even eliminating a loss from a mortgage default. Deterioration in economic conditions generally increases the likelihood that borrowers will not have sufficient income to pay their mortgages and can also adversely affect housing values, which in turn can decrease the willingness of borrowers with sufficient resources to make mortgage payments when the mortgage balance exceeds the value of the home. Housing values may decline even absent deterioration in economic conditions due to declines in demand for homes, which may result from changes in buyers' perceptions of the potential for future appreciation, restrictions on mortgage credit due to more stringent underwriting standards, liquidity issues affecting lenders or other factors, such as the phase-out of the mortgage interest deduction or changes in the tax treatment of residential property. If our loss projections are inaccurate, our loss payments could materially exceed our expectations resulting in an adverse effect on our financial position and operating results. If economic conditions, such as employment and home prices, are less favorable than we expect, our premiums and underwriting standards may prove inadequate to shield us from a material increase in losses. In addition, natural disasters, such as hurricanes and floods, and acts of terrorism or other catastrophic events could result in increased claims against policies that we have written due to the impact that such events may have on the employment and income of borrowers and the value of affected homes, resulting in defaults on and claims under our policies. We cannot assure you that any strategies we may employ to mitigate the impact on us of such events, including limitations under our master policy on the payment of claims in certain circumstances where a property is damaged, the dispersal of our risk by geography and the potential use of third-party reinsurance structures, will be successful.

If interest rates decline, house prices appreciate or mortgage insurance cancellation requirements change, the length of time that our policies remain in force could decline and cause a decline in our revenue.

Generally, in each year, most of our mortgage insurance premiums are from policies that have been written in prior years. As a result, the length of time mortgage insurance policies remains in force, which is also generally referred to as persistency, is a significant determinant of our revenues. A lower level of persistency could reduce our future revenues. Our annual persistency rate was 85.7%, 85.7% and 86.9% at December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The factors affecting the persistency of our mortgage insurance portfolio include:

- the level of current mortgage interest rates compared to the mortgage interest rates on the insurance in force, which affects the incentives of borrowers we have insured to refinance;
- the amount of equity in a home, as homeowners with more equity in their homes can generally more readily move to a new residence or refinance their existing mortgage;
- the rate at which homeowners sell their existing homes and move to new locations, generally referred to as housing turnover, with more rapid economic growth and stronger job markets tending to increase housing turnover;
- the mortgage insurance cancellation policies of mortgage investors along with the current values of the homes underlying the mortgages in the insurance in force; and

- the cancellation of borrower-paid mortgage insurance mandated by law based on the amortization schedule of the loan, which generally occurs sooner the lower the note rate of the insured loan.

If interest rates rise, persistency is likely to increase, which may extend the average life of our insured portfolio and result in higher levels of future claims as more loans remain outstanding.

The premiums we charge may not be adequate to compensate us for our liabilities for losses and, as a result, any inadequacy could materially affect our financial condition and results of operations.

Our mortgage insurance premium rates may not be adequate to cover future losses. We set premiums at the time a policy is issued based on a number of factors, including our expectations regarding likely mortgage performance over the expected life of the coverage as well as competition from other private mortgage insurers, government programs and other products. These expectations may prove to be incorrect. Generally, we cannot cancel mortgage insurance coverage or adjust renewal premiums during the life of a mortgage insurance policy. As a result, higher than anticipated claims generally cannot be offset by premium increases on policies in force or mitigated by our non-renewal or cancellation of insurance coverage. The premiums we charge, and the associated investment income, may not be adequate to compensate us for the risks and costs associated with the insurance coverage provided to customers. Should we wish to increase our premium rates, any such change would be prospectively applied to new policies written, and the changes would be subject to approval by state regulatory agencies, which may delay or limit our ability to increase our premium rates.

Competition in the title insurance and settlement services industry may adversely affect our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

Competition in the title insurance and settlement services industry is intense, particularly with respect to price, service and expertise. Although we provide title and settlement services to large commercial customers, there are many other providers that have substantially greater gross revenue than we do and, if affiliated with a title insurance underwriter, could have significantly greater capital. The size and number of title insurance and settlement service providers varies in the geographic areas in which we conduct our title business. Our existing competitors may expand their title insurance business and, although we are not aware of any current initiatives to reduce regulatory barriers to entering our industry, any such reduction could result in new competitors, including financial institutions, entering the title insurance business. From time to time, new entrants enter the marketplace with alternative products to traditional title insurance, although many of these alternative products have been disallowed by title insurance regulators. Further, advances in technologies could, over time, significantly disrupt the traditional business model of financial services and real estate-related companies, including title insurance. These alternative products or disruptive technologies, if permitted by regulators, could adversely affect our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

Our success depends, in part, on our ability to manage risks in our investment portfolio.

A substantial majority of our investment portfolio consists of investment-grade debt obligations. Our investments are subject to fluctuations in value as a result of broad changes in market conditions as well as risks inherent in particular securities. Changing market conditions could materially impact the future valuation of securities in our investment portfolio, which may cause us to impair, in the future, some portion of the value of those securities and which could have a significant adverse effect on our liquidity, financial condition and operating results.

Income from our investment portfolio is a source of cash flow to support our operations and make claim payments. If we, or our investment advisors, improperly structure our investments to meet those future liabilities or we have unexpected losses, including losses resulting from the forced liquidation of investments before their maturity, we may be unable to meet those obligations. Our investments and investment policies are subject to state insurance laws, which results in our portfolio being predominantly limited to highly rated fixed income securities. If interest rates rise above the rates on our fixed income securities, the market value of our investment portfolio would decrease. Any significant decrease in the value of our investment portfolio would adversely impact our financial condition.

In addition, compared to historical averages, interest rates and investment yields on highly rated investments have generally been low during the period in which we purchased the securities in our portfolio, which limits the investment income we can generate. We depend on our investments as a source of revenue, and a prolonged period of low investment yields would have an adverse impact on our revenues and could adversely affect our operating results.

As part of our overall investment strategy, we also allocate a percentage of our portfolio to limited partnership investments and traditional venture capital and private equity investments. Fluctuations in the fair value of these entities may increase the volatility of our reported results of operations.

We may be forced to change our investments or investment policies depending upon regulatory, economic and market conditions, and our existing or anticipated financial condition and operating requirements, including the tax position, of our business. Our investment objectives may not be achieved. Although our portfolio consists predominantly of investment-grade fixed income securities and complies with applicable regulatory requirements, the success of our investment activity and the value of our portfolio is affected by general economic conditions, which may adversely affect the markets for credit and interest-rate-sensitive securities, including the extent and timing of investor participation in these markets and the level and volatility of interest rates.

Because loss reserve estimates are subject to uncertainties and are based on assumptions that may be volatile, ultimate losses may be substantially different than our loss reserves.

We establish reserves for our mortgage-related insurance and reinsurance businesses using estimated claim rates and claim amounts in estimating the ultimate loss on delinquent loans. The estimated claim rates and claim amounts represent our best estimates of what we will actually pay on the loans in default as of the reserve date. Our mortgage insurance master policy provides us the right to rescind or deny claims under certain circumstances. Our reserve calculations do not currently include any estimate for claim rescissions, but we may be required to do so at some later time to ensure that our reserves meet the requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

The establishment of loss reserves for mortgage-related risk is subject to inherent uncertainty and requires judgment by management. Our estimates of claim rates and claim sizes will be strongly influenced by prevailing economic conditions, such as current rates or trends in unemployment, housing price appreciation and/or interest rates, and our best judgments as to the future values or trends of these macroeconomic factors. If prevailing economic conditions deteriorate suddenly and/or unexpectedly, our estimates of loss reserves could be materially understated, which may adversely impact our financial condition and operating results. Changes to our estimates could result in a material impact to our results of operations, even in a stable economic environment, and there can be no assurance that actual claims paid by us will not be substantially different than our loss reserves.

Our results could be adversely affected by catastrophic events.

Through our reinsurance arrangements with participants in the Lloyd's insurance markets we are exposed to, and to the extent that we enter into new non-mortgage reinsurance arrangements in the future we may be further exposed to, unpredictable catastrophic events, including, but not limited to, weather-related and other natural catastrophes, as well as political unrest, geopolitical uncertainty and instability, acts of terrorism and wars, pandemics and communicable diseases, and cyber-risks. We cannot predict or eliminate our exposure to these loss events, and as a result, our operating results may be significantly affected by the frequency and severity of such events. Furthermore, the frequency and/or severity of catastrophic events may be impacted in the future by the continued effects of climate change. Climate change and resulting changes in global temperatures, weather patterns, and sea levels may both increase the frequency and severity of natural catastrophes and the resulting losses in the future and impact our risk modeling assumptions. We cannot predict the impact that changing climate conditions, if any, may have on our results of operations or our financial condition. Additionally, we cannot predict how legal, regulatory and/or social responses to concerns around global climate change and the resulting impact on various sectors of the economy may impact our business. The occurrence, or nonoccurrence, of catastrophic events, the frequency and severity of which are inherently unpredictable, may cause significant volatility in our quarterly and annual financial results and may materially adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Underwriting risks and reserving for losses in our non-mortgage reinsurance business are based on actuarially determined methods and assumptions, which are subject to inherent uncertainties.

The success of our non-mortgage reinsurance businesses is dependent upon our ability to assess accurately the risks associated with the businesses that we reinsure. We establish reserves for losses and loss adjustment expenses in our non-mortgage reinsurance business which represent estimates based on actuarial and statistical projections, at a given point in time, of our expectations of the ultimate future settlement and administration costs of losses incurred. We utilize actuarial models as well as available historical insurance industry loss ratio experience and loss development patterns to assist in the establishment of loss reserves. Most or all of these factors are not directly quantifiable, particularly on a prospective basis, and the effects of these and unforeseen factors could negatively impact our ability to accurately assess the risks of the reinsurance policies that we write. Changes in the assumptions used could lead to an increase in our estimate of ultimate losses in the future. In addition, there may be significant reporting lags between the occurrence of the insured event and the time it is reported to the insurer and additional lags between the time of reporting and final settlement of claims. In addition, the estimation of loss reserves is more difficult during times of adverse economic and market conditions due to unexpected changes in behavior of claimants and policyholders, including an increase in fraudulent reporting of exposures and/or losses, reduced maintenance of insured properties or increased frequency of small claims. Changes in the level of inflation also result in an increased level of

uncertainty in our estimation of loss reserves. As a result, actual losses and loss adjustment expenses paid can deviate, perhaps substantially, from the reserve estimates reflected in our financial statements.

If our loss reserves for our reinsurance business are determined to be inadequate, we will be required to increase loss reserves at the time of such determination with a corresponding reduction in our net income in the period when the deficiency becomes known. It is possible that claims in respect of events that have occurred could exceed our claim reserves and have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, in a particular period, or our financial condition in general. As a compounding factor, the nature of property and casualty insurance and reinsurance is such that losses and the associated expenses could significantly exceed the premiums received on the underlying policies, thereby further adversely affecting our financial condition.

A downgrade in our financial strength ratings may adversely affect the amount of business that we write.

Financial strength ratings, which various ratings organizations publish as a measure of an insurance company's ability to meet contractholder and policyholder obligations, are important to maintain confidence in our products and our competitive position. A downgrade in our financial strength ratings, or the announced potential for a downgrade, could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations in many ways, including: (i) increased scrutiny of us and our financial condition by our customers, potentially resulting in a decrease in the amount of new insurance policies that we write; (ii) requiring us to reduce the premiums that we charge for mortgage insurance in order to remain competitive; and (iii) adversely affecting our ability to obtain reinsurance or to obtain reasonable pricing on reinsurance. A ratings downgrade could also increase our cost of capital and limit our access to the capital markets.

In addition, if the GSEs renew their historical focus on financial strength or other third-party credit ratings as components of their eligibility requirements for private mortgage insurers and do not set such requirements at a level that we can satisfy, or if as a result of a downgrade we would no longer comply with such rating requirements, our revenues and results of operations would be materially adversely affected. See "*Changes in the business practices of the GSEs, including actions or decisions to decrease or discontinue the use of mortgage insurance or changes in the GSEs' eligibility requirements for mortgage insurers, could reduce our revenues or adversely affect our profitability and returns*" and "Business—Regulation—Direct U.S. Regulation—GSE Qualified Mortgage Insurer Requirements."

If servicers fail to adhere to appropriate servicing standards or experience disruptions to their businesses, our losses could unexpectedly increase.

We depend on reliable, consistent third-party servicing of the loans that we insure. Among other things, our mortgage insurance policies require our policyholders and their servicers to timely submit premium and monthly insurance in force and default reports and utilize commercially reasonable efforts to limit and mitigate loss when a loan is in default. If one or more servicers were to experience adverse effects to its business, such servicers could experience delays in their reporting and premium payment requirements. Without reliable, consistent third-party servicing, our insurance subsidiaries may be unable to correctly record new loans as they are underwritten, receive and process payments on insured loans and/or properly recognize and establish loss reserves on loans when a default exists or occurs but is not reported to us. In addition, if these servicers fail to limit and mitigate losses when appropriate, our losses may unexpectedly increase. Significant failures by large servicers or disruptions in the servicing of mortgage loans covered by our insurance policies would adversely impact our business, financial condition and operating results.

Furthermore, we have delegated to the GSEs, who have in turn delegated to most of their servicers, authority to accept modifications, short sales and deeds-in-lieu of foreclosure on loans we insure. Servicers are required to operate under protocols established by the GSEs in accepting these loss mitigation alternatives. We are dependent upon servicers in making these decisions and mitigating our exposure to losses. In some cases, loss mitigation decisions favorable to the GSEs may not be favorable to us, and may increase the incidence of paid claims. Inappropriate delegation protocols or failure of servicers to service in accordance with the protocols may increase the magnitude of our losses and have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and operating results. Our delegation of loss mitigation decisions to the GSEs is subject to cancellation but exercise of our cancellation rights may have an adverse impact on our relationship with the GSEs and lenders.

Our delegated underwriting program may subject our mortgage insurance business to unanticipated claims.

In our mortgage insurance business, we enter into agreements with our customers that commit us to insure loans made by them using pre-established underwriting guidelines. Once we accept a customer into our delegated underwriting program, we generally insure a loan originated by that customer without re-confirming the customer followed our specified underwriting guidelines. Under this program, a customer could commit us to insure a material number of loans with unacceptable risk profiles before we discover the problem and terminate that customer's delegated underwriting authority or pursue other rights

that may be available to us, such as our rights to rescind coverage or deny claims, which rights are limited by the terms of our master policy.

We face risks associated with our contract underwriting business.

We provide contract underwriting services for certain of our customers, including on loans for which we are not providing mortgage insurance. For substantially all of the existing loans that were originated through our contract underwriting services, we have agreed that if we make a material error in providing these services and the error leads to a loss for the customer, the customer may, subject to certain conditions and limitations, claim a remedy. Accordingly, we have assumed some risk in connection with providing these services. We also face regulatory and litigation risk in providing these services.

Our information technology systems may become outmoded, be temporarily interrupted or fail thereby causing us to fail to meet our customers' demands.

Our business is highly dependent on the effective operation of our information technology systems, which are vulnerable to damage or interruption from power outages, computer and telecommunications failures, computer viruses, cyber-attacks, security breaches, catastrophic events, errors in usage, hardware or software malfunction, defects or degradation, and other incidents which may impact the operation or availability of such systems. In addition, because our information technology and telecommunications systems interface with and depend on third-party systems and infrastructure beyond our control, we could experience service denials or failures of controls if demand for our service exceeds capacity or a third-party system or infrastructure fails or experiences an interruption. Although we have disaster recovery and business continuity plans in place, we may not be able to adequately execute these plans in a timely fashion. Additionally, we may not satisfy our customers' requirements if we fail to invest sufficient resources in, or otherwise are unable to maintain and upgrade our information technology systems, or if our disaster recovery or business continuity plans fail to sufficiently address such a business interruption, system failure or service denial. Because we rely on our information technology systems for many critical functions, including connecting with our customers, if such systems were to fail or become outmoded, we may experience a significant disruption in our operations and in the business we receive, which could negatively affect our operating results, financial condition and profitability.

The security of our information technology systems may be compromised and confidential information, including non-public personal information that we maintain, could be improperly disclosed.

Our information technology systems may be vulnerable to physical or electronic intrusions, computer viruses or other attacks. As part of our business, we maintain large amounts of confidential information, including non-public personal information on consumers and our employees. Breaches in security, including inadvertent disclosure, could result in the loss or misuse of this information, which could, in turn, result in potential regulatory actions or litigation, including material claims for damages, interruption to our operations, damage to our reputation or otherwise have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and operating results. Depending on the nature of the information compromised, in the event of a data breach or other unauthorized access to or acquisition of our customer data, we may also have obligations to notify customers, other stakeholders, and federal and state government regulators about the incident. All 50 states, as well as a growing number of regulatory bodies, have adopted notification requirements that are triggered in the event of the actual or reasonably suspected unauthorized access to, or acquisition of, certain types of personal information. Such breach notification laws continue to evolve and may be inconsistent from one jurisdiction to another. Complying with these obligations could cause us to incur substantial costs (including fines) and could increase negative publicity surrounding any incident that compromises customer data. Although we believe that we have appropriate information security policies, safeguards and systems in place in order to prevent unauthorized use or disclosure of confidential information, including non-public personal information, there can be no assurance that such policies, safeguards and systems will prevent all security issues, or that such use or disclosure will not occur.

We are exposed to risks associated with our title insurance and settlement services business that could negatively affect our results of operations and financial condition.

The volume of title insurance and settlement services that we offer are significantly driven by the level of overall activity in the mortgage, real estate and mortgage finance markets generally. If real estate transaction volumes decline, as they have in the past several years in large part due to elevated interest and mortgage rates, we could experience less demand for our title insurance and settlement services. Additionally, by their nature, title claims are often complex, vary greatly in dollar amounts and are affected by economic and market conditions and the legal environment existing at the time of settlement of the claims. Estimating future title loss payments is difficult because of the complex nature of title claims, the long periods of time over which claims are administered and paid, significantly varying dollar amounts of individual claims and other factors. From time to time, we could experience large losses or an overall worsening of our loss payment experience in regard to the frequency or

severity of claims that require us to record additional charges to our claims loss reserve. These loss events are unpredictable and may require us to increase our loss reserves and could adversely affect our financial performance.

We may not be able to collect all amounts due to us from reinsurers and reinsurance coverage may not be available to us in the future at commercially reasonable rates or at all.

We have ceded to third-party reinsurers and special purpose reinsurers funded through the issuance of insurance-linked notes certain risk that we have insured in order to limit our maximum net loss arising in periods of elevated claims on our mortgage insurance portfolio as well as to claim reinsurance credit and capital relief under insurance laws applicable to us and the regulations of the GSEs. Although the reinsurers to which we have ceded such risk are liable to us to the extent of the ceded insurance, we remain liable as the direct insurer on all risks so reinsured. As a result, our reinsurance arrangements do not fully eliminate our obligation to pay claims, and we have assumed credit risk with respect to our ability to recover amounts due from our reinsurers. We may not be able to collect all amounts due to us from reinsurers, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or financial condition.

The availability and cost of reinsurance are subject to prevailing market conditions that are beyond our control. For example, reinsurance may be more difficult or costly to obtain following an economic downturn that results in a significant negative impact on the U.S. housing market. No assurances can be made that reinsurance will remain continuously available to us in amounts that we consider sufficient and at rates that we consider acceptable, which would cause us to increase the amount of risk we retain, reduce the amount of business we write or look for alternatives to reinsurance. If investors are unwilling to purchase, or to purchase at a reasonable price, insurance-linked notes that fund the type of special purpose reinsurers with which we have entered into reinsurance transactions, we may not be able to obtain reinsurance on business that we write in the future at a level consistent with the reinsurance we have obtained on our current business. This, in turn, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

Risks Relating to Regulation and Litigation

Legislative or regulatory actions or decisions to change the role of the GSEs in the U.S. housing market generally, or changes to the charters of the GSEs with regard to the use of credit enhancements generally and private mortgage insurance specifically, could reduce our revenues or adversely affect our profitability and returns.

The Department of the Treasury and the FHFA placed the GSEs into conservatorship in September 2008, putting regulatory and operational control of the GSEs under the auspices of the FHFA. Although we believe the FHFA's conservatorship was intended to be temporary, the GSEs have remained in conservatorship for over 17 years. During that time, there have been a wide-ranging set of GSE and secondary market reform advocacy proposals put forward, including nearly complete privatization of the mortgage market and elimination of the role of the GSEs, recapitalization of the GSEs and a set of alternatives that would combine a Federal role with private capital, some of which eliminate the GSEs and others which envision an ongoing role for the GSEs.

It remains unclear whether any of these legislative or regulatory reforms will be enacted or implemented. Any changes to the charters or statutory authorities of the GSEs would require Congressional action to implement. Passage and timing of any GSE reform legislation or incremental change is uncertain and could change through the legislative process, which could take time, making the actual impact on us difficult to predict. As a result of the uncertainty regarding resolution of the conservatorship of the GSEs and the proper structure of any new secondary mortgage market, as well as the Federal government's increased role within the housing market since the start of the recent financial crisis, we cannot predict how or when the role of the GSEs may change. In addition, the size, complexity and centrality of the GSEs to the current housing finance system and the importance of housing to the nation's economy make the transition to any new housing finance system difficult and present risks to market participants, including to us.

The charters of the GSEs currently require certain credit enhancement for low down payment mortgage loans in order for such loans to be eligible for purchase or guarantee by the GSEs, and lenders historically have relied on mortgage insurance to a significant degree in order to satisfy these credit enhancement requirements. Because the overwhelming majority of our current and expected future business is the provision of mortgage insurance on loans sold to the GSEs, if the charters of the GSEs are amended to change or eliminate the acceptability of private mortgage insurance in their purchasing practices, then our volume of new business and our revenue may decline significantly.

Changes to the statutory requirements of the FHFA's conservatorship of the GSEs, the elimination of the GSEs or the replacement of the GSEs with any successor entities or structures, or changes to the GSE charters would require Federal legislative action, which makes predicting the timing or substance of such changes difficult. As a result, it is uncertain what role the GSEs, the FHFA, the government and private capital, including private mortgage insurance, will play in the U.S. housing finance system in the future or the impact and timing of any such changes on the market and our business.

Changes in the business practices of the GSEs, including actions or decisions to decrease or discontinue the use of mortgage insurance or changes in the GSEs' eligibility requirements for mortgage insurers, could reduce our revenues or adversely affect our profitability and returns.

Our business model is highly dependent on the GSEs, as the GSEs are the primary beneficiaries of most of our mortgage insurance policies. The GSEs' business practices may be impacted by their results of operations, administrative policy decisions or legislative or regulatory changes. Recently, the GSEs have been focused on, among other things, supporting the housing finance system during times of stress, as well as equitable and affordable housing initiatives. Changes in the business practices of the GSEs, which can be implemented by the GSEs at the FHFA's direction, could negatively impact our operating results and financial performance, including changes to:

- the level of coverage when private mortgage insurance is used to satisfy the GSEs' charter requirements on low down payment mortgages;
- the overall level of guaranty fees or the amount of loan level delivery fees that the GSEs assess on loans that require mortgage insurance;
- the GSEs' influence in the mortgage lender's selection of the mortgage insurer providing coverage and, if so, any transactions that are related to that selection;
- the underwriting standards that determine what loans are eligible for purchase by the GSEs, which can affect the volume and quality of the risk insured by the mortgage insurer;
- the terms on which mortgage insurance coverage may be cancelled, including GSE requirements and programs that permit cancellation prior to reaching the applicable thresholds and conditions established by HOPA;
- programs established by the GSEs intended to avoid or mitigate loss on insured mortgages and the circumstances in which mortgage servicers must implement such programs;
- the extent to which the GSEs establish requirements for mortgage insurers' rescission practices or rescission settlement practices with lenders;
- the size of loans that are eligible for purchase or guaranty by the GSEs, which if reduced or otherwise limited may reduce the overall level of business and the number of low down payment loans with mortgage insurance that the GSEs purchase or guaranty; and
- requirements for a mortgage insurer to become and remain an approved eligible insurer for the GSEs, including, among other items, minimum capital adequacy targets, the credit received against such capital requirements for reinsurance, and the terms that the GSEs require to be included in mortgage insurance master policies for loans that they purchase or guaranty.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac maintain coordinated Private Mortgage Insurer Eligibility Requirements (PMIERs). The PMIERs represent the standards by which private mortgage insurers are eligible to provide mortgage insurance on loans owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The PMIERs include financial strength requirements incorporating a risk-based framework that require approved insurers to have a sufficient level of liquid assets from which to pay claims. The PMIERs also include enhanced operational performance expectations and standards relating to rescission rights, and define remedial actions that apply should an approved insurer fail to comply with these requirements. Future revisions to these eligibility requirements could negatively impact our ability to write mortgage insurance at our current levels, generate the returns we anticipate from our business or otherwise participate in the private mortgage insurance market at all. See "Business—Regulation—Direct U.S. Regulation—GSE Qualified Mortgage Insurer Requirements" above.

Our business prospects and operating results could be adversely impacted if, and to the extent that, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's ("CFPB") rule defining a qualified mortgage ("QM") reduces the size of the origination market or creates incentives to use government mortgage insurance programs.

The Dodd-Frank Act established the CFPB to regulate the offering and provision of consumer financial products and services under Federal law, including residential mortgages, and generally requires creditors to make a reasonable, good faith determination of a consumer's ability-to-repay any consumer credit transaction secured by a dwelling prior to effecting such transaction. The CFPB is authorized to issue the regulations governing a good faith determination; the Dodd-Frank Act, however, provides a statutory presumption of eligibility of loans that satisfy the QM definition. The CFPB's final rule defining what constitutes a QM, which we refer to as the "QM Rule," a loan is deemed to be a QM if, among other factors:

- the term of the loan is less than or equal to 30 years;
- there are no negative amortization, interest only or balloon features;
- the lender properly documents the loan in accordance with the requirements;
- the total "points and fees" do not exceed certain thresholds, generally 3% of the total loan amount; and
- the total debt-to-income ratio of the borrower does not exceed 43%.

Under the QM Rule, a loan receives a conclusive presumption that the consumer had the ability to repay if the annual percentage rate does not exceed the average prime offer rate (APOR) for a comparable transaction by 1.5 percentage points or more as of the date the interest rate is set. A loan receives a rebuttable presumption that the consumer had the ability to repay if the annual percentage rate exceeds the average prime offer rate for a comparable transaction by 1.5 percentage points or more but by less than 2.25 percentage points.

Failure to comply with the ability-to-repay requirement exposes a lender to substantial potential liability. As a result, we believe that the QM regulations may cause changes in the lending standards and origination practices of our customers. Under the QM Rule, mortgage insurance premiums that are payable by the consumer at or prior to consummation of the loan may be included in the calculation of points and fees, including our borrower-paid single premium products. To the extent the use of private mortgage insurance causes a loan not to meet the definition of a QM, the volume of loans originated with mortgage insurance may decline or cause a change in the mix of premium plans and therefore our profitability.

The amount of insurance we write could be adversely affected by the Dodd-Frank Act's risk retention requirements and the definition of Qualified Residential Mortgage ("QRM").

The Dodd-Frank Act requires an originator or issuer to retain a specified percentage of the credit risk exposure on securitized mortgages that do not meet the definition of QRM. As required by the Dodd-Frank Act, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Deposit Insurance Commission, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of Housing and Urban Development adopted in 2015 a joint final rule implementing the Qualified Residential Mortgage, or QRM, which aligns the definition of a QRM loan with that of a QM loan. If, however, the QRM definition is changed (or if the QM definition is amended) in a manner that is unfavorable to us, such as to give no consideration to mortgage insurance in computing LTV or to require a large down payment for a loan to qualify as a QRM, the attractiveness of originating and securitizing loans with lower down payments may be reduced, which may adversely affect the future demand for mortgage insurance.

The implementation of the Basel rules may discourage the use of mortgage insurance.

In 1988, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (the "Basel Committee"), developed the Basel Capital Accord ("Basel I"), which sets out international benchmarks for assessing banks' capital adequacy requirements. In 2005, the Basel Committee issued an update to Basel I ("Basel II"), which, among other things, sets forth capital treatment of mortgage insurance purchased and held on balance sheet by banks in respect of their origination and securitization activities. Following the financial crisis of 2008, the Basel Committee made further revisions to Basel II ("Basel III") to improve the quality and quantity of capital banking organizations hold. The Federal Reserve Board, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (collectively, the "Federal Banking Agencies") implemented Basel III through the adoption of revisions to their regulatory capital rules (the "Basel III Rules"), which establish minimum risk-based capital and leverage capital requirements for most United States banking organizations (although banking organizations with less than \$10 billion in total assets may now choose to comply with an alternative community bank leverage ratio framework established by the Federal banking agencies in 2019). In December 2017, the Basel Committee published final revisions to the Basel III capital framework ("Basel IV"), which were generally targeted for implementation by each participating country by January 1, 2022 but have been delayed.

In July 2023, the Federal banking agencies issued a Notice of Public Rulemaking (NPR) known as the "Basel III Endgame". This proposal significantly alters the regulatory capital regime of U.S. banks including regional and mid-sized banks. The proposed changes would generally apply to banks with assets greater than \$100 billion. Under the proposal, mortgage risk weights would be increased and continue the current capital treatment for high loan to value mortgages with mortgage insurance, where private mortgage insurance doesn't mitigate credit risk and lower the capital charge. The comment period for the NPR ended in January 2024. If the Federal banking agencies decide to implement the Basel III Endgame as specifically drafted, mortgage insurance would not lower the LTV ratio of residential loans for capital purposes, and therefore may decrease the demand for mortgage insurance. The timing, scope, and content of any such proposed rulemaking and any potential impact it may have, as well as whether any new guidelines will be proposed or finalized in the United States in response to Basel IV remains uncertain due to changes resulting from the Trump Administration and the Federal Reserve.

Our operating insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries are subject to regulation in various jurisdictions, and material changes in the regulation of their operations could adversely affect us.

Our insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries are subject to government regulation in each of the jurisdictions in which they are licensed or authorized to do business. Governmental agencies have broad administrative power to regulate many aspects of the insurance business, which may include trade and claim practices, accounting methods, premium rates, marketing practices, advertising, policy forms, and capital adequacy. These agencies are concerned primarily with the protection of policyholders rather than shareholders. Moreover, insurance laws and regulations, among other things:

- establish solvency requirements, including minimum reserves and capital and surplus requirements;
- determine the credit that we receive for reinsurance arrangements into which we enter;
- limit the amount of dividends, tax distributions, intercompany loans and other payments our insurance subsidiaries can make without prior regulatory approval; and
- impose restrictions on the amount and type of investments we may hold.

The NAIC examines existing state insurance laws and regulations in the United States. During 2012, the NAIC established a Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Working Group (MGIWG) to determine and make recommendations to the NAIC's Financial Condition Committee including, but not limited to, revisions to *Statement of Statutory Accounting Principles (SSAP) No. 58 - Mortgage Guaranty Insurance*. The revised Model Act was approved by MGIWG in 2023 and was adopted by the NAIC in March 2024. The NAIC Statutory Accounting Principles (E) Working Group has initiated a project to update SSAP 58 to align with the revised Model Act. We cannot predict the effect that any NAIC recommendations or proposed or future legislation or rule-making in the United States or elsewhere may have on our financial condition or operations.

State regulation of the rates we charge for title insurance could adversely affect our results of operations.

Our title insurance underwriter is subject to extensive rate regulation by the applicable state agencies in the jurisdictions in which it operates. Title insurance rates are regulated differently in various states, with some states requiring the subsidiaries to file and receive approval of rates before such rates become effective and some states promulgating the rates that can be charged. In general, premium rates are determined on the basis of historical data for claim frequency and severity as well as related production costs and other expenses. In all states in which our title insurance subsidiary operates, our rates must not be excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory. Premium rates are likely to prove insufficient when ultimate claims and expenses exceed historically projected levels. Premium rate inadequacy may not become evident quickly and may take time to correct, and could adversely affect our business operating results and financial conditions.

If our principal Bermuda operating subsidiary becomes subject to insurance statutes and regulations in jurisdictions other than Bermuda or if there is a change in Bermuda law or regulations or the application of Bermuda law or regulations, there could be a significant and negative impact on our business.

Our primary reinsurance subsidiary, Essent Reinsurance Ltd., is a registered Bermuda Class 3B insurer pursuant to Section 4 of the Insurance Act 1978. As such, it is subject to regulation and supervision in Bermuda and is not licensed or admitted to do business in any jurisdiction except Bermuda. Generally, Bermuda insurance statutes and regulations applicable to Essent Re are less restrictive than those that would be applicable if they were governed by the laws of any state in the United States. We do not presently intend for Essent Re to be admitted to do business in the United States, the U.K. or any jurisdiction other than Bermuda. However, recent scrutiny of the insurance and reinsurance industry in the United States and other countries could subject Essent Re to additional regulation in the future that may make it unprofitable or illegal to operate a reinsurance business through our Bermuda subsidiaries. We cannot assure you that insurance regulators in the United States, the U.K. or elsewhere will not review the activities of Essent Re or its subsidiaries or agents and assert that Essent Re is subject to such jurisdiction's licensing requirements. If in the future Essent Reinsurance Ltd. becomes subject to any insurance laws of the

United States or any state thereof or of any other jurisdiction, we cannot assure you that Essent Re would be in compliance with such laws or that complying with such laws would not have a significant and negative effect on our business.

The process of obtaining licenses is very time consuming and costly, and Essent Re may not be able to become licensed in jurisdictions other than Bermuda should we choose to do so. The modification of the conduct of our business that would result if we were required or chose to become licensed in certain jurisdictions could significantly and negatively affect our financial condition and results of operations. In addition, our inability to comply with insurance statutes and regulations could significantly and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations by limiting our ability to conduct business as well as subject us to penalties and fines.

Because Essent Re is a Bermuda company, it is subject to changes in Bermuda law and regulation that may have an adverse impact on our operations, including through the imposition of tax liability or increased regulatory supervision. Bermuda insurance statutes and the regulations, and policies of the BMA, require Essent Re to, among other things:

- maintain a minimum level of capital and surplus;
- maintain an enhanced capital requirement, general business solvency margins and a minimum liquidity ratio;
- restrict dividends and distributions;
- obtain prior approval regarding the ownership and transfer of shares;
- maintain a principal office and appoint and maintain a principal representative in Bermuda;
- file annual financial statements, an annual statutory financial return and an annual capital and solvency return; and
- allow for the performance of certain periodic examinations of Essent Reinsurance Ltd. and its financial condition.

These statutes and regulations may restrict Essent Re's ability to write insurance and reinsurance policies, distribute funds and pursue its investment strategy. In addition, Essent Re is exposed to any changes in the political environment in Bermuda. The Bermuda insurance and reinsurance regulatory framework recently has become subject to increased scrutiny in many jurisdictions, including the U.K. As a result of the delay in implementation of Solvency II Directive 2009/138/EC ("Solvency II"), it is unclear when the European Commission will make a final decision on whether or not it will recognize the solvency regime in Bermuda to be equivalent to that laid down in Solvency II. While we cannot predict the future impact on our operations of changes in the laws and regulation to which we are or may become subject, any such changes could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The mortgage insurance industry is, and as a participant in that industry we are, subject to litigation and regulatory risk generally.

The mortgage insurance industry faces litigation risk in the ordinary course of operations, including the risk of class action lawsuits and administrative enforcement by Federal and state agencies. Consumers are bringing a growing number of lawsuits against home mortgage lenders and settlement service providers. Mortgage insurers have been involved in class action litigation alleging violations of Section 8 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974, or RESPA, and the Fair Credit Reporting Act, or FCRA. Section 8 of RESPA generally precludes mortgage insurers from paying referral fees to mortgage lenders for the referral of mortgage insurance business. This limitation also can prohibit providing services or products to mortgage lenders free of charge, charging fees for services that are lower than their reasonable or fair market value and paying fees for services that mortgage lenders provide that are higher than their reasonable or fair market value, in exchange for the referral of mortgage insurance business services. Violations of the referral fee limitations of RESPA may be enforced by the CFPB, HUD, the Department of Justice, state attorneys general and state insurance commissioners, as well as by private litigants in class actions. In the past, a number of lawsuits have challenged the actions of private mortgage insurers under RESPA, alleging that the insurers have violated the referral fee prohibition by entering into captive reinsurance arrangements or providing products or services to mortgage lenders at improperly reduced prices in return for the referral of mortgage insurance, including the provision of contract underwriting services. In addition to these private lawsuits, other private mortgage insurance companies have received civil investigative demands from, and entered into consent orders with, the CFPB as part of its investigation to determine whether mortgage lenders and mortgage insurance providers engaged in acts or practices in connection with their captive mortgage insurance arrangements in violation of RESPA, the Consumer Financial Protection Act and the Dodd-Frank Act. The CFPB's ruling in its enforcement order against PHH Corporation for alleged RESPA violations stemming from captive mortgage insurance arrangements was overturned on appeal by a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, a decision affirmed in January 2018 by the D.C. Circuit en banc. Although we did not participate in the practices that were the subject of the CFPB consent orders or the PHH case, the private mortgage insurance industry and our insurance subsidiaries are subject to substantial Federal and state regulation. Increased Federal or state regulatory scrutiny could lead to

new legal precedents, new regulations or new practices, or regulatory actions or investigations, which could adversely affect our financial condition and operating results.

Risks Relating to Taxes and Our Corporate Structure

We and our non-U.S. subsidiaries may become subject to U.S. Federal income and branch profits taxation.

Essent Group Ltd. and Essent Re and its subsidiaries intend to operate their business in a manner that will not cause them to be treated as engaged in a trade or business in the United States and, thus, will not be required to pay U.S. Federal income and branch profits taxes. However, our foreign subsidiaries are or could become subject to U.S. excise taxes on (re)insurance premium as well as U.S. withholding taxes on certain U.S. source investment income, and dividends paid from U.S. subsidiaries from U.S. earnings and profits. Because there is uncertainty as to the activities which constitute being engaged in a trade or business in the United States, there can be no assurances that the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") will not contend successfully that Essent Group Ltd. or its non-U.S. subsidiaries are engaged in a trade or business in the United States. In addition, Section 845 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), was amended in 2004 to permit the IRS to reallocate, recharacterize or adjust items of income, deduction or certain other items related to a reinsurance contract between related parties to reflect the proper "amount, source or character" for each item (in contrast to prior law, which only covered "source and character"). Any U.S. Federal income and branch profits taxes levied upon earnings from our Bermuda operations could materially adversely affect our shareholders' equity and earnings.

Holders of 10% or more of our common shares may be subject to U.S. income taxation under the "controlled foreign corporation" ("CFC") rules.

If you are a "10% U.S. Shareholder" (defined to be a "U.S. Person" (as defined below) who owns (directly, or indirectly through non-U.S. entities or "constructively," as defined below) at least 10% of the total combined value or voting power of all classes of stock) of a non-U.S. corporation that is a CFC at any time during a taxable year and you own shares in such non-U.S. corporation directly or indirectly through non-U.S. entities on the last day of the non-U.S. corporation's taxable year on which it is a CFC, you must include in your gross income for U.S. Federal income tax purposes your pro rata share of the CFC's "subpart F income," even if the subpart F income is not distributed. Also, due to attribution rules, the Company believes that, based upon ownership of its U.S. subsidiaries, its foreign reinsurer (Essent Reinsurance Ltd.) will be deemed a CFC. Accordingly, any shareholder who becomes a "10% U.S. Shareholder" at any time during the calendar year, by either vote or value will be subject to a "Subpart F income" inclusion on a per share per day basis. Subpart F income of a non-U.S. insurance corporation typically includes "foreign personal holding company income" (such as interest, dividends and other types of passive income), as well as insurance and reinsurance income (including underwriting and investment income).

For purposes of this discussion, the term "U.S. Person" means: (i) an individual citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a partnership or corporation, created in or organized under the laws of the United States, or organized under the laws of any political subdivision thereof, (iii) an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. Federal income taxation regardless of its source, (iv) a trust if either (x) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of such trust and one or more U.S. Persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of such trust or (y) the trust has a valid election in effect to be treated as a U.S. Person for U.S. Federal income tax purposes; or (v) any other person or entity that is treated for U.S. Federal income tax purposes as if it were one of the foregoing.

U.S. Persons who hold our shares may be subject to U.S. income taxation at ordinary income rates on their proportionate share of our "related party insurance income" ("RPII").

If the RPII (determined on a gross basis) of Essent Re were to equal or exceed 20% of Essent Re's gross insurance income in any taxable year and direct or indirect policyholders (and persons related to those policyholders) own directly or indirectly through entities 20% or more of the voting power or value of the Company, then a U.S. Person who owns any shares of Essent Re (directly or indirectly through non-U.S. entities) on the last day of the taxable year on which it is an RPII CFC would be required to include in its income for U.S. Federal income tax purposes such person's pro rata share of Essent Re's RPII for the entire taxable year, determined as if such RPII were distributed proportionately only to U.S. Persons at that date regardless of whether such income is distributed, in which case your investment could be materially adversely affected. In addition, any RPII that is includible in the income of a U.S. tax-exempt organization may be treated as unrelated business taxable income. The amount of RPII earned by a non-U.S. insurance subsidiary (generally, premium and related investment income from the indirect or direct insurance or reinsurance of any direct or indirect U.S. holder of shares or any person related to such holder) will depend on a number of factors, including the identity of persons directly or indirectly insured or reinsured by the company. We do not expect gross RPII of Essent Re to equal or exceed 20% of its gross insurance income in any taxable year for the foreseeable future, but we cannot be certain that this will be the case because some of the factors which determine the extent of RPII may be beyond our control. Further, proposed regulations could, if finalized in their current form, substantially expand the definition of RPII to include insurance income of Essent Re related to affiliate reinsurance transactions. These regulations

would apply to taxable years beginning after the date the regulations are finalized. Although we cannot predict whether, when or in what form the proposed regulations might be finalized, the proposed regulations, if finalized in their current form, could limit our ability to execute affiliate reinsurance transactions that would otherwise be undertaken for non-tax business reasons in the future as that could increase the risk that gross RPII could constitute 20% or more of the gross insurance income of Essent Re in a particular taxable year, which could result in such RPII being taxable to U.S. persons that own our shares.

U.S. Persons who dispose of our shares may be subject to U.S. Federal income taxation at the rates applicable to dividends on a portion of such disposition.

Section 1248 of the Code in conjunction with the RPII rules provides that if a U.S. Person disposes of shares in a non-U.S. corporation that earns insurance income in which U.S. Persons own 25% or more of the shares (even if the amount of gross RPII is less than 20% of the corporation's gross insurance income or the ownership of its shares by direct or indirect policyholders and related persons is less than the 20% threshold), any gain from the disposition will generally be treated as a dividend to the extent of the holder's share of the corporation's undistributed earnings and profits that were accumulated during the period that the holder owned the shares (whether or not such earnings and profits are attributable to RPII). In addition, such a holder will be required to comply with certain reporting requirements, regardless of the amount of shares owned by the holder. These RPII rules should not apply to dispositions of our shares because the Company will not itself be directly engaged in the insurance business. The RPII provisions, however, have never been interpreted by the courts or the U.S. Treasury in final regulations, and regulations interpreting the RPII provisions of the Code exist only in proposed form. It is not certain whether these regulations will be adopted in their proposed form or what changes or clarifications might ultimately be made thereto or whether any such changes, as well as any interpretation or application of the RPII rules by the IRS, the courts, or otherwise, might have retroactive effect. The U.S. Treasury has authority to impose, among other things, additional reporting requirements with respect to RPII. Accordingly, the meaning of the RPII provisions and the application thereof to us is uncertain.

U.S. Persons who hold our shares will be subject to adverse tax consequences if we are considered to be a passive foreign investment company ("PFIC") for U.S. Federal income tax purposes.

Essent Re is a PFIC, and any U.S. Person directly owning shares in Essent Re could be subject to adverse tax consequences. However, as 100% of the shares of Essent Re are owned by Essent Group Ltd., based upon the current relative value of its U.S. subsidiaries vs. foreign subsidiaries, management believes that Essent Group Ltd. is not currently a PFIC. However, in the event that future business circumstances (i.e. relative value changes) and/or tax law changes occur, Essent Group Ltd. may be considered a PFIC. Management has operated, and intends to continue to operate, in a manner such as to avoid Essent Group Ltd. being deemed a PFIC based upon relative value of its subsidiaries; however, there can be no guaranty that management will be successful in the future. If Essent Group Ltd. is considered a PFIC, then any U.S. Person who owns any of our shares could be subject to adverse tax consequences, including becoming subject to a greater tax liability than might otherwise apply and to tax on amounts in advance of when tax would otherwise be imposed, in which case your investment could be materially adversely affected. In addition, if Essent Group Ltd. were considered a PFIC, upon the death of any U.S. individual owning shares, such individual's heirs or estate would not be entitled to a "step-up" in the basis of the shares that might otherwise be available under U.S. Federal income tax laws.

We believe that Essent Group Ltd. is not, has not been, and currently does not expect to become, a PFIC for U.S. Federal income tax purposes. However, there can be no assurance that new regulations, if made final, will not adversely impact Essent Group Ltd.'s PFIC status or U.S. Persons owning Essent Group Ltd. shares. If Essent Group Ltd. were considered a PFIC, it would have material adverse tax consequences for an investor that is subject to U.S. Federal income taxation.

Our tax liabilities and effective tax rate in the future could be adversely affected by changes in tax laws in countries in which we operate pursuant to ongoing efforts by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development ("OECD"), the U.S. Congress, Ireland Revenue, or the Government of Bermuda.

Member nations of the EU and other foreign taxing jurisdictions have adopted a comprehensive plan set forth by the OECD to create an agreed-upon set of international rules designed to end so-called "base erosion and profit shifting", commonly referred to as the "Pillar II" rules. Pillar II is a coordinated global effort to impose a minimum tax on large multinational corporations ("MNC"s) of 15% on the net income earned in each jurisdiction, with no cross-crediting between jurisdictions. Although the U.S. has not adopted Pillar II, the Bermuda Corporate Income Tax (see Note 12 to our consolidated financial statements entitled "Income Taxes" included elsewhere in this Annual Report) is a "de-facto" adoption of the Pillar II rules, and Ireland has also adopted Pillar II. The rules achieve a 15% minimum tax through either an undertaxed profits rule ("UTPR") or an income inclusion rule ("IIR"). As currently structured, and based on the results of annual "safe harbor" testing showing that the Company pays the minimum 15% on the pre-tax income of its Ireland direct and indirect subsidiaries, we do not believe that the Company will owe additional taxes in Ireland as a result of Ireland's adoption of the UTPR and IIR. Any future changes to these rules, and/or new interpretations by relevant jurisdictions of these occurrences could materially

adversely affect our tax position, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

U.S. tax-exempt organizations who own our shares may recognize unrelated business taxable income.

A U.S. tax-exempt organization may recognize unrelated business taxable income if a portion of the insurance income of any of our non-U.S. insurance subsidiaries is allocated to the organization, which generally would be the case if the tax-exempt shareholder is a 10% U.S. Shareholder or if there is RPII, and certain exceptions do not apply, and the tax-exempt organization owns any of our shares. Although we do not believe that any U.S. Persons should be allocated such insurance income, we cannot be certain that this will be the case. U.S. tax-exempt investors are advised to consult their own tax advisors.

There is the potential foreign bank account reporting and reporting of "Specified Foreign Financial Assets."

U.S. Persons holding our common shares should consider their possible obligation to file a FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts with respect to their shares. Additionally, such U.S. and non-U.S. persons should consider their possible obligations to annually report certain information with respect to us with their U.S. Federal income tax returns. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors with respect to these or any other reporting requirement which may apply with respect to their ownership of our common shares.

Reduced tax rates for qualified dividend income may not be available in the future.

We believe that the dividends paid on the common shares should qualify as "qualified dividend income" if, as is intended, our common shares remain listed on a national securities exchange and Essent Group Ltd. is not a PFIC. Qualified dividend income received by non-corporate U.S. Persons is generally eligible for long-term capital gain rates. There has been proposed legislation before the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives that would exclude shareholders of certain foreign corporations from this advantageous tax treatment. If such legislation were to become law, non-corporate U.S. Persons would no longer qualify for the reduced tax rate on the dividends paid by us.

Proposed U.S. tax legislation could have an adverse impact on us or holders of our common shares.

It is possible that legislation could be introduced and enacted by the current Congress or future Congresses that could have an adverse impact on us or holders of our common shares. It is also possible that future Treasury Regulations, and/or IRS administrative rulings could have an adverse impact on the Company or the holders of our common shares. We cannot be certain if, when or in what form such Treasury Regulations or IRS administrative pronouncements may be provided and whether such guidance will have a retroactive effect, and/or a negative impact upon an investor subject to U.S. taxation.

Existing U.S. tax law could have an adverse impact on us or holders of our common shares if future changes to the business causes the Company to exceed certain thresholds.

The base erosion anti-abuse tax or "BEAT" could make certain levels of affiliate reinsurance between United States and non-U.S. members of our group economically unfeasible. Although we are not currently impacted by BEAT, there can be no assurance that changes to future taxable income calculations or future changes to BEAT will not have a negative impact on us. Future legislation adverse to the Company's effective tax rate may also extend beyond changes to the BEAT. In addition, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 ("IRA") introduced, among other tax provisions, the Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax ("CAMT") and a federal excise tax ("FET") of 1% on certain stock repurchases. Companies are not subject to the CAMT if they do not meet a certain net income threshold on a trailing 3-year average calculation. Based on such calculations, the Company is not currently subject to the CAMT. Management will continue to monitor the applicability of CAMT. Final Treasury Regulations were issued on November 24, 2025 regarding the stock repurchase FET. Those regulations confirm that we are not subject to the tax as currently enacted; however, future legislative changes to the stock repurchase FET could cause us to become subject to it.

Our holding company structure and certain regulatory and other constraints, including adverse business performance, could negatively impact our liquidity and potentially require us to raise more capital.

Essent Group Ltd. serves as the holding company for our insurance and other subsidiaries and does not have any significant operations of its own. As a result, its principal source of funds is income from our investment portfolio, dividends and other distributions from our insurance and other subsidiaries, including permitted payments under our expense-sharing arrangements, and funds that may be raised from time to time in the capital markets. Our dividend income is limited to upstream dividend payments from our insurance and other subsidiaries, which may be restricted by applicable state insurance laws. Under Pennsylvania law, our insurance subsidiaries may pay ordinary dividends without prior approval of the Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner, but are not permitted to pay extraordinary dividends without the prior approval of the Commissioner. An extraordinary dividend is a dividend or distribution which, together with other dividends and distributions made within the preceding 12 months, exceeds the greater of (i) 10% of our surplus as shown in our last annual statement on file with the Commissioner, or (ii) our net income for the period covered by such statement, but shall not include pro rata distributions of any class of our own securities. Moreover, under Pennsylvania law, dividends and other distributions may only be paid out of unassigned surplus unless approved by the Commissioner. Our primary U.S. operating subsidiary, Essent Guaranty, Inc., had unassigned surplus of approximately \$245.8 million as of December 31, 2025, and paid to its parent, Essent US Holdings, Inc., dividends totaling \$495.0 million in 2025. For further information, see Note 11 to our consolidated financial statements entitled "Dividends Restrictions" included elsewhere in this Annual Report.

Our ability to pay dividends is dependent on our receipt of dividends and other funds from our subsidiaries.

Essent Group Ltd. is a holding company. As a result, our ability to pay dividends on our common shares in the future will depend on the earnings and cash flows of our operating subsidiaries and the ability of those subsidiaries to pay dividends or to advance or repay funds to it. This ability is subject to general economic, financial, competitive, regulatory and other factors beyond our control. Furthermore, our subsidiaries are restricted by state insurance laws and regulations from declaring dividends to us. Our subsidiaries are also restricted by state insurance laws and regulations from declaring dividends to us. See "Risks Related to Taxes and Our Corporate Structure—*Our holding company structure and certain regulatory and other constraints, including adverse business performance, could negatively impact our liquidity and potentially require us to raise more capital.*" Accordingly, our operating subsidiaries may not be able to pay dividends up to Essent Group Ltd. in the future, which could prevent us from paying dividends on our common shares.

Holders of our shares may have difficulty effecting service of process on us or enforcing judgments against us in the United States.

We are a Bermuda exempted company. As a result, the rights of holders of our common shares are governed by Bermuda law and our memorandum of association and bye-laws. The rights of shareholders under Bermuda law may differ from the rights of shareholders of companies incorporated in other jurisdictions. Certain of our directors are not residents of the United States, and a substantial portion of our assets are owned by subsidiaries domiciled outside the United States. As a result, it may be difficult for investors to effect service of process on those persons in the United States or to enforce in the United States judgments obtained in U.S. courts against us or those persons based on the civil liability provisions of the U.S. securities laws. It is doubtful whether courts in Bermuda will enforce judgments obtained in other jurisdictions, including the United States, against us or our directors or officers under the securities laws of those jurisdictions or entertain actions in Bermuda against us or our directors or officers under the securities laws of other jurisdictions.

We may repurchase a shareholder's common shares without the shareholder's consent.

Under our bye-laws and subject to Bermuda law, we have the option, but not the obligation, to require a shareholder to sell to us at fair market value the minimum number of common shares which is necessary to avoid or cure any adverse tax consequences or materially adverse legal or regulatory treatment to us, our subsidiaries or our shareholders if our board of directors reasonably determines, in good faith, that failure to exercise our option would result in such adverse consequences or treatment.

Provisions in our bye-laws may reduce or increase the voting rights of our shares.

In general, and except as provided under our bye-laws and as provided below, our shareholders have one vote for each common share held by them and are entitled to vote, on a non-cumulative basis, at all meetings of shareholders. However, if, and so long as, the shares of a shareholder are treated as "controlled shares" (as determined pursuant to sections 957 and 958 of the Code) of any U.S. Person that owns shares directly or indirectly through non-U.S. entities) and such controlled shares constitute 9.5% or more of the votes conferred by our issued shares, the voting rights with respect to the controlled shares owned by such U.S. Person will be limited, in the aggregate, to a voting power of less than 9.5%, under a formula specified in our bye-laws. The formula is applied repeatedly until the voting power of all 9.5% U.S. Shareholders has been reduced to less than 9.5%. In addition, our board of directors may limit a shareholder's voting rights when it deems it appropriate to do so to

(i) avoid the existence of any 9.5% U.S. Shareholder; and (ii) avoid certain material adverse legal or regulatory consequences to us, any of our subsidiaries or any direct or indirect shareholder or its affiliates. The amount of any reduction of votes that occurs by operation of the above limitations will generally be reallocated proportionately among our other shareholders whose shares were not "controlled shares" of the 9.5% U.S. Shareholder so long as such reallocation does not cause any person to become a 9.5% U.S. Shareholder.

Under these provisions, certain shareholders may have their voting rights limited, while other shareholders may have voting rights in excess of one vote per share. Moreover, these provisions could have the effect of reducing the votes of certain shareholders who would not otherwise be subject to the 9.5% limitation by virtue of their direct share ownership.

We are authorized under our bye-laws to request information from any shareholder for the purpose of determining whether a shareholder's voting rights are to be reallocated under the bye-laws. If any holder fails to respond to this request or submits incomplete or inaccurate information, we may, in our sole discretion, eliminate the shareholder's voting rights.

There are regulatory limitations on the ownership and transfer of our common shares.

Common shares may be offered or sold in Bermuda only in compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act and the Bermuda Investment Business Act 2003, which regulates the sale of securities in Bermuda. In addition, the BMA must approve all issues and transfers of shares of a Bermuda exempted company. However, the BMA has pursuant to its statement of June 1, 2005 given its general permission under the Exchange Control Act 1972 (and related regulations) for the issue and free transfer of our common shares to and among persons who are non-residents of Bermuda for exchange control purposes as long as the shares are listed on an appointed stock exchange, which includes the New York Stock Exchange. This general permission would cease to apply if the Company were to cease to be so listed. We have obtained consent under the Bermuda Exchange Control Act 1972 (and its related regulations) from the BMA for the issue and transfer of our common shares to and between residents and non-residents of Bermuda for exchange control purposes provided our common shares remain listed on an appointed stock exchange, which includes the NYSE. Bermuda insurance law requires that any person who becomes a holder of at least 10%, 20%, 33% or 50% of the common shares of an insurance or reinsurance company or its parent company must notify the BMA in writing within 45 days of becoming such a holder or 30 days from the date they have knowledge of having such a holding, whichever is later. The BMA may, by written notice, object to a person holding 10%, 20%, 33% or 50% of our common shares if it appears to the BMA that the person is not fit and proper to be such a holder. The BMA may require the holder to reduce their shareholding in us and may direct, among other things, that the voting rights attaching to their shares shall not be exercisable. A person that does not comply with such a notice or direction from the BMA will be guilty of an offense.

The insurance holding company laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the state in which our U.S. insurance subsidiaries are domiciled, require that, before a person can acquire direct or indirect control of an insurer domiciled in the state, prior written approval must be obtained from the Pennsylvania Insurance Department. The state insurance regulator is required to consider various factors, including the financial strength of the acquirer, the integrity and management experience of the acquirer's board of directors and executive officers, and the acquirer's plans for the future operations of the reinsurer or insurer. Pursuant to applicable laws and regulations, "control" over an insurer is generally presumed to exist if any person, directly or indirectly, owns, controls, holds the power to vote or holds proxies representing, 10% or more of the voting securities of that reinsurer or insurer. Indirect ownership includes ownership of our common shares.

Except in connection with the settlement of trades or transactions entered into through the facilities of the NYSE, our board of directors may generally require any shareholder or any person proposing to acquire our shares to provide the information required under our bye-laws. If any such shareholder or proposed acquirer does not provide such information, or if the board of directors has reason to believe that any certification or other information provided pursuant to any such request is inaccurate or incomplete, the board of directors may decline to register any transfer or to effect any issuance or purchase of shares to which such request is related. Although these restrictions on transfer will not interfere with the settlement of trades on the NYSE, we may decline to register transfers in accordance with our bye-laws and board of directors resolutions after a settlement has taken place.

U.S. persons who own our shares may have more difficulty in protecting their interests than U.S. persons who are shareholders of a U.S. corporation.

The Bermuda Companies Act 1981 (the "Companies Act"), which applies to us, differs in certain material respects from laws generally applicable to U.S. corporations and their shareholders. Set forth below is a summary of certain significant provisions of the Companies Act and our bye-laws which differ in certain respects from provisions of Delaware corporate law. Because the following statements are summaries, they do not discuss all aspects of Bermuda law that may be relevant to us and our shareholders.

Interested Directors: Bermuda law provides that if a director has an interest in a material contract or proposed material contract with us or any of our subsidiaries or has a material interest in any person that is a party to such a contract, the director

must disclose the nature of that interest at the first opportunity either at a meeting of directors or in writing to the board. Under Delaware law such transaction would not be voidable if:

- the material facts as to such interested director's relationship or interests were disclosed or were known to the board of directors and the board of directors had in good faith authorized the transaction by the affirmative vote of a majority of the disinterested directors;
- such material facts were disclosed or were known to the shareholders entitled to vote on such transaction and the transaction were specifically approved in good faith by vote of the majority of shares entitled to vote thereon; or
- the transaction was fair as to the corporation as of the time it was authorized, approved or ratified. Under Delaware law, the interested director could be held liable for a transaction in which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

Business Combinations with Large Shareholders or Affiliates. As a Bermuda company, we may enter into business combinations with our large shareholders or affiliates, including mergers, asset sales and other transactions in which a large shareholder or affiliate receives, or could receive, a financial benefit that is greater than that received, or to be received, by other shareholders, without obtaining prior approval from our board of directors or from our shareholders. If we were a Delaware company, we would need prior approval from our board of directors or a supermajority of our shareholders to enter into a business combination with an interested shareholder for a period of three years from the time the person became an interested shareholder, unless we opted out of the relevant Delaware statute. Our bye-laws also include a provision restricting business combinations with interested shareholders consistent with the corresponding Delaware statute.

Shareholders' Suits. The rights of shareholders under Bermuda law are not as extensive as the rights of shareholders in many U.S. jurisdictions. Class actions and derivative actions are generally not available to shareholders under the laws of Bermuda. However, the Bermuda courts ordinarily would be expected to follow English case law precedent, which would permit a shareholder to commence an action in the name of the company to remedy a wrong done to the company where an act is alleged to be beyond the corporate power of the company, is illegal or would result in the violation of our memorandum of association or bye-laws. Furthermore, a court would consider acts that are alleged to constitute a fraud against the minority shareholders or where an act requires the approval of a greater percentage of our shareholders than actually approved it. The prevailing party in such an action generally would be able to recover a portion of attorneys' fees incurred in connection with such action. Our bye-laws provide that shareholders waive all claims or rights of action that they might have, individually or in the right of the company, against any director or officer for any act or failure to act in the performance of such director's or officer's duties, except with respect to any fraud or dishonesty of such director or officer. Class actions and derivative actions generally are available to shareholders under Delaware law for, among other things, breach of fiduciary duty, corporate waste and actions not taken in accordance with applicable law. In such actions, the court has discretion to permit the winning party to recover attorneys' fees incurred in connection with such action.

Indemnification of Directors. We may indemnify our directors or officers or any person appointed to any committee by the board of directors acting in their capacity as such in relation to any of our affairs for any loss arising or liability attaching to them by virtue of any rule of law in respect of any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust of which such person may be guilty in relation to the company other than in respect of his own fraud or dishonesty. Under Delaware law, a corporation may indemnify a director or officer of the corporation against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred in defense of an action, suit or proceeding by reason of such position if such director or officer acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not be opposed to the best interests of the corporation and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, such director or officer had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.

General Risk Factors

We may face difficulties, unforeseen liabilities or rating actions from acquisitions or the integration of such acquired businesses.

We have completed, and expect to complete, acquisitions in an effort to achieve profitable growth in our operations and to create additional value, such as our acquisition of our title insurance operations in 2023. Acquisitions and other structural changes expose us to a number of risks arising from, among other factors, economic, operational, strategic, financial, tax, legal, regulatory and compliance, any one, or a combination, of which could possibly result in the failure to realize the anticipated economic, strategic or other benefits of a transaction. Such events could likewise involve numerous additional risks, including potential losses from unanticipated litigation or levels of claims, the failure to accurately value the investment and/or an inability to generate sufficient revenue to offset acquisition costs. Further, the integration of the operations and personnel of acquired businesses may prove more difficult than anticipated, which may result in failure to achieve financial objectives associated with the acquisition or a diversion of management attention. Such events may also have unintended consequences on

ratings assigned by the rating agencies to us. Any of these risks, if realized, could prevent us from achieving the benefits we expect from such transactions and/or result in a material adverse effect on our business.

We rely on our senior management team and our business could be harmed if we are unable to retain qualified personnel.

Our success depends, in part, on the skills, working relationships and continued services of our senior management team. We have employment agreements with each of our senior executives. The departure of any of our key executives could adversely affect the conduct of our business. In such an event, we would be required to obtain other personnel to manage and operate our business, and there can be no assurance that we would be able to employ a suitable replacement for the departing individual, or that a replacement could be hired on terms that are favorable to us. Volatility or lack of performance in our share price may affect our ability to retain our key personnel or attract replacements should key personnel depart.

We may need additional capital to fund our operations or expand our business, and if we are unable to obtain sufficient financing or such financing is obtained on adverse terms, we may not be able to operate or expand our business as planned, which could negatively affect our results of operations and future growth.

We may require incremental capital to support our growth and comply with regulatory requirements. To the extent that we require capital in the future, we may need to obtain financing from the capital markets or other third-party sources of financing. We may also seek to reinsure part of our risk in force with third-party reinsurers in order to obtain reinsurance credit and capital relief under insurance laws applicable to us and the regulations of the GSEs. Potential investors, lenders or reinsurers may be unable to provide us with financing or reinsurance that is attractive to us. Our access to such financing will depend, in part, on:

- general market conditions;
- the market's perception of our growth potential;
- our debt levels, if any;
- our expected results of operations;
- our cash flow;
- the availability of capital to third-party reinsurers to reinsure our risks; and
- the market price of our common shares.

Our principal capital demands include funds for (i) the expansion of our business, (ii) the payment of certain corporate operating expenses, (iii) capital support for our subsidiaries, and (iv) Federal, state and local taxes. We may need to provide additional capital support to our insurance subsidiaries if required pursuant to insurance laws and regulations or by the GSEs. In particular, if we were unable to meet our obligations, our mortgage insurance subsidiary could lose GSE approval or be required to cease writing mortgage insurance business in one or more states, which would adversely impact our business, financial condition and operating results.

Our success will depend on our ability to maintain and enhance effective operating procedures and internal controls.

Operational risk and losses can result from, among other things, fraud, errors, failure to document transactions properly or to obtain proper internal authorization, failure to comply with regulatory requirements, information technology failures, failure to appropriately transition new hires or external events. We continue to enhance our operating procedures and internal controls to effectively support our business and our regulatory and reporting requirements. Our management does not expect that our disclosure controls or our internal controls will prevent all potential errors and fraud. A control system, no matter how well conceived and operated, can provide only reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of the control system are met. Further, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs. As a result of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues and instances of fraud, if any, within the company have been detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that judgments in decision making can be faulty, and that breakdowns can occur because of simple error or mistake. Additionally, controls can be circumvented by the individual acts of some persons or by collusion of two or more people. The design of any system of controls also is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions; over time, controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate. As a result of the inherent limitations in a cost-effective control system, misstatement due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected. Accordingly, our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the disclosure controls and procedures are met. Any ineffectiveness in our controls or procedures could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We have a risk management framework designed to assess and monitor our risks. However, there can be no assurance that we can effectively review and monitor all risks or that all of our employees will operate within our risk management framework, nor can there be any assurance that our risk management framework will result in accurately identifying all risks and accurately limiting our exposures based on our assessments. Moreover, risk management is expected to be a new and important focus of regulatory examinations of companies under supervision. There can be no assurance that our risk management framework and documentation will meet the expectations of such regulators.

Our share price may be volatile or may decline regardless of operating performance.

The market price of our common shares may fluctuate significantly in the future. Some of the factors that could negatively affect the market price of our common shares include:

- actual or anticipated variations in our quarterly operating results;
- changes in our earnings estimates or publication of research reports about us or the real estate industry;
- changes in market valuations of similar companies;
- any indebtedness we incur in the future;
- changes in credit markets and interest rates;
- changes in government policies, laws and regulations;
- changes impacting Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or Ginnie Mae;
- additions to or departures of our key management personnel;
- actions by shareholders;
- speculation in the press or investment community;
- strategic actions by us or our competitors;
- changes in our credit ratings;
- the availability of third-party reinsurance for the insurance coverage that we write;
- general market and economic conditions;
- our failure to meet, or the lowering of, our earnings estimates or those of any securities analysts; and
- price and volume fluctuations in the stock market generally.

The stock markets have experienced extreme volatility in recent years that has been unrelated to the operating performance of particular companies. These broad market fluctuations may adversely affect the trading price of our common shares. In the past, securities class action litigation has often been instituted against companies following periods of volatility in their stock price. This type of litigation, even if it does not result in liability for us, could result in substantial costs to us and divert management's attention and resources.

Future sales of shares by existing shareholders could cause our share price to decline.

Sales of substantial amounts of our common shares in the public market, or the perception that these sales could occur, could cause the market price of our common shares to decline. As of February 13, 2026, we had 94,542,845 outstanding common shares. In the future, we may issue additional common shares or other equity or debt securities convertible into common shares in connection with a financing, acquisition, and litigation settlement or employee arrangement or otherwise. Any of these issuances could result in substantial dilution to our existing shareholders and could cause the trading price of our common shares to decline.

If securities or industry analysts do not publish research or publish misleading or unfavorable research about our business, our share price and trading volume could decline.

The trading market for our common shares depends in part on the research and reports that securities or industry analysts publish about us or our business. If one or more of these analysts downgrades our shares or publishes misleading or unfavorable research about our business, our share price would likely decline. If one or more of these analysts ceases coverage of our

Company or fails to publish reports on us regularly, demand for our shares could decrease, which could cause our share price or trading volume to decline.

Future offerings of debt or equity securities, which may rank senior to our common shares, may restrict our operating flexibility and adversely affect the market price of our common shares.

If we decide to issue debt securities in the future, it is likely that they will be governed by an indenture or other instrument containing covenants restricting our operating flexibility. Additionally, any equity securities or convertible or exchangeable securities that we issue in the future may have rights, preferences and privileges more favorable than those of our common shares and may adversely affect the market price of our common shares. Any such debt or preference equity securities will rank senior to our common shares and will also have priority with respect to any distributions upon a liquidation, dissolution or similar event, which could result in the loss of all or a portion of your investment. Our decision to issue such securities will depend on market conditions and other factors beyond our control, and we cannot predict or estimate the amount, timing or nature of our future offerings.

ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

Not applicable.

ITEM 1C. CYBERSECURITY

Cybersecurity Risk Management and Strategy

As with all institutions involved in the provision of financial services, information security represents a significant operational risk. To mitigate this risk, we have developed and manage a comprehensive information security program dedicated to protecting data entrusted to us by our clients as well as our own proprietary corporate information and the information technology infrastructure we use to process this data and information. Our approach is considered to be a defense-in-depth strategy, with multiple tiers of security controls and monitoring. Our security program is benchmarked against the National Institute of Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework (NIST), including, among other things, with respect to application security, vulnerability management and data protection, threat detection and incident response.

Cybersecurity risk management is the direct responsibility of our IT security team, which is led by our chief information officer (CIO) and our chief information security officer (CISO). The IT security team develops, maintains, and enforces our information security program and information security policies, which are reviewed at least annually and are subject to approval by our information security committee. Additionally, we complete the following:

- an annual enterprise risk assessment;
- an annual threat and vulnerability assessment conducted in accordance with NIST guidance which considers adversarial and non-adversarial threat events that could impact our environment;
- periodic IT risk assessments;
- quarterly vulnerability management reviews; and
- periodic cloud risk assessments.

Our IT security team regularly monitors the company's technology environment to address and investigate potential incidents. In the event of an incident, we would follow our internally developed incident response playbook, which includes but is not limited to guidelines for determining the severity of an incident, roles and responsibilities of the cyber response team, mitigation and recovery steps, and communication to internal and external stakeholders based upon nature and extent of the incident. We conduct regular external and internal penetration testing, "red teaming" exercises to seek to identify and remediate potential vulnerabilities, and other methods to ensure the readiness and effectiveness of our program and to continue to enhance our security posture. Our information security team also performs periodic tabletop exercises to simulate potential incidents in order to identify potential enhancements to monitoring and our incident response process.

We engage third party consultants with respect to cybersecurity, including to conduct vulnerability assessments and penetration testing of its information technology systems. We have established a formal third party risk management (TPRM) policy which defines the criteria that a third party service provider must meet in order to be considered by us. All vendors are risk ranked and reviewed by our TPRM team with results reported to our information security committee, which ultimately approves the use of new and existing vendors. In addition, we maintain an internal information security committee comprised of cross-departmental company executives and IT leaders to ensure that we maintain strong governance mechanisms and to ensure compliance with our security policies and procedures.

Although we have implemented what we believe to be an appropriate information security program to protect against, detect, mitigate, and respond to cybersecurity risks, there can be no assurance that such risks, including incidents, may be prevented or timely detected. During the year ended December 31, 2025, we did not experience any material cybersecurity incidents, including cybersecurity incidents that materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect the Company, our business strategy, results of operations, or financial condition. See “Risk Factors—Risks Relating to the Operation of Our Business—*The security of our information technology systems may be compromised and confidential information, including non-public personal information that we maintain, could be improperly disclosed.*”

Cybersecurity Governance

Our board of directors, led by the board’s technology, innovation and operations committee, actively oversees our information security program, with our management, including the CIO and CISO, providing the board and that committee with regular updates (including at each of the three meetings held by that committee in 2025) and reporting on our IT strategy, including information security strategies and initiatives, event preparedness and incremental improvement efforts.

The CIO and CISO, who are well qualified, oversee our information security program and are responsible for assessing and managing our risks from cybersecurity threats. Our CIO has over 25 years of experience serving Fortune 500 companies in the area of information technology, including over 20 years in mortgage and financial services, with roles ranging from overseeing application development and delivery to enhance risk management capability and improve operational efficiency to information technology strategy, architecture, delivery, and management. Similarly, our CISO has over 25 years of experience working for financial services companies in information technology, including roles overseeing e-commerce, technical infrastructure management and architecture, and over 20 years overseeing information security programs.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

We lease office facilities in Radnor, Pennsylvania for the headquarters of our mortgage insurance business and title and settlement services operations, with additional offices in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Missouri, New York and Virginia for our U.S.-based operations, and we lease office facilities in Bermuda for our holding company headquarters and reinsurance company. We believe our current facilities are adequate for our current needs and that suitable additional space will be available as and when needed.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We are not currently subject to any material legal proceedings.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

PART II

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

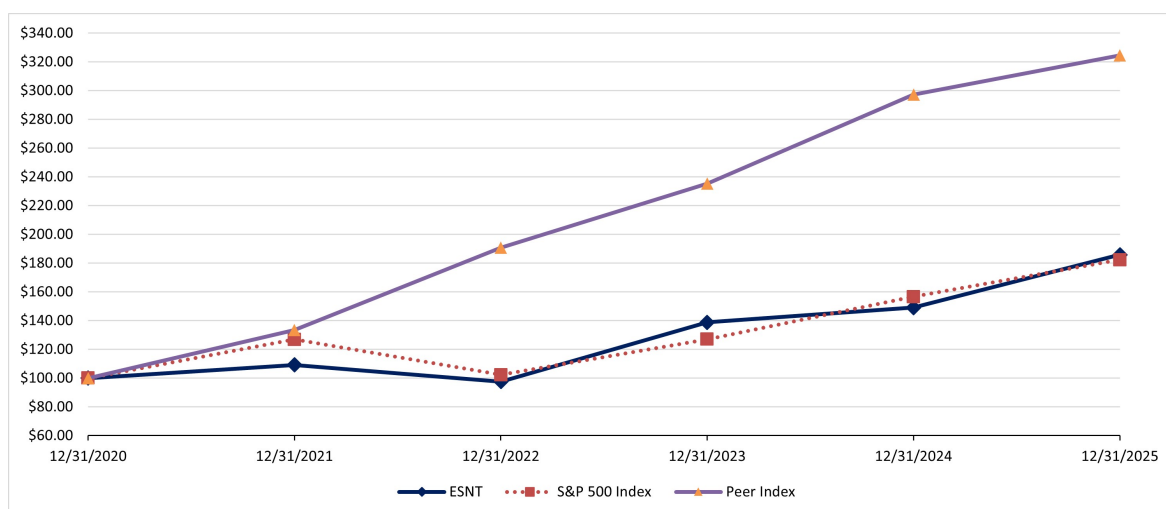
Our common shares trade on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) under the symbol "ESNT." As of February 13, 2026, we had approximately 9 holders of record of our common shares.

We have paid a quarterly dividend since September 2019. A dividend of \$0.31 per share for each of the first, second, third and fourth quarters of 2025 was declared and paid, and a dividend of \$0.35 per share had been declared by our board of directors with a record date of March 13, 2026 and a payment date of March 23, 2026. We presently expect to continue to declare a materially comparable regular quarterly dividend on our common stock in the future. For information on Essent Group's ability to pay dividends, see Item 7 "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Liquidity and Capital Resources."

Performance Graph

The following performance graph compares, for the period from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025, the cumulative total shareholder return of an investment in (i) our common shares, (ii) the S&P 500 and (iii) a composite peer group selected by us consisting of Arch Capital Group Ltd., Enact Holdings, Inc. (from and after September 16, 2021), Genworth Financial, Inc. (through September 15, 2021), MGIC Investment Corporation, NMI Holdings, Inc. and Radian Group Inc. (collectively, the "Peer Index"). We selected the members of each peer group because each was, at the time, a direct competitor of ours in the private mortgage insurance industry. On September 16, 2021, shares of common stock Enact Holdings, Inc. began trading on the Nasdaq Global Select Market, independent of the shares of its parent company, Genworth Financial, Inc. (which retained approximately 80% of the outstanding common shares of Enact Holdings, Inc. after its initial public offering on such date).

The graph assumes an initial investment of \$100 and the reinvestment of dividends, if any. Such returns are based on historical results and are not intended to suggest future performance.



	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	12/31/2024	12/31/2025
S&P 500	\$126.89	\$102.22	\$126.99	\$156.59	\$182.25
Peer Index	\$133.45	\$190.84	\$235.38	\$297.26	\$324.57
ESNT	\$109.17	\$97.63	\$138.77	\$149.12	\$185.84

The performance graph and related information shall not be deemed "soliciting material" or to be "filed" with the Securities and Exchange Commission for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, or otherwise subject to the liabilities under that Section, and shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any future filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except to the extent that we specifically incorporate it by reference into such filing.

Issuer Purchase of Equity Securities

The table below sets forth information regarding repurchases of our common shares during the three months ended December 31, 2025.

Period (\$ in thousands, except per share amounts)	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (1)
October 1 - October 31, 2025	840,295	\$ 60.29	837,259	
November 1 - November 30, 2025	623,208	\$ 61.51	623,208	
December 1 - December 31, 2025	585,493	\$ 61.88	585,493	
Total	2,048,996		2,045,960	\$ 571,647

- (1) During the three months ended December 31, 2025, the Company repurchased 2,045,960 common shares at a total cost of \$125.0 million. In February 2025, the Board of Directors approved a \$500 million share repurchase authorization that runs through year-end 2026, of which approximately \$72 million remained available to be repurchased as of December 31, 2025. In November 2025, our Board approved an additional \$500 million share repurchase authorization that runs through year-end 2027. The remaining \$572 million in the table represents the amount available to repurchase shares under the February 2025 and November 2025 share repurchase authorizations as of December 31, 2025. In January 2026, we repurchased 713,402 shares for \$44.4 million, leaving approximately \$527.2 million remaining for repurchases as of January 31, 2026.

ITEM 6. [RESERVED]

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

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the "Selected Financial Data" and our financial statements and related notes thereto included elsewhere in this report. In addition to historical information, this discussion contains forward-looking statements that involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions that could cause actual results to differ materially from management's expectations. Factors that could cause such differences are discussed in the sections entitled "Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" and "Risk Factors." We are not undertaking any obligation to update any forward-looking statements or other statements we may make in the following discussion or elsewhere in this document even though these statements may be affected by events or circumstances occurring after the forward-looking statements or other statements were made.

Overview

Essent Group Ltd. (collectively with its subsidiaries, "Essent") serves the housing finance industry by offering private mortgage insurance and reinsurance, title insurance and settlement services to mortgage lenders, borrowers and investors to support homeownership. We have two reportable segments: Mortgage Insurance and Reinsurance.

Essent Guaranty, Inc., our wholly-owned mortgage insurance subsidiary ("Essent Guaranty"), is approved by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and licensed to write coverage in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. For the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023, our mortgage insurance operations generated new insurance written, or NIW, of approximately \$46.6 billion, \$45.6 billion and \$47.7 billion, respectively. As of December 31, 2025, we had approximately \$248.4 billion of mortgage insurance in force. The financial strength ratings of Essent Guaranty are A2 with a stable outlook by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), A- with a stable outlook by S&P Global Ratings ("S&P") and A (Excellent) with a stable outlook by A.M. Best Company ("AM Best").

Through our wholly-owned Bermuda-based subsidiary, Essent Reinsurance Ltd. ("Essent Re"), we reinsure U.S. mortgage risk in the GSE credit risk transfer market and provide underwriting consulting services to third-party reinsurers. As of December 31, 2025, Essent Re provided insurance or reinsurance relating to GSE risk share and other reinsurance transactions covering approximately \$2.3 billion of risk. Essent Re also reinsures Essent Guaranty's NIW under a quota share reinsurance agreement. The insurer financial strength ratings of Essent Re are A- with a stable outlook by S&P and A (Excellent) with a stable outlook by A.M. Best.

Prior to December 31, 2025, we disclosed one reportable segment, Mortgage Insurance, which was comprised of "U.S. mortgage insurance" and "GSE and other mortgage risk share." Our mortgage insurance business and GSE and other mortgage risk share business each represented operating segments that were aggregated and disclosed as one reportable segment based on their shared economic characteristics and the similarities between the two operating segments. In the fourth quarter of 2025, Essent Re entered the Lloyd's of London market to reinsure certain property and casualty risks beginning in the first quarter of 2026. Considering the expansion of business and types of risks reinsured at Essent Re, our Chief Operating Decision Maker began to assess the performance of all third-party reinsurance as an operating segment as of December 31, 2025. To reflect this change, the GSE and other mortgage risk share operating segment is no longer aggregated with mortgage insurance and all third-party reinsurance is now disclosed as a separate reportable segment: Reinsurance. All prior period segment information has been recast to conform to the new segment presentation.

We also offer title insurance products both directly and through a network of title insurance agents, as well as title and settlement services. This operating segment was established upon our acquisitions of Agents National Title Insurance Company (renamed Essent Title Insurance, Inc. effective January 1, 2025), a title insurance underwriter, and Boston National Title, a national title agency, which was effective July 1, 2023. Title insurance operations are included in the Corporate & Other category.

We have a highly experienced, talented team with 514 employees as of December 31, 2025. Our holding company and reinsurance business are domiciled in Bermuda. Our mortgage insurance and title insurance operations are headquartered in Radnor, Pennsylvania.

Current Developments

The Federal Reserve increased the target federal funds rate several times during 2022 and 2023 in an effort to reduce consumer price inflation. As a result of progress on inflation, the Federal Reserve reduced the target federal funds rate by 100 basis points in 2024 and by another 75 basis points during 2025. Mortgage interest rates, however, remain elevated, which has reduced home buying and mortgage refinance activity resulting in lower volumes of mortgage originations, NIW and title insurance and settlement service transactions. Higher interest rates have also resulted in increases in our net investment income generated by our investment portfolio and the persistency of our mortgage insurance in force.

On September 26, 2024, Hurricane Helene made landfall and caused property damage in certain counties in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. On October 9, 2024, Hurricane Milton made landfall, causing damage in certain counties in Florida. Based on prior industry experience, we expect the ultimate number of hurricane-related defaults that result in claims will be less than the default-to-claim experience of non-hurricane-related defaults. The impact on our reserves in future periods will be dependent upon the performance of the hurricane-related defaults and our expectations for the amount of ultimate losses on these delinquencies.

In January 2025, several wildfires caused property damage in Southern California. Our insurance in force in areas with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster declarations at the time of these wildfires was less than 0.1% of our total insurance in force. These wildfires did not have a material impact on our reserves.

Legislative and Regulatory Developments

Our results are significantly impacted by, and our future success may be affected by, legislative and regulatory developments affecting the housing finance industry. Key regulatory and legislative developments that may affect us include:

U.S. Tax Reform

On July 4, 2025, a budget reconciliation package known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 ("OBBBA") was enacted which includes both tax and non-tax provisions. Based on our analysis of the provisions, the OBBBA did not have a material impact on our financial position or results of operations.

Bermuda Corporate Income Tax

On December 27, 2023, the Government of Bermuda enacted the Corporate Income Tax Act 2023 (CIT). Starting January 1, 2025, the CIT imposes a new 15% corporate income tax on in-scope entities that are resident in Bermuda or that have a Bermuda permanent establishment, without regard to any assurances that had previously been given pursuant to the Exempted Undertakings Tax Protection Act 1966.

Although our annual revenue meets the CIT threshold for "in-scope" (€750M), our Bermuda companies are not "in scope" because of a statutory exception for entities having "limited international presence" or "LIP". We currently meet the criteria for the LIP exception, which is available to our Bermuda companies for a period of five years, or when the LIP criteria are no longer met, whichever is sooner. The LIP exemption criteria are subject to interpretation of existing Bermuda law, as well as any related new regulations that may be issued by the Government of Bermuda. Also, future strategic business decisions could impact qualification for the LIP exception. Accordingly, no assurances can be made that we will continue meeting the LIP exception criteria during the four years remaining in our five-year exemption period.

Factors Affecting Our Results of Operations

Net Premiums Written and Earned

Premiums associated with our mortgage insurance business are based on insurance in force, or IIF, during all or a portion of a period. A change in the average IIF during a period causes premiums to increase or decrease as compared to prior periods. Average net premium rates in effect during a given period will also cause premiums to differ when compared to earlier periods. IIF at the end of a reporting period is a function of the IIF at the beginning of such reporting period plus NIW less policy cancellations (including claims paid) during the period. As a result, premiums are generally influenced by:

- NIW, which is the aggregate principal amount of the new mortgages that are insured during a period. Many factors affect NIW, including, among others, the volume of low down payment home mortgage originations, the competition to provide credit enhancement on those mortgages, the number of customers who have approved us to provide mortgage insurance and changes in our NIW from certain customers;
- Cancellations of our insurance policies, which are impacted by payments on mortgages, home price appreciation, or refinancings, which in turn are affected by mortgage interest rates. Cancellations are also impacted by the levels of claim payments and rescissions;
- Premium rates, which represent the amount of the premium due as a percentage of IIF. Premium rates are based on the risk characteristics of the loans insured, the percentage of coverage on the loans, competition from other mortgage insurers and general industry conditions; and
- Premiums ceded or assumed under reinsurance arrangements. See Note 5 to our consolidated financial statements.

Mortgage insurance premiums are paid either on a monthly installment basis ("monthly premiums"), in a single payment at origination ("single premiums"), or in some cases as an annual premium. For monthly premiums, we receive a monthly

premium payment which is recorded as net premiums earned in the month the coverage is provided. Monthly premium payments are based on the original mortgage amount rather than the amortized loan balance. Net premiums written may be in excess of net premiums earned due to single premium policies. For single premiums, we receive a single premium payment at origination, which is recorded as "unearned premium" and earned over the estimated life of the policy, which ranges from 36 to 156 months depending on the term of the underlying mortgage and loan-to-value ratio at date of origination. If single premium policies are cancelled due to repayment of the underlying loan and the premium is non-refundable, the remaining unearned premium balance is immediately recognized as earned premium revenue. Substantially all of our single premium policies in force as of December 31, 2025 were non-refundable. Premiums collected on annual policies are recognized as net premiums earned on a straight-line basis over the year of coverage. For both of the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024, monthly premium policies comprised 99% of our NIW.

Premiums associated with our reinsurance transactions are based on the level of risk in force and premium rates on the transactions.

Title insurance premiums are based on the number of title insurance policies issued and generally recognized as income at the transaction closing date which approximates the policy effective date.

Persistency and Business Mix

The percentage of IIF that remains on our books after any 12-month period is defined as our persistency rate. Because our insurance premiums are earned over the life of a policy, higher persistency rates can have a significant impact on our profitability. The persistency rate on our mortgage insurance portfolio was 85.7% at December 31, 2025. Generally, higher prepayment speeds lead to lower persistency.

Prepayment speeds and the relative mix of business between single premium policies and monthly premium policies also impact our profitability. Our premium rates include certain assumptions regarding repayment or prepayment speeds of the mortgages. Because premiums are paid at origination on single premium policies, assuming all other factors remain constant, if loans are prepaid earlier than expected, our profitability on these loans is likely to increase and, if loans are repaid slower than expected, our profitability on these loans is likely to decrease. By contrast, if monthly premium loans are repaid earlier than anticipated, our premium earned with respect to those loans and therefore our profitability declines. Currently, the expected return on single premium policies is less than the expected return on monthly policies.

Net Investment Income

Our investment portfolio was predominantly comprised of investment-grade fixed income securities and money market funds as of December 31, 2025. The principal factors that influence investment income are the size of the investment portfolio and the yield on individual securities. As measured by amortized cost (which excludes changes in fair market value, such as from changes in interest rates), the size of our investment portfolio is mainly a function of increases in capital and cash generated from or used in operations which is impacted by net premiums received, investment earnings, net claim payments and expenses. Realized gains and losses are a function of the difference between the amount received on the sale of a security and the security's amortized cost, as well as any provision for credit losses or impairments recognized in earnings. The amount received on the sale of fixed income securities is affected by the coupon rate of the security compared to the yield of comparable securities at the time of sale.

Income from Other Invested Assets

As part of our overall investment strategy, we also allocate a percentage of our portfolio to limited partnership investments and traditional venture capital and private equity investments. The results of these investing activities are reported in income from other invested assets. These investments are generally accounted for under the equity method or fair value using net asset value (or its equivalent) as a practical expedient. For entities accounted for under the equity method that follow industry-specific guidance for investment companies, our proportionate share of earnings or losses includes changes in the fair value of the underlying assets of these entities. Fluctuations in the fair value of these entities may increase the volatility of the Company's reported results of operations.

Other Income

Other income includes revenues associated with underwriting consulting services to third-party reinsurers, title settlement services and contract underwriting services. The level of these revenues is dependent upon the number of customers who have engaged us for these services. Revenue from underwriting consulting services to third-party reinsurers is also dependent upon the level of premiums associated with the transactions underwritten for these customers. Revenues from title settlement services and contract underwriting are also dependent upon the number of loans processed for these customers.

In connection with the acquisition of our mortgage insurance platform, we entered into a services agreement with Triad Guaranty Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Triad Guaranty Insurance Corporation, which we refer to collectively as "Triad," to provide certain information technology maintenance and development and customer support-related services. In return for these services, we receive a flat monthly fee which is recorded in other income. During 2023, Triad entered into a three year renewal and extended the services agreement through November 2026.

As more fully described in Note 5 to our consolidated financial statements, the premiums ceded under certain reinsurance contracts with unaffiliated third parties varies based on changes in market interest rates. Under GAAP, these contracts contain embedded derivatives that are accounted for separately as freestanding derivatives. The change in the fair value of the embedded derivatives is reported in earnings and included in other income.

Provision for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses

Mortgage Insurance

The provision for losses and loss adjustment expenses reflects the current expense that is recorded within a particular period to reflect actual and estimated loss payments that we believe will ultimately be made as a result of insured loans that are in default.

Losses incurred are generally affected by:

- the overall state of the economy, which broadly affects the likelihood that borrowers may default on their loans and have the ability to cure such defaults;
- changes in housing values, which affect our ability to mitigate our losses through the sale of properties with loans in default as well as borrower willingness to continue to make mortgage payments when the value of the home is below or perceived to be below the mortgage balance;
- the product mix of IIF, with loans having higher risk characteristics generally resulting in higher defaults and claims;
- the size of loans insured, with higher average loan amounts tending to increase losses incurred;
- the loan-to-value ratio, with higher average loan-to-value ratios tending to increase losses incurred;
- the percentage of coverage on insured loans, with deeper average coverage tending to increase losses incurred;
- credit quality of borrowers, including higher debt-to-income ratios and lower FICO scores, which tend to increase incurred losses;
- the level and amount of reinsurance coverage maintained with third parties;
- the rate at which we rescind policies. Because of tighter underwriting standards generally in the mortgage lending industry and terms set forth in our master policy, we expect that our level of rescission activity will be lower than rescission activity seen in the mortgage insurance industry for vintages originated prior to the financial crisis; and
- the distribution of claims over the life of a book. As of December 31, 2025, 53% of our IIF relates to mortgage insurance business written before January 1, 2023 and was at least three years old. As a result, based on historical industry performance, we expect the number of defaults and claims we experience, as well as our provision for losses and loss adjustment expenses ("LAE"), to increase as our portfolio seasons. See "—Mortgage Insurance Earnings and Cash Flow Cycle" below.

We establish loss reserves for delinquent loans when we are notified that a borrower has missed at least two consecutive monthly payments ("Case Reserves"), as well as estimated reserves for defaults that may have occurred but not yet been reported to us ("IBNR Reserves"). We also establish reserves for the associated loss adjustment expenses, consisting of the estimated cost of the claims administration process, including legal and other fees. Using both internal and external information, we establish our reserves based on the likelihood that a default will reach claim status and estimated claim severity. See "—Critical Accounting Policies" for further information.

Based upon our experience and industry data, claims incidence for mortgage insurance is generally highest in the third through sixth years after loan origination. As of December 31, 2025, 53% of our IIF relates to business written before January 1, 2023 and was at least three years old. As such, we expect incurred losses and claims to increase as a greater amount of this book of insurance is entering its anticipated period of highest claim frequency. The actual default rate and the average reserve per default that we experience as our portfolio matures is difficult to predict and is dependent on the specific characteristics of our current in-force book (including the credit score of the borrower, the loan-to-value ratio of the mortgage, geographic

concentrations, etc.), as well as the profile of new business we write in the future. In addition, the default rate and the average reserve per default will be affected by future macroeconomic factors such as housing prices, interest rates and employment.

The Federal Reserve increased the target federal funds rate several times during 2022 and 2023 in an effort to reduce consumer price inflation. As a result of subsequent reductions in inflation rates, the Federal Reserve reduced the target federal funds rate by 100 basis points in 2024 and by another 75 basis points during 2025. Mortgage interest rates, however, have remained elevated, which may lower home sale activity and affect the options available to delinquent borrowers. It is reasonably possible that our estimate of losses could change in the near term as a result of changes in the economic environment, the impact of elevated levels of consumer price inflation on home sale activity, housing inventory, and home prices.

On September 26, 2024, Hurricane Helene made landfall and caused property damage in certain counties in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. On October 9, 2024, Hurricane Milton made landfall, causing damage in certain counties in Florida. Loans in default increased by 3,620 in the year ended December 31, 2024, including 2,119 defaults we identified as hurricane-related defaults. Based on prior industry experience, we expect the ultimate number of hurricane-related defaults that result in claims will be less than the default-to-claim experience of non-hurricane-related defaults. In addition, under our master policy, our exposure may be limited on hurricane-related claims. For example, we are permitted to exclude a claim entirely where damage to the property underlying a mortgage was the proximate cause of the default and adjust a claim where the property underlying a mortgage in default is subject to unrestored physical damage. Accordingly, when establishing our loss reserves as of December 31, 2024, we applied a lower estimated claim rate to new default notices received in the fourth quarter of 2024 from the affected areas than the claim rate we apply to other notices in our default inventory. The impact on our reserves in future periods will be dependent upon the performance of the hurricane-related defaults and our expectations for the amount of ultimate losses on these delinquencies.

In January 2025, several wildfires caused property damage in Southern California. Our insurance in force in areas with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster declarations at the time of these wildfires was less than 0.1% of our total insurance in force. These wildfires did not have a material impact on our reserves.

As more fully described in Note 5 to our consolidated financial statements, at December 31, 2025, we had approximately \$1.3 billion of excess of loss reinsurance covering NIW from January 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019 and August 1, 2020 through December 31, 2025 and quota share reinsurance on portions of our NIW effective September 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020 and January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2025. The impact on our reserves in future periods will be dependent upon the amount of delinquent notices received from loan servicers, the performance of defaults and our expectations for the amount of ultimate losses on these delinquencies.

Title Insurance

Our reserve for title insurance claim losses includes reserves for known claims as well as for losses that have been incurred but not yet reported to us ("IBNR"), net of recoupments. We reserve for each known claim based on our review of the estimated amount of the claim and the costs required to settle the claim. Reserves for IBNR claims are estimates that are established at the time the premium revenue is recognized and are based upon historical experience and other factors, including industry trends, claim loss history, legal environment, geographic considerations, and the types of policies written. We also reserve for losses arising from closing and disbursement functions due to fraud or operational error.

Although claims against title insurance policies can be reported relatively soon after the policy has been issued, claims may also be reported many years later. By their nature, title claims are often complex, vary greatly in dollar amounts and are affected by economic and market conditions, as well as the legal environment existing at the time of settlement of the claims. Estimating future title loss payments is difficult because of the complex nature of title claims, the long periods of time over which claims are paid, significantly varying dollar amounts of individual claims and other factors.

Outward Reinsurance

We use reinsurance to provide protection against adverse loss experience in our mortgage insurance and title insurance portfolios and to expand our capital sources. When we enter into a reinsurance agreement, the reinsurer receives a premium and, in exchange, agrees to insure an agreed upon portion of incurred losses. These arrangements have the impact of reducing our earned premiums, but also reduce our mortgage insurance risk in force (RIF), which provides capital relief, and may include capital relief under the PMIERs financial strength requirements. Our incurred losses are reduced by any incurred losses ceded in accordance with the reinsurance agreement. For additional information regarding reinsurance, see Note 5 to our consolidated financial statements.

Other Underwriting and Operating Expenses

Our other underwriting and operating expenses include components that are substantially fixed, as well as expenses that generally increase or decrease in line with the level of mortgage insurance NIW, title insurance policies issued and settlement services provided.

Our most significant expense is compensation and benefits for our employees, which represented 51%, 50% and 51% of other underwriting and operating expenses for the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023, respectively. Compensation and benefits expense includes base and incentive cash compensation, stock compensation expense, benefits and payroll taxes.

Underwriting and other expenses include legal, consulting, other professional fees, premium taxes, travel, entertainment, marketing, licensing, supplies, hardware, software, rent, utilities, depreciation and amortization and other expenses. We anticipate that as we continue to add new customers and increase our mortgage insurance IIF, title insurance policies issued and settlement services provided, our expenses will also continue to increase.

Other underwriting and operating expenses also include premiums retained by agents, which represent the portion of title insurance premiums retained by our third-party agents pursuant to the terms of their respective agency contracts and are recorded as an expense. The percentage of premiums retained by agents vary according to regional differences in real estate closing practices and state regulations.

Interest Expense

Through June 30, 2024, interest expense was incurred as a result of borrowings under our secured credit facility (the "Existing Credit Facility"). Borrowings accrued interest at a floating rate tied to a standard short-term borrowing index, selected at the Company's option, plus an applicable margin. On July 1, 2024, we completed an underwritten public offering of \$500 million of 6.25% Senior Notes due in 2029 and used approximately \$425 million of the net proceeds to repay all of the borrowings outstanding under the term loan portion of the Existing Credit Facility. Concurrently, on July 1, 2024, the Fourth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (the "Revolving Credit Agreement") became effective, providing for an effective increase in the Company's revolving credit facility borrowing capacity from \$400 million to \$500 million. See Note 7 to our consolidated financial statements.

Income Taxes

Income taxes are incurred based on the amount of earnings or losses generated in the jurisdictions in which we operate and the applicable tax rates and regulations in those jurisdictions. Our U.S. insurance subsidiaries are generally not subject to income taxes in most states in which we operate; however, our non-insurance subsidiaries are subject to state income taxes. Except for six states, most notably Florida, our insurance subsidiaries pay premium taxes in lieu of state income taxes. Premium taxes are recorded in other underwriting and operating expenses.

Essent Group Ltd. ("Essent Group") and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Essent Re, are domiciled in Bermuda, and their income is currently not subject to a corporate income tax. See "—Legislative and Regulatory Developments—Bermuda Corporate Income Tax" above. Essent Re reinsures U.S. mortgage risk in the GSE credit risk transfer market and provide underwriting consulting services to third-party reinsurers. Essent Re also reinsures Essent Guaranty's NIW under a quota share reinsurance agreement. The following table summarizes the quota share reinsurance coverage that Essent Re has provided to Essent Guaranty for the respective NIW periods:

NIW Period	Ceding Percentage
January 1, 2025 to Present	50%
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024	35%
Prior to January 1, 2021	25%

The amount of income tax expense or benefit recorded in future periods will be dependent on the jurisdictions in which we operate and the tax laws and regulations in effect.

Mortgage Insurance Earnings and Cash Flow Cycle

In general, the majority of any underwriting profit (premium revenue minus losses) that a book generates occurs in the early years of the book, with the largest portion of any underwriting profit realized in the first year. Subsequent years of a book generally result in modest underwriting profit or underwriting losses. This pattern generally occurs because relatively few of the claims that a book will ultimately experience typically occur in the first few years of the book, when premium revenue is

highest, while subsequent years are affected by declining premium revenues, as the number of insured loans decreases (primarily due to loan prepayments), and by increasing losses.

Key Performance Indicators

Insurance In Force

As discussed above, mortgage insurance premiums we collect and earn are generated based on our IIF, which is a function of our NIW and cancellations. The following table includes a summary of the change in our IIF for the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023 for our mortgage insurance portfolio. In addition, this table includes our RIF at the end of each period.

(\$ in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
IIF, beginning of period	\$ 243,645,423	\$ 239,078,262	\$ 227,062,055
NIW	46,563,546	45,561,332	47,666,852
Cancellations	(41,852,572)	(40,994,171)	(35,650,645)
IIF, end of period	\$ 248,356,397	\$ 243,645,423	\$ 239,078,262
Average IIF during the period	\$ 246,521,637	\$ 241,571,892	\$ 234,518,135
RIF, end of period	\$ 56,519,839	\$ 56,477,150	\$ 54,591,590

The following is a summary of our IIF at December 31, 2025 by vintage:

(\$ in thousands)	\$	%
2025	\$ 43,664,410	17.6%
2024	37,940,873	15.3
2023	35,213,136	14.2
2022	45,373,683	18.3
2021	40,962,380	16.4
2020 and prior	45,201,915	18.2
	\$ 248,356,397	100.0%

Average Net Premium Rate

Our average net premium rate is calculated by dividing net premiums earned for our mortgage insurance portfolio by average insurance in force for the period and is dependent on a number of factors, including: (1) the risk characteristics and average coverage on the mortgages we insure; (2) the mix of monthly premiums compared to single premiums in our portfolio; (3) cancellations of non-refundable single premiums during the period; (4) changes to our pricing for NIW; and (5) premiums ceded under third-party reinsurance agreements. The following table presents the average net premium rate for our mortgage insurance portfolio:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Base average premium rate	0.41 %	0.41 %	0.40 %
Single premium cancellations	—	—	—
Gross average premium rate	0.41	0.41	0.40
Ceded premiums	(0.06)	(0.06)	(0.05)
Net average premium rate	0.35%	0.35%	0.35%

The continued use of third-party reinsurance along with changes to the level of future cancellations of non-refundable single premium policies and mix of IIF may reduce our average net premium rate in future periods.

Persistency Rate

The measure for assessing the impact of mortgage insurance policy cancellations on IIF is our persistency rate, defined as the percentage of IIF that remains on our books after any twelve-month period. See additional discussion regarding the impact of the persistency rate on our performance in "—Factors Affecting Our Results of Operations—Persistency and Business Mix."

Risk-to-Capital

The risk-to-capital ratio has historically been used as a measure of capital adequacy in the mortgage insurance industry and is calculated as a ratio of net risk in force to statutory capital. Net risk in force represents total risk in force net of reinsurance ceded and net of exposures on policies for which loss reserves have been established. Statutory capital for our U.S. insurance companies is computed based on accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department. See additional discussion in "—Liquidity and Capital Resources—Insurance Company Capital."

As of December 31, 2025, the net risk in force for Essent Guaranty was \$32.5 billion and its statutory capital was \$3.6 billion, resulting in a risk-to-capital ratio of 9.1:1. The amount of capital required varies in each jurisdiction in which we operate; however, generally, the maximum permitted risk-to-capital ratio is 25.0:1. State insurance regulators have continued to examine their respective capital rules to determine whether, in light of the 2007-2008 financial crisis, changes are needed to more accurately assess mortgage insurers' ability to withstand stressful economic conditions. As a result, the capital metrics under which they assess and measure capital adequacy may change in the future. Independent of the state regulator and GSE capital requirements, management continually assesses the risk of our insurance portfolio and current market and economic conditions to determine the appropriate levels of capital to support our business.

Results of Operations: Consolidated

The following table sets forth our consolidated results of operations for the periods indicated:

Summary of Operations (In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Revenues:			
Net premiums written	\$ 959,464	\$ 966,580	\$ 894,282
Decrease in unearned premiums	24,254	24,302	22,624
Net premiums earned	983,718	990,882	916,906
Net investment income	236,517	222,070	186,139
Realized investment gains (losses), net	(923)	(2,350)	(7,204)
Income (loss) from other invested assets	17,586	7,375	(11,118)
Other income	24,037	24,927	25,036
Total revenues	1,260,935	1,242,904	1,109,759
Losses and expenses:			
Provision for losses and LAE	149,337	81,220	31,542
Other underwriting and operating expenses	257,040	270,874	225,081
Interest expense	32,696	35,319	30,137
Total losses and expenses	439,073	387,413	286,760
Income before income taxes	821,862	855,491	822,999
Income tax expense	131,893	126,088	126,613
Net income	\$ 689,969	\$ 729,403	\$ 696,386

Revenues

Net Premiums Earned

The decrease in net premiums earned for 2025 compared to 2024 is primarily driven by decreases in net premiums earned in both our reinsurance and title insurance operations in 2025. For more information, see Net Premiums Written and Earned

under “Results of Operations: Mortgage Insurance”, Net Premiums Earned under “Results of Operations: Reinsurance” and Net Premiums Earned under “Results of Operations: Corporate & Other”.

Net Investment Income

Our consolidated net investment income was derived from the following sources for the periods indicated:

(In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,	
	2025	2024
Fixed maturities	\$ 216,991	\$ 186,345
Short-term investments	26,680	40,856
Gross investment income	243,671	227,201
Investment expenses	(7,154)	(5,131)
Net investment income	\$ 236,517	\$ 222,070

The increase in our consolidated net investment income to \$236.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2025 as compared to \$222.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2024 was due to the increase in the weighted average balance of our investment portfolio, as well as an increase in the average yield on the investment portfolio. The average balance of cash and investments at amortized cost increased to \$6.4 billion during the year ended December 31, 2025 from \$6.1 billion during the year ended December 31, 2024, primarily as a result of investing cash flows generated from operations. The pre-tax investment income yield increased from 3.7% in the year ended December 31, 2024 to 3.8% in the year ended December 31, 2025 primarily due to a general increase in investment yields due to increasing interest rates.

The pre-tax investment income yields are calculated based on amortized cost and exclude investment expenses. See "Liquidity and Capital Resources" for further details of our investment portfolio.

Income (Loss) from Other Invested Assets

Income from other invested assets for the year ended December 31, 2025 was a gain of \$17.6 million as compared to a gain of \$7.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2024. The increase in income from other invested assets for the year ended December 31, 2025 as compared to the year ended December 31, 2024 was primarily due to an increase in favorable fair value adjustments recorded during 2025.

Other Income

Other income was \$24.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2025 compared to \$24.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2024. Other income within our Mortgage Insurance segment includes fair value adjustments on embedded derivatives contained in certain of our reinsurance agreements. In the year ended December 31, 2025 we recorded a net unfavorable decrease in the fair value of the embedded derivatives of \$1.6 million compared to a net unfavorable decrease of \$2.1 million in the year ended December 31, 2024.

Expenses

Provision for Losses

The increased provision for losses for 2025 compared to 2024 was primarily driven by an increase in new mortgage insurance defaults, which impacted our mortgage insurance reserves. See “Results of Operations: Mortgage Insurance” for more information.

Other Underwriting and Operating Expenses

The decrease in underwriting and operating expenses for 2025 compared to 2024 was primarily due to an decrease in compensation expense, primarily due to decreased headcount, as well as a decrease in other general operating expenses. For more information, see “Results of Operations: Mortgage Insurance,” “Results of Operations: Reinsurance” and “Results of Operations: Corporate & Other.”

Interest Expense

For the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024, we incurred interest expense of \$32.7 million and \$35.3 million, respectively. Interest expense decreased in 2025 compared to 2024 primarily due to a loss on debt extinguishment for the write-off of unamortized debt issuance costs during 2024. On July 1, 2024, Essent Group issued \$500 million of 6.25% senior notes and utilized the proceeds to repay all of the outstanding term loan borrowings under the Credit Facility. For the years ending

December 31, 2025 and 2024, our borrowings carried a weighted average interest rate of 6.25% and 6.68%, respectively. For the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024, the average amount of borrowings outstanding was \$500 million and \$462.5 million, respectively.

Income Taxes

Our subsidiaries in the United States file a consolidated U.S. Federal income tax return. Our income tax expense was \$131.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2025 compared to \$126.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2024. The effective tax rate for the year ended December 31, 2025 was 16.0% compared to 14.7% for the year ended December 31, 2024. Our effective income tax rate reflects the amount of earnings or losses generated in the jurisdictions in which we operate, the applicable tax rates and regulations in those jurisdictions, and the impact of discrete items. The increase in our effective tax rate is primarily related to withholding taxes incurred on intercompany dividends paid by Essent US Holdings, Inc. to its parent company. For the year ended December 31, 2025, income tax expense includes \$1.2 million of favorable adjustments related to prior year tax returns and \$0.8 million of excess tax benefits associated with the vesting of common shares and common share units. For the year ended December 31, 2024, income tax expense includes \$1.3 million of favorable adjustments related to prior year tax returns and \$0.7 million of excess tax benefits associated with the vesting of common shares and common share units. See Note 12 to our consolidated financial statements.

At December 31, 2025 and 2024, we concluded that it was more likely than not that our deferred tax assets would be realized.

Pursuant to the FAST Act Modernization and Simplification of Regulation S-K, discussions related to the changes in the consolidated results of operations for the year ended December 31, 2024 compared to the year ended December 31, 2023 have been omitted. Such omitted discussion can be found under Item 7 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2024 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 19, 2025.

Results of Operations: Mortgage Insurance

(In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Revenues:			
Net premiums earned	\$ 866,743	\$ 855,793	\$ 812,501
Net investment income	174,358	164,469	142,186
Realized investment gains (losses), net	(870)	(2,343)	(6,392)
Income (loss) from other invested assets	8,267	7,171	(490)
Other income	5,111	4,896	7,208
Total revenues	1,053,609	1,029,986	955,013
Losses and expenses:			
Provision for losses and LAE	145,373	75,156	30,166
Other underwriting and operating expenses	101,889	106,960	108,033
Total losses and expenses before allocations	247,262	182,116	138,199
Corporate expense allocations	38,077	43,003	46,709
Total losses and expenses after allocations	285,339	225,119	184,908
Income before income tax expense	\$ 768,270	\$ 804,867	\$ 770,105
Loss ratio (1)	16.8 %	8.8 %	3.7 %
Expense ratio (2)	16.1	17.5	19.0
Combined ratio	32.9 %	26.3 %	22.8 %

(1) Loss ratio is calculated by dividing the provision for losses and LAE by net premiums earned.

(2) Expense ratio is calculated by dividing the sum of other underwriting and operating expenses and corporate expense allocations by net premiums earned.

Year Ended December 31, 2025 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2024 and Year Ended December 31, 2024 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2023

For the year ended December 31, 2025, our Mortgage Insurance segment reported income before income tax expense of \$768.3 million, compared to income before income tax expense of \$804.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2024. The decrease in our operating results in 2025 over 2024 was primarily due to an increase in the provision for losses and LAE, partially offset by an increase in net premiums earned and investment income and a decrease in operating expenses and corporate allocations.

Our Mortgage Insurance segment reported income before income tax expense of \$770.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2023. The increase in our operating results in 2024 compared to 2023 was primarily due to increases in net premiums earned and net investment income, partially offset by increases in provision for losses and LAE.

Net Premiums Written and Earned

Mortgage Insurance net premiums earned increased in the year ended December 31, 2025 by 1.3% compared to the year ended December 31, 2024. The increase in net premiums earned was primarily due to the increase in our average IIF from \$241.6 billion in 2024 to \$246.5 billion in 2025. Mortgage Insurance net premiums earned increased in the year ended December 31, 2024 by 5.3% compared to the year ended December 31, 2023. The increase in net premiums earned was due to the increase in our average IIF from \$234.5 billion in 2023 to \$241.6 billion in 2024. The average net premium rate was 0.35% for each of the three years ended December 31, 2025.

The following table presents the components of the change in unearned premiums within our Mortgage Insurance segment for the following years:

(In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Unearned premium recognized in earnings	36,883	41,707	48,641
Net premiums written on single premium policies	(8,253)	(9,027)	(21,968)
Decrease in unearned premiums	28,630	32,680	26,673

Provision for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses

For the year ended December 31, 2025, the Mortgage Insurance segment recorded a provision for losses of \$145.4 million compared to a provision of \$75.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2024. The increase in the provision for losses was primarily due to an increase in new defaults reported as well as an increase in our average reserve per default, partially offset by cure activity for defaults reported in prior years. The increase in average reserve per default was due to aging of defaults remaining within the mortgage insurance portfolio as well as a reduction of hurricane-related defaults without a corresponding change in reserves for hurricane-related defaults. For the year ended December 31, 2023, we recorded a provision for losses of \$30.2 million. The increase in the provision for losses in the year ended December 31, 2024 was primarily due to an increase in new defaults reported, resulting in an increase in the provision for losses recorded for current year defaults, partially offset by cure activity for defaults reported in prior years. In 2024, the increase in defaults was due in part to defaulted loans in the areas impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

The following table presents a rollforward of insured loans in default for our mortgage insurance portfolio for the periods indicated:

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Beginning default inventory	18,439	14,819	13,433
Plus: new defaults	40,076	37,499	30,550
Less: cures	(37,321)	(33,134)	(28,655)
Less: claims paid	(899)	(671)	(467)
Less: rescissions and denials, net	(85)	(74)	(42)
Ending default inventory	20,210	18,439	14,819

The following table includes additional information about our loans in default as of the dates indicated for our mortgage insurance portfolio:

	As of December 31,	
	2025	2024
Case reserves (in thousands)	\$ 396,817	\$ 285,944
Total reserves (in thousands)	\$ 429,610	\$ 310,156
Ending default inventory	20,210	18,439
Average case reserve per default (in thousands)	\$ 19.6	\$ 15.5
Average total reserve per default (in thousands)	\$ 21.3	\$ 16.8
Default rate	2.50%	2.27%
Claims received included in ending default inventory	313	164

The following table provides a reconciliation of the beginning and ending mortgage insurance reserve balances for losses and LAE:

(In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Reserve for losses and LAE at beginning of year	\$ 310,156	\$ 245,402	\$ 216,390
Less: Reinsurance recoverables	36,655	24,004	14,618
Net reserve for losses and LAE at beginning of year	273,501	221,398	201,772
Add provision for losses and LAE occurring in:			
Current year	224,261	171,907	138,603
Prior years	(78,888)	(96,751)	(108,437)
Incurred losses and LAE during the current year	145,373	75,156	30,166
Deduct payments for losses and LAE occurring in:			
Current year	3,567	2,687	517
Prior years	41,817	20,366	10,023
Loss and LAE payments during the current year	45,384	23,053	10,540
Net reserve for losses and LAE at end of period	373,490	273,501	221,398
Plus: Reinsurance recoverables	56,120	36,655	24,004
Reserve for losses and LAE at end of period	\$ 429,610	\$ 310,156	\$ 245,402

The following tables provide a detail of reserves and defaulted RIF by the number of missed payments and pending claims for our mortgage insurance portfolio:

As of December 31, 2025						
(\$ in thousands)	Number of Policies in Default	Percentage of Policies in Default	Amount of Reserves	Percentage of Reserves	Defaulted RIF	Reserves as a Percentage of Defaulted RIF
Missed payments:						
Two payments	6,892	34%	\$ 40,876	10%	\$ 545,198	7%
Three payments	3,002	15	32,458	8	246,194	13
Four to eleven payments	7,261	36	163,087	41	615,449	26
Twelve or more payments	2,742	13	139,036	35	224,248	62
Pending claims	313	2	21,360	6	23,797	90
Total case reserves	<u>20,210</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>396,817</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$ 1,654,886</u>	<u>24</u>
IBNR			29,761			
LAE			3,032			
Total reserves for losses and LAE			<u>\$ 429,610</u>			

As of December 31, 2024						
(\$ in thousands)	Number of Policies in Default	Percentage of Policies in Default	Amount of Reserves	Percentage of Reserves	Defaulted RIF	Reserves as a Percentage of Defaulted RIF
Missed payments:						
Two payments	6,691	36%	\$ 32,672	11%	\$ 522,644	6%
Three payments	3,154	17	26,278	9	250,696	10
Four to eleven payments	6,408	35	122,551	43	515,600	24
Twelve or more payments	2,022	11	93,269	33	153,376	61
Pending claims	164	1	11,174	4	12,478	90
Total case reserves	<u>18,439</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>285,944</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$ 1,454,794</u>	<u>20</u>
IBNR			21,446			
LAE			2,766			
Total reserves for losses and LAE			<u>\$ 310,156</u>			

During the year ended December 31, 2025, the provision for losses and LAE was \$145.4 million, comprised of \$224.3 million for current year losses, partially offset by \$78.9 million of favorable prior years' loss development. During the year ended December 31, 2024, the provision for losses and LAE was \$75.2 million, comprised of \$171.9 million of current year losses, partially offset by \$96.8 million of favorable prior years' loss development. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the provision for losses and LAE was \$30.2 million, comprised of \$138.6 million of current year losses, partially offset by \$108.4 million of favorable prior years' loss development. In each period, the favorable prior years' loss development was the result of a re-estimation of amounts ultimately to be paid on prior year defaults in the default inventory, including the impact of previously identified defaults that cured.

The following table includes additional information about our mortgage insurance claims paid and claim severity as of the dates indicated:

(\$ in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Number of claims paid	899	671	467
Amount of claims paid	\$ 44,964	\$ 22,660	\$ 10,216
Claim severity	75%	63%	59%

Other Underwriting and Operating Expenses

Following are the components of other underwriting and operating expenses for the Mortgage Insurance segment for the periods indicated:

(\$ in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,					
	2025		2024		2023	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
Compensation and benefits	\$ 64,392	63%	\$ 67,985	64%	\$ 65,003	60%
Premium taxes	23,596	23	22,951	21	22,495	21
Ceding commission	(28,669)	(28)	(25,144)	(24)	(21,757)	(20)
Other	42,570	42	41,168	39	42,292	39
Total other underwriting and operating expenses	\$ 101,889	100 %	\$ 106,960	100 %	\$ 108,033	100 %
Average number of employees during the period	269		292		291	

The significant factors contributing to the change in other underwriting and operating expenses are:

- Compensation and benefits decreased in 2025 compared to 2024 as a result of a decline in the number of average employees and increased in 2024 compared to 2023 primarily due to increases in stock based compensation expense. Compensation and benefits includes salaries, wages and bonus, stock compensation expense, benefits and payroll taxes.
- Premium taxes increased from 2023 to 2024 and from 2024 to 2025 primarily due to an increase in premiums written.
- The increases in ceding commission from 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025 results from increases in the amount of reinsured insurance in force under our outstanding quota share arrangements.
- Other expenses increased in 2025 compared to 2024 primarily as a result of increases in software-related expenses. Other expenses include professional fees, travel, marketing, hardware, software, rent, depreciation and amortization and other facilities expenses.

Results of Operations: Reinsurance

(In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Revenues:			
Net premiums earned	\$ 60,609	\$ 68,883	\$ 66,436
Net investment income	20,271	18,872	17,682
Realized investment gains, net	6	—	—
Other income	8,708	9,256	13,484
Total revenues	89,594	97,011	97,602
Losses and expenses:			
Provision (benefit) for losses and LAE	310	26	(46)
Other underwriting and operating expenses	10,145	8,784	7,149
Total losses and expenses before allocations	10,455	8,810	7,103
Corporate expense allocations	1,491	784	565
Total losses and expenses after allocations	11,946	9,594	7,668
Income before income tax expense	\$ 77,648	\$ 87,417	\$ 89,934
Loss ratio (1)	0.5 %	— %	(0.1)%
Expense ratio (2)	19.2	13.9	11.6
Combined ratio	19.7 %	13.9 %	11.5 %

(1) Loss ratio is calculated by dividing the provision for losses and LAE by net premiums earned.

(2) Expense ratio is calculated by dividing the sum of other underwriting and operating expenses and corporate expense allocations by net premiums earned.

Net Premiums Earned

Reinsurance net premiums earned primarily relate to premiums earned from Essent Re's participation in the GSE-sponsored mortgage risk share transactions. The decrease in net premiums earned in 2025 compared to 2024 is primarily due to a decline in average risk in force during the period as well as a decrease in the net average premium rate. The increase in 2024 compared to 2023 was due to an increase in the average risk in force. The following table presents the average GSE and other risk share risk in force and the average premium rates for each of the three years presented:

(\$ in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Average reinsured risk in force	\$ 2,265,848	\$ 2,275,546	\$ 2,181,543
Average premium rate on risk in force	2.6 %	3.0 %	3.0 %

Other Income

The decrease in other income in 2025 compared to 2024 and in 2024 compared to 2023 was due to a decline in third party consulting service revenues.

Provision for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses

The provision for losses reported in Reinsurance for 2025 primarily related to loss provisions recorded for non-payment reinsurance written by Essent Re during 2025. The provision (benefit) in 2024 and 2023 were due to changes in the level of loans in default in the GSE-sponsored risk share transactions. Reinsurance reserves as of December 31, 2025 and 2024 were \$0.4 million and \$0.1 million, respectively.

Other Underwriting and Operating Expenses

Following are the components of other underwriting and operating expenses for Reinsurance for the periods indicated:

(\$ in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,					
	2025		2024		2023	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
Compensation and benefits	\$ 4,547	45%	\$ 4,171	47%	\$ 3,993	56%
Premium and other taxes	52	—	56	1	49	1
Ceding commission	1,410	14	896	10	431	6
Other	4,136	41	3,661	42	2,676	37
Total other underwriting and operating expenses	<u>\$ 10,145</u>	<u>100 %</u>	<u>\$ 8,784</u>	<u>100 %</u>	<u>\$ 7,149</u>	<u>100 %</u>
Average number of employees during the period	8		7		6	

The significant factors contributing to the change in other underwriting and operating expenses are:

- Compensation and benefits increased in 2025 compared to 2024 and in 2024 compared to 2023 primarily due to an increase in headcount and incentive compensation. Compensation and benefits includes salaries, wages and bonus, stock compensation expense, benefits and payroll taxes.
- Premium and other taxes within Reinsurance relate to federal excise taxes paid on certain mortgage reinsurance premiums.
- The increase in ceding commission from 2023 to 2024 results from increases in the amount of reinsured risk in force on non GSE-sponsored risk share transactions. The increase in ceding commission from 2024 to 2025 was primarily due to commissions incurred on non-payment reinsurance written in 2025.
- Other expenses increased in 2025 compared to 2024 primarily as a result of increases in software costs, professional fees and amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs. Other expenses increased in 2024 compared to 2023 primarily as a result of increases in software, travel and occupancy costs, partially offset by a decrease in professional fees. Other expenses include professional fees, travel, marketing, hardware, software, rent, depreciation and amortization and other facilities expenses.

Results of Operations: Corporate & Other

Summary of Operations (In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Revenues:			
Net premiums earned	\$ 56,366	\$ 66,206	\$ 37,969
Net investment income	41,888	38,729	26,271
Realized investment losses, net	(59)	(7)	(812)
Income (loss) from other invested assets	9,319	204	(10,628)
Other income	10,218	10,775	4,344
Total revenues	117,732	115,907	57,144
Losses and expenses:			
Provision for losses and LAE	3,654	6,038	1,422
Other underwriting and operating expenses	145,006	155,130	109,899
Interest expense	32,696	35,319	30,137
Total losses and expenses before allocations	181,356	196,487	141,458
Corporate expense allocations	(39,568)	(43,787)	(47,274)
Total losses and expenses after allocations	141,788	152,700	94,184
Loss before income taxes	\$ (24,056)	\$ (36,793)	\$ (37,040)

Net Premiums Earned

Net premiums earned reported in Corporate & Other relate to premiums earned by our title insurance operations. Net premiums earned in 2025 decreased compared to 2024 as a result of a decline in title insurance policies issued. The increase in net premiums earned in 2024 is primarily due to a full year of title insurance operations in 2024. Net premiums earned in 2023 represent six months of title insurance operations as a result of our acquisition effective July 1, 2023.

Provision for Losses & LAE

The provision for losses reported in Corporate & Other relates to loss provisions recorded by our title insurance operations subsequent to our acquisition effective July 1, 2023. Upon acquisition, we recorded \$14.1 million of title insurance reserves through purchase accounting. The increase in the provision for losses in 2024 compared to 2023 was primarily due to an increase in title insurance policies issued and related title premium for the full year 2024 as compared to the six months subsequent to the acquisition of the title insurance operations as well as recent industry experience and trends. The decrease in the provision for losses in 2025 compared to 2024 is the result of a decrease in title insurance policies issued. Title insurance reserves as of December 31, 2025 and 2024 were \$16.9 million and \$18.7 million, respectively.

Other Underwriting and Operating Expenses

Following are the components of other underwriting and operating expenses for the Corporate & Other category for the periods indicated:

(\$ in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,					
	2025		2024		2023	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
Compensation and benefits	\$ 61,011	42%	\$ 64,236	41%	\$ 45,902	42%
Premium and other taxes	2,181	2	1,497	1	(376)	—
Other	81,814	56	89,397	58	64,373	58
Total other underwriting and operating expenses	\$ 145,006	100 %	\$ 155,130	100 %	\$ 109,899	100 %
Average number of employees during the period	264		260		149	

The significant factors contributing to the change in other underwriting and operating expenses are:

- Compensation and benefits decreased in 2025 compared to 2024 as a result of a decrease in stock based compensation. Compensation and benefits increased in 2024 compared to 2023 primarily due to an increase in the average number of employees, which resulted from the acquisition of the title insurance operations on July 1, 2023. Compensation and benefits includes salaries, wages and bonus, stock compensation expense, benefits and payroll taxes.
- Premium and other taxes within Corporate & Other are related to our title insurance operations.
- Other expenses decreased in 2025 compared to 2024 as a result of a decrease in title and settlement services direct cost incurred due to a decline in transactions and increased in 2024 compared to 2023 primarily as a result of increased title and settlement services direct cost incurred and increases in professional fees as a result of a full year of title insurance operations in 2024. Other expenses include professional fees, travel, marketing, hardware, software, rent, depreciation and amortization and other facilities expenses. Other expenses also include premiums retained by agents which represents the portion of title insurance premiums retained by our third-party agents pursuant to the terms of their respective agency contracts. Premiums retained by agents decreased in 2025 as a result of a decrease in title insurance policies issued compared to 2024 and increased in 2024 compared to 2023 due to a full year of title insurance operations in 2024, partially offset by decreased utilization of third party agents for insurance premiums written during 2024.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Overview

Our sources of funds consist primarily of:

- our investment portfolio and interest income on the portfolio;
- net premiums that we will receive from our existing IIF as well as policies that we write in the future;
- borrowings under our Senior Notes and Revolving Credit Facility; and
- issuance of capital shares.

Our obligations consist primarily of:

- claim payments under our policies;
- interest payments and repayment of borrowings under our Senior Notes and Revolving Credit Facility;
- the other costs and operating expenses of our business;
- the repurchase of common shares under the share repurchase plan approved by our board of directors; and
- the payment of dividends on our common shares.

As of December 31, 2025, we had substantial liquidity, with cash of \$123.0 million, short-term investments of \$648.5 million and fixed maturity investments of \$5.5 billion. We also had \$500 million of available capacity under our Revolving Credit Facility. Holding company net cash and investments available for sale totaled \$1.3 billion at December 31, 2025. In addition, Essent Guaranty is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh (the “FHLBank”) and has access to secured borrowing capacity with the FHLBank to provide Essent Guaranty with supplemental liquidity. Essent Guaranty had no outstanding borrowings with the FHLBank at December 31, 2025.

On July 1, 2024, we completed an underwritten public offering of \$500 million of 6.25% Senior Notes due in 2029. The Company used the net proceeds from the sale of the Senior Notes to repay the \$425 million of borrowings outstanding under the term loan portion of the Existing Credit Facility and intends to use the remaining net proceeds for general corporate purposes. On July 1, 2024, concurrently with the closing of the offering of the Senior Notes and the repayment of all of the borrowings outstanding under the term loan portion of the Existing Credit Facility, the Fourth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (the “Revolving Credit Agreement”) became effective and amends and restates the Existing Credit Facility. The Revolving Credit Agreement provides for an effective increase in the Company’s revolving credit facility borrowing capacity from \$400 million to \$500 million.

Management believes that the Company has sufficient liquidity available both at its holding companies and in its insurance and other operating subsidiaries to meet its operating cash needs and obligations and committed capital expenditures for the next 12 months.

While the Company and all of its subsidiaries are expected to have sufficient liquidity to meet all their respective expected obligations, additional capital may be required to meet any new capital requirements that are adopted by regulatory authorities or the GSEs, to respond to changes in the business or economic environment, to provide additional capital related to the growth of our risk in force in our mortgage insurance portfolio, or to fund new business initiatives. We regularly review potential investments and acquisitions, some of which may be material, that, if consummated, would expand our existing business or result in new lines of business, and at any given time we may be in discussions concerning possible transactions. We continually evaluate opportunities based upon market conditions to further increase our financial flexibility through the issuance of equity or debt, or other options including reinsurance or credit risk transfer transactions. There can be no guarantee that any such opportunities will be available on acceptable terms or at all.

At the operating subsidiary level, liquidity could be impacted by any one of the following factors:

- significant decline in the value of our investments;
- inability to sell investment assets to provide cash to fund operating needs;
- decline in expected revenues generated from operations;
- increase in expected claim payments related to our mortgage insurance or title insurance portfolios; or
- increase in operating expenses.

Our U.S. insurance subsidiaries are subject to certain capital and dividend rules and regulations prescribed by jurisdictions in which they are authorized to operate and, in the case of Essent Guaranty, the GSEs. Under the insurance laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, our insurance subsidiaries may pay dividends during any twelve-month period in an amount equal to the greater of (i) 10% of the preceding year-end statutory policyholders' surplus or (ii) the preceding year's statutory net income. The Pennsylvania statute also requires that, without the prior approval of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department, dividends and other distributions may only be paid out of positive unassigned surplus. At December 31, 2025, Essent Guaranty, had unassigned surplus of approximately \$245.8 million. As of January 1, 2026, Essent Guaranty has dividend capacity of \$245.8 million.

Essent Re is subject to certain dividend restrictions as prescribed by the Bermuda Monetary Authority and under certain agreements with counterparties. Class 3B insurers must obtain the BMA's prior approval for a reduction by 15% or more of total statutory capital or for a reduction by 25% or more of total statutory capital and surplus as set forth in its previous year's statutory financial statements. In connection with a quota share reinsurance agreement with Essent Guaranty, Essent Re has agreed to maintain a minimum total equity of \$100 million. As of December 31, 2025, Essent Re had total equity of \$1.7 billion. In connection with its insurance and reinsurance activities, Essent Re is required to maintain assets in trusts for the benefit of its contractual counterparties. See Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements. As of January 1, 2026, Essent Re has dividend capacity of \$423.0 million.

At December 31, 2025, our insurance subsidiaries were in compliance with these rules, regulations and agreements.

Cash Flows

The following table summarizes our consolidated cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities:

(In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 856,053	\$ 861,532	\$ 763,001
Net cash used in investing activities	(154,738)	(706,926)	(525,569)
Net cash used in financing activities	(709,746)	(164,913)	(176,885)
Net (decrease) increase in cash	\$ (8,431)	\$ (10,307)	\$ 60,547

Operating Activities

Cash flow provided by operating activities totaled \$856.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2025, as compared to \$861.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2024 and \$763.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2023. The decrease in cash flow from operations of \$5.5 million in 2025 compared to 2024 was primarily due to an increase in claims paid during 2025 compared to 2024, partially offset by increases in net premiums written and net investment income. The increase in cash flow from operations of \$98.5 million in 2024 compared to 2023 was primarily due to increases in net premiums written and investment income and a decrease in income tax and interest payments, partially offset by an increase in operating expenses paid in the year ended December 31, 2024.

Investing Activities

Cash flow used in investing activities totaled \$154.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2025, \$706.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2024 and \$525.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2023. Cash used in investing activities primarily related to investing cash flows from the operations of the business in each of the periods presented. Cash flows used in investing activities decreased in 2025 compared to 2024 due to the increase in cash flows used in financing activities in 2025 resulting from increased repurchases of common shares.

Financing Activities

Cash flow used in financing activities totaled \$709.7 million, \$164.9 million and \$176.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023, respectively. In each year, cash flows used in financing activities primarily related to the repurchases of common shares as part of our share repurchase plans, quarterly cash dividends paid and treasury stock acquired from employees to satisfy tax withholding obligations. Cash flow from financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2024 also included cash inflow from the issuance of Senior Notes, partially offset by cash outflows associated with the repayment of the term loan portion of the Existing Credit Facility, as well as the payment of debt issuance costs.

Insurance Company Capital

We compute a risk-to-capital ratio for our U.S. mortgage insurance companies on a separate company statutory basis, as well as for our combined insurance operations. The risk-to-capital ratio is our net risk in force divided by our statutory capital. Our net risk in force represents risk in force net of reinsurance ceded, if any, and net of exposures on policies for which loss reserves have been established. Statutory capital consists primarily of statutory policyholders' surplus (which increases as a result of statutory net income and decreases as a result of statutory net loss and dividends paid), plus the statutory contingency reserve. The statutory contingency reserve is reported as a liability on the statutory balance sheet. A mortgage insurance company is required to make annual contributions to the contingency reserve of 50% of net premiums earned. These contributions must generally be maintained for a period of ten years. However, with regulatory approval, a mortgage insurance company may make early withdrawals from the contingency reserve when incurred losses exceed 35% of net premiums earned in a calendar year.

During the year ended December 31, 2025, no capital contributions were made to our U.S. mortgage insurance subsidiaries and Essent Guaranty paid dividends to Essent US Holdings, Inc. totaling \$495.0 million. During the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024, Essent US Holdings made capital contributions totaling \$3.2 million and \$24.5 million to its title insurance subsidiary, respectively. Prior to December 31, 2024, Essent Guaranty reinsured that portion of the risk that is in excess of 25% of the mortgage balance with respect to any loan insured prior to April 1, 2019, after consideration of other reinsurance, to Essent Guaranty of PA, Inc. On December 31, 2024, Essent Guaranty and Essent PA entered into a commutation and release agreement in which all outstanding risk in force assumed by Essent PA was commuted back to Essent Guaranty in exchange for cash. Upon the commutation and release, Essent PA surrendered its insurance license and is no longer an insurance subsidiary of Essent Group Ltd. as of December 31, 2024.

Essent Guaranty has entered into reinsurance agreements that provide excess of loss reinsurance coverage for new defaults on portfolios of mortgage insurance policies issued from January 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019 and August 1, 2020 through December 31, 2025. The aggregate excess of loss reinsurance coverages decrease over a ten-year period as the underlying covered mortgages amortize.

Essent Guaranty has entered into quota share reinsurance agreements with panels of third-party reinsurers ("QSR" agreements). Each of the third-party reinsurers has an insurer minimum financial strength rating of A- or better by S&P Global Ratings, A.M. Best or both. Under each QSR agreement, Essent Guaranty will cede premiums earned on a percentage of risk on all eligible policies written during a specified period, in exchange for reimbursement of ceded claims and claims expenses on covered policies, a specified ceding commission, as well as a profit commission that varies directly and inversely with ceded claims. These reinsurance coverages also reduce net risk in force and PMIERS Minimum Required Assets. See Note 5 to our consolidated financial statements.

The following tables summarizes Essent Guaranty's QSR agreements as of December 31, 2025:

QSR Agreement	Eligible Policy Period	Ceding Percentage
QSR-2019	September 1, 2019 - December 31, 2020	(1)
QSR-2022	January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022	20%
QSR-2023	January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023	17.5%
QSR-2024	January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024	15%
QSR-2025	January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025	25%

(1) Under QSR-2019, Essent Guaranty cedes 36% of premiums on singles policies and 18% on all other policies.

During 2025, Essent Guaranty entered into a forward quota share agreement with highly rated third-party reinsurers ceding 25% of the risk on all eligible policies written by Essent Guaranty in calendar year 2026.

During the fourth quarter of 2025, Essent Guaranty entered into a forward quota share agreement with highly rated third-party reinsurers ceding 20% of the risk on all eligible policies written by Essent Guaranty in calendar year 2027.

Our risk-to-capital calculation for Essent Guaranty as of December 31, 2025 was as follows:

**Statutory capital:
(\$ in thousands)**

Policyholders' surplus	\$ 951,100
Contingency reserves	2,621,787
Statutory capital	\$ 3,572,887
Net risk in force	\$ 32,486,788
Risk-to-capital ratio	9.1:1

For additional information regarding regulatory capital see Note 16 to our consolidated financial statements. The information above has been derived from the annual and quarterly statements of Essent Guaranty, which have been prepared in conformity with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners Accounting Practices and Procedures Manual. Such practices vary from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Essent Re has entered into GSE and other risk share transactions, including insurance and reinsurance transactions with Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. Essent Guaranty also reinsures new insurance written ("NIW") to Essent Re. The following table summarizes the quota share reinsurance coverage that Essent Re has provided to Essent Guaranty for the respective NIW periods:

NIW Period	Ceding Percentage
January 1, 2025 to Present	50%
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024	35%
Prior to January 1, 2021	25%

During the year ended December 31, 2025 Essent Re paid dividends totaling \$440 million to Essent Group. During the year ended December 31, 2024, Essent Re paid \$300 million in dividends to Essent Group. As of December 31, 2025, Essent Re had total stockholders' equity of \$1.7 billion and net risk in force of \$25.9 billion.

Financial Strength Ratings

The insurer financial strength ratings of Essent Guaranty, our principal mortgage insurance subsidiary, are A2 with a stable outlook by Moody's, A- with a stable outlook by S&P and A (Excellent) with a stable outlook by A.M. Best. The insurer financial strength ratings of Essent Re are A- with a stable outlook by S&P and A (Excellent) with a stable outlook by A.M. Best.

Private Mortgage Insurer Eligibility Requirements

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, maintain coordinated Private Mortgage Insurer Eligibility Requirements (PMIERs). The PMIERs represent the standards by which private mortgage insurers are eligible to provide mortgage insurance on loans owned

or guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The PMIERS include financial strength requirements incorporating a risk-based framework that require approved insurers to have a sufficient level of liquid assets from which to pay claims. This risk-based framework provides that an insurer must hold a substantially higher level of required assets for insured loans that are in default compared to a performing loan. The PMIERS also include enhanced operational performance expectations and define remedial actions that apply should an approved insurer fail to comply with these requirements. As of December 31, 2025, Essent Guaranty, our GSE-approved mortgage insurance company, was in compliance with the PMIERS. As of December 31, 2025, Essent Guaranty's Available Assets were \$3.5 billion or 169% of its \$2.1 billion of Minimum Required Assets based on our interpretation of the PMIERS.

Under PMIERS guidance issued by the GSEs effective June 30, 2020, Essent will apply a 0.30 multiplier to the risk-based required asset amount factor for each insured loan in default backed by a property located in a FEMA Declared Major Disaster Area eligible for Individual Assistance and that either (1) is subject to a forbearance plan granted in response to a FEMA Declared Major Disaster, the terms of which are materially consistent with terms of forbearance plans, repayment plans or loan modification trial period offered by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, or (2) has an initial missed payment occurring up to either (i) 30 days prior to the first day of the incident period specified in the FEMA Major Disaster Declaration or (ii) 90 days following the last day of the incident period specified in the FEMA Major Disaster Declaration, not to exceed 180 days from the first day of the incident period specified in the FEMA Major Disaster Declaration. In the case of the foregoing, the 0.30 multiplier shall be applied to the risk-based required asset amount factor for a non-performing primary mortgage guaranty insurance loan for no longer than three calendar months beginning with the month the loan becomes a non-performing primary mortgage guaranty insurance loan by reaching two missed monthly payments absent a forbearance plan described in (1) above.

In August 2024, the GSEs issued updates to the PMIERS calculation of Available Assets. The updated PMIERS Available Asset requirements are subject to a phased-in implementation beginning with the quarter ending March 31, 2025, and will become fully effective on September 30, 2026. Essent expects to remain in full compliance with the PMIERS requirements.

Financial Condition

Stockholders' Equity

As of December 31, 2025, stockholders' equity was \$5.8 billion compared to \$5.6 billion as of December 31, 2024. Stockholders' equity increased primarily due to net income generated in 2025 and a decrease in accumulated other comprehensive loss related to a decrease in our net unrealized investment losses, partially offset by dividends paid and the repurchase of common shares under our share repurchase plan.

Investments

As of December 31, 2025, investments totaled \$6.5 billion compared to \$6.2 billion as of December 31, 2024. In addition, our total cash was \$123.0 million as of December 31, 2025, compared to \$131.5 million as of December 31, 2024. The increase in investments was primarily due to investing net cash flows from operations during the year ended December 31, 2025 as well as a decrease in our net unrealized investment losses.

Investments Available for Sale by Asset Class

Asset Class (\$ in thousands)	December 31, 2025		December 31, 2024	
	Fair Value	Percent	Fair Value	Percent
U.S. Treasury securities	\$ 369,712	6.1%	\$ 547,290	9.3%
U.S. agency mortgage-backed securities	1,174,895	19.2%	1,125,436	19.2%
Municipal debt securities(1)	610,411	10.0%	583,501	9.9%
Non-U.S. government securities	56,024	0.9%	69,798	1.2%
Corporate debt securities(2)	1,980,080	32.5%	1,783,046	30.3%
Residential and commercial mortgage securities	464,105	7.6%	478,086	8.1%
Asset-backed securities	800,366	13.1%	631,959	10.8%
Money market funds	648,492	10.6%	657,605	11.2%
Total Investments Available for Sale	\$ 6,104,085	100.0%	\$ 5,876,721	100.0%

(1) The following table summarizes municipal debt securities as of :	December 31, 2025	December 31, 2024
Special revenue bonds	81.2%	83.3%
General obligation bonds	18.8	16.7
Total	100.0%	100.0%

(2) The following table summarizes corporate debt securities as of :	December 31, 2025	December 31, 2024
Financial	40.9 %	41.8 %
Consumer, Non-Cyclical	18.1	15.1
Industrial	9.0	8.2
Utilities	7.9	8.7
Technology	6.1	6.4
Consumer, Cyclical	6.0	6.3
Communications	4.7	5.7
Energy	4.7	5.1
Basic Materials	2.6	2.7
Total	100.0 %	100.0 %

Rating(1) (\$ in thousands)	Investments Available for Sale by Rating			
	December 31, 2025		December 31, 2024	
	Fair Value	Percent	Fair Value	Percent
Aaa	\$ 846,230	15.5%	\$ 2,513,014	48.1%
Aa1	1,799,508	32.9	101,809	2.0
Aa2	300,026	5.5	301,080	5.8
Aa3	319,848	5.9	271,069	5.2
A1	545,918	10.0	511,076	9.8
A2	511,146	9.4	411,999	7.9
A3	494,434	9.1	463,616	8.8
Baa1	244,424	4.5	218,454	4.2
Baa2	208,247	3.8	198,193	3.8
Baa3	122,596	2.2	151,729	2.9
Below Baa3	63,216	1.2	77,077	1.5
Total (2)	\$ 5,455,593	100.0%	\$ 5,219,116	100.0%

(1) Based on ratings issued by Moody's, if available. S&P or Fitch Ratings ("Fitch") rating utilized if Moody's not available.

(2) Excludes \$648,492 and \$657,605 of money market funds at December 31, 2025 and December 31, 2024, respectively.

Effective Duration (\$ in thousands)	Investments Available for Sale by Effective Duration			
	December 31, 2025		December 31, 2024	
	Fair Value	Percent	Fair Value	Percent
< 1 Year	\$ 1,549,327	25.4%	\$ 1,587,022	26.9%
1 to < 2 Years	527,914	8.6	544,630	9.3
2 to < 3 Years	532,211	8.7	473,301	8.1
3 to < 4 Years	571,255	9.4	445,614	7.6
4 to < 5 Years	536,135	8.8	546,414	9.3
5 or more Years	2,387,243	39.1	2,279,740	38.8
Total Investments Available for Sale	\$ 6,104,085	100.0%	\$ 5,876,721	100.0%

Material Cash Requirement from Known Contractual and Other Obligations

As of December 31, 2025, the approximate future cash requirements from known contractual and other obligations of the type described in the table below are as follows:

(\$ in thousands)	Payments due by period				
	Total	Less than 1 year	1 - 3 years	3 - 5 years	More than 5 years
Senior notes	\$ 500,000	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 500,000	\$ —
Estimated loss and LAE payments (1)	446,822	71,732	343,666	31,192	232
Operating lease obligations	44,734	5,977	11,186	10,157	17,414
Unfunded investment commitments (2)	125,931	125,931	—	—	—
Total	\$ 1,117,487	\$ 203,640	\$ 354,852	\$ 541,349	\$ 17,646

(1) Our estimate of loss and LAE payments reflects the application of accounting policies described below in "—Critical Accounting Policies—Reserve for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses." The payments due by period are based on management's estimates and assume that all of the loss and LAE reserves included in the table will result in payments.

(2) Unfunded investment commitments are callable by our investment counterparties. We have assumed that these investments will be funded in the next year but the funding may occur over a longer period of time, due to market conditions and other factors.

We lease office space in Pennsylvania, Missouri, North Carolina, New York, Virginia and Bermuda under leases accounted for as operating leases. Minimum lease payments shown above have not been reduced by minimum sublease rental income of \$0.1 million due in 2026 under the non-cancelable sublease.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

Essent Guaranty has entered into fully collateralized reinsurance agreements ("Radnor Re Transactions") with unaffiliated special purpose insurers domiciled in Bermuda. The Radnor Re special purpose insurers are special purpose variable interest entities that are not consolidated in our consolidated financial statements because we do not have the unilateral power to direct those activities that are significant to their economic performance. As of December 31, 2025, our estimated off-balance sheet maximum exposure to loss from the Radnor Re entities was \$0.1 million, representing the estimated net present value of investment earnings on the assets in the reinsurance trusts. See Note 5 to our consolidated financial statements for additional information.

Critical Accounting Policies

Our discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operation are based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). In preparing our consolidated financial statements, management has made estimates, assumptions and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. In preparing these financial statements, management has utilized available information, including our past history, industry standards and the current and projected economic and housing environment, among other factors, in forming its estimates, assumptions and judgments, giving due consideration to materiality. Because the use of estimates is inherent in GAAP, actual results could differ from those estimates. In addition, other companies may utilize different estimates, which may impact comparability of our results of operations to those of companies in similar businesses. A summary of the accounting policies that management believes are critical to the preparation of our consolidated financial statements is set forth below.

Mortgage Insurance Premium Revenue Recognition

Mortgage guaranty insurance policies are contracts that are generally non-cancelable by the insurer, are renewable at a fixed price, and provide for payment of premium on a monthly, annual or single basis. Upon renewal, we are not able to re-underwrite or re-price our policies. Consistent with industry accounting practices, premiums written on a monthly basis are earned as coverage is provided. Premiums written on an annual basis are amortized on a pro rata basis over the year of coverage. Primary mortgage insurance written on policies covering more than one year are referred to as single premium policies. A portion of the revenue from single premium policies is recognized in earned premium in the current period, and the remaining portion is deferred as unearned premium and earned over the expected life of the policy. If single premium policies related to insured loans are cancelled due to repayment by the borrower, and the premium is non-refundable, then the remaining unearned premium related to each cancelled policy is recognized as earned premium upon notification of the cancellation. Unearned premium represents the portion of premium written that is applicable to the estimated unexpired risk of insured loans. Rates used to determine the earning of single premium policies are estimates based on an analysis of the expiration of risk.

Reserve for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses

We establish reserves for losses based on our best estimate of ultimate claim costs for defaulted loans using the general principles contained in ASC No. 944, in accordance with industry practice. However, consistent with industry standards for mortgage insurers, we do not establish loss reserves for future claims on insured loans which are not currently in default. Loans are classified as defaulted when the borrower has missed two consecutive payments. Once we are notified that a borrower has defaulted, we will consider internal and third-party information and models, including the status of the loan as reported by its servicer and the type of loan product to determine the likelihood that a default will reach claim status. In addition, we will project the amount that we will pay if a default becomes a claim (referred to as "claim severity"). Based on this information, at each reporting date we determine our best estimate of loss reserves at a given point in time. Included in loss reserves are reserves for incurred but not reported ("IBNR") claims. IBNR reserves represent our estimated unpaid losses on loans that are in default, but have not yet been reported to us as delinquent by our customers. We will also establish reserves for associated loss adjustment expenses, consisting of the estimated cost of the claims administration process, including legal and other fees and expenses associated with administering the claims process. Establishing reserves is inherently subjective as it requires estimates that are susceptible to significant revision as more information becomes available. Our estimates of claim rates and claim sizes will be strongly influenced by prevailing economic conditions, such as the overall state of the economy, current rates or trends in unemployment, changes in housing values and/or interest rates, and our best judgments as to the future values or trends of these macroeconomic factors. Losses incurred are also generally affected by the characteristics of our insured loans, such as the loan amount, loan-to-value ratio, the percentage of coverage on the insured loan and the credit quality of the

borrower. See "Results of Operations: Mortgage Insurance - Provision for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses" for a discussion of this estimate and Note 6 to our consolidated financial statements a sensitivity of the key assumption for this estimate.

Income Taxes

Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are determined using the asset and liability (or balance sheet) method. Under this method, we determine the net deferred tax asset or liability based on the tax effects of the temporary differences between the book and tax bases of the various assets and liabilities and give current recognition to changes in tax rates and laws. Changes in tax laws, rates, regulations and policies, or the final determination of tax audits or examinations, could materially affect our tax estimates. We evaluate the realizability of the deferred tax asset and recognize a valuation allowance if, based on the weight of all available positive and negative evidence, it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax asset will not be realized. When evaluating the realizability of the deferred tax asset, we consider estimates of expected future taxable income, existing and projected book/tax differences, carryback and carryforward periods, tax planning strategies available, and the general and industry specific economic outlook. This realizability analysis is inherently subjective, as it requires management to forecast changes in the mortgage market, as well as the related impact on mortgage insurance, and the competitive and general economic environment in future periods. Changes in the estimate of deferred tax asset realizability, if applicable, are included in income tax expense on the consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

ASC No. 740 provides a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. In accordance with ASC No. 740, before a tax benefit can be recognized, a tax position is evaluated using a threshold that it is more likely than not that the tax position will be sustained upon examination. When evaluating the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold, ASC No. 740 provides that a company should presume the tax position will be examined by the appropriate taxing authority that has full knowledge of all relevant information. If the tax position meets the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold, it is initially and subsequently measured as the largest amount of benefit that is greater than 50% likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement. This analysis is inherently subjective, as it requires management to forecast the outcome of future tax examinations and the amount of tax benefits that will ultimately be realized given the facts, circumstances, and information available at the reporting date. New information may become available in future periods that could cause the actual amount of tax benefits to vary from management's estimates.

Investments

Our fixed maturity and short-term investments are classified as available for sale and are reported at fair value. The related unrealized gains or losses are, after considering the related tax expense or benefit, recognized as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) in stockholders' equity. Realized investment gains and losses are reported in income based upon specific identification of securities sold. Each quarter we perform reviews of all of our investments in order to determine whether declines in fair value below amortized cost were as a result of credit losses in accordance with applicable guidance. We determine whether a credit loss exists by considering information about the collectability of the instrument, current market conditions, and reasonable and supportable forecasts of economic conditions. We recognize an allowance for credit losses, up to the amount of the impairment when appropriate, and write down the amortized cost basis of the investment if it is more likely than not we will be required or we intend to sell the investment before recovery of its amortized cost basis. Under the previous other-than-temporary impairment model for available-for-sale investment securities, a security impairment was deemed other-than-temporary if we either intend to sell the security, or it was more likely than not that we would be required to sell the security before recovery or we did not expect to collect cash flows sufficient to recover the amortized cost basis of the security. During the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023, the unrealized losses recorded in the investment portfolio principally resulted from fluctuations in market interest rates and credit spreads. Each issuer was current on its scheduled interest and principal payments. We recorded impairments of \$0.0 million, \$0.5 million and \$0.2 million in the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024, and 2023, respectively. The impairments resulted from our intent to sell these securities subsequent to the reporting date.

For information on our material holdings in an unrealized loss position, see "—Financial Condition—Investments."

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

There are no recently issued accounting standards that are expected to have a material effect on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows. See Note 2 of our consolidated financial statements.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We own and manage a large investment portfolio of various holdings, types and maturities. Investment income is one of our primary sources of cash flow supporting operations and claim payments. The assets within the investment portfolio are exposed to the same factors that affect overall financial market performance. While our investment portfolio is exposed to factors affecting markets worldwide, it is most sensitive to fluctuations in the drivers of U.S. markets.

We manage market risk via a defined investment policy implemented by our treasury function with oversight from our board of directors and our senior management. Important drivers of our market risk exposure monitored and managed by us include but are not limited to:

- *Changes to the level of interest rates.* Increasing interest rates may reduce the value of certain fixed-rate bonds held in the investment portfolio. Higher rates may cause variable-rate assets to generate additional income. Decreasing rates will have the reverse impact. Significant changes in interest rates can also affect persistency and claim rates which may in turn require that the investment portfolio be restructured to better align it with future liabilities and claim payments. Such restructuring may cause investments to be liquidated when market conditions are adverse.
- *Changes to the term structure of interest rates.* Rising or falling rates typically change by different amounts along the yield curve. These changes may have unforeseen impacts on the value of certain assets.
- *Market volatility/changes in the real or perceived credit quality of investments.* Deterioration in the quality of investments, identified through changes to our own or third-party (e.g., rating agency) assessments, will reduce the value and potentially the liquidity of investments.
- *Concentration Risk.* If the investment portfolio is highly concentrated in one asset, or in multiple assets whose values are highly correlated, the value of the total portfolio may be greatly affected by the change in value of just one asset or a group of highly correlated assets.
- *Prepayment Risk.* Bonds may have call provisions that permit debtors to repay prior to maturity when it is to their advantage. This typically occurs when rates fall below the interest rate of the debt.

Market risk is measured for all investment assets at the individual security level. Market risks that are not fully captured by the quantitative analysis are highlighted. In addition, material market risk changes that occur from the last reporting period to the current are discussed. Changes to how risks are managed will also be identified and described.

At December 31, 2025, the effective duration of our investments available for sale was 4.0 years, which means that an instantaneous parallel shift (movement up or down) in the yield curve of 100 basis points would result in a change of 4.0% in fair value of our investments available for sale. Excluding short-term investments, our investments available for sale effective duration was 4.4 years, which means that an instantaneous parallel shift (movement up or down) in the yield curve of 100 basis points would result in a change of 4.4% in fair value of our investments available for sale.

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of Essent Group Ltd.

Opinions on the Financial Statements and Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Essent Group Ltd. and its subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the related consolidated statements of comprehensive income, of changes in stockholders' equity and of cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2025, including the related notes and financial statement schedules listed in the accompanying index (collectively referred to as the "consolidated financial statements"). We also have audited the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2025, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO).

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2025 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2025, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the COSO.

Basis for Opinions

The Company's management is responsible for these consolidated financial statements, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting appearing under Item 9A. Our responsibility is to express opinions on the Company's consolidated financial statements and on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud, and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects.

Our audits of the consolidated financial statements included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

Definition and Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

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

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

Critical Audit Matters

The critical audit matter communicated below is a matter arising from the current period audit of the consolidated financial statements that was communicated or required to be communicated to the audit committee and that (i) relates to accounts or disclosures that are material to the consolidated financial statements and (ii) involved our especially challenging, subjective, or complex judgments. The communication of critical audit matters does not alter in any way our opinion on the consolidated financial statements, taken as a whole, and we are not, by communicating the critical audit matter below, providing a separate opinion on the critical audit matter or on the accounts or disclosures to which it relates.

Valuation of the Mortgage Insurance Reserve for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses

As described in Note 6 to the consolidated financial statements, the mortgage insurance reserve for losses and loss adjustment expenses makes up a significant portion of the total recorded reserve for losses and loss adjustment expenses of \$447 million as of December 31, 2025, and is based on management's best estimate of ultimate claim costs for defaulted loans. Upon notification that a borrower has defaulted, management considers internal and third-party information and models to determine the likelihood that a default will reach claim status and projects the amount that the Company will pay if a default becomes a claim. Management's estimates of claim rates and claim sizes will be influenced by prevailing economic conditions, such as the overall state of the economy, current rates or trends in unemployment, changes in housing values and/or interest rates, and management's best judgments as to the future values or trends of these macroeconomic factors. Losses incurred are also generally affected by the characteristics of the Company's insured loans, such as the loan amount, loan-to-value ratio, the percentage of coverage on the insured loan and the credit quality of the borrower.

The principal considerations for our determination that performing procedures relating to the valuation of the reserve for losses and loss adjustment expenses is a critical audit matter are (i) the significant judgment by management when developing their estimate, which in turn led to a high degree of auditor judgment, subjectivity, and effort in performing procedures and evaluating the audit evidence related to management's estimates of claim rates and claim sizes, including management's assumptions related to the macroeconomic factors and their assessment of the relevance of internal and third-party historical default data and (ii) the audit effort included the involvement of professionals with specialized skill and knowledge.

Addressing the matter involved performing procedures and evaluating audit evidence in connection with forming our overall opinion on the consolidated financial statements. These procedures included testing the effectiveness of controls relating to the Company's valuation of the reserve for losses and loss adjustment expenses, including controls over the development of significant assumptions. These procedures also included, among others, the involvement of professionals with specialized skill and knowledge to assist in developing an independent estimate of the reserve for losses and loss adjustment expenses using Company and historical mortgage insurance industry data and comparing this independent estimate to management's recorded reserve. Developing the independent estimate involved independently estimating claim rates and claim sizes, testing the completeness and accuracy of data provided by management, and evaluating the reasonableness of management's assumptions related to macroeconomic factors based on broader sector experience and management's assessment of internal and third-party historical default data.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

February 18, 2026

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2009.

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Balance Sheets

(In thousands, except per share amounts)	December 31,	
	2025	2024
Assets		
Investments		
Fixed maturities available for sale, at fair value (amortized cost: 2025 — \$5,631,201; 2024 — \$5,467,238)	\$ 5,455,593	\$ 5,112,697
Short-term investments available for sale, at fair value (amortized cost: 2025 — \$648,492; 2024 — \$763,780)	648,492	764,024
Total investments available for sale	6,104,085	5,876,721
Other invested assets	382,513	303,900
Total investments	6,486,598	6,180,621
Cash	123,049	131,480
Accrued investment income	47,371	43,732
Accounts receivable	51,267	55,564
Deferred policy acquisition costs	9,547	9,653
Property, equipment and software (at cost, less accumulated depreciation of \$71,466 in 2025 and \$72,270 in 2024)	49,189	41,871
Prepaid federal income tax	513,425	489,600
Goodwill and acquired intangible assets, net	78,153	79,556
Other assets	82,404	79,572
Total assets	\$ 7,441,003	\$ 7,111,649
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity		
Liabilities		
Reserve for losses and LAE	\$ 446,822	\$ 328,866
Unearned premium reserve	91,730	115,983
Net deferred tax liability	465,351	392,428
Senior notes due 2029, net	495,301	493,959
Other accrued liabilities	185,072	176,755
Total liabilities	1,684,276	1,507,991
Commitments and contingencies (see Note 8)		
Stockholders' Equity		
Common shares, \$0.015 par value:		
Authorized - 233,333; issued and outstanding - 95,456 shares in 2025 and 105,015 shares in 2024	1,432	1,575
Additional paid-in capital	649,895	1,214,956
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	(151,985)	(303,984)
Retained earnings	5,257,385	4,691,111
Total stockholders' equity	5,756,727	5,603,658
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 7,441,003	\$ 7,111,649

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

(In thousands, except per share amounts)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Revenues:			
Net premiums written	\$ 959,464	\$ 966,580	\$ 894,282
Decrease in unearned premiums	24,254	24,302	22,624
Net premiums earned	983,718	990,882	916,906
Net investment income	236,517	222,070	186,139
Realized investment gains (losses), net	(923)	(2,350)	(7,204)
Income (loss) from other invested assets	17,586	7,375	(11,118)
Other income	24,037	24,927	25,036
Total revenues	1,260,935	1,242,904	1,109,759
Losses and expenses:			
Provision for losses and LAE	149,337	81,220	31,542
Other underwriting and operating expenses	257,040	270,874	225,081
Interest expense	32,696	35,319	30,137
Total losses and expenses	439,073	387,413	286,760
Income before income taxes	821,862	855,491	822,999
Income tax expense	131,893	126,088	126,613
Net income	\$ 689,969	\$ 729,403	\$ 696,386
Earnings per share:			
Basic	\$ 6.97	\$ 6.92	\$ 6.56
Diluted	6.90	6.85	6.50
Weighted average shares outstanding:			
Basic	98,999	105,394	106,222
Diluted	100,023	106,550	107,129
Net income	\$ 689,969	\$ 729,403	\$ 696,386
Other comprehensive income (loss):			
Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments, net of tax expense (benefit) of \$26,691 in 2025, \$(7,818) in 2024 and \$17,944 in 2023	151,999	(23,488)	102,294
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	151,999	(23,488)	102,294
Comprehensive income	\$ 841,968	\$ 705,915	\$ 798,680

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity

(In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Common Shares			
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,599	\$ 1,615
Issuance of management incentive shares	8	8	9
Forfeiture of management incentive shares	(1)	(1)	—
Cancellation of treasury stock	(150)	(31)	(25)
Balance, end of year	1,432	1,575	1,599
Additional Paid-In Capital			
Balance, beginning of year	1,214,956	1,299,869	1,350,377
Dividends and dividend equivalents declared	1,628	1,828	1,700
Issuance of management incentive shares	(8)	(8)	(9)
Forfeiture of management incentive shares	1	1	—
Stock-based compensation expense	20,847	24,778	18,446
Cancellation of treasury stock	(587,529)	(111,512)	(70,645)
Balance, end of year	649,895	1,214,956	1,299,869
Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)			
Balance, beginning of year	(303,984)	(280,496)	(382,790)
Other comprehensive income (loss)	151,999	(23,488)	102,294
Balance, end of year	(151,985)	(303,984)	(280,496)
Retained Earnings			
Balance, beginning of year	4,691,111	4,081,578	3,493,107
Net income	689,969	729,403	696,386
Dividends and dividend equivalents declared	(123,695)	(119,870)	(107,915)
Balance, end of year	5,257,385	4,691,111	4,081,578
Treasury Stock			
Balance, beginning of year	—	—	—
Treasury stock acquired	(587,679)	(111,543)	(70,670)
Cancellation of treasury stock	587,679	111,543	70,670
Balance, end of year	—	—	—
Total Stockholders' Equity	\$ 5,756,727	\$ 5,603,658	\$ 5,102,550

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Operating Activities			
Net income	\$ 689,969	\$ 729,403	\$ 696,386
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Realized investment losses, net	923	2,350	7,204
(Income) loss from other invested assets	(17,586)	(7,375)	11,118
Distribution of income from other invested assets	12,700	13,843	7,440
Depreciation and amortization	5,233	5,783	4,525
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	68	—	—
Stock-based compensation expense	20,847	24,778	18,446
Amortization of premium on investment securities	14,378	20,231	14,899
Deferred income tax provision (benefit)	48,600	32,174	(13,246)
Change in:			
Accrued investment income	(3,639)	(8,043)	(2,527)
Accounts receivable	4,420	7,466	(2,070)
Deferred policy acquisition costs	106	(515)	771
Prepaid federal income tax	(23,825)	(18,954)	(52,186)
Other assets	(10,723)	(18,653)	62,976
Reserve for losses and LAE	117,956	68,772	29,017
Unearned premium reserve	(24,254)	(24,302)	(22,624)
Other accrued liabilities	20,880	34,574	2,872
Net cash provided by operating activities	856,053	861,532	763,001
Investing Activities			
Net change in short-term investments	115,532	164,707	(655,596)
Purchase of investments available for sale	(1,120,438)	(1,648,433)	(1,116,120)
Proceeds from maturities and paydowns of investments available for sale	831,437	411,635	664,239
Proceeds from sales of investments available for sale	99,823	415,074	707,544
Purchase of other invested assets	(77,808)	(39,062)	(40,038)
Return of investment from other invested assets	4,080	5,919	5,165
Net cash paid in acquisition	—	—	(86,761)
Purchase of intangible assets	—	(10,000)	—
Purchases of property and equipment and capitalization of internal-use software	(7,364)	(6,766)	(4,002)
Net cash used in investing activities	(154,738)	(706,926)	(525,569)
Financing Activities			
Issuance of senior notes	—	498,160	—
Credit facility repayments	—	(425,000)	—
Treasury stock acquired	(587,679)	(111,543)	(70,670)
Payment of debt issuance costs	—	(8,488)	—
Dividends paid	(122,067)	(118,042)	(106,215)
Net cash used in financing activities	(709,746)	(164,913)	(176,885)
Net (decrease) increase in cash	(8,431)	(10,307)	60,547
Cash at beginning of year	131,480	141,787	81,240
Cash at end of year	<u>\$ 123,049</u>	<u>\$ 131,480</u>	<u>\$ 141,787</u>
Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information			
Income tax payments	\$ (91,151)	\$ (92,517)	\$ (139,710)
Interest payments	(31,250)	(17,196)	(28,574)
Noncash Transactions			
Property, equipment, and capitalized internal-use software costs included in other liabilities	\$ 3,563	\$ —	\$ —
Operating lease liabilities arising from obtaining right-of-use assets	4,857	2,066	23,705

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

In these notes to consolidated financial statements, “Essent”, “Company”, “we”, “us”, and “our” refer to Essent Group Ltd. and its subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise requires.

Note 1. Nature of Operations and Basis of Presentation

Essent Group Ltd. (“Essent Group”) is a Bermuda-based holding company, which, through its wholly-owned subsidiaries, offers private mortgage insurance and reinsurance for mortgages secured by residential properties located in the United States. Mortgage insurance facilitates the sale of low down payment (generally less than 20%) mortgage loans into the secondary mortgage market, primarily to two government-sponsored enterprises (“GSEs”), Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

The U.S. mortgage insurance operations are conducted through Essent Guaranty, Inc. (“Essent Guaranty”), which is domiciled in the state of Pennsylvania. Essent Guaranty is headquartered in Radnor, Pennsylvania and maintains an operations center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Essent Guaranty is approved as a qualified mortgage insurer by the GSEs and is licensed to write mortgage insurance in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Essent Guaranty reinsures new insurance written (“NIW”) to Essent Reinsurance Ltd. (“Essent Re”), an affiliated Bermuda domiciled Class 3B Insurer licensed pursuant to Section 4 of the Bermuda Insurance Act 1978 that provides insurance and reinsurance coverage of mortgage credit risk. Essent Re also provides insurance and reinsurance to Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. The following table summarizes the quota share reinsurance coverage that Essent Re has provided to Essent Guaranty for the respective NIW periods:

NIW Period	Ceding Percentage
January 1, 2025 to Present	50%
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2024	35%
Prior to January 1, 2021	25%

In 2016, Essent Re formed Essent Agency (Bermuda) Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary, which provides underwriting consulting services to third-party reinsurers.

Prior to December 31, 2024, Essent Guaranty also reinsured that portion of the risk that is in excess of 25% of the mortgage balance with respect to any loan insured prior to April 1, 2019, after consideration of other reinsurance, to Essent Guaranty of PA, Inc. (“Essent PA”), an affiliate domiciled in the state of Pennsylvania. On December 31, 2024, Essent Guaranty and Essent PA entered into a commutation and release agreement in which all outstanding risk in force assumed by Essent PA was commuted back to Essent Guaranty in exchange for cash. Upon the commutation and release, Essent PA surrendered its insurance license and is no longer an insurance subsidiary of Essent Group Ltd. as of December 31, 2024.

In addition to offering mortgage insurance, we provide contract underwriting services on a limited basis through CUW Solutions, LLC (“CUW Solutions”), a Delaware limited liability company, that provides, among other things, mortgage contract underwriting services to lenders and mortgage insurance underwriting services to affiliates. CUW Solutions is headquartered in Radnor, Pennsylvania and it maintains an operations center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina that is subleased from Essent Guaranty.

As a result of our acquisitions of Agents National Title Insurance Company (renamed Essent Title Insurance, Inc. effective January 1, 2025) and Boston National Holdings LLC on July 1, 2023, we now offer title insurance products and title and settlement services. Our title insurance operations are headquartered in Radnor, Pennsylvania, with additional locations in Columbia, Missouri and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

We have two reportable business segments: Mortgage Insurance and Reinsurance. Our Mortgage Insurance segment offers private mortgage insurance for residential first-lien mortgages secured by residential properties located in the United States through our U.S. mortgage insurance subsidiary, Essent Guaranty, and also offers other credit risk management solutions, including contract underwriting, to our customers. Our Reinsurance segment primarily reinsures U.S. mortgage risk in the GSE credit risk transfer market through our Bermuda-based reinsurance subsidiary, Essent Re, and also provides underwriting consulting services to third-party reinsurers.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") and include the accounts of Essent Group and its consolidated subsidiaries. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Certain amounts in prior years have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investments

Our fixed maturity and short-term investments are classified as available for sale as we may sell securities from time to time to provide liquidity and in response to changes in the market. Debt securities classified as available for sale are reported at fair value with unrealized gains and losses on these securities reported in other comprehensive income, net of deferred income taxes. See Note 15 for a description of the valuation methods for investments available for sale.

We monitor our fixed maturities for unrealized losses that appear to be the result of credit losses. A fixed maturity security is considered to be impaired when the security's fair value is less than its amortized cost basis and 1) we intend to sell the security, 2) it is more likely than not that we will be required to sell the security before recovery of the security's amortized cost basis, or 3) we believe we will be unable to recover the entire amortized cost basis of the security (i.e., a credit loss has occurred). When we determine that a credit loss has been incurred, but we do not intend to sell the security and it is not more likely than not that we will be required to sell the security before recovery of the security's amortized cost basis, the unrealized loss is separated into the portion of the impairment that is credit related and the portion of the impairment that is due to other factors. For those fixed maturities for which a credit loss has occurred, the impairment amount is calculated as the difference between the amortized cost and the present value of future expected cash flows, limited by the amount that the fair value is less than the amortized cost basis. Estimates of expected future cash flows consider among other things, macroeconomic conditions as well as the financial condition, near-term and long-term prospects for the issuer, and the likelihood of the recoverability of principal and interest. Credit losses are recognized through an allowance account subject to reversal. Declines in value attributable to factors other than credit are reported as an unrealized loss in other comprehensive income while the allowance for credit loss is record as a realized loss in the consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

We recognize purchase premiums and discounts in interest income using the interest method over the securities' estimated holding periods, until maturity, or call date, if applicable. Gains and losses on the sales of securities are recorded on the trade date and are determined using the specific identification method.

Short-term investments are defined as short-term, highly liquid investments, both readily convertible to cash and having maturities at acquisition of twelve months or less.

Other invested assets are principally comprised of limited partnership interests which are generally accounted for under the equity method of accounting or fair value using net asset value (or its equivalent) as a practical expedient, with changes in value reported in income from other invested assets. In applying the equity method or fair value using net asset value (or its equivalent) as a practical expedient, these investments are initially recorded at cost and are subsequently adjusted based on the Company's proportionate share of the net income or loss of the partnership or changes in fair value. We have elected to classify distributions received from these investments using the cumulative earnings approach for purposes of classification in the statements of cash flows. Due to the timing of receiving financial information from these partnerships, the results are generally reported on a one month or quarter lag.

Long-Lived Assets

Property, equipment and software are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and amortization. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Repairs and maintenance are charged to expense as incurred. Estimated useful lives are 5 years for furniture and fixtures and 2 to 3 years for equipment, computer hardware and purchased software. Certain costs associated with the acquisition or development of internal-use software are capitalized. Once the software is ready for its intended use, these costs are amortized on a straight-line basis over the software's

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

expected useful life, which is generally 3 years. We amortize leasehold improvements over the shorter of the lives of the leases or estimated service lives of the leasehold improvements. The balances by type were as follows at December 31:

(In thousands)	2025		2024	
	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortization	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation/ Amortization
Furniture and fixtures	\$ 6,277	\$ (2,970)	\$ 5,715	\$ (3,054)
Office equipment	2,095	(1,703)	2,094	(1,327)
Computer hardware	12,517	(12,366)	12,202	(11,873)
Purchased software	44,743	(37,765)	38,028	(37,111)
Costs of internal-use software	14,110	(13,773)	13,785	(13,418)
Leasehold improvements	10,987	(2,889)	12,305	(5,487)
Total	<u>\$ 90,729</u>	<u>\$ (71,466)</u>	<u>\$ 84,129</u>	<u>\$ (72,270)</u>

Deferred Policy Acquisition Costs

We defer certain personnel costs and premium tax expense directly related to the successful acquisition of new insurance policies and amortize these costs over the period the related estimated gross profits are recognized in order to match costs and revenues. We do not defer any underwriting costs associated with our contract underwriting services. Costs related to the acquisition of mortgage insurance business are initially deferred and reported as deferred policy acquisition costs. Consistent with industry accounting practice, amortization of these costs for each underwriting year book of business is recognized in proportion to estimated gross profits. Estimated gross profits are composed of earned premium, interest income, losses and loss adjustment expenses. The deferred costs are adjusted as appropriate for policy cancellations to be consistent with our revenue recognition policy. We estimate the rate of amortization to reflect actual experience and any changes to persistency or loss development. Deferred policy acquisition costs are reviewed periodically to determine that they do not exceed recoverable amounts, after considering investment income. Policy acquisition costs deferred were \$1.6 million, \$2.0 million and \$2.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023, respectively. Amortization of deferred policy acquisition costs totaled \$3.3 million, \$3.7 million and \$4.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023, respectively, and was included in other underwriting and operating expenses on the consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

Goodwill and Acquired Intangible Assets, Net

Goodwill is an asset representing the estimated future economic benefits arising from the assets we have acquired that were not individually identified and separately recognized. Goodwill is deemed to have an indefinite useful life and is subject to review for impairment annually, or more frequently whenever circumstances indicate potential impairment at the reporting unit level. A reporting unit represents a business for which discrete financial information is available. We generally perform our annual goodwill impairment test during the fourth quarter of each year to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying value. An impairment charge is recognized for any excess of the reporting unit's carrying amount over the reporting unit's estimated fair value, up to the full amount of the goodwill allocated to the reporting unit.

The following table shows the rollforward of goodwill for the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023:

(In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Beginning Balance	\$ 48,761	\$ 50,008	\$ —
Goodwill resulting from acquisitions	—	—	38,331
Measurement period adjustments	—	(1,247)	11,677
Impairment charges	—	—	—
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 48,761</u>	<u>\$ 48,761</u>	<u>\$ 50,008</u>

Our acquired intangible assets, other than goodwill, primarily consist of customer relationships and represent the value of the specifically acquired customer relationships. For financial reporting purposes, intangible assets with finite lives are amortized over their applicable estimated useful lives in a manner that approximates the pattern of expected economic benefit from each intangible asset. Other acquired intangible assets also include title plants and records, which are carried at original

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

cost. Such values represent the cost of producing or acquiring interests in title records and indexes and the appraised value of purchased subsidiaries' title records and indexes at dates of acquisition. The cost of maintaining, updating, and operating title records is charged to income as incurred. Title records and indexes are not amortized unless events or circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the capitalized costs may not be recoverable. Title plants and records were \$10 million as of December 31, 2025 and 2024.

The gross carrying amount of our customer relationship intangible assets was \$22.9 million at both December 31, 2025 and 2024 and the accumulated amortization was \$3.5 million and \$2.1 million, respectively.

Insurance Premium Revenue Recognition

Mortgage guaranty insurance policies are contracts that are generally non-cancelable by the insurer, are renewable at a fixed price, and provide for payment of premium on a monthly, annual or single basis. Upon renewal, we are not able to re-underwrite or re-price our policies. Consistent with industry accounting practices, premiums written on a monthly basis are earned as coverage is provided. Monthly policies accounted for approximately 97% of earned premium in 2025. Premiums written on an annual basis are amortized on a pro rata basis over the year of coverage. Primary mortgage insurance written on policies covering more than one year are referred to as single premium policies. A portion of the revenue from single premium policies is recognized in earned premium in the current period, and the remaining portion is deferred as unearned premium and earned over the expected life of the policy. If single premium policies related to insured loans are cancelled due to repayment by the borrower, and the premium is non-refundable, then the remaining unearned premium related to each cancelled policy is recognized as earned premium upon notification of the cancellation. The Company recorded \$4.5 million and \$5.4 million of earned premium related to policy cancellations for the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024, respectively. Unearned premium represents the portion of premium written that is applicable to the estimated unexpired risk of insured loans. Rates used to determine the earning of single premium policies are estimates based on an analysis of the expiration of risk.

Revenues from title policies issued by agents are recorded when notice of issuance is received from the agent, which is generally when cash payment is received by the Company.

A significant portion of our premium revenue relates to master policies with certain lending institutions. For the year ended December 31, 2025 one lender within our Mortgage Insurance segment represented approximately 19% of our total revenue. The loss of this customer could have a significant impact on our revenues and results of operations.

Reserve for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses

We establish mortgage insurance reserves for losses based on our best estimate of ultimate claim costs for defaulted loans using the general principles contained in ASC No. 944, in accordance with industry practice. However, consistent with industry standards for mortgage insurers, we do not establish loss reserves for future claims on insured loans which are not currently in default. Loans are classified as in default when the borrower has missed two consecutive payments. Once we are notified that a borrower has defaulted, we will consider internal and third-party information and models, including the status of the loan as reported by its servicer and the type of loan product to determine the likelihood that a default will reach claim status. In addition, we will project the amount that we will pay if a default becomes a claim (referred to as "claim severity"). Based on this information, at each reporting date we determine our best estimate of loss reserves at a given point in time. Included in loss reserves are reserves for incurred but not reported ("IBNR") claims. IBNR reserves represent our estimated unpaid losses on loans that are in default, but have not yet been reported to us as delinquent by our customers. We will also establish reserves for associated loss adjustment expenses, consisting of the estimated cost of the claims administration process, including legal and other fees and expenses associated with administering the claims process. Establishing reserves is inherently subjective as it requires estimates that are susceptible to significant revision as more information becomes available. Our estimates of claim rates and claim sizes will be strongly influenced by prevailing economic conditions, such as the overall state of the economy, current rates or trends in unemployment, changes in housing values and/or interest rates, and our best judgments as to the future values or trends of these macroeconomic factors. Losses incurred are also generally affected by the characteristics of our insured loans, such as the loan amount, loan-to-value ratio, the percentage of coverage on the insured loan and the credit quality of the borrower.

Our reserve for title insurance claim losses includes reserves for known claims as well as for losses that have been incurred but not yet reported to us ("IBNR"), net of recoupments. We reserve for each known claim based on our review of the estimated amount of the claim and the costs required to settle the claim. Reserves for IBNR claims are estimates that are established at the time the premium revenue is recognized and are based upon historical experience and other factors, including industry trends, claim loss history, legal environment, geographic considerations, and the types of policies written. We also reserve for losses arising from closing and disbursement functions due to fraud or operational error.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

Premium Deficiency Reserve

We are required to establish a premium deficiency reserve if the net present value of the expected future losses and expenses for a particular group of policies exceeds the net present value of expected future premium, anticipated investment income and existing reserves for that specified group of policies. We reassess our expectations for premium, losses and expenses of our mortgage insurance business periodically and update our premium deficiency analysis accordingly. As of December 31, 2025 and 2024, we concluded that no premium deficiency reserve was required to be recorded in the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

Derivative Instruments

Derivative instruments, including embedded derivative instruments, are recognized at fair value in the consolidated balance sheets. The amount of monthly reinsurance premiums ceded under our reinsurance contracts will fluctuate due to changes in one-month SOFR and changes in money market rates. As the reinsurance premium will vary based on changes in these rates, we concluded that these reinsurance agreements contain embedded derivatives that are accounted for separately like freestanding derivatives.

Stock-Based Compensation

We measure the cost of employee services received in exchange for awards of equity instruments at the grant date of the award using a fair value based method. Quoted market prices are used for the valuation of common shares granted that do not contain a market condition under ASC 718. Performance-based share awards granted contain a market condition and are valued based on analysis provided by a third-party valuation firm using a risk neutral simulation and considering the vesting conditions of the grant. We recognize compensation expense on nonvested shares over the vesting period of the award. Excess tax benefits and tax deficiencies associated with share-based payments are recognized as income tax expense or benefit in the income statement and treated as discrete items in the reporting period.

Income Taxes

Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are determined using the asset and liability (balance sheet) method. Under this method, we determine the net deferred tax asset or liability based on the tax effects of the temporary differences between the book and tax bases of the various assets and liabilities and give current recognition to changes in tax rates and laws. Changes in tax laws, rates, regulations and policies, or the final determination of tax audits or examinations, could materially affect our tax estimates. We evaluate the realizability of the deferred tax asset and recognize a valuation allowance if, based on the weight of all available positive and negative evidence, it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax asset will not be realized. When evaluating the realizability of the deferred tax asset, we consider estimates of expected future taxable income, existing and projected book/tax differences, carryback and carryforward periods, tax planning strategies available, and the general and industry specific economic outlook. This realizability analysis is inherently subjective, as it requires management to forecast changes in the mortgage market, as well as the related impact on mortgage insurance, and the competitive and general economic environment in future periods. Changes in the estimate of deferred tax asset realizability, if applicable, are included in income tax expense on the consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

ASC No. 740 provides a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. In accordance with ASC No. 740, before a tax benefit can be recognized, a tax position is evaluated using a threshold that it is more likely than not that the tax position will be sustained upon examination. When evaluating the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold, ASC No. 740 provides that a company should presume the tax position will be examined by the appropriate taxing authority that has full knowledge of all relevant information. If the tax position meets the more-likely-than-not recognition threshold, it is initially and subsequently measured as the largest amount of benefit that is greater than 50% likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement.

As described in Note 12, we purchase non-interest-bearing United States Mortgage Guaranty Tax and Loss Bonds ("T&L Bonds") issued by the Treasury Department. These assets are carried at cost and are reported as prepaid federal income tax on the consolidated balance sheets.

It is our policy to classify interest and penalties as income tax expense and to use the aggregate portfolio approach to release income tax effects from accumulated other comprehensive income.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

Earnings per Share

Basic earnings per common share amounts are calculated based on income available to common stockholders and the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the reporting period. Diluted earnings per common share amounts are calculated based on income available to common stockholders and the weighted average number of common and potential common shares outstanding during the reporting period. Potential common shares, composed of the incremental common shares issuable upon vesting of unvested common shares and common share units, are included in the earnings per share calculation to the extent that they are dilutive.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards*Accounting Standards Adopted During the Period*

In December 2023, the FASB issued ASU 2023-09, Improvements to Income Tax Disclosures. The standard requires disaggregated information about a reporting entity's effective tax rate reconciliation as well as information on income taxes paid, including taxes paid by jurisdiction. The ASU was effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2024. The guidance was applied by the Company on a retrospective basis. The adoption of this ASU did not have a material effect on the Company's consolidated operating results or financial position.

Accounting Standards Not Yet Adopted

In November 2024, the FASB issued ASU No. 2024-03, Income Statement—Reporting Comprehensive Income—Expense Disaggregation Disclosures (Subtopic 220-40): Disaggregation of Income Statement Expenses ("ASU 2024-03") and in January 2025, the FASB issued ASU No. 2025-01, Income Statement—Reporting Comprehensive Income—Expense Disaggregation Disclosures (Subtopic 220-40): Clarifying the Effective Date, which clarified the effective date of ASU 2024-03. ASU 2024-03 will require the Company to disclose the amounts of purchases of inventory, employee compensation, depreciation and intangible asset amortization, as applicable, included in certain expense captions in the Consolidated Statements of Operations, as well as qualitatively describe remaining amounts included in those captions. ASU 2024-03 will also require the Company to disclose both the amount and the Company's definition of selling expenses. The ASU is effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2026 and interim reporting periods within annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2027. The Company is currently evaluating the impact that the ASU will have on our consolidated financial statements.

In September 2025, the FASB issued Accounting Standard Update No. 2025-06, Intangibles - Goodwill and Other - Internal-Use Software (Subtopic 350-40): Targeted Improvements to the Accounting for Internal-Use Software ("ASU 2025-06"). The amendments in ASU 2025-06 clarify and refine the criteria for capitalizing costs related to internal-use software. Under the new guidance, capitalization is permitted when both of the following conditions are met: (i) management has authorized and committed to funding the software project, and (ii) it is probable that the project will be completed and the software will be used to perform the function intended. ASU 2025-06 is effective for fiscal periods beginning after December 15, 2027, and interim periods thereafter. The Company is currently evaluating the impact that the ASU will have on our consolidated financial statements.

In December 2025, the FASB issued ASU 2025-11, "Interim Reporting (Topic 270) Narrow-Scope Improvements." The amendments in this Update clarify interim disclosure requirements and the applicability of Topic 270. The objective of the update is to provide clarity about current interim requirements. The amendments in this update also include a disclosure principle that requires entities to disclose events since the end of the last annual reporting period that have a material impact on the entity. The amendments in this ASU are required to be adopted for interim periods within annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2027. Early adoption is permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact that the ASU will have on our consolidated financial statements.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

Note 3. Investments

Investments available for sale consist of the following:

December 31, 2025 (In thousands)	Amortized Cost	Unrealized Gains	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
U.S. Treasury securities	\$ 373,567	\$ 2,121	\$ (5,976)	\$ 369,712
U.S. agency mortgage-backed securities	1,243,823	7,822	(76,750)	1,174,895
Municipal debt securities (1)	641,153	5,483	(36,225)	610,411
Non-U.S. government securities	64,470	—	(8,446)	56,024
Corporate debt securities (2)	2,017,246	17,381	(54,547)	1,980,080
Residential and commercial mortgage securities	486,441	1,046	(23,382)	464,105
Asset-backed securities	804,501	3,832	(7,967)	800,366
Money market funds	648,492	—	—	648,492
Total investments available for sale	<u>\$ 6,279,693</u>	<u>\$ 37,685</u>	<u>\$ (213,293)</u>	<u>\$ 6,104,085</u>

December 31, 2024 (In thousands)	Amortized Cost	Unrealized Gains	Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
U.S. Treasury securities	\$ 561,853	\$ 325	\$ (14,888)	\$ 547,290
U.S. agency mortgage-backed securities	1,249,259	42	(123,865)	1,125,436
Municipal debt securities (1)	631,015	1,596	(49,110)	583,501
Non-U.S. government securities	81,631	—	(11,833)	69,798
Corporate debt securities (2)	1,887,647	1,064	(105,665)	1,783,046
Residential and commercial mortgage securities	519,613	527	(42,054)	478,086
Asset-backed securities	642,395	601	(11,037)	631,959
Money market funds	657,605	—	—	657,605
Total investments available for sale	<u>\$ 6,231,018</u>	<u>\$ 4,155</u>	<u>\$ (358,452)</u>	<u>\$ 5,876,721</u>

(1) The following table summarizes municipal debt securities as of :

	December 31, 2025	December 31, 2024
Special revenue bonds	81.2%	83.3%
General obligation bonds	18.8	16.7
Total	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

(2) The following table summarizes corporate debt securities as of :

	December 31, 2025	December 31, 2024
Financial	40.9 %	41.8 %
Consumer, Non-Cyclical	18.1	15.1
Industrial	9.0	8.2
Utilities	7.9	8.7
Technology	6.1	6.4
Consumer, Cyclical	6.0	6.3
Communications	4.7	5.7
Energy	4.7	5.1
Basic Materials	2.6	2.7
Total	<u>100.0 %</u>	<u>100.0 %</u>

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

The amortized cost and fair value of investments available for sale at December 31, 2025, by contractual maturity, are shown below. Expected maturities will differ from contractual maturities because borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties. Because most U.S. agency mortgage-backed securities, residential and commercial mortgage securities and asset-backed securities provide for periodic payments throughout their lives, they are listed below in separate categories.

(In thousands)	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
U.S. Treasury securities:		
Due in 1 year	\$ 152,236	\$ 150,793
Due after 1 but within 5 years	185,201	185,737
Due after 5 but within 10 years	21,616	20,479
Due after 10 years	14,514	12,703
Subtotal	373,567	369,712
Municipal debt securities:		
Due in 1 year	17,423	17,348
Due after 1 but within 5 years	91,397	89,663
Due after 5 but within 10 years	144,906	139,989
Due after 10 years	387,427	363,411
Subtotal	641,153	610,411
Non-U.S. government securities:		
Due in 1 year	6,081	6,060
Due after 1 but within 5 years	18,727	18,391
Due after 5 but within 10 years	7,686	6,854
Due after 10 years	31,976	24,719
Subtotal	64,470	56,024
Corporate debt securities:		
Due in 1 year	140,016	139,599
Due after 1 but within 5 years	577,493	567,229
Due after 5 but within 10 years	1,075,028	1,073,275
Due after 10 years	224,709	199,977
Subtotal	2,017,246	1,980,080
U.S. agency mortgage-backed securities	1,243,823	1,174,895
Residential and commercial mortgage securities	486,441	464,105
Asset-backed securities	804,501	800,366
Money market funds	648,492	648,492
Total investments available for sale	\$ 6,279,693	\$ 6,104,085

The components of realized investment (losses) gains, net on the consolidated statements of comprehensive income were as follows:

(In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Realized gross gains	\$ 356	\$ 495	\$ 1,219
Realized gross losses	1,239	2,322	8,246
Impairment loss	40	523	177

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

The fair value of investments available for sale in an unrealized loss position and the related unrealized losses for which no allowance for credit loss has been recorded were as follows:

	Less than 12 months		12 months or more		Total	
	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses
December 31, 2025 (In thousands)						
U.S. Treasury securities	\$ 1,048	\$ (8)	\$ 179,121	\$ (5,968)	\$ 180,169	\$ (5,976)
U.S. agency mortgage-backed securities	45,415	(90)	638,729	(76,660)	684,144	(76,750)
Municipal debt securities	74,928	(1,015)	314,515	(35,210)	389,443	(36,225)
Non-U.S. government securities	—	—	56,024	(8,446)	56,024	(8,446)
Corporate debt securities	196,571	(1,106)	706,561	(53,441)	903,132	(54,547)
Residential and commercial mortgage securities	36,552	(240)	364,271	(23,142)	400,823	(23,382)
Asset-backed securities	103,989	(871)	150,158	(7,096)	254,147	(7,967)
Total	<u>\$ 458,503</u>	<u>\$ (3,330)</u>	<u>\$ 2,409,379</u>	<u>\$ (209,963)</u>	<u>\$ 2,867,882</u>	<u>\$ (213,293)</u>
	Less than 12 months		12 months or more		Total	
	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value	Gross Unrealized Losses
December 31, 2024 (In thousands)						
U.S. Treasury securities	\$ 141,789	\$ (1,620)	\$ 279,143	\$ (13,268)	\$ 420,932	\$ (14,888)
U.S. agency mortgage-backed securities	476,695	(13,028)	629,036	(110,837)	1,105,731	(123,865)
Municipal debt securities	204,810	(5,688)	282,312	(43,422)	487,122	(49,110)
Non-U.S. government securities	4,146	(262)	65,652	(11,571)	69,798	(11,833)
Corporate debt securities	898,449	(25,547)	725,148	(80,118)	1,623,597	(105,665)
Residential and commercial mortgage securities	39,931	(1,168)	421,891	(40,886)	461,822	(42,054)
Asset-backed securities	188,475	(2,701)	164,683	(8,336)	353,158	(11,037)
Total	<u>\$ 1,954,295</u>	<u>\$ (50,014)</u>	<u>\$ 2,567,865</u>	<u>\$ (308,438)</u>	<u>\$ 4,522,160</u>	<u>\$ (358,452)</u>

At December 31, 2025 and 2024, we held 1,763 and 2,481 individual investment securities, respectively, that were in an unrealized loss position. We assess our intent to sell these securities and whether we will be required to sell these securities before the recovery of their amortized cost basis when determining whether to record an impairment on the securities in an unrealized loss position. In assessing whether the decline in the fair value at December 31, 2025 of any of these securities resulted from a credit loss or other factors, we made inquiries of our investment managers to determine that each issuer was current on its scheduled interest and principal payments. We reviewed the credit rating of these securities noting that 99% of the securities at December 31, 2025 had investment-grade ratings. We concluded that gross unrealized losses noted above were primarily associated with the changes in interest rates subsequent to purchase rather than due to credit impairment. We recorded impairments of \$40 thousand, \$0.5 million and \$0.2 million in the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The impairments resulted from our intent to sell these securities subsequent to a reporting date.

The Company's other invested assets at December 31, 2025 and December 31, 2024 totaled \$382.5 million and \$303.9 million, respectively. Other invested assets are principally comprised of limited partnership interests which are generally accounted for under the equity method or fair value using net asset value (or its equivalent) as a practical expedient. Our proportionate share of earnings or losses or changes in fair value are reported in income from other invested assets on the consolidated statements of comprehensive income. For entities accounted for under the equity method that follow industry-specific guidance for investment companies, our proportionate share of earnings or losses includes changes in the fair value of the underlying assets of these entities. Due to the timing of receiving financial information from these partnerships, the results are generally reported on a one month or quarter lag.

Other invested assets that are accounted for at fair value using the net asset value (or its equivalent) as a practical expedient totaled \$180.0 million as of December 31, 2025. The majority of these investments were in limited partnerships invested in real estate or technology. At December 31, 2025, maximum future funding commitments were \$33.7 million. For limited partnership investments that have a contractual expiration date, we expect the liquidation of the underlying assets to occur over the next one to nine years. For certain of these investments, the Company does not have the contractual option to redeem but receives distributions based on the liquidation of the underlying assets. In addition, the Company generally does not

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

have the ability to sell or transfer these investments without the consent from the general partner of individual limited partnerships.

The fair value of investments deposited with insurance regulatory authorities to meet statutory requirements was \$8.7 million at December 31, 2025 and \$9.3 million at December 31, 2024. In connection with its insurance and reinsurance activities, Essent Re is required to maintain assets in trusts for the benefit of its contractual counterparties. The fair value of the investments on deposit in these trusts was \$1.0 billion at both December 31, 2025 and December 31, 2024. Essent Guaranty is also required to maintain assets on deposit for the benefit of the sponsor of a fixed income investment commitment. The fair value of the assets on deposit was \$5.2 million at December 31, 2025 and \$9.3 million at December 31, 2024.

Net investment income consists of:

(In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Fixed maturities	\$ 216,991	\$ 186,345	\$ 178,829
Short-term investments	26,680	40,856	13,651
Gross investment income	243,671	227,201	192,480
Investment expenses	(7,154)	(5,131)	(6,341)
Net investment income	<u>\$ 236,517</u>	<u>\$ 222,070</u>	<u>\$ 186,139</u>

Note 4. Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable consists of the following at December 31:

(In thousands)	2025	2024
Premiums receivable	\$ 44,700	\$ 50,150
Other receivables	6,567	5,414
Total accounts receivable	51,267	55,564
Less: Allowance for credit losses	—	—
Accounts receivable, net	<u>\$ 51,267</u>	<u>\$ 55,564</u>

Premiums receivable consists primarily of premiums due on our mortgage insurance policies. If mortgage insurance premiums are unpaid for more than 90 days, the receivable is written off against earned premium and the related insurance policy is cancelled. For all periods presented, no provision or allowance for credit losses was required.

Note 5. Reinsurance

In the ordinary course of business, our insurance subsidiaries may use reinsurance to provide protection against adverse loss experience and to expand our capital sources. Reinsurance recoverables are recorded as assets and included in other assets on our consolidated balance sheets, predicated on a reinsurer's ability to meet their obligations under the reinsurance agreements. If the reinsurers are unable to satisfy their obligations under the agreements, our insurance subsidiaries would be liable for such defaulted amounts.

The effect of reinsurance on net premiums written and earned is as follows:

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Net premiums written:			
Direct	\$ 1,107,317	\$ 1,098,603	\$ 1,028,781
Ceded (1)	(147,853)	(132,023)	(134,499)
Net premiums written	<u>\$ 959,464</u>	<u>\$ 966,580</u>	<u>\$ 894,282</u>
Net premiums earned:			
Direct	\$ 1,131,571	\$ 1,122,905	\$ 1,051,405
Ceded (1)	(147,853)	(132,023)	(134,499)
Net premiums earned	<u>\$ 983,718</u>	<u>\$ 990,882</u>	<u>\$ 916,906</u>

(1) Net of profit commission.

Quota Share Reinsurance

Essent Guaranty has entered into quota share reinsurance agreements with panels of third-party reinsurers ("QSR" agreements). Each of the third-party reinsurers has an insurer minimum financial strength rating of A- or better by S&P Global Ratings, A.M. Best or both. Under each QSR agreement, Essent Guaranty will cede premiums earned on a percentage of risk on all eligible policies written during a specified period, in exchange for reimbursement of ceded claims and claims expenses on covered policies, a specified ceding commission, as well as a profit commission that varies directly and inversely with ceded claims. Essent Guaranty has certain termination rights under each QSR agreement, including the option to terminate each QSR agreement subject to a termination fee.

The following tables summarizes Essent Guaranty's quota share reinsurance agreements as of December 31, 2025:

QSR Agreement	Coverage Period	Ceding Percentage
QSR-2019	September 1, 2019 - December 31, 2020	(1)
QSR-2022	January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022	20%
QSR-2023	January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023	17.5%
QSR-2024	January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024	15%
QSR-2025	January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025	25%

(1) Under QSR-2019, Essent Guaranty cedes 36% of premiums on singles policies and 18% on all other policies.

Total RIF ceded under these QSR agreements was \$10.2 billion as of December 31, 2025.

Excess of Loss Reinsurance

Essent Guaranty has entered into fully collateralized reinsurance agreements ("Radnor Re Transactions") with unaffiliated special purpose insurers domiciled in Bermuda. For the reinsurance coverage periods, Essent Guaranty and its affiliates retain the first layer of the respective aggregate losses, and a Radnor Re special purpose insurer will then provide second layer coverage up to the outstanding reinsurance coverage amount. Essent Guaranty and its affiliates retain losses in excess of the outstanding reinsurance coverage amount. The reinsurance premium due to each Radnor Re special purpose insurer is calculated by multiplying the outstanding reinsurance coverage amount at the beginning of a period by a coupon rate, which is the sum of one-month SOFR plus a risk margin, and then subtracting actual investment income collected on the assets in the related reinsurance trust during that period. The aggregate excess of loss reinsurance coverage decreases over a ten-year period as the underlying covered mortgages amortize. Essent Guaranty has rights to terminate the Radnor Re Transactions. The Radnor Re entities collateralized the coverage by issuing mortgage insurance-linked notes ("ILNs") in an aggregate amount equal to the initial coverage to unaffiliated investors. The notes have ten-year legal maturities and are non-recourse to any assets of Essent Guaranty or its affiliates. The proceeds of the notes were deposited into reinsurance trusts for the benefit of Essent Guaranty and will be the source of reinsurance claim payments to Essent Guaranty and principal repayments on the ILNs.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

During the year ended December 31, 2023, Radnor Re 2019-1 and Radnor Re 2020-1 retired approximately 100% and 99%, respectively of their outstanding notes through tender offers made by these special purpose insurers. As of December 31, 2024, all outstanding notes of Radnor Re 2019-1 and 2020-1 were retired.

Essent Guaranty has entered into reinsurance agreements with panels of reinsurers that provide excess of loss coverage on new insurance written from January 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019 and from October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025. For the reinsurance coverage periods, Essent Guaranty and its affiliates retain the first layer of the respective aggregate losses, and the reinsurance panels will then provide second layer coverage up to the outstanding reinsurance coverage amounts. Essent Guaranty and its affiliates retain losses in excess of the outstanding reinsurance coverage amounts. Essent Guaranty has rights to terminate these reinsurance agreements.

The following table summarizes Essent Guaranty's excess of loss coverages and retentions provided by insurance linked notes as of December 31, 2025:

(In thousands)

Deal Name	Vintage	Remaining Insurance in Force	Remaining Risk in Force	Remaining Reinsurance in Force	Remaining First Layer Retention	Optional Termination Date
Radnor Re 2021-1	Aug. 2020 - Mar. 2021	\$ 18,441,345	\$ 5,127,322	\$ 98,205	\$ 276,117	June 26, 2028
Radnor Re 2021-2	Apr. 2021 - Sep. 2021	24,416,860	6,937,919	192,783	271,058	November 25, 2027
Radnor Re 2022-1	Oct. 2021 - Jul. 2022	24,193,885	6,723,897	129,621	291,448	September 25, 2028
Radnor Re 2023-1	Aug. 2022 - Jun. 2023	24,656,390	6,784,369	209,417	271,149	July 25, 2028
Radnor Re 2024-1	Jul. 2023 - Jul. 2024	24,523,993	6,793,368	248,025	255,324	September 25, 2029
Total		<u>\$ 116,232,473</u>	<u>\$ 32,366,875</u>	<u>\$ 878,051</u>	<u>\$ 1,365,096</u>	

The following table summarizes Essent Guaranty's excess of loss reinsurance coverages and retentions provided by panels of reinsurers as of December 31, 2025:

(In thousands)

Deal Name	Vintage	Remaining Insurance in Force	Remaining Risk in Force	Remaining Reinsurance in Force	Remaining First Layer Retention	Optional Termination Date
XOL 2019-1	Jan. 2018 - Dec. 2018	\$ 3,708,752	\$ 980,319	\$ 76,144	\$ 241,441	February 25, 2026
XOL 2020-1	Jan. 2019 - Aug. 2019	4,863,645	1,288,360	29,152	210,515	January 25, 2027
XOL 2022-1	Oct. 2021 - Dec. 2022	55,006,139	15,182,087	137,530	473,213	January 1, 2030
XOL 2023-1	Jan. 2023 - Dec. 2023	31,751,705	8,821,968	36,105	358,985	January 1, 2029
XOL 2024-1	Jan. 2024 - Dec. 2024	35,200,756	9,692,442	58,005	330,254	January 1, 2030
XOL 2025-1	Jan. 2025 - Dec. 2025	43,596,176	11,545,801	80,821	343,234	January 1, 2031
Total		<u>\$ 174,127,173</u>	<u>\$ 47,510,977</u>	<u>\$ 417,757</u>	<u>\$ 1,957,642</u>	

The amount of monthly reinsurance premiums ceded to the Radnor Re entities will fluctuate due to changes in one-month SOFR and changes in money market rates that affect investment income collected on the assets in the reinsurance trusts. As the reinsurance premium will vary based on changes in these rates, we concluded that the Radnor Re Transactions contain embedded derivatives that will be accounted for separately like freestanding derivatives. The change in the fair value of the embedded derivatives is reported in earnings and included in other income.

In connection with the Radnor Re Transactions, we concluded that the risk transfer requirements for reinsurance accounting were met as each Radnor Re entity is assuming significant insurance risk and a reasonable possibility of a significant loss. In addition, we assessed whether each Radnor Re entity was a variable interest entity ("VIE") and the appropriate accounting for the Radnor Re entities if they were VIEs. A VIE is a legal entity that does not have sufficient equity at risk to finance its activities without additional subordinated financial support or is structured such that equity investors lack the ability to make significant decisions relating to the entity's operations through voting rights or do not substantively participate in the gains and losses of the entity. A VIE is consolidated by its primary beneficiary. The primary beneficiary is the entity that has both (1) the power to direct the activities of the VIE that most significantly affect the entity's economic performance and (2) the obligation to absorb losses or the right to receive benefits that could be potentially significant to the VIE. While also considering these factors, the consolidation conclusion depends on the breadth of the decision-making ability

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

and ability to influence activities that significantly affect the economic performance of the VIE. We concluded that the Radnor Re entities are VIEs. However, given that Essent Guaranty (1) does not have the unilateral power to direct the activities that most significantly affect their economic performance and (2) does not have the obligation to absorb losses or the right to receive benefits that could be potentially significant to these entities, the Radnor Re entities are not consolidated in these financial statements.

The following table presents total assets of each Radnor Re special purpose insurer as well as our maximum exposure to loss associated with each Radnor Re entity, representing the fair value of the embedded derivatives, using observable inputs in active markets (Level 2), included in other assets (other accrued liabilities) on our consolidated balance sheet and the estimated net present value of investment earnings on the assets in the reinsurance trusts, each as of December 31, 2025:

(In thousands)	Total VIE Assets	Maximum Exposure to Loss		
		On - Balance Sheet	Off - Balance Sheet	Total
Radnor Re 2021-1 Ltd.	\$ 98,205	\$ (5,591)	\$ 4	\$ (5,587)
Radnor Re 2021-2 Ltd.	192,783	(6,392)	27	(6,365)
Radnor Re 2022-1 Ltd.	129,621	(455)	21	(434)
Radnor Re 2023-1 Ltd.	209,417	(52)	34	(18)
Radnor Re 2024-1 Ltd.	248,025	(286)	34	(252)
Total	<u>\$ 878,051</u>	<u>\$ (12,776)</u>	<u>\$ 120</u>	<u>\$ (12,656)</u>

The assets of Radnor Re are the source of reinsurance claim payments to Essent Guaranty and provide capital relief under the PMIERS financial strength requirements (see Note 16). A decline in the assets available to pay claims would reduce the capital relief available to Essent Guaranty.

Note 6. Reserve for Losses and Loss Adjustment Expenses

The following table provides a reconciliation of the beginning and ending reserve balances for losses and loss adjustment expenses ("LAE") for the years ended December 31:

(In thousands)	2025	2024	2023
Reserve for losses and LAE at beginning of year	\$ 328,866	\$ 260,095	\$ 216,464
Less: Reinsurance recoverables	36,754	24,104	14,618
Net reserve for losses and LAE at beginning of year	292,112	235,991	201,846
Net reserves acquired during the period	—	—	14,049
Add provision for losses and LAE, net of reinsurance, occurring in:			
Current year	228,225	177,037	141,191
Prior years	(78,888)	(95,817)	(109,649)
Net incurred losses and LAE during the current year	149,337	81,220	31,542
Deduct payments for losses and LAE, net of reinsurance, occurring in:			
Current year	3,584	3,356	694
Prior years	47,262	21,743	10,752
Net loss and LAE payments during the current year	50,846	25,099	11,446
Net reserve for losses and LAE at end of year	390,603	292,112	235,991
Plus: Reinsurance recoverables	56,219	36,754	24,104
Reserve for losses and LAE at end of year	<u>\$ 446,822</u>	<u>\$ 328,866</u>	<u>\$ 260,095</u>

For the year ended December 31, 2025, \$47.3 million was paid for incurred claims and claim adjustment expenses attributable to insured events of prior years. There has been a \$78.9 million favorable prior year development during the year ended December 31, 2025. Net reserves remaining as of December 31, 2025 for prior years are \$166.0 million as a result of re-estimation of unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses. For the year ended December 31, 2024, \$21.7 million was paid for incurred claims and claim adjustment expenses attributable to insured events of prior years. There was a \$95.8 million favorable prior year development during the year ended December 31, 2024. Net reserves remaining as of December 31, 2024 for prior

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

years were \$118.4 million as a result of re-estimation of unpaid losses and loss adjustment expenses. In both periods, the favorable prior years' loss development was the result of a re-estimation of amounts ultimately to be paid on prior year defaults in the default inventory, including the impact of previously identified defaults that cured. Original estimates are increased or decreased as additional information becomes known regarding individual claims. During the year ended December 31 2023, we acquired \$14.0 million of reserves, excluding \$0.1 million of reinsurance recoverables, in connection with the acquisition of our title insurance operations.

On September 26, 2024, Hurricane Helene made landfall and caused property damage in certain counties in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. On October 9, 2024, Hurricane Milton made landfall, causing damage in certain counties in Florida. Loans in default increased by 3,620 in the year ended December 31, 2024, including 2,119 defaults we identified as hurricane-related defaults. Based on prior industry experience, we expect the ultimate number of hurricane-related defaults that result in claims will be less than the default-to-claim experience of non-hurricane-related defaults. In addition, under our master policy, our exposure may be limited on hurricane-related claims. For example, we are permitted to exclude a claim entirely where damage to the property underlying a mortgage was the proximate cause of the default and adjust a claim where the property underlying a mortgage in default is subject to unrestored physical damage. Accordingly, when establishing our loss reserves as of December 31, 2024, we applied a lower estimated claim rate to new default notices received in the fourth quarter of 2024 from the affected areas than the claim rate we apply to other notices in our default inventory. The impact on our reserves in future periods will be dependent upon the performance of the hurricane-related defaults and our expectations for the amount of ultimate losses on these delinquencies.

In January 2025, several wildfires caused property damage in Southern California. Our insurance in force in areas with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster declarations at the time of these wildfires was less than 0.1% of our total insurance in force. These wildfires did not have a material impact on our reserves.

The Federal Reserve increased the target federal funds rate several times during 2022 and 2023 in an effort to reduce consumer price inflation. As a result of subsequent reductions in inflation rates, the Federal Reserve reduced the target federal funds rate by 100 basis points in 2024 and by another 75 basis points during 2025. Mortgage interest rates, however, have remained elevated, which may lower home sale activity and affect the options available to delinquent borrowers. It is reasonably possible that our estimate of losses could change in the near term as a result of changes in the economic environment, the impact of elevated levels of consumer price inflation on home sale activity, housing inventory, and home prices.

The following table summarizes mortgage insurance incurred loss and allocated loss adjustment expense development, net of reinsurance, IBNR plus expected development on reported defaults and the cumulative number of reported defaults. The information about incurred loss development for the years ended December 31, 2016 to 2024 is presented as supplementary information.

(In thousands)	Incurred Loss and Allocated LAE, For the Years Ended December 31,										As of December 31, 2025	
	Unaudited										Total of IBNR plus Expected Development on Reported Defaults	Cumulative Number of Reported Defaults (1)
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025		
2016	\$ 21,889	\$ 11,890	\$ 9,455	\$ 9,219	\$ 8,972	\$ 8,614	\$ 8,861	\$ 8,709	\$ 8,643	\$ 8,627	\$ 7	283
2017		38,178	16,261	12,202	11,488	11,249	11,550	11,196	11,101	10,896	8	409
2018			36,438	23,168	19,536	17,402	17,249	16,535	15,895	15,512	26	569
2019				50,562	39,085	23,649	24,223	19,455	17,395	16,656	76	743
2020					317,516	269,410	53,045	23,297	15,561	13,361	199	714
2021						97,256	38,551	16,567	9,485	8,014	178	536
2022							99,372	48,593	29,158	20,988	684	640
2023								138,617	78,940	55,575	2,559	799
2024									171,947	128,720	8,213	2,847
2025										225,534	17,810	16,425
Total										\$ 503,883		

(1) Cumulative number of reported defaults includes cumulative paid claims plus loans in default by accident year as of December 31, 2025.

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

The following table summarizes mortgage insurance cumulative paid losses and allocated loss adjustment expenses, net of reinsurance. The information about paid loss development for the years ended December 31, 2016 through 2024 is presented as supplementary information.

(In thousands)	Cumulative Paid Losses and Allocated LAE For the Years Ended December 31,									
	Unaudited									
Accident Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
2016	\$ 927	\$ 4,896	\$ 6,947	\$ 7,864	\$ 8,270	\$ 8,205	\$ 8,468	\$ 8,542	\$ 8,540	\$ 8,537
2017		633	5,370	9,156	10,257	10,536	10,620	10,704	10,705	10,780
2018			1,310	8,067	13,406	13,927	14,536	14,781	14,971	15,132
2019				1,288	8,049	10,717	12,392	14,064	15,183	15,563
2020					1,018	2,499	4,022	6,921	9,875	10,552
2021						388	856	2,916	4,740	5,689
2022							224	3,209	8,633	11,869
2023								517	9,375	22,977
2024									2,686	25,365
2025										3,584
Total										\$ 130,048
	All outstanding liabilities before 2016, net of reinsurance									
	Reserve for losses and LAE, net of reinsurance									
	373,490									

The following table provides a reconciliation of the net incurred losses and paid claims development tables above to the mortgage insurance reserve for losses and LAE at December 31, 2025:

(In thousands)	December 31, 2025
Reserve for losses and LAE, net of reinsurance	\$ 373,490
Reinsurance recoverables on unpaid claims	56,120
Total gross reserve for losses and LAE	\$ 429,610

The above table excludes reinsurance and title insurance reserves as of December 31, 2025, which were \$17.2 million.

For our mortgage insurance portfolio, our average annual payout of losses as of December 31, 2025 is as follows:

Average Annual Percentage Payout of Incurred Losses and Allocated LAE by Year										
Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Average Payout	9%	45%	29%	9%	5%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%

Note 7. Debt Obligations

Credit Facility

Through June 30, 2024, Essent Group and its subsidiaries, Essent Irish Intermediate Holdings Limited and Essent US Holdings, Inc. (collectively, the "Borrowers"), were parties to a five-year secured credit facility with a committed capacity of \$825 million (the "Existing Credit Facility"). The Existing Credit Facility also provided for up to \$175 million aggregate principal amount of uncommitted incremental term loan and/or revolving credit facilities that may be exercised at the Borrowers' option so long as the Borrowers receive commitments from the lenders. Borrowings under the Existing Credit Facility may have been used for working capital and general corporate purposes, including, without limitation, capital contributions to Essent's insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries. Borrowings accrued interest at a floating rate tied to a standard short-term borrowing index, selected at the Company's option, plus an applicable margin. A commitment fee was due quarterly on the average daily amount of the undrawn revolving commitment. The applicable margin and the commitment fee were based on the senior unsecured debt rating or long-term issuer rating of Essent Group to the extent available, or the insurer financial strength rating of Essent Guaranty. The obligations under the Existing Credit Facility were secured by certain assets of the Borrowers, excluding the stock and assets of its insurance and reinsurance subsidiaries. The Credit Facility contained several

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

covenants, including financial covenants relating to minimum net worth, capital and liquidity levels, maximum debt to capitalization level and Essent Guaranty's compliance with the PMIERs (see Note 14). As of June 30, 2024, the Company was in compliance with the covenants and \$425 million had been borrowed under the term loan portion of the Existing Credit Facility with a weighted average interest rate of 7.07%. As of December 31, 2023, \$425 million had been borrowed with a weighted average interest rate of 7.11%.

On July 1, 2024, Essent Group completed an underwritten public offering of \$500 million principal amount of 6.25% Senior Notes due 2029 (the "Senior Notes"). Interest on the Senior Notes will be payable semi-annually in arrears on January 1 and July 1 of each year, beginning on January 1, 2025. The Senior Notes will mature on July 1, 2029. At any time prior to June 1, 2029 (one month prior to the maturity date), the Company may redeem the Senior Notes, at its option, in whole or in part, at any time and from time to time, at a redemption price described in the Supplemental Indenture plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the redemption date. At any time and from time to time on or after June 1, 2029, the Company may redeem, at its option, in whole or in part, the Senior Notes at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Senior Notes to be redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but excluding, the redemption date. The net proceeds from the sale of the Senior Notes, after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses, were approximately \$495.3 million. The Company used the net proceeds from the sale of the Senior Notes to repay all of the borrowings outstanding under the term loan portion of the Existing Credit Facility described above, and intends to use the remaining net proceeds for general corporate purposes.

On July 1, 2024, concurrently with the closing of the Offering of the Senior Notes and the repayment of all of the borrowings outstanding under the term loan portion of its Existing Credit Agreement, the Fourth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement (the "Revolving Credit Agreement") became effective, amending and restating the Existing Credit Facility. Under the Revolving Credit Agreement, the Refinancing Agreement Revolving Lenders (as defined therein) agreed to provide the Company with a five-year unsecured revolving credit facility of up to \$500 million of senior unsecured revolving loans (the "Revolving Credit Facility"). A commitment fee is due quarterly on the average daily amount of the undrawn revolving commitment. The annual commitment fee rate at December 31, 2025 was 0.175%. The Revolving Credit Facility also provides for an aggregate principal amount of up to \$250 million in uncommitted incremental revolving credit facilities that may be exercised at the Company's option, so long as the Company receives sufficient commitments from the bank lenders.

The Senior Notes are presented on the consolidated balance sheets net of an unamortized issuance discount of \$1.3 million and \$1.7 million, and deferred issuance costs of \$3.4 million and \$4.4 million as of December 31, 2025 and December 31, 2024, respectively. Included in interest expense in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income for the year ended December 31, 2024 is a \$3.2 million loss on debt extinguishment for the write-off of unamortized debt issuance costs on the Existing Credit Facility borrowings repaid on July 1, 2024.

Note 8. Commitments and Contingencies

Obligations under Guarantees

Under the terms of CUW Solutions' contract underwriting agreements with lenders and subject to contractual limitations on liability, we agree to indemnify certain lenders against losses incurred in the event that we make an error in determining whether loans processed meet specified underwriting criteria, to the extent that such error materially restricts or impairs the salability of such loan, results in a material reduction in the value of such loan or results in the lender repurchasing the loan. The indemnification may be in the form of monetary or other remedies. For each of the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024, we paid less than \$0.1 million related to remedies. As of December 31, 2025, management believes any potential claims for indemnification related to contract underwriting services through December 31, 2025 are not material to our consolidated financial position or results of operations.

In addition to the indemnifications discussed above, in the normal course of business, we enter into agreements or other relationships with third parties pursuant to which we may be obligated under specified circumstances to indemnify the counterparties with respect to certain matters. Our contractual indemnification obligations typically arise in the context of agreements entered into by us to, among other things, purchase or sell services, finance our business and business transactions, lease real property and license intellectual property. The agreements we enter into in the normal course of business generally require us to pay certain amounts to the other party associated with claims or losses if they result from our breach of the agreement, including the inaccuracy of representations or warranties. The agreements we enter into may also contain other indemnification provisions that obligate us to pay amounts upon the occurrence of certain events, such as the negligence or willful misconduct of our employees, infringement of third-party intellectual property rights or claims that performance of the agreement constitutes a violation of law. Generally, payment by us under an indemnification provision is conditioned upon the

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

other party making a claim, and typically we can challenge the other party's claims. Further, our indemnification obligations may be limited in time and/or amount, and in some instances, we may have recourse against third parties for certain payments made by us under an indemnification agreement or obligation. As of December 31, 2025, contingencies triggering material indemnification obligations or payments have not occurred historically and are not expected to occur. The nature of the indemnification provisions in the various types of agreements and relationships described above are believed to be low risk and pervasive, and we consider them to have a remote risk of loss or payment. We have not recorded any provisions on the consolidated balance sheets related to these indemnifications.

Commitments

We lease office space for use in our operations under leases accounted for as operating leases. These leases generally include options to extend them for periods of up to fifteen years. Our option to extend the term of our primary office locations at the greater of existing or prevailing market rates was not recognized in our right-of-use asset and lease liability. When establishing the value of our right-of-use asset and lease liability, we determine the discount rate for the underlying leases using the prevailing market interest rate for a borrowing of the same duration of the lease plus the risk premium inherent in the borrowings under our Credit Facility. Operating lease right-of-use assets of \$29.9 million and \$30.0 million as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, respectively, are reported on our consolidated balance sheet as property and equipment. Operating lease liabilities of \$36.6 million and \$36.2 million as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, respectively, are reported on our consolidated balance sheet as other accrued liabilities. Total rent expense was \$5.5 million, \$5.9 million and \$5.1 million for the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

The following table presents lease cost and other lease information as of and for the years ended December 31:

(\$ in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Lease cost:			
Operating lease cost	\$ 5,605	\$ 5,918	\$ 5,138
Short-term lease cost	215	207	128
Sublease income	(364)	(213)	(142)
Total lease cost	\$ 5,456	\$ 5,912	\$ 5,124
Other information:			
Weighted average remaining lease term - operating leases	8.3 years	9.4 years	10.6 years
Weighted average discount rate - operating leases	4.7%	4.6%	4.5%

The following table presents a maturity analysis of our lease liabilities as follows at December 31, 2025:

Year Ended December 31 (In thousands)	
2026	\$ 5,977
2027	5,706
2028	5,480
2029	5,275
2030	4,882
2031 and thereafter	17,414
Total lease payments to be paid	44,734
Less: Future interest expense	(8,089)
Present value of lease liabilities	\$ 36,645

The maturity analysis of our lease liabilities shown above have not been reduced by minimum sublease rental income of \$0.1 million due in 2026 under the non-cancelable sublease.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

Contingencies

Our title operations may occasionally be named as a defendant in claims concerning alleged errors or omissions pertaining to the issuance of title policies or the performance of escrow services. The Company assesses pending and threatened claims to determine whether losses are probable and reasonably estimable in accordance with *ASC 450, Contingencies*. The Company maintains a reserve for potential losses related to title research and the related title policies sold by the Company as the agent. This reserve is subjective and is based on known claims and claims incurred but not yet reported to the Company. The Company monitors the claims reserve for adequacy on a quarterly basis. As of December 31, 2025 the Company had recorded a claims reserve on the Consolidated Balance Sheet of \$3.6 million, which is included in other accrued liabilities.

Note 9. Capital Stock

Our authorized share capital consists of 233.3 million shares of a single class of common shares. The common shares have no pre-emptive rights or other rights to subscribe for additional shares, and no rights of redemption, conversion or exchange. Under certain circumstances and subject to the provisions of Bermuda law and our bye-laws, we may be required to make an offer to repurchase shares held by members. The common shares rank pari-passu with one another in all respects as to rights of payment and distribution. In general, holders of common shares will have one vote for each common share held by them and will be entitled to vote, on a non-cumulative basis, at all meetings of shareholders. In the event that a shareholder is considered a 9.5% Shareholder under our bye-laws, such shareholder's votes will be reduced by whatever amount is necessary so that after any such reduction the votes of such shareholder will not result in any other person being treated as a 9.5% Shareholder with respect to the vote on such matter. Under these provisions certain shareholders may have their voting rights limited to less than one vote per share, while other shareholders may have voting rights in excess of one vote per share.

Dividends

The following table presents the amounts declared and paid per common share each quarter:

<u>Quarter Ended</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
March 31	\$ 0.31	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.25
June 30	0.31	0.28	0.25
September 30	0.31	0.28	0.25
December 31	0.31	0.28	0.25
Total dividends per common share declared and paid	\$ 1.24	\$ 1.12	\$ 1.00

In February 2026, the Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.35 per common share payable on March 23, 2026, to shareholders of record on March 13, 2026.

Share Repurchase Plan

In May 2022, the Board of Directors approved a share repurchase plan that authorized the Company to repurchase up to \$250 million of its common shares in the open market by the end of 2023. The Company repurchased 1,535,368 common shares at a cost of \$65.6 million in the year ended December 31, 2023. In October 2023, the Board of Directors approved a share repurchase plan that authorizes the Company to repurchase \$250 million of common shares in the open market between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2025. During the year ended December 31, 2024, the Company repurchased 1,859,695 common shares at a cost of \$102.7 million. In February 2025, the Board of Directors approved a share repurchase plan that authorizes the Company to repurchase an additional \$500 million of common shares in the open market through December 31, 2026, and in November 2025, the Board of Directors approved a share repurchase plan that authorizes the Company to repurchase an additional \$500 million of common shares in the open market through December 31, 2027. During the year ended December 31, 2025, the Company repurchased 9,862,699 common shares at a cost of \$575.6 million. The shares repurchased were recorded at cost and included in treasury stock. All treasury stock has been cancelled as of December 31, 2025 and 2024.

Note 10. Stock-Based Compensation

In 2013, Essent Group's Board of Directors adopted, and Essent Group's shareholders approved, the Essent Group Ltd. 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan (the "2013 Plan"), which was effective upon completion of the initial public offering. The

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

types of awards available under the 2013 Plan include nonvested shares, nonvested share units, non-qualified share options, incentive stock options, share appreciation rights, and other share-based or cash-based awards. Nonvested shares and nonvested share units granted under the 2013 Plan have rights to dividends, which entitle the holders to the same dividend value per share as holders of common shares in the form of dividend equivalent units ("DEUs"). DEUs are subject to the same vesting and other terms and conditions as the corresponding nonvested shares and nonvested share units. DEUs vest when the underlying shares or share units vest and are forfeited if the underlying share or share units forfeit prior to vesting. The maximum number of shares and share units available for issuance is 7.5 million under the 2013 Plan. As of December 31, 2025, there were 3.0 million common shares available for future grant under the 2013 Plan.

In each of the years 2021 through 2025, certain members of senior management were granted nonvested common shares and units under the 2013 Plan that were subject to time-based and performance-based vesting. The time-based share awards and units granted vest in three equal installments commencing on March 1 of the year following the grant year. The performance-based share awards and units granted vest based upon our compounded annual book value per share growth percentage and relative total shareholder return during a three-year performance period that commenced on January 1 of each of the years 2021 through 2025, and vest(ed) on March 1 of each of the years 2024 through 2028, respectively. Shares and units were issued at the maximum 200% of target. The portion of these nonvested performance-based share awards and units that will be earned is as follows:

2021 Awards		Relative Total Shareholder Return vs. S&P 1500 Financial Services Index		
		≤25th percentile	50th percentile "Target"	≥75th percentile
Three-Year Book Value Per Share CAGR	14% "Target"	100%	150%	200%
	12%	75%	125%	175%
	10%	50%	100%	150%
	8%	25%	75%	125%
	6%	0%	50%	100%
2022 Awards		Relative Total Shareholder Return vs. S&P 1500 Financial Services Index		
		≤25th percentile	50th percentile "Target"	≥75th percentile
Three-Year Book Value Per Share CAGR	13% "Target"	100%	150%	200%
	11%	75%	125%	175%
	9%	50%	100%	150%
	7%	25%	75%	125%
	5%	0%	50%	100%
2023 Awards		Relative Total Shareholder Return vs. S&P 1500 Financial Services Index		
		≤25th percentile	50th percentile "Target"	≥75th percentile
Three-Year Book Value Per Share CAGR	10% "Target"	100%	150%	200%
	9%	75%	125%	175%
	8%	50%	100%	150%
	6%	25%	75%	125%
	5%	0%	50%	100%

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

2024 Awards		Relative Total Shareholder Return vs. S&P 1500 Financial Services Index		
		≤25th percentile	50th percentile "Target"	≥75th percentile
Three-Year Book Value Per Share CAGR	12% "Target"	100%	150%	200%
	11%	75%	125%	175%
	10%	50%	100%	150%
	8%	25%	75%	125%
	7%	0%	50%	100%

2025 Awards		Relative Total Shareholder Return vs. S&P 1500 Financial Services Index		
		≤25th percentile	50th percentile "Target"	≥75th percentile
Three-Year Book Value Per Share CAGR	11% "Target"	100%	150%	200%
	10%	75%	125%	175%
	9%	50%	100%	150%
	7%	25%	75%	125%
	6%	0%	50%	100%

Certain time-and-performance based share awards and units granted in 2022 and subsequent periods include retirement provisions under which the service requirements are considered satisfied when the employee with a required minimum years of continuous service reaches the eligible retirement age. Under these provisions, stock-based compensation is expensed from the grant date through the date that the employee will satisfy these conditions.

In the event that the compounded annual book value per share growth or the relative total shareholder return falls between the performance levels shown above for the 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022 or 2021 performance-based share awards, the nonvested common shares earned will be determined on a straight-line basis between the respective levels shown. The 2021 performance based awards vested at 133% relative to target on March 1, 2024 and the 2022 performance based awards vested at 168% relative to target on March 1, 2025.

Quoted market prices are used for the valuation of common shares granted that do not contain a market condition under ASC 718. The performance-based share awards granted beginning in 2021 contain a market condition and were valued based on analysis provided by a third-party valuation firm using a risk neutral simulation taking into effect the vesting conditions of the grant.

In January 2020, time-based share units were issued to all vice president and staff level employees that vested in three equal installments in January 2021, 2022 and 2023. In January 2023, time-based share units were issued to all vice president and staff level employees that vested in three equal installments in January 2024, 2025 and 2026. In February 2024, nonvested common share units were issued to certain vice president and staff level employees and are subject to time-based vesting in two equal installments in January 2025 and 2026. Also in February 2024, time-based share units were granted to certain vice president and staff level employees that vest in three equal installments on March 1, 2027, 2028 and 2029.

In connection with our incentive program covering bonus awards for performance years 2020 through 2024, in February following each performance year, time-based share units were issued to certain employees that vest in three equal yearly installments commencing on March 1 of the year following the grant year.

In May of each year, 2022 through 2025, time-based share units were granted to non-employee directors that vest one year from the date of grant.

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

The following tables summarize nonvested common share, nonvested common share unit and DEU activity for the year ended December 31:

2025										
(Shares in thousands)	Time and Performance-Based Share Awards		Time-Based Share Awards		Time and Performance-Based Share Units		Time-Based Share Units		DEUs	
	Number of Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value	Number of Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value	Number of Share Units	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value	Number of Share Units	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value	Dividend Equivalent Units	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Outstanding at beginning of year	837	\$ 16.09	127	\$ 48.27	67	\$ 19.15	763	\$ 46.88	67	\$ 51.25
Granted	236	23.00	53	57.11	44	23.00	140	58.24	33	60.18
Vested	(246)	14.83	(67)	47.13	(4)	15.35	(241)	45.03	(29)	49.21
Forfeited	(47)	14.83	—	—	(4)	20.38	(118)	49.84	(5)	51.35
Outstanding at end of year	<u>780</u>	<u>\$ 18.66</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>\$ 53.07</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>\$ 20.92</u>	<u>544</u>	<u>\$ 49.96</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>\$ 56.59</u>

2024										
(Shares in thousands)	Time and Performance-Based Share Awards		Time-Based Share Awards		Time and Performance-Based Share Units		Time-Based Share Units		DEUs	
	Number of Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value	Number of Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value	Number of Share Units	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value	Number of Share Units	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value	Dividend Equivalent Units	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Outstanding at beginning of year	844	\$ 14.29	149	\$ 44.40	24	\$ 13.23	700	\$ 42.46	57	\$ 44.00
Granted	244	21.84	53	53.87	43	22.46	307	53.40	36	57.91
Vested	(167)	15.64	(75)	44.50	—	—	(209)	41.50	(20)	44.01
Forfeited	(84)	15.64	—	—	—	—	(35)	48.20	(6)	44.35
Outstanding at end of year	<u>837</u>	<u>\$ 16.09</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>\$ 48.27</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>\$ 19.15</u>	<u>763</u>	<u>\$ 46.88</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>\$ 51.25</u>

2023										
(Shares in thousands)	Time and Performance-Based Share Awards		Time-Based Share Awards		Time and Performance-Based Share Units		Time-Based Share Units		DEUs	
	Number of Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value	Number of Shares	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value	Number of Share Units	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value	Number of Share Units	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value	Dividend Equivalent Units	Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value
Outstanding at beginning of year	647	\$ 20.99	138	\$ 45.94	5	\$ 15.35	345	\$ 45.95	37	\$ 40.86
Granted	300	12.66	75	43.51	19	12.66	548	41.78	37	40.55
Vested	(103)	51.52	(64)	46.65	—	—	(177)	47.43	(16)	40.38
Forfeited	—	—	—	—	—	—	(16)	39.12	(1)	42.13
Outstanding at end of year	<u>844</u>	<u>\$ 14.29</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>\$ 44.40</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>\$ 13.23</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>\$ 42.46</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>\$ 44.00</u>

The total fair value of nonvested shares, share units or DEUs that vested was \$33.5 million, \$25.4 million and \$15.3 million for the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023, respectively. As of December 31, 2025, there was \$17.0

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

million of total unrecognized compensation expense related to nonvested shares or share units outstanding at December 31, 2025 and we expect to recognize the expense over a weighted average period of 2.2 years.

In connection with our incentive program covering bonus awards for performance year 2025, in February 2026, \$47,082 nonvested common share units were issued to certain employees and are subject to time-based vesting. In February 2026, 263,184 nonvested common shares and 164,068 nonvested common share units were granted to certain members of senior management and are subject to time-based and performance-based vesting.

Employees have the option to tender shares to Essent Group to pay the minimum employee statutory withholding taxes associated with shares upon vesting. Common shares tendered by employees to pay employee withholding taxes totaled 210,596, 163,812 and 119,334 in 2025, 2024 and 2023, respectively. The tendered shares were recorded at cost and included in treasury stock. All treasury stock has been cancelled as of December 31, 2025 and 2024.

Compensation expense, net of forfeitures, and related tax effects recognized in connection with nonvested shares and share units were as follows for the years ended December 31:

(In thousands)	2025	2024	2023
Compensation expense	\$ 20,847	\$ 24,778	\$ 18,446
Income tax benefit	4,079	4,948	3,660

Note 11. Dividends Restrictions

Our U.S. insurance subsidiaries are subject to certain capital and dividend rules and regulations as prescribed by jurisdictions in which they are authorized to operate. Under the insurance laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, an insurance company may pay dividends during any 12-month period in an amount equal to the greater of (i) 10% of the preceding year-end statutory policyholders' surplus or (ii) the preceding year's statutory net income. The Pennsylvania statute also specifies that dividends and other distributions can be paid out of positive unassigned surplus without prior approval. At December 31, 2025, Essent Guaranty had unassigned surplus of approximately \$245.8 million. As of January 1, 2026, Essent Guaranty has dividend capacity of \$245.8 million.

During the year ended December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023, Essent Guaranty paid to its parent, Essent Holdings, dividends totaling \$495.0 million, \$165.5 million and \$295.0 million, respectively.

Essent Re is subject to certain dividend restrictions as prescribed by the Bermuda Monetary Authority and under certain agreements with counterparties. Class 3B insurers must obtain the BMA's prior approval for a reduction by 15% or more of total statutory capital or for a reduction by 25% or more of total statutory capital and surplus as set forth in its previous year's statutory financial statements. In connection with the quota share reinsurance agreement with Essent Guaranty, Essent Re has agreed to maintain a minimum total equity of \$100 million. As of December 31, 2025, Essent Re had total equity of \$1.7 billion. During the year ended December 31, 2025 and 2024, Essent Re paid to its parent, Essent Group, dividends totaling \$440 million and \$300 million, respectively. As of January 1, 2026, Essent Re has dividend capacity of \$423.0 million.

During the year ended December 31, 2025 and 2024 Essent Holdings contributed \$3.2 million and \$24.5 million, respectively, of capital to its Title insurance subsidiary.

At December 31, 2025, our insurance subsidiaries were in compliance with these rules, regulations and agreements.

Note 12. Income Taxes

For the year ended December 31, 2025, the statutory income tax rates of the countries where the Company does business are 21% in the United States, 0.0% in Bermuda, and 25% and 12.5% in Ireland for passive income and trading income, respectively. The statutory income tax rate of each country is applied against the taxable income from each country to calculate the income tax expense.

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

Income tax expense consists of the following components for the years ended December 31:

(In thousands)	2025		2024		2023	
Current						
Federal (U.S.)	\$	78,986	\$	87,429	\$	136,199
States		3,822		6,485		3,660
Foreign (Ireland)		485		—		—
Current income tax expense		83,293		93,914		139,859
Deferred						
Federal (U.S.)	\$	46,832	\$	30,335	\$	(12,495)
States		1,768		1,839		1,980
Foreign (Bermuda)		—		—		(2,731)
Deferred income tax expense (benefit)		48,600		32,174		(13,246)
Total income tax expense	\$	131,893	\$	126,088	\$	126,613

Pre tax income (loss) attributable to U.S. and Foreign (Bermuda and Ireland) operations was as follows for the years ended December 31:

(In thousands)	2025		2024		2023	
United States	\$	555,656	\$	577,352	\$	554,369
Bermuda		264,266		278,218		268,767
Ireland		1,940		(79)		(137)
	\$	821,862	\$	855,491	\$	822,999

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

While Essent Group Ltd. is domiciled in Bermuda, as further described below, our limited international presence results in a domiciled statutory income tax rate of 0.0% for the year ended December 31, 2025. For the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, Bermuda did not impose an income tax. For clarity, our rate reconciliation disclosures have been prepared with the U.S. statutory tax rate as the rate of domicile. The differences between income taxes expected at the U.S. federal tax rate of 21% applicable for each year, and the actual reported income tax expense are summarized as follows:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	2025		2024		2023	
	\$	% of pretax income	\$	% of pretax income	\$	% of pretax income
Income before income taxes	\$ 821,862		\$ 855,491		\$ 822,999	
Tax provision at U.S. statutory rate	172,591	21.0 %	179,653	21.0 %	172,830	21.0 %
State taxes, net of federal benefit	4,789	0.6	4,478	0.5	4,872	0.6
Other						
U.S. withholding tax on outbound dividend	10,500	1.3	6	—	7	—
Non-taxable or non-deductible items						
Non-deductible expenses	3,148	0.4	3,542	0.4	4,501	0.5
Tax exempt interest	(1,753)	(0.2)	(1,357)	(0.2)	(1,551)	(0.2)
Stock based compensation	(814)	(0.1)	(668)	(0.1)	145	—
Research and development tax credits	(316)	—	(827)	(0.1)	(1,841)	(0.2)
Other	(834)	(0.1)	(310)	—	4,096	0.5
Foreign Tax Effect						
Bermuda						
Statutory tax rate difference between Bermuda and U.S.	(55,496)	(6.9)	(58,426)	(6.8)	(56,441)	(6.8)
Ireland						
Statutory tax rate difference between Ireland and U.S.	78	—	(3)	—	(5)	—
Tax on dividend from U.S. subsidiary	26,250	3.2	16	—	18	—
Credit for taxes paid to the U.S.	(26,250)	(3.2)	(16)	—	(18)	—
Total income tax provision (benefit)	<u>\$ 131,893</u>	<u>16.0 %</u>	<u>\$ 126,088</u>	<u>14.7 %</u>	<u>\$ 126,613</u>	<u>15.4 %</u>

In each of the three years shown in the table above, state income taxes relate primarily to income apportioned to Florida, and the Company incurred no local taxes based on net income.

Income taxes were paid to the following jurisdictions for the years ended December 31:

<i>(In thousands)</i>	2025	2024	2023
Federal (U.S.)	\$ 87,151	\$ 88,192	\$ 135,629
States	4,000	4,325	4,081
Net income taxes paid	<u>\$ 91,151</u>	<u>\$ 92,517</u>	<u>\$ 139,710</u>

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

We provide deferred taxes to reflect the estimated future tax effects of the differences between the financial statement and tax bases of assets and liabilities using currently enacted tax laws. Our net deferred tax liability was comprised of the following components at December 31:

(In thousands)	2025	2024
U.S. Deferred Tax Assets:		
Unearned premium reserve	\$ 11,979	\$ 12,318
Accrued expenses	12,705	12,832
Unearned ceding commissions	1,243	1,610
Nonvested shares	2,843	2,807
Fixed assets	—	5,445
Capitalized acquisition costs	623	722
Discounted loss reserves	2,030	1,295
Change in fair market value of derivatives	2,777	2,436
Unrealized loss on investments	23,403	47,725
Gross U.S. Deferred Tax Assets	57,603	87,190
Bermuda Deferred Tax Assets (1)		
Unrealized loss on investments	2,951	5,319
Total Gross Deferred Tax Assets	60,554	92,509
U.S. Deferred Tax Liabilities:		
Contingency reserves	499,744	459,555
Deferred policy acquisition costs	1,195	1,450
Investments in limited partnerships	15,356	12,918
Right of use assets	5,334	5,311
Prepaid Expenses	271	255
Other	1,054	129
Gross U.S. Deferred Tax Liabilities	522,954	479,618
Net U.S. Deferred Tax Liability	465,351	392,428
Net Deferred Tax Liability	\$ 462,400	\$ 387,109

(1) Deferred tax assets within the jurisdiction of Bermuda are presented within Other Assets on our condensed consolidated balance sheet

As a mortgage guaranty insurer, we are eligible for a tax deduction, subject to certain limitations, under Section 832(e) of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") for amounts required by state law or regulation to be set aside in statutory contingency reserves. The deduction is allowed only to the extent that we purchase T&L Bonds in an amount equal to the tax benefit derived from deducting any portion of our statutory contingency reserves. During the year ended December 31, 2025, we had net purchases of T&L Bonds in the amount of \$23.8 million and had net purchases of T&L Bonds in the amount of \$19.0 million during the year ended December 31, 2024. As of December 31, 2025 and 2024, we held \$513.4 million and \$489.6 million of T&L Bonds, respectively.

In evaluating our ability to realize the benefit of our deferred tax assets, we consider the relevant impact of all available positive and negative evidence including our past operating results and our forecasts of future taxable income. For the year ended December 31, 2025, the Company had unrealized losses attributable to its available-for-sale investment securities that if sold would result in capital losses. Accordingly, management considered the ability and intent to hold such available-for-sale securities until recovery. At December 31, 2025 and 2024, after weighing all the evidence, management concluded that it was more likely than not that our ordinary and capital deferred tax assets would be realized.

Under current Bermuda law, our parent company, Essent Group, and its Bermuda subsidiary, Essent Re, are not required to pay any taxes on income and capital gains as of December 31, 2025. On December 27, 2023, the Government of Bermuda enacted the Corporate Income Tax Act 2023 ("CIT"). Starting January 1, 2025, the CIT results in a new 15% corporate income tax on in-scope entities that are resident in Bermuda or that have a Bermuda permanent establishment, without regard to any

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

assurances that had previously been given pursuant to the Exempted Undertakings Tax Protection Act 1966. Although our annual revenue meets the CIT threshold for "in-scope" (€750M), our Bermuda companies are not "in scope" because of a statutory exception for entities having "limited international presence" or "LIP". We currently meet the criteria for the LIP exception, which is available to our Bermuda companies until December 31, 2029, the fifth anniversary of the inception date of the tax. The LIP exemption criteria are subject to interpretation of existing Bermuda law, as well any related new regulations that may be issued by the Government of Bermuda. Also, future strategic business decisions could impact qualification for the LIP exception. Accordingly, no assurances can be made that we will continue meeting the LIP exception criteria during the four years remaining in our five-year exception period.

Essent Irish Intermediate Holdings Ltd. is subject to a 5% withholding tax on dividends received from its U.S. subsidiary, and as shown in the rate reconciliation above, the Company paid \$10.5 million of U.S. withholding tax based on \$210 million of dividends paid outside of the U.S. during 2025. However, no withholding taxes are accrued with respect to unremitted U.S. earnings. Management has no intention of remitting prior unremitted earnings, and any future dividends are expected to be made from U.S. earnings and profits in the same calendar year as the dividend paid. An estimate of the cumulative amount of U.S. earnings that would be subject to withholding tax, if distributed outside of the U.S., is approximately \$3.8 billion. The associated withholding tax liability under the U.S./Ireland tax treaty would be approximately \$189.4 million. Irish tax on dividends received from its U.S. subsidiary are expected to be fully offset by a credit for taxes paid to the U.S.

Essent is not subject to income taxation other than as stated above. There can be no assurance that there will not be changes in applicable laws, regulations, or treaties which might require Essent to change the way it operates or becomes subject to taxation.

At December 31, 2025 and 2024, the Company had no unrecognized tax benefits. As of December 31, 2025, the U.S. federal income tax returns for the tax years 2021 through 2024 remain subject to examination. The Company has not recorded any uncertain tax positions as of December 31, 2025 or December 31, 2024.

Note 13. Earnings per Share (EPS)

The following table reconciles the net income and the weighted average common shares outstanding used in the computations of basic and diluted earnings per common share for the years ended December 31:

(In thousands, except per share amounts)	2025	2024	2023
Net income	\$ 689,969	\$ 729,403	\$ 696,386
Basic weighted average shares outstanding	98,999	105,394	106,222
Dilutive effect of nonvested shares	1,024	1,156	907
Diluted weighted average shares outstanding	100,023	106,550	107,129
Basic earnings per share	\$ 6.97	\$ 6.92	\$ 6.56
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 6.90	\$ 6.85	\$ 6.50

There were 35,716, 51,776 and 48,087 antidilutive shares for the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Nonvested performance-based share awards are considered contingently issuable for purposes of the EPS calculation. The 2025, 2024, and 2023 performance-based share awards vest based upon our compounded annual book value per share growth

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

percentage and relative total shareholder return during a three-year performance period. The following table summarizes the performance-based shares issuable if the reporting date was the end of the contingency period.

As of December 31,	2025 Performance-Based Grants		2024 Performance-Based Grants		2023 Performance-Based Grants		2022 Performance-Based Grants	
	Percent Issuable Relative to Target	As a Percent of Shares Issued	Percent Issuable Relative to Target	As a Percent of Shares Issued	Percent Issuable Relative to Target	As a Percent of Shares Issued	Percent Issuable Relative to Target	As a Percent of Shares Issued
2025	200%	100%	134%	67%	193%	96.5%	(1)	(1)
2024			100%	50%	174%	87%	168%	84%
2023					200%	100%	200%	100%

(1) The 2022 performance based awards vested at 168% relative to target on March 1, 2025.

Note 14. Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)

The following table shows the rollforward of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) for the year ended December 31:

(In thousands)	2025			2024		
	Before Tax	Tax Effect	Net of Tax	Before Tax	Tax Effect	Net of Tax
Balance at beginning of year	\$ (354,298)	\$ 50,314	\$ (303,984)	\$ (322,992)	\$ 42,496	\$ (280,496)
Other comprehensive income (loss):						
Unrealized holding gains (losses) on investments:						
Unrealized holding gains (losses) arising during the year	177,767	(26,497)	151,270	(33,656)	8,260	(25,396)
Less: Reclassification adjustment for losses (gains) included in net income (1)	923	(194)	729	2,350	(442)	1,908
Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	178,690	(26,691)	151,999	(31,306)	7,818	(23,488)
Other comprehensive gain (loss)	178,690	(26,691)	151,999	(31,306)	7,818	(23,488)
Balance at end of year	\$ (175,608)	\$ 23,623	\$ (151,985)	\$ (354,298)	\$ 50,314	\$ (303,984)

(1) Included in net realized investments gains on our consolidated statements of comprehensive income.

Note 15. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

We carry certain of our financial instruments at fair value. We define fair value as the current amount that would be exchanged to sell an asset or transfer a liability, other than in a forced liquidation.

Fair Value Hierarchy

ASC No. 820 specifies a hierarchy of valuation techniques based on whether the inputs to those valuation techniques are observable or unobservable. Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs reflect our market assumptions. The level within the fair value hierarchy to measure the financial instrument shall be determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

- Level 1—Quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets accessible at the measurement date.
- Level 2—Quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and valuations in which all significant inputs are observable in active markets. Inputs are observable for substantially the full term of the financial instrument.
- Level 3—Valuations derived from one or more significant inputs that are unobservable.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

Determination of Fair Value

When available, we generally use quoted market prices to determine fair value and classify the financial instrument in Level 1. In cases where quoted market prices for similar financial instruments are available, we utilize these inputs for valuation techniques and classify the financial instrument in Level 2. In cases where quoted market prices are not available, fair values are based on estimates using discounted cash flows, present value or other valuation techniques. Those techniques are significantly affected by the assumptions used, including the discount rates and estimates of future cash flows and we classify the financial instrument in Level 3. Accordingly, the fair value estimates may not be realized in an immediate settlement of the instrument.

We used the following methods and assumptions in estimating fair values of financial instruments:

- Investments available for sale—Investments available for sale are valued using quoted market prices in active markets, when available, and those investments are classified as Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy. Level 1 investments available for sale include investments such as U.S. Treasury securities and money market funds. Investments available for sale are classified as Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy if quoted market prices are not available and fair values are estimated using quoted prices of similar securities or recently executed transactions for the securities. U.S. agency securities, U.S. agency mortgage-backed securities, municipal debt securities, non-U.S. government securities, corporate debt securities, residential and commercial mortgage securities and asset-backed securities are classified as Level 2 investments.

We use independent pricing sources to determine the fair value of securities available for sale in Level 1 and Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy. We use one primary pricing service to provide individual security pricing based on observable market data and receive one quote per security. To ensure securities are appropriately classified in the fair value hierarchy, we review the pricing techniques and methodologies of the independent pricing service and believe that their policies adequately consider market activity, either based on specific transactions for the issue valued or based on modeling of securities with similar credit quality, duration, yield and structure that were recently traded. U.S. agency securities, U.S. agency mortgage-backed securities, municipal debt securities, non-U.S. government securities, and corporate debt securities are valued by our primary vendor using recently executed transactions and proprietary models based on observable inputs, such as interest rate spreads, yield curves and credit risk. Residential and commercial mortgage securities and asset-backed securities are valued by our primary vendor using proprietary models based on observable inputs, such as interest rate spreads, prepayment speeds and credit risk. As part of our evaluation of investment prices provided by our primary pricing service, we obtained and reviewed their pricing methodologies which include a description of how each security type is evaluated and priced. We review the reasonableness of prices received from our primary pricing service by comparison to prices obtained from additional pricing sources. We have not made any adjustments to the prices obtained from our primary pricing service.

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value

All assets measured at fair value are categorized in the table below based upon the lowest level of significant input to the valuations. All fair value measurements at the reporting date were on a recurring basis.

December 31, 2025 (In thousands)	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Instruments (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total
Recurring fair value measurements				
Financial Assets:				
U.S. Treasury securities	\$ 369,712	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 369,712
U.S. agency mortgage-backed securities	—	1,174,895	—	1,174,895
Municipal debt securities	—	610,411	—	610,411
Non-U.S. government securities	—	56,024	—	56,024
Corporate debt securities	—	1,980,080	—	1,980,080
Residential and commercial mortgage securities	—	464,105	—	464,105
Asset-backed securities	—	800,366	—	800,366
Money market funds	648,492	—	—	648,492
Total assets at fair value (1) (2)	\$ 1,018,204	\$ 5,085,881	\$ —	\$ 6,104,085

December 31, 2024 (In thousands)	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Instruments (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total
Recurring fair value measurements				
Financial Assets:				
U.S. Treasury securities	\$ 547,290	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 547,290
U.S. agency mortgage-backed securities	—	1,125,436	—	1,125,436
Municipal debt securities	—	583,501	—	583,501
Non-U.S. government securities	—	69,798	—	69,798
Corporate debt securities	—	1,783,046	—	1,783,046
Residential and commercial mortgage securities	—	478,086	—	478,086
Asset-backed securities	—	631,959	—	631,959
Money market funds	657,605	—	—	657,605
Total assets at fair value (1) (2)	\$ 1,204,895	\$ 4,671,826	\$ —	\$ 5,876,721

(1) Does not include the fair value of embedded derivatives, which we have accounted for separately as freestanding derivatives and included in other assets or other accrued liabilities in our consolidated balance sheet. See Note 5 for more information.

(2) Does not include certain other invested assets that are measured at fair value using the net asset value per share (or its equivalent) as a practical expedient, as applicable accounting standards do not provide for classification within the fair value hierarchy.

Assets and Liabilities Not Carried at Fair Value

Our Senior Notes are carried at amortized cost, net of issuance costs, on our condensed consolidated balance sheets. As of December 31, 2025 and 2024, the carrying amount was \$495.3 million and \$494.0 million, respectively, and the estimated fair value was \$522.6 million and \$510.8 million, respectively. The fair value of our Senior Notes is estimated based on quoted market prices.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

Note 16. Statutory Accounting

Our U.S. insurance subsidiaries prepare statutory-basis financial statements in accordance with the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by their respective state's department of insurance, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than GAAP. We did not use any prescribed or permitted statutory accounting practices (individually or in the aggregate) that resulted in reported statutory surplus or capital that was significantly different from the statutory surplus or capital that would have been reported had National Association of Insurance Commissioners' statutory accounting practices been followed. The following table presents Essent Guaranty's and Essent PA's statutory net income, statutory surplus and contingency reserve liability as of and for the years ended December 31:

(In thousands)	2025	2024	2023
Essent Guaranty			
Statutory net income	\$ 480,600	\$ 495,516	\$ 431,266
Statutory surplus	951,100	1,101,894	1,004,104
Contingency reserve liability	2,621,787	2,492,487	2,265,713
Essent PA			
Statutory net income	N/A	N/A	\$ (3,055)
Statutory surplus	N/A	N/A	54,044
Contingency reserve liability	N/A	N/A	52,244

Prior to December 31, 2024, Essent Guaranty reinsured that portion of the risk that is in excess of 25% of the mortgage balance with respect to any loan insured prior to April 1, 2019, after consideration of other reinsurance, to Essent Guaranty of PA, Inc. On December 31, 2024, Essent Guaranty and Essent PA entered into a commutation and release agreement in which all outstanding risk in force assumed by Essent PA was commuted back to Essent Guaranty in exchange for cash. Upon the commutation and release, Essent PA surrendered its insurance license and is no longer an insurance subsidiary of Essent Group Ltd. as of December 31, 2024.

Net income determined in accordance with statutory accounting practices differs from GAAP. In years presented above, the more significant differences between net income determined under statutory accounting practices and GAAP for Essent Guaranty and Essent PA relate to policy acquisition costs and income taxes. Under statutory accounting practices, policy acquisition costs are expensed as incurred while such costs are capitalized and amortized to expense over the life of the policy under GAAP. As discussed in Note 12, we are eligible for a tax deduction, subject to certain limitations for amounts required by state law or regulation to be set aside in statutory contingency reserves when we purchase T&L Bonds. Under statutory accounting practices, this deduction reduces the tax provision recorded by Essent Guaranty and Essent PA and, as a result, increases statutory net income and surplus as compared to net income and equity determined in accordance with GAAP.

At December 31, 2025 and 2024, the statutory capital of our U.S. insurance subsidiaries, which is defined as the total of statutory surplus and contingency reserves, was in excess of the statutory capital necessary to satisfy their respective regulatory requirements.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, at the direction of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, maintain coordinated Private Mortgage Insurer Eligibility Requirements, which we refer to as the "PMIERs." The PMIERs represent the standards by which private mortgage insurers are eligible to provide mortgage insurance on loans owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The PMIERs include financial strength requirements incorporating a risk-based framework that require approved insurers to have a sufficient level of liquid assets from which to pay claims. The PMIERs also include enhanced operational performance expectations and define remedial actions that apply should an approved insurer fail to comply with these requirements. In August 2024, the GSEs issued updates to the PMIERs calculation of Available Assets. The updated PMIERs Available Asset requirements are subject to a phased-in implementation beginning with the quarter ending March 31, 2025, and will become fully effective on September 30, 2026. As of December 31, 2025, Essent Guaranty, our GSE-approved mortgage insurance company, was in compliance with the PMIERs.

Statement of Statutory Accounting Principles No. 58, *Mortgage Guaranty Insurance*, requires mortgage insurers to establish a special contingency reserve for statutory accounting purposes included in total liabilities equal to 50% of earned premium for that year. During 2025, Essent Guaranty increased its contingency reserve by \$275.7 million. This reserve is required to be maintained for a period of 120 months to protect against the effects of adverse economic cycles. After 120

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

months, the reserve is released to unassigned funds. In the event an insurer's loss ratio in any calendar year exceeds 35%, however, the insurer may, after regulatory approval, release from its contingency reserves an amount equal to the excess portion of such losses. During the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024, Essent Guaranty released contingency reserves of \$146.4 million and \$99.3 million, respectively, to unassigned funds upon completion of the 120 month holding period.

Under The Insurance Act 1978, as amended, and related regulations of Bermuda (the "Insurance Act"), Essent Re is required to annually prepare statutory financial statements and a statutory financial return in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of the Insurance Act, which is a basis other than GAAP. The Insurance Act also requires that Essent Re maintain minimum share capital of \$1 million and must ensure that the value of its general business assets exceeds the amount of its general business liabilities by an amount greater than the prescribed minimum solvency margins and enhanced capital requirement pertaining to its general business. At December 31, 2025 and 2024, all such requirements were met.

Essent Re's statutory capital and surplus was \$1.7 billion and \$1.8 billion as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, respectively, and statutory net income was \$303.0 million and \$320.2 million, respectively. Statutory capital and surplus and net income determined in accordance with statutory accounting practices were not significantly different than the amounts determined under GAAP.

Note 17. Acquisitions

Effective July 1, 2023, Essent Holdings acquired all of the issued and outstanding shares of capital stock of Agents National Title Holding Company ("Agents National Title") and the issued and outstanding membership interests of Boston National Holdings LLC ("Boston National Title") for \$92.6 million in cash in a single settlement with the seller. The purchase price was subject to further customary post-closing adjustments as described in a securities purchase agreement among the parties to the transaction, in which a post closing adjustment of \$1.3 million was paid by the seller to Essent Holdings. The acquisition provides complementary products and services to our mortgage insurance business, adding a team of seasoned title professionals to Essent and providing a platform to leverage our capital, lender network and operational expertise in a well-established, adjacent real estate sector.

For the years ended December 31, 2025 and December 31, 2024, the acquired businesses contributed revenues of \$68.5 million and \$80.1 million, respectively, principally comprised of \$56.4 million and \$66.2 million, respectively, of net premiums earned and \$9.2 million and \$9.0 million, respectively, of settlement services revenues, which is included in other income, and pre-tax net losses of \$24.3 million and \$21.5 million, respectively. The following unaudited pro forma summary presents consolidated information for Essent as if the business combination had occurred on January 1, 2023.

(In thousands)	Pro Forma Year Ended December 31, 2023	
Revenues	\$	1,153,872
Earnings		685,827

We did not have any material, nonrecurring pro forma adjustments directly attributable to the business combination included in the reported pro forma revenue and earnings. These pro forma amounts have been calculated after applying our accounting policies and adjusting the results of Agents National Title and Boston National Title to reflect the additional amortization that would have been charged to earnings assuming the fair value adjustments for the intangible assets acquired had been applied from January 1, 2023, including consequential income tax effects. We incurred \$4.5 million of acquisition-related costs for the year ended December 31, 2023.

The acquisition of Agents National Title and Boston National Title was accounted for as a business combination using the acquisition method of accounting and, accordingly, the assets acquired, liabilities assumed and consideration transferred were recorded at their estimated fair values as of the acquisition date. The excess of consideration transferred over the fair value of net assets acquired was recorded as goodwill. The Company allocated the goodwill to its Title operating segment.

The following table summarizes the consideration transferred to acquire Agents National Title and Boston National Title and the amounts of identified assets acquired and liabilities assumed, including purchase accounting adjustments that have been recorded by Essent during the measurement period:

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

	Originally Reported	Measurement Period Adjustments	As Reported
Consideration Paid:			
Cash	\$ 92,625	\$ (1,315)	\$ 91,310
Assets Acquired:			
Cash and cash equivalents	5,864	—	5,864
Short-term investments	21,108	—	21,108
Fixed maturities available for sale	9,668	—	9,668
Identifiable intangible assets	26,300	(3,400)	22,900
Other assets	16,366	(2,297)	14,069
Liabilities Assumed:			
Reserve for losses	14,613	(464)	14,149
Other liabilities	10,399	6,512	16,911
Total Identifiable Net Assets	54,294	(11,745)	42,549
Goodwill	\$ 38,331	\$ 10,430	\$ 48,761

Adjustments to Goodwill were primarily related to the fair value of claims reserve liabilities, agency relationship intangible assets and other assets. The fair values of assets acquired and liabilities assumed, as well as resulting goodwill, were finalized as of June 30, 2024.

The amount of goodwill recorded reflects the increased market share and related synergies that are expected to result from the acquisition, and represents the excess purchase price over the estimated fair value of the net assets acquired from Agents National Title and Boston National Title.

Note 18. Segment Reporting

We have two reportable business segments: Mortgage Insurance and Reinsurance. Our Mortgage Insurance segment offers private mortgage insurance for mortgages secured by residential properties located in the United States. We provide private mortgage insurance on residential first-lien mortgage loans ("mortgage insurance") through our mortgage insurance subsidiary, Essent Guaranty, Inc., which we refer to as "Essent Guaranty", and also offer other credit risk management solutions, including contract underwriting, to our customers.

Our Reinsurance segment primarily reinsures U.S. mortgage risk in the GSE credit risk transfer market and provides underwriting consulting services to third-party reinsurers ("GSE and other risk share") through our wholly owned, Bermuda-based subsidiary, Essent Reinsurance Ltd., which we refer to as "Essent Re".

Prior to December 31, 2025, we disclosed one reportable segment, Mortgage Insurance, which was comprised of "U.S. mortgage insurance" and "GSE and other mortgage risk share." Our mortgage insurance business and GSE and other mortgage risk share business each represented operating segments that were aggregated and disclosed as one reportable segment based on their shared economic characteristics and the similarities between the two operating segments. In the fourth quarter of 2025, Essent Re entered the Lloyd's of London market to reinsure certain property and casualty risks beginning in the first quarter of 2026. Considering the expansion of business and types of risks reinsured at Essent Re, our Chief Operating Decision Maker began to assess the performance of all third-party reinsurance as an operating segment as of December 31, 2025. To reflect this change, the GSE and other mortgage risk share operating segment is no longer aggregated with mortgage insurance and all third-party reinsurance is now disclosed as a separate reportable segment: Reinsurance. All prior period segment information has been recast to conform to the new segment presentation.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

In addition, our "Corporate & Other" category is used to reconcile our reportable segments to consolidated results and includes business activities associated with our title insurance operations, income and losses from holding company treasury operations, as well as general corporate operating expenses not attributable to our operating segments. Our title insurance operations are an operating segment that does not meet the quantitative thresholds of a separate reportable segment.

We allocate corporate management and support expenses to operating segments based on their percentage of total operating segment revenues, which approximates the estimated percentage of management time and resources spent on each operating segment. We view our borrowings as holding company capital and liquidity and as such, all interest expense is included in Corporate & Other.

Our senior management team, including our President & Chief Executive Officer (Essent's chief operating decision maker or "CODM"), uses income (loss) before income taxes as the primary measure to evaluate the financial performance of the operating segments and to allocate resources to those segments, including capital allocations and assessing headcount. The CODM also assesses the profitability of our Mortgage Insurance and Reinsurance segments through analysis of the loss ratio, expense ratio and combined ratio. We do not manage our segments by assets.

Segment Information: Profit & Loss

The following tables reconcile the components of reportable segment profit and loss to consolidated profit and loss. Within the tables, we have disclosed significant segment expenses at a level of disaggregation that coincides with what is regularly provided to the CODM. Other underwriting and operating expenses in our reportable segments include software, professional fees, travel, and occupancy costs. The accounting policies of our operating segments are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies. We do not have inter-segment transactions.

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

Year Ended December 31, 2025

(In thousands)	Mortgage Insurance	Reinsurance	Total Reportable Segments	Corporate & Other	Consolidated
Revenues:					
Net premiums earned	\$ 866,743	\$ 60,609	\$ 927,352	\$ 56,366	\$ 983,718
Net investment income	174,358	20,271	194,629	41,888	236,517
Realized investment gains (losses), net	(870)	6	(864)	(59)	(923)
Income from other invested assets	8,267	—	8,267	9,319	17,586
Other income	5,111	8,708	13,819	10,218	24,037
Total revenues	1,053,609	89,594	1,143,203	117,732	1,260,935
Losses and expenses:					
Provision for losses and LAE	145,373	310	145,683	3,654	149,337
Compensation and benefits	64,392	4,547	68,939	61,011	129,950
Premium and other taxes	23,596	52	23,648	2,181	25,829
Ceding commission	(28,669)	1,410	(27,259)	—	(27,259)
Other underwriting and operating expenses	42,570	4,136	46,706	81,814	128,520
Net operating expenses before allocations	101,889	10,145	112,034	145,006	257,040
Corporate expense allocations	38,077	1,491	39,568	(39,568)	—
Operating expenses after allocations	139,966	11,636	151,602	105,438	257,040
Interest expense	—	—	—	32,696	32,696
Income (loss) before income taxes	\$ 768,270	\$ 77,648	\$ 845,918	\$ (24,056)	\$ 821,862
Loss ratio (1)	16.8 %	0.5 %	15.7 %		
Expense ratio (2)	16.1	19.2	16.3		
Combined ratio	32.9 %	19.7 %	32.0 %		

(1) Loss ratio is calculated by dividing the provision (benefit) for losses and LAE by net premiums earned.

(2) Expense ratio is calculated by dividing operating expenses after allocations by net premiums earned.

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

Year Ended December 31, 2024

(In thousands)	Mortgage Insurance	Reinsurance	Total Reportable Segments	Corporate & Other	Consolidated
Revenues:					
Net premiums earned	\$ 855,793	\$ 68,883	\$ 924,676	\$ 66,206	\$ 990,882
Net investment income	164,469	18,872	183,341	38,729	222,070
Realized investment losses, net	(2,343)	—	(2,343)	(7)	(2,350)
Income from other invested assets	7,171	—	7,171	204	7,375
Other income	4,896	9,256	14,152	10,775	24,927
Total revenues	1,029,986	97,011	1,126,997	115,907	1,242,904
Losses and expenses:					
Provision for losses and LAE	75,156	26	75,182	6,038	81,220
Compensation and benefits	67,985	4,171	72,156	64,236	136,392
Premium and other taxes	22,951	56	23,007	1,497	24,504
Ceding commission	(25,144)	896	(24,248)	—	(24,248)
Other underwriting and operating expenses	41,168	3,661	44,829	89,397	134,226
Net operating expenses before allocations	106,960	8,784	115,744	155,130	270,874
Corporate expense allocations	43,003	784	43,787	(43,787)	—
Operating expenses after allocations	149,963	9,568	159,531	111,343	270,874
Interest expense	—	—	—	35,319	35,319
Income (loss) before income taxes	\$ 804,867	\$ 87,417	\$ 892,284	\$ (36,793)	\$ 855,491
Loss ratio (1)	8.8 %	— %	8.1 %		
Expense ratio (2)	17.5	13.9	17.3		
Combined ratio	26.3 %	13.9 %	25.4 %		

(1) Loss ratio is calculated by dividing the provision (benefit) for losses and LAE by net premiums earned.

(2) Expense ratio is calculated by dividing operating expenses after allocations by net premiums earned.

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

Year Ended December 31, 2023

(In thousands)	Mortgage Insurance	Reinsurance	Total Reportable Segments	Corporate & Other	Consolidated
Revenues:					
Net premiums earned	\$ 812,501	\$ 66,436	\$ 878,937	\$ 37,969	\$ 916,906
Net investment income	142,186	17,682	159,868	26,271	186,139
Realized investment losses, net	(6,392)	—	(6,392)	(812)	(7,204)
Loss from other invested assets	(490)	—	(490)	(10,628)	(11,118)
Other income	7,208	13,484	20,692	4,344	25,036
Total revenues	955,013	97,602	1,052,615	57,144	1,109,759
Losses and expenses:					
Provision (benefit) for losses and LAE	30,166	(46)	30,120	1,422	31,542
Compensation and benefits	65,003	3,993	68,996	45,902	114,898
Premium and other taxes	22,495	49	22,544	(376)	22,168
Ceding commission	(21,757)	431	(21,326)	—	(21,326)
Other underwriting and operating expenses	42,292	2,676	44,968	64,373	109,341
Net operating expenses before allocations	108,033	7,149	115,182	109,899	225,081
Corporate expense allocations	46,709	565	47,274	(47,274)	—
Operating expenses after allocations	154,742	7,714	162,456	62,625	225,081
Interest expense	—	—	—	30,137	30,137
Income (loss) before income taxes	\$ 770,105	\$ 89,934	\$ 860,039	\$ (37,040)	\$ 822,999
Loss ratio (1)	3.7 %	(0.1)%	3.4 %		
Expense ratio (2)	19.0	11.6	18.5		
Combined ratio	22.7 %	11.5 %	21.9 %		

(1) Loss ratio is calculated by dividing the provision (benefit) for losses and LAE by net premiums earned.

(2) Expense ratio is calculated by dividing operating expenses after allocations by net premiums earned.

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Schedule I—Summary of Investments—Other Than Investments in Related Parties

December 31, 2025

Type of Investment (In thousands)	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amount at which shown in the Balance Sheet
Fixed maturities:			
Bonds:			
United States Government and government agencies and authorities	\$ 1,617,390	\$ 1,544,607	\$ 1,544,607
States, municipalities and political subdivisions	641,153	610,411	610,411
Residential and commercial mortgage securities	486,441	464,105	464,105
Asset-backed securities	804,501	800,366	800,366
Foreign government and agency securities	64,470	56,024	56,024
All other corporate bonds	2,017,246	1,980,080	1,980,080
Total fixed maturities	5,631,201	5,455,593	5,455,593
Short-term investments	648,492	648,492	648,492
Other invested assets	382,512	382,513	382,513
Total investments	\$ 6,662,205	\$ 6,486,598	\$ 6,486,598

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Schedule II—Condensed Financial Information of Registrant

Condensed Balance Sheets

Parent Company Only

(In thousands)	December 31,	
	2025	2024
Assets		
Investments		
Fixed maturities available for sale, at fair value (amortized cost: 2025 — \$49,915; 2024 — \$158,953)	\$ 49,853	\$ 151,600
Short-term investments available for sale, at fair value (amortized cost: 2025 — \$169,462; 2024 — \$158,242)	169,462	158,242
Total investments available for sale	219,315	309,842
Cash	4,944	2,267
Due from affiliates	3,274	2,517
Investment in consolidated subsidiaries	6,035,739	5,792,965
Other assets	5,513	6,631
Total Assets	\$ 6,268,785	\$ 6,114,222
Liabilities and stockholders' equity		
Liabilities		
Senior notes due 2029, net	\$ 495,301	\$ 493,959
Other accrued liabilities	16,757	16,605
Total liabilities	512,058	510,564
Commitments and contingencies		
Stockholders' Equity		
Common shares	1,432	1,575
Additional paid-in capital	649,895	1,214,956
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(151,985)	(303,984)
Retained earnings	5,257,385	4,691,111
Total stockholders' equity	5,756,727	5,603,658
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 6,268,785	\$ 6,114,222

See accompanying supplementary notes to Parent Company condensed financial information and the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto.

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Schedule II—Condensed Financial Information of Registrant

Condensed Statements of Comprehensive Income

Parent Company Only

(In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Revenues:			
Net investment income	\$ 7,950	\$ 9,030	\$ 5,663
Realized investment losses, net	(6,221)	(2)	(11,722)
Loss from other invested assets	—	(2,336)	—
Administrative service fees from subsidiaries	1,171	830	710
Total revenues	2,900	7,522	(5,349)
Expenses:			
Administrative service fees to subsidiaries	4,575	4,717	3,738
Other operating expenses	8,635	8,046	7,010
Interest expense	32,696	35,319	30,137
Total expenses	45,906	48,082	40,885
Loss before income taxes and equity in undistributed net income in subsidiaries	(43,006)	(40,560)	(46,234)
Income tax expense (benefit)	—	—	(181)
Loss before equity in undistributed net income of subsidiaries	(43,006)	(40,560)	(46,053)
Equity in undistributed net income of subsidiaries	732,975	769,963	742,439
Net income	\$ 689,969	\$ 729,403	\$ 696,386
Other comprehensive income (loss):			
Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments, net of tax expense (benefit) of \$26,691 in 2025, \$(7,818) in 2024 and \$17,944 in 2023	151,999	(23,488)	102,294
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	151,999	(23,488)	102,294
Comprehensive income	\$ 841,968	\$ 705,915	\$ 798,680

See accompanying supplementary notes to Parent Company condensed financial information and the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto.

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Schedule II—Condensed Financial Information of Registrant

Condensed Statements of Cash Flows

Parent Company Only

(In thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		
	2025	2024	2023
Operating Activities			
Net income	\$ 689,969	\$ 729,403	\$ 696,386
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Equity in net income of subsidiaries	(732,975)	(769,963)	(742,439)
Loss on the sale of investments, net	6,221	2	11,722
Loss from other invested assets	—	2,336	—
Dividends from subsidiaries	635,000	300,000	60,000
Stock-based compensation expense	1,200	1,134	1,000
Amortization of premium on investment securities	(322)	129	324
Deferred income taxes	—	—	(181)
Changes in assets and liabilities:			
Other assets	(362)	889	816
Other accrued liabilities	21,773	40,289	18,365
Net cash provided by operating activities	620,504	304,219	45,993
Investing Activities			
Net change in short-term investments	(11,220)	(76,250)	(14,370)
Purchase of investments available for sale	(4,486)	(106,653)	(9,860)
Proceeds from maturities and paydowns of investments available for sale	66,451	33,515	24,787
Proceeds from sales of investments available for sale	41,174	8,276	128,249
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	91,919	(141,112)	128,806
Financing Activities			
Issuance of senior notes	—	498,160	—
Credit facility repayments	—	(425,000)	—
Treasury stock acquired	(587,679)	(111,542)	(70,670)
Payment of debt issuance costs	—	(8,488)	—
Dividends paid	(122,067)	(118,043)	(106,215)
Net cash used in financing activities	(709,746)	(164,913)	(176,885)
Net increase (decrease) in cash	2,677	(1,806)	(2,086)
Cash at beginning of year	2,267	4,073	6,159
Cash at end of year	\$ 4,944	\$ 2,267	\$ 4,073
Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information			
Interest payments	\$ (31,250)	\$ (17,196)	\$ (28,754)

See accompanying supplementary notes to Parent Company condensed financial information and the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto.

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Schedule II—Condensed Financial Information of Registrant

Parent Company Only

Supplementary Notes

Note A

The accompanying Parent Company financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes to consolidated financial statements. These financial statements have been prepared on the same basis and using the same accounting policies as described in the consolidated financial statements included herein, except that the Parent Company uses the equity method of accounting for its majority-owned subsidiaries.

Note B

Under the insurance laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, insurance subsidiaries may pay dividends during any 12-month period in an amount equal to the greater of (i) 10% of the preceding year-end statutory policyholders' surplus or (ii) the preceding year's statutory net income. The Pennsylvania statute also requires that dividends and other distributions be paid out of positive unassigned surplus without prior approval. As of December 31, 2025, Essent Guaranty had unassigned surplus of approximately \$245.8 million. As of January 1, 2026, Essent Guaranty has dividend capacity of \$245.8 million.

During the years ended December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023, the Parent Company received dividends from Essent Re totaling \$440 million, \$300 million and \$60 million, respectively. As of January 1, 2026, Essent Re has dividend capacity of \$423.0 million.

Essent Group Ltd. and Subsidiaries

Schedule IV—Reinsurance

Insurance Premiums Earned

Years Ended December 31, 2025, 2024 and 2023

(\$ in thousands)	Gross Amount	Ceded to Other Companies	Assumed from Other Companies	Net Amount	Assumed Premiums as a Percentage of Net Premiums
2025	1,131,571	(147,853)	—	983,718	0.0 %
2024	1,122,905	(132,023)	—	990,882	0.0 %
2023	1,051,405	(134,499)	—	916,906	0.0 %

ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Our management carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act) as of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report. Based on this evaluation, our chief executive officer and chief financial officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of December 31, 2025, the end of the period covered by this Annual Report.

Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act. The Company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

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

Management, including our chief executive officer and chief financial officer, assessed the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2025. Management based this assessment on criteria for effective internal control over financial reporting described in "Internal Control—Integrated Framework (2013)" issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this assessment, management determined that, as of December 31, 2025, the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

The effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2025 has been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report, which is included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

During our most recent fiscal quarter, there has not been any change in our internal control over financial reporting (as such term is defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION

Appointment of Director

On February 11, 2026, the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Essent Group Ltd. (1) expanded the size of the Board by one director to consist of an aggregate of 10 members, and (2) appointed Martin P. Connor to fill the resulting vacancy on the Board to serve as a Class I director through the 2027 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders.

Martin P. Connor has been employed by Toll Brothers, Inc., a publicly traded national homebuilder, since 2008, where he currently serves as a senior advisor. From 2010 to 2025, Mr. Connor served as the Chief Financial Officer of Toll Brothers, and prior to that was its Vice President and Assistant Chief Financial Officer. From June 2008 to December 2008, Mr. Connor was President of Marcon Advisors LLC, a finance and accounting consulting firm that he founded. From 2006 to 2008, Mr. Connor was Chief Financial Officer and Director of Operations for O'Neill Properties, a diversified commercial real estate developer in the Mid-Atlantic area. Prior to that, Mr. Connor spent over 20 years at Ernst & Young LLP, where he was ultimately an Audit and Advisory Business Services Partner responsible for its real estate practice in the Philadelphia marketplace. Mr. Connor currently serves as a director of Univest Financial Corporation, a publicly traded banking and financial services provider serving customers primarily in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Mr. Connor holds a BBA in Accountancy from the University of Notre Dame and is a Certified Public Accountant.

There are no transactions between Mr. Connor (or any member of his immediate family) and the Company or any of its subsidiaries, and there are no arrangements or understandings between Mr. Connor and any other persons or entities pursuant to which he was appointed as a director of the Company.

Rule 10b5-1 Trading Plans.

On November 24, 2025, Mark Casale, the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer, entered into a 10b5-1 sales plan (the "Casale Sales Plan") intended to satisfy the affirmative defense of Rule 10b5-1(c) under the Exchange Act. The Casale Sales Plan provides for the sale of up to an aggregate of 250,000 shares of the Company's common stock beneficially owned by Mr. Casale during the term of the Casale Sales Plan and will be in effect until the earlier of (1) February 19, 2027 and (2) the date on which an aggregate of 250,000 shares of the Company's common stock have been sold under the Casale Sales Plan.

On December 4, 2025, Mary Gibbons, the Company's Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, entered into a 10b5-1 sales plan (the "Gibbons Sales Plan") intended to satisfy the affirmative defense of Rule 10b5-1(c) under the Exchange Act. The Gibbons Sales Plan provides for the sale of up to an aggregate of 32,038 shares of the Company's common stock beneficially owned by Ms. Gibbons during the term of the Gibbons Sales Plan and will be in effect until the earlier of (1) August 5, 2026 and (2) the date on which an aggregate of 32,038 shares of the Company's common stock have been sold under the Gibbons Sales Plan.

ITEM 9C. DISCLOSURE REGARDING FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS THAT PREVENT INSPECTIONS

Not applicable.

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Incorporated herein by reference to our definitive proxy statement to be filed with respect to our 2026 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders.

The Company has adopted an insider trading policy that governs the purchase, sale, and/or other transactions of our securities by our directors, officers and employees. A copy of our insider trading policy was filed as Exhibit 19.1 to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024. In addition, with regard to the Company's trading in its own securities, it is the Company's policy to comply with the federal securities laws and the applicable exchange listing requirements.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Incorporated herein by reference to our definitive proxy statement to be filed with respect to our 2026 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders.

ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

Incorporated herein by reference to our definitive proxy statement to be filed with respect to our 2026 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

Incorporated herein by reference to our definitive proxy statement to be filed with respect to our 2026 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders.

Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans

The following table sets forth, as of December 31, 2025, information concerning equity compensation plans under which our securities are authorized for issuance. The table does not reflect grants, awards, exercises, terminations or expirations since that date.

Plan Category	Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights	Weighted Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights	Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans
	(a)	(b)	(c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	712,778 (1)	(2)	2,995,880 (3)
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	—	—	—
Total	712,778	—	2,995,880

- (1) All of these shares are subject to outstanding restricted common share unit awards. This number does not include 964,347 shares that are subject to then-outstanding, but unvested, restricted common share awards because those securities have been subtracted from the number of securities remaining available for future issuance under column (c).
- (2) Not applicable because all outstanding awards reflected in column (a) will be issued upon the vesting of outstanding restricted common share units.
- (3) All of the shares that remained available for future issuance as of December 31, 2025 were available under the 2013 Essent Group Ltd. Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended and restated effective May 2, 2023 (the "2013 Plan"). Subject to certain express limits of the 2013 Plan, shares available for award purposes under the 2013 Plan generally may be used for any type of award authorized under that plan including options, stock appreciation rights, and other forms of awards granted or denominated in our common shares including, without limitation, stock bonuses, restricted stock, restricted stock units and performance shares. A total of 6,115,530 common shares are reserved and available for delivery under the 2013 Plan. Common shares underlying awards that are settled in cash, cancelled, forfeited, or otherwise terminated without delivery to a participant will again be available for issuance under the 2013 Plan. Common shares withheld or

surrendered in connection with the payment of an exercise price of an award or to satisfy tax withholding will not again become available for issuance under the 2013 Plan.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

Incorporated herein by reference to our definitive proxy statement to be filed with respect to our 2026 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders.

PART IV

ITEM 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a) The following documents are filed as part of this Annual Report:

1. Financial Statements. See the "Index to Financial Statements—Consolidated Financial Statements" included in Item 8 of Part II of this Annual Report for a list of the financial statements filed as a part of this Annual Report.
2. Financial Statements Schedules. See the "Index to Financial Statements—Financial Statement Schedules" included in Item 8 of Part II of this Annual Report for a list of the financial statements filed as a part of this Annual Report.
3. Exhibits.

Exhibit No.	Description
3.1	Memorandum of Association (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-191193) filed on September 16, 2013)
3.2	Certificate of Deposit of Memorandum of Increase of Share Capital, dated as of February 18, 2009 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-191193) filed on September 16, 2013)
3.2.1	Certificate of Deposit of Memorandum of Increase of Share Capital, dated as of October 3, 2013 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2.1 of Amendment No.3 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-191193) filed on October 21, 2013)
3.3	Amended and Restated Bye-laws (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.3 of the Form 10-K (File No. 001-36157) filed on March 10, 2014)
4.1	Form of Common Share Certificate (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of Amendment No.3 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-191193) filed on October 21, 2013)
4.2	Third Amended and Restated Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of November 11, 2014, among Essent Group Ltd. and the shareholders party thereto (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Form 10-Q (File No. 001-36157) filed on November 14, 2014)
4.3	Description of Securities (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.3 of the Form 10-K (File No. 001-36157) filed on February 17, 2023)
4.4	Senior Indenture dated as of July 1, 2024 between Essent Group Ltd. and U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-36157) filed on July 1, 2024)
4.5	First Supplemental Indenture dated as of July 1, 2024 between Essent Group Ltd. and U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-36157) filed on July 1, 2024)
4.6	Form of 6.250% Senior Notes due 2029 (included as Exhibit A to the First Supplemental Indenture in Exhibit 4.2 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-36157) filed on July 1, 2024)
10.1	Asset Purchase Agreement, dated as of October 7, 2009, between Essent Guaranty, Inc. and Triad Guaranty Insurance Corporation (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of the Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-191193) filed on September 16, 2013)
10.2	† Leadership Bonus Program (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.8 of the Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-36157) filed on February 29, 2016)
10.3	† Second Amended and Restated 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Appendix A to the Company's Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A (File No. 333-191193) filed on April 6, 2023)
10.4	† Form of Time-Based Restricted Share Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.11 of Amendment No.1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-191193) filed on September 26, 2013)
10.5	† Form of Performance-Based Restricted Share Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.7 of the Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-36157) filed on February 26, 2021)

10.6	†*	Form of Time-Based Restricted Share Unit Agreement
10.7	†*	Form of Performance-Based Restricted Share Agreement
10.8	†*	Form of Performance-Based Restricted Share Unit Agreement
10.9	†	Annual Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.13 of Amendment No.1 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-191193) filed on September 26, 2013)
10.10	†	Employment Agreement, dated as of September 25, 2013, by and between Essent US Holdings, Inc. and Mark Casale (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.14 of Amendment No.2 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-191193) filed on October 4, 2013)
10.11	†	Employment Agreement, dated as of September 26, 2013, by and between Essent US Holdings, Inc. and Vijay Bhasin (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.16 of Amendment No.2 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-191193) filed on October 4, 2013)
10.12	†	Employment Agreement, dated as of September 26, 2013, by and between Essent US Holdings, Inc. and Mary Lourdes Gibbons (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.17 of the Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-36157) filed on February 27, 2015)
10.13	†	Employment Agreement, dated as of September 26, 2013, by and between Essent Guaranty, Inc. and Christopher G. Curran (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.13 of the Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-36157) filed on February 19, 2019)
10.14	†	Offer Letter between Essent US Holdings, Inc. and David Weinstock dated March 14, 2023 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of the Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-36157) filed on March 15, 2023)
10.15	†	Form of Director and Officer Indemnification Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.17 of the Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-191193) filed on September 16, 2013)
10.16	†	Section 409A Specified Employee Policy (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.18 of Amendment No.2 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-191193) filed on October 4, 2013)
10.17		Revolving Facility Refinancing Agreement, dated as of June 26, 2024, by and among Essent Group Ltd., Essent Irish Intermediate Holdings Limited, and Essent US Holdings, Inc., as borrowers, Bank of America, N.A., as administrative agent under the Fourth Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent under the existing credit agreement, and the several banks and other financial institutions or entities from time to time parties to the Revolving Facility Refinancing Agreement, as lenders, including the Revolving Credit Agreement which is attached as Annex II thereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-36157) filed on June 26, 2024)
19.1		Insider Trading Policy of Essent Group Ltd. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 19.19 of the Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-36157) filed on February 19, 2025)
21.1	*	List of Subsidiaries
23.1	*	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
31.1	*	Certification of Chief Executive Officer required by Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
31.2	*	Certification of Chief Financial Officer required by Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
32.1	*	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
97		Essent Group Ltd. Policy for the Recovery of Erroneously Awarded Compensation (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 97 of the Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-36157) filed on February 16, 2024)
101.INS	*	Inline XBRL Instance Document - the instance document does not appear in the Interactive Data File because its XBRL tags are embedded within the Inline XBRL document.
101.SCH	*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL	*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF	*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB	*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE	*	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document
104		Cover Page Interactive Data File - the cover page XBRL tags are embedded within the Inline XBRL document.

† Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

* Filed herewith

ITEM 16. FORM 10-K SUMMARY

None

SIGNATURES

Under the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report was signed on behalf of the Registrant by the authorized person named below in Radnor, Pennsylvania on the 18th day of February, 2026.

ESSENT GROUP LTD.

By: /s/ MARK A. CASALE

Name: Mark A. Casale

Title: *Chairman of the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer and President*

Under the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report was signed by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the date indicated.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ MARK A. CASALE</u> Mark A. Casale	Chairman of the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer and President (Principal Executive Officer)	February 18, 2026
<u>/s/ DAVID B. WEINSTOCK</u> David B. Weinstock	Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	February 18, 2026
<u>/s/ DAVID C. BENSON</u> David C. Benson	Director	February 18, 2026
<u>/s/ MARTIN P. CONNOR</u> Martin P. Connor	Director	February 18, 2026
<u>/s/ ADITYA DUTT</u> Aditya Dutt	Director	February 18, 2026
<u>/s/ ANGELA HEISE</u> Angela Heise	Director	February 18, 2026
<u>/s/ APRIL JOYCE</u> April Joyce	Director	February 18, 2026
<u>/s/ HENNA KARNA</u> Henna Karna	Director	February 18, 2026
<u>/s/ ROY J. KASMAR</u> Roy J. Kasmar	Director	February 18, 2026
<u>/s/ DOUGLAS J. PAULS</u> Douglas J. Pauls	Director	February 18, 2026
<u>/s/ WILLIAM SPIEGEL</u> William Spiegel	Director	February 18, 2026

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SIGNATURES

RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT AGREEMENT

Pursuant to the Notice of Grant of Stock attached to this Agreement (the “Grant Notice”), Essent Group Ltd. (the “Company”) has granted to the holder named in the row entitled “Participant Name” in the Grant Notice (the “Participant”) the number of Restricted Stock Units (“RSUs”) set forth in the row entitled “Share Amount” in the Grant Notice pursuant to the Company’s 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended from time to time (the “Plan”).

ARTICLE I.

GENERAL

1.1 Defined Terms. Capitalized terms not specifically defined herein shall have the meanings specified in the Plan or the Grant Notice.

1.2 Incorporation of Terms of Plan. The RSUs and the Company’s common shares, par value \$0.015 per share (“Stock”) to be issued to Participant hereunder (“Shares”) are subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement and the Plan, which is incorporated herein by reference. In the event of any inconsistency between the Plan and this Agreement, the terms of the Plan shall control.

ARTICLE II.

AWARD OF RESTRICTED STOCK UNITS AND DIVIDEND EQUIVALENTS

2.1 Award of RSUs and Dividend Equivalents.

(a) In consideration of Participant’s past and/or continued employment with or service to the Company or one of its Affiliates and for other good and valuable consideration, effective as of the date set forth in the Grant Notice in the row entitled “Grant/Award Date” (the “Grant Date”), the Company has granted to Participant the number of RSUs set forth in the row entitled “Share Amount” in the Grant Notice, upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Grant Notice, the Plan and this Agreement, subject to adjustments as provided in Section 11 of the Plan. Each RSU represents the right to receive one Share or, at the option of the Company, an amount of cash as set forth in Section 2.3(b), in either case, at the times and subject to the conditions set forth herein. However, unless and until the RSUs have vested, Participant will have no right to the payment of any Shares subject thereto. Prior to the actual delivery of any Shares, the RSUs will represent an unsecured obligation of the Company, payable only from the general assets of the Company.

(b) The RSUs set forth in the Grant Notice are granted with dividend equivalent rights (“Dividend Equivalents”) for all ordinary cash dividends which are paid to all or substantially all holders of the outstanding shares of Stock between the Grant Date and the date when the applicable RSU is distributed or paid to Participant or is forfeited or expires. The Dividend Equivalents for each RSU shall be equal to the amount of cash which is paid as a dividend on one share of Stock. All such Dividend Equivalents shall be credited to Participant and be deemed to be reinvested in additional RSUs as of the date of payment of any such dividend based on the Fair Market Value of a share of Stock on such date. Each additional RSU which results from such deemed reinvestment of Dividend Equivalents granted hereunder shall be subject to the same vesting, distribution or payment, adjustment and other provisions which apply to the underlying RSU to which such additional RSU relates.

2.2 Vesting of RSUs and Dividend Equivalents.

(a) Subject to Participant's continued employment with or service to the Company or one of its Affiliates on each applicable vesting date and subject to the terms of this Agreement, the RSUs shall vest in such amounts and at such times as are set forth in the Grant Notice. Each additional RSU which results from deemed reinvestments of Dividend Equivalents pursuant to Section 2.1(b) hereof shall vest whenever the underlying RSU to which such additional RSU relates vests.

(b) In the event Participant incurs a Termination, except as may be otherwise provided by the Committee in the Grant Notice or as set forth in a written agreement between Participant and the Company, Participant shall immediately forfeit for no consideration any and all RSUs and Dividend Equivalents granted under this Agreement which have not vested or do not vest on or prior to the date on which such Termination occurs, and Participant's rights in any such RSUs and Dividend Equivalents which are not so vested shall lapse and expire.

2.3 Distribution or Payment of RSUs.

(a) Participant's RSUs shall be distributed in Shares (either in book-entry form or otherwise) or, at the option of the Company, paid in an amount of cash as set forth in Section 2.3(b), in either case, as soon as administratively practicable following the vesting of the applicable RSU pursuant to Section 2.2, and, in any event, within sixty (60) days following such vesting. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company may delay a distribution or payment in settlement of RSUs if it reasonably determines that such payment or distribution will violate applicable laws or the applicable rules of each national securities exchange on which the Stock is listed, provided that such distribution or payment shall be made at the earliest date at which the Company reasonably determines that the making of such distribution or payment will not cause such violation, as required by Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-2(b)(7)(ii), and provided further that no payment or distribution shall be delayed under this Section 2.3(a) if such delay will result in a violation of Section 409A of the Code.

(b) In the event that the Company elects to make payment of Participant's RSUs in cash, the amount of cash payable with respect to each RSU shall be equal to the Fair Market Value of a Share on the day immediately preceding the applicable distribution or payment date set forth in Section 2.3(a). All distributions made in Shares shall be made by the Company in the form of whole Shares, and any fractional share shall be distributed in cash in an amount equal to the value of such fractional share determined based on the Fair Market Value as of the date immediately preceding the date of such distribution.

2.4 Conditions to Issuance of Certificates. The Company shall not be required to issue or deliver any certificate or certificates for any Shares prior to the fulfillment of all of the following conditions: (A) the admission of the Shares to listing on all stock exchanges on which such Shares are then listed, (B) the completion of any registration or other qualification of the Shares under any state or federal law or under rulings or regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission or other governmental regulatory body, which the Committee shall, in its absolute discretion, deem necessary or advisable, and (C) the obtaining of any approval or other clearance from any state or federal governmental agency that the Committee shall, in its absolute discretion, determine to be necessary or advisable.

2.5 Tax Withholding. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement:

(a) The Company and its Affiliates have the authority to deduct or withhold, or require Participant to remit to the Company or the applicable Affiliate, an amount sufficient to satisfy applicable federal, state, local and foreign taxes (including the employee portion of any FICA obligation) required by law to be withheld with respect to any taxable event arising pursuant to this Agreement. The Company and its Affiliates may withhold or Participant may make such payment in one or more of the forms specified below:

(i) by cash or check made payable to the Company or its Affiliate with respect to which the withholding obligation arises;

(ii) by the deduction of such amount from other compensation payable to Participant;

(iii) with respect to any withholding taxes arising in connection with the distribution of the RSUs, with the consent of the Committee, by requesting that the Company and its Affiliates withhold a net number of vested shares of Stock otherwise issuable pursuant to the RSUs having a then current Fair Market Value not exceeding the amount necessary to satisfy the withholding obligation of the Company and its Affiliates based on the minimum applicable statutory withholding rates for federal, state, local and foreign income tax and payroll tax purposes;

(iv) with respect to any withholding taxes arising in connection with the distribution of the RSUs, with the consent of the Committee, by tendering to the Company vested shares of Stock having a then current Fair Market Value not exceeding the amount necessary to satisfy the withholding obligation of the Company and its Affiliates based on the minimum applicable statutory withholding rates for federal, state, local and foreign income tax and payroll tax purposes;

(v) with respect to any withholding taxes arising in connection with the distribution of the RSUs, through the delivery of a notice that Participant has placed a market sell order with a broker acceptable to the Company with respect to shares of Stock then issuable to Participant pursuant to the RSUs, and that the broker has been directed to pay a sufficient portion of the net proceeds of the sale to the Company or the Affiliate with respect to which the withholding obligation arises in satisfaction of such withholding taxes; *provided* that payment of such proceeds is then made to the Company or the applicable Affiliate at such time as may be required by the Committee, but in any event not later than the settlement of such sale; or

(vi) in any combination of the foregoing.

(b) With respect to any withholding taxes arising in connection with the RSUs, in the event Participant fails to provide timely payment of all sums required pursuant to Section 2.5(a), the Company shall have the right and option, but not the obligation, to treat such failure as an election by Participant to satisfy all or any portion of Participant's required payment obligation pursuant to Section 2.5(a)(ii) or Section 2.5(a)(iii) above, or any combination of the foregoing as the Company may determine to be appropriate. The Company shall not be obligated to deliver any certificate representing shares of Stock issuable with respect to the RSUs to Participant or his or her legal representative unless and until Participant or his or her legal representative shall have paid or otherwise satisfied in full the amount of all federal, state, local and foreign taxes applicable with respect to the taxable income of Participant resulting from the vesting or settlement of the RSUs or any other taxable event related to the RSUs.

(c) In the event any tax withholding obligation arising in connection with the RSUs will be satisfied under Section 2.5(a) (iii), then the Company may elect to instruct any brokerage firm determined acceptable to the Company for such purpose to sell on Participant's behalf a whole number of shares from those shares of Stock then issuable to Participant pursuant to the RSUs as the Company determines to be appropriate to generate cash proceeds sufficient to satisfy the tax withholding obligation and to remit the proceeds of such sale to the Company or the Affiliate with respect to which the withholding obligation arises. Participant's acceptance of this Agreement constitutes Participant's instruction and authorization to the Company and such brokerage firm to complete the transactions described in this Section 2.5(c), including the transactions described in the previous sentence, as applicable. The Company may refuse to issue any shares of Stock in settlement of the RSUs to Participant or his or her legal representative until the foregoing tax withholding obligations are satisfied, provided that no payment shall be delayed under this Section 2.5(c) if such delay will result in a violation of Section 409A of the Code.

(d) Participant is ultimately liable and responsible for all taxes owed in connection with the RSUs, regardless of any action the Company or any of its Affiliates takes with respect to any tax withholding obligations that arise in connection with the RSUs. Neither the Company nor any of its Affiliates make any representation or undertaking regarding the treatment of any tax withholding in connection with the awarding, vesting or payment of the RSUs or the subsequent sale of the Shares. The Company and its Affiliates do not commit and are under no obligation to structure this Agreement to reduce or eliminate Participant's tax liability.

2.6 Rights as Stockholder. Neither Participant nor any person claiming under or through Participant will have any of the rights or privileges of a stockholder of the Company in respect of any Shares deliverable hereunder unless and until certificates representing such Shares (which may be in book-entry form) will have been issued and recorded on the records of the Company or its transfer agents or registrars, and delivered to Participant (including through electronic delivery to a brokerage account). Except as otherwise provided herein, after such issuance, recordation and delivery, Participant will have all the rights of a stockholder of the Company with respect to such Shares, including, without limitation, the right to receipt of dividends and distributions on such Shares.

ARTICLE III. OTHER PROVISIONS

3.1 Administration. The Committee shall have the power to interpret the Plan, the Grant Notice and this Agreement and to adopt such rules for the administration, interpretation and application of the Plan, the Grant Notice and this Agreement as are consistent therewith and to interpret, amend or revoke any such rules. All actions taken and all interpretations and determinations made by the Committee will be final, binding, and conclusive upon Participant, the Company and all other interested persons. To the extent allowable pursuant to applicable law, no member of the Committee or the Board will be personally liable for any action, determination or interpretation made with respect to the Plan, the Grant Notice or this Agreement.

3.2 RSUs Not Transferable. The RSUs may not be sold, pledged, assigned or transferred in any manner other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution, unless and until the Shares underlying the RSUs have been issued, and all restrictions applicable to such Shares have lapsed. No RSUs or any interest or right therein or part thereof shall be liable for the debts, contracts or engagements of Participant or his or her successors in interest or shall be subject to disposition by transfer, alienation, anticipation, pledge, encumbrance, assignment or any other means whether such disposition be voluntary

or involuntary or by operation of law by judgment, levy, attachment, garnishment or any other legal or equitable proceedings (including bankruptcy), and any attempted disposition thereof shall be null and void and of no effect, except to the extent that such disposition is permitted by the preceding sentence.

3.3 Adjustments. The Committee may accelerate the vesting of all or a portion of the RSUs in such circumstances as it, in its sole discretion, may determine. Participant acknowledges that the RSUs and the Shares subject to the RSUs are subject to adjustment, modification and termination in certain events as provided in this Agreement and Section 11 of the Plan.

3.4 Notices. Any notice to be given under the terms of this Agreement to the Company shall be addressed to the Company in care of the Secretary of the Company at the Company's principal office, and any notice to be given to Participant shall be addressed to Participant at Participant's last address reflected on the Company's records. By a notice given pursuant to this Section 3.4, either party may hereafter designate a different address for notices to be given to that party. Any notice shall be deemed duly given when sent via email or when sent by certified mail (return receipt requested) and deposited (with postage prepaid) in a post office or branch post office regularly maintained by the United States Postal Service.

3.5 Titles. Titles are provided herein for convenience only and are not to serve as a basis for interpretation or construction of this Agreement.

3.6 Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the internal laws of Bermuda without reference to the principles of conflicts of laws thereof.

3.7 Conformity to Securities Laws. Participant acknowledges that the Plan, the Grant Notice and this Agreement are intended to conform to the extent necessary with all applicable laws, including, without limitation, the provisions of the Securities Act and the Exchange Act, and any and all regulations and rules promulgated thereunder by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and state securities laws and regulations. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Plan shall be administered, and the RSUs are granted, only in such a manner as to conform to applicable law. To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Plan and this Agreement shall be deemed amended to the extent necessary to conform to applicable law.

3.8 Amendment, Suspension and Termination. To the extent permitted by the Plan, this Agreement may be wholly or partially amended or otherwise modified, suspended or terminated at any time or from time to time by the Committee or the Board, provided that, except as may otherwise be provided by the Plan, no amendment, modification, suspension or termination of this Agreement shall adversely affect the RSUs in any material way without the prior written consent of Participant.

3.9 Successors and Assigns. The Company may assign any of its rights under this Agreement to single or multiple assignees, and this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of the successors and assigns of the Company. Subject to the restrictions on transfer set forth in Section 3.2 and the Plan, this Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the heirs, legatees, legal representatives, successors and assigns of the parties hereto.

3.10 Limitations Applicable to Section 16 Persons. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan or this Agreement, if Participant is subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act, the Plan, the RSUs (including RSUs which result from the deemed reinvestment of Dividend Equivalents), the Dividend Equivalents, the Grant Notice and this Agreement shall be subject to any additional limitations set forth in any applicable exemptive rule under Section 16 of the Exchange Act (including any amendment to Rule

16b-3 of the Exchange Act) that are requirements for the application of such exemptive rule. To the extent permitted by applicable law, this Agreement shall be deemed amended to the extent necessary to conform to such applicable exemptive rule.

3.11 Not a Contract of Employment. Nothing in this Agreement or in the Plan shall confer upon Participant any right to continue to serve as an employee or other service provider of the Company or any of its Affiliates or shall interfere with or restrict in any way the rights of the Company or its Affiliates, which rights are hereby expressly reserved, to discharge or terminate the services of Participant at any time for any reason whatsoever, with or without cause, except to the extent expressly provided otherwise in a written agreement between the Company or one of its Affiliates and Participant.

3.12 Entire Agreement. The Plan, the Grant Notice and this Agreement (including any exhibit hereto) constitute the entire agreement of the parties and supersede in their entirety all prior undertakings and agreements of the Company and Participant with respect to the subject matter hereof.

3.13 Sections 409A and 457A. This Agreement is not intended to constitute “nonqualified deferred compensation” within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code (together with any Department of Treasury regulations and other interpretive guidance issued thereunder, including without limitation any such regulations or other guidance that may be issued after the date hereof, “Section 409A”). However, notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan, the Grant Notice or this Agreement, if at any time the Committee determines that this Agreement (or any portion thereof) may be subject to Section 409A or Section 457A of the Code (together with any Department of Treasury regulations and other interpretive guidance issued thereunder, including without limitation any such regulations or other guidance that may be issued after the date hereof, “Section 457A”), the Committee shall have the right in its sole discretion (without any obligation to do so or to indemnify Participant or any other person for failure to do so) to adopt such amendments to the Plan, the Grant Notice or this Agreement, or adopt other policies and procedures (including amendments, policies and procedures with retroactive effect), or take any other actions, as the Committee determines are necessary or appropriate for this Agreement and the RSUs either to be exempt from the application of Section 409A or Section 457A or to comply with the requirements of Section 409A or Section 457A.

3.14 Agreement Severable. In the event that any provision of the Grant Notice or this Agreement is held invalid or unenforceable, such provision will be severable from, and such invalidity or unenforceability will not be construed to have any effect on, the remaining provisions of the Grant Notice or this Agreement.

3.15 Limitation on Participant's Rights. Participation in the Plan confers no rights or interests other than as herein provided. This Agreement creates only a contractual obligation on the part of the Company as to amounts payable and shall not be construed as creating a trust. Neither the Plan nor any underlying program, in and of itself, has any assets. Participant shall have only the rights of a general unsecured creditor of the Company with respect to amounts credited and benefits payable, if any, with respect to the RSUs and Dividend Equivalents.

3.16 Counterparts. The Grant Notice may be executed in one or more counterparts, including by way of any electronic signature, subject to applicable law, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which together shall constitute one instrument.

3.17 Broker-Assisted Sales. In the event of any broker-assisted sale of shares of Stock in connection with the payment of withholding taxes as provided in Section 2.5(a)(iii) or Section 2.5(a)(v):

(A) any shares of Stock to be sold through a broker-assisted sale will be sold on the day the tax withholding obligation arises or as soon thereafter as practicable; (B) such shares of Stock may be sold as part of a block trade with other participants in the Plan in which all participants receive an average price; (C) Participant will be responsible for all broker's fees and other costs of sale, and Participant agrees to indemnify and hold the Company harmless from any losses, costs, damages, or expenses relating to any such sale; (D) to the extent the proceeds of such sale exceed the applicable tax withholding obligation, the Company agrees to pay such excess in cash to Participant as soon as reasonably practicable; (E) Participant acknowledges that the Company or its designee is under no obligation to arrange for such sale at any particular price, and that the proceeds of any such sale may not be sufficient to satisfy the applicable tax withholding obligation; and (F) in the event the proceeds of such sale are insufficient to satisfy the applicable tax withholding obligation, Participant agrees to pay immediately upon demand to the Company or its Affiliate with respect to which the withholding obligation arises an amount in cash sufficient to satisfy any remaining portion of the Company's or the applicable Affiliate's withholding obligation.

3.18 Lock-Up. The Participant shall agree, if so requested by the Company and any underwriter in connection with any public offering of securities of the Company, not to directly or indirectly offer, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right or warrant for the sale of or otherwise dispose of or transfer any shares of Common Stock held by him or her for such period, not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days following the effective date of the relevant registration statement filed under the Securities Act in connection with such public offering, as such underwriter shall specify reasonably and in good faith. The Company may impose stop-transfer instructions with respect to securities subject to the foregoing restrictions until the end of such 180-day period.

3.19 Acceptance of Agreement, Plan and Grant Notice. By his or her acceptance of the Grant Notice, Participant agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Agreement, the Plan and the Grant Notice. Participant has reviewed the Agreement, the Plan and the Grant Notice in their entirety, has had an opportunity to obtain the advice of counsel prior to accepting the Grant Notice and fully understands all provisions of the Grant Notice, the Agreement and the Plan. Participant agrees to accept as binding, conclusive and final all decisions or interpretations of the Committee upon any questions arising under the Agreement, Plan or the Grant Notice.

* * *

RESTRICTED STOCK AGREEMENT

Pursuant to the Notice of Grant of Stock (the “Grant Notice”) attached to this Restricted Stock Agreement (the “Agreement”), Essent Group Ltd. (the “Company”) has granted to the holder named in the row entitled “Participant Name” in the Grant Notice (the “Participant”) the number of shares of Stock (as defined below) set forth in the row entitled “Share Amount” in the Grant Notice (the “Shares”) pursuant to the Company’s 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended from time to time (the “Plan”).

ARTICLE I.

GENERAL

1.1 Defined Terms. Capitalized terms not specifically defined herein shall have the meanings specified in Exhibit A to this Agreement, the Plan or the Grant Notice.

1.2 Incorporation of Terms of Plan. The Shares issued to Participant hereunder are subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement and the Plan, which is incorporated herein by reference. In the event of any inconsistency between the Plan and this Agreement or the Grant Notice, the terms of the Plan shall control.

ARTICLE II.

ISSUANCE OF SHARES

2.1 Issuance of Shares. In consideration of Participant’s past and/or continued employment with or service to the Company or one of its Affiliates and for other good and valuable consideration, effective as of the date set forth in the Grant Notice in the row entitled “Grant/Award Date” (the “Grant Date”), the Company has granted to Participant the number of Shares set forth in the Grant Notice, upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Grant Notice, the Plan and this Agreement.

2.2 Issuance Mechanics. As of the Grant Date, the Company shall issue the Shares in the form of the Company’s common shares, par value \$0.015 per share (“Stock”), to Participant and shall (a) cause a stock certificate or certificates representing such shares of Stock to be registered in the name of Participant, or (b) cause such shares of Stock to be held in book-entry form. If a stock certificate is issued, it shall be delivered to and held in custody by the Company and shall bear the restrictive legends required by Section 5.1. If the shares of Stock are held in book-entry form, then such entry will reflect that the shares are subject to the restrictions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE III.

FORFEITURE AND TRANSFER RESTRICTIONS

3.1 Forfeiture Restriction. Subject to the provisions of Section 3.2 below, in the event of Participant’s Termination for any reason, including as a result of Participant’s death or Disability, all of the Unreleased Shares (as defined in Section 3.2(d) below) shall thereupon be forfeited immediately for no consideration and without any further action by the Company (the “Forfeiture Restriction”), except as otherwise provided in a written agreement between Participant and the Company. Upon the occurrence of such forfeiture, the Company shall become the legal and beneficial owner of the Unreleased Shares and all rights and interests therein or relating thereto, and the Company shall have the right to retain and transfer to its own name the number of Unreleased Shares being forfeited by Participant. The Unreleased

Shares shall be held by the Company in accordance with Section 3.3 until the Shares are forfeited as provided in this Section 3.1, until such Unreleased Shares are fully released from the Forfeiture Restriction as provided in Section 3.2 or until such time as this Agreement is no longer in effect. Participant hereby authorizes and directs the Company (or such person designated by the Committee), to transfer any Unreleased Shares that are forfeited pursuant to this Section 3.1 from Participant to the Company.

3.2 Release of Shares from Forfeiture Restriction.

(a) Following the completion of the Performance Period, the Committee shall determine the Company's BVPS Growth Percentage and Relative Total Shareholder Return and will certify the level of achievement with respect to the Vesting Percentage and the portion of Shares granted herein that have become Earned Shares. Following the Committee's determination, Participant shall immediately forfeit for no consideration any and all Shares which do not become Earned Shares, and Participant's rights in any such Shares which do not become Earned Shares shall immediately lapse and expire. Each Earned Share shall be fully vested on the date set forth in the Grant Notice under the heading "Vesting Schedule" (the "Vesting Date").

(b) Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a Change in Control occurs:

(i) on or following the completion of the Performance Period but prior to the Vesting Date, one hundred percent (100%) of the then-unvested Earned Shares shall fully vest upon the consummation of such Change in Control; or

(ii) prior to the expiration of the Performance Period:

(A) the number of Shares which become Earned Shares upon the consummation of such Change in Control shall be the greater of (x) the number of Shares that would have become Earned Shares at the "Target" level BVPS Growth Percentage and assuming "Target" Relative Total Shareholder Return, in each case, as set forth in the definition of "Vesting Percentage" in Exhibit A hereto, and (y) the number of Shares that would have become Earned Shares at the "Target" level BVPS Growth Percentage as set forth in the definition of "Vesting Percentage" in Exhibit A hereto and based on actual Relative Total Shareholder Return, determined in accordance with Exhibit A hereto; and

(B) the treatment of the Earned Shares determined pursuant to Section 3.2(b)(ii)(A) above will be dependent upon whether the acquiring or surviving company (the "Acquirer") assumes the outstanding equity awards as follows:

(i) if the Acquirer does not assume the Shares on or before the date of such Change in Control, the Earned Shares shall become fully vested on such date and shall be treated in the same manner as Stock held by shareholders of the Company in connection with such Change in Control; or

(ii) if the Acquirer assumes the Shares, provided that Participant remains employed by the Service Recipient pursuant to terms and conditions substantially similar to those set forth in the Participant Agreement, the Acquirer or any of their respective Affiliate(s), as the case may be, upon and after the consummation of such Change in Control, the Earned Shares shall be converted into a number of time-based restricted shares of the Acquirer's common stock (or, if the Acquirer is a subsidiary of another company, time-based restricted shares of the Acquirer's ultimate parent entity) that have in the aggregate a fair market value equal to the fair market value of such Earned Shares as of the

consummation of such Change in Control, and that shall fully vest on the earlier of (A) December 31, 20, or (B) a Termination of Participant's employment with the Service Provider, the Acquirer and/or their respective Affiliate(s) upon or after such Change in Control as a result of Participant's death or Disability (as such term is defined in and subject to the applicable provisions set forth in the Participant Agreement), a Termination by the Company without Cause (as such term is defined in and subject to the applicable provisions set forth in the Participant Agreement), or a Termination by Participant for Good Reason (as such term is defined in and subject to the applicable provisions set forth in the Participant Agreement); provided, however, that notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event shall any Earned Shares be exchanged for or converted into shares of a class or series that is not publicly traded and marketable as of the date of such Change in Control without the prior consent of Participant in his or her sole discretion, and in the event that Participant does not so consent then such Earned Shares shall be deemed to be fully vested as of such Change in Control in accordance with Section 3.2(b)(ii)(A) and shall be treated in the same manner as Stock held by shareholders of the Company in connection with such Change in Control; and

(C) Participant shall immediately forfeit for no consideration any and all Shares which do not become Earned Shares as of the consummation of such Change in Control, and Participant's rights in any such Shares which do not become Earned Shares shall immediately lapse and expire.

(c) In the event Participant incurs a Termination as a result of (i) a Termination by the Service Recipient without Cause (as such term is defined in and subject to the applicable provisions set forth in the Participant Agreement), or (iv) a Termination by Participant for Good Reason (as such term is defined in and subject to the applicable provisions set forth in the Participant Agreement), then:

(i) if such Termination occurs on or following the completion of the Performance Period, one hundred percent (100%) of the Earned Shares for such Performance Period shall fully vest upon the Vesting Date;

(ii) if such Termination occurs prior to the expiration of the Performance Period, the Shares shall remain outstanding through the last day of the Performance Period, without regard to the Termination, the number of Shares which become Earned Shares, if any, shall be determined based on the Vesting Percentage during the Performance Period, and the number of Earned Shares that become vested on the Vesting Date shall be determined by multiplying the number of Earned Shares by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of days which elapsed from the commencement of the Performance Period through the date of the Termination and the denominator of which is 1,095, and any other unvested Shares (excluding unvested Earned Shares) as of such date shall immediately be forfeited for no consideration, and Participant's rights in any such unvested Shares (excluding unvested Earned Shares) shall immediately lapse and expire (the "Initial Termination Shares"); provided, however that if:

(A) a Change in Control does not occur prior to the last day of the Performance Period (assuming no Change in Control), (1) if the date of the Termination was not more than 180 days prior to the last day of the Performance Period, the unvested Earned Shares shall remain outstanding through the last day of the 180-day period following the date of the Termination (the "Protected Period"), and (2) if a Change in Control occurs after the last day of the Performance Period and during the Protected Period, then in addition to the vesting of the Initial Termination Shares upon such Termination, one hundred percent (100%) of the then-unvested Earned Shares shall fully vest upon the consummation of such Change in Control; and

(B) a Change in Control occurs prior to the last day of the Performance Period (assuming no Change in Control) and during the Protected Period, the number of Shares which become Earned Shares will be determined in accordance with Section 3.2(b)(ii).

(d) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, the Grant Notice, the Plan, or the Participant Agreement, upon Participant's (i) death, (ii) Disability, or (iii) voluntary Termination after no less than ninety (90) days' prior written notice to the Service Provider, either (x) upon satisfaction for late, normal or early retirement under the tax-qualified defined contribution plan in which Participant is eligible to participate, as defined in such plan, or (y) regardless of whether such plan exists, following any date after which Participant has attained the age of sixty (60) and completed at least ten (10) years of continuous service with the Service Provider and/or its Affiliates, then:

(i) if such Termination occurs on or following the completion of the Performance Period, one hundred percent (100%) of the Earned Shares for such Performance Period shall fully vest upon the Vesting Date;

(ii) if such Termination occurs prior to the expiration of the Performance Period, the Shares shall remain outstanding through the last day of the Performance Period, without regard to the Termination, the number of Shares which become Earned Shares, if any, shall be determined based on the Vesting Percentage during the Performance Period, and such number of Earned Shares shall become vested on the Vesting Date.

(e) The Shares shall be released from the Forfeiture Restriction in accordance with the vesting schedule set forth in the Grant Notice. Any of the Shares which, from time to time, have not yet been released from the Forfeiture Restriction are referred to herein as "Unreleased Shares." In the event any of the Unreleased Shares are released from the Forfeiture Restriction, any Retained Distributions (as defined below) paid on such Unreleased Shares shall be promptly paid by the Company to Participant. As soon as administratively practicable following the release of any Shares from the Forfeiture Restriction, the Company shall, as applicable, either deliver to Participant the certificate or certificates representing such Shares in the Company's possession belonging to Participant, or, if the Shares are held in book-entry form, then the Company shall remove the notations indicating that the Shares are subject to the restrictions of this Agreement. Participant (or the beneficiary or personal representative of Participant in the event of Participant's death or incapacity, as the case may be) shall deliver to the Company any representations or other documents or assurances as the Company or its representatives deem necessary or advisable in connection with any such delivery.

3.3 Escrow.

(a) The Unreleased Shares shall be held by the Company until such Unreleased Shares are forfeited as provided in Section 3.1, until such Unreleased Shares are fully released from the Forfeiture Restriction as provided in Section 3.2, or until such time as this Agreement is no longer in effect. Participant shall not retain physical custody of any certificates representing Unreleased Shares issued to Participant. Participant, by acceptance of this Agreement, shall be deemed to appoint, and does so appoint, the Company and each of its authorized representatives as Participant's attorney(s)-in-fact to effect any transfer of forfeited Unreleased Shares (and Retained Distributions, if any, paid on such forfeited Unreleased Shares) to the Company as may be required pursuant to the Plan or this Agreement, and to execute such representations or other documents or assurances as the Company or such representatives deem necessary or advisable in connection with any such transfer. To the extent allowable by applicable law and the applicable rules of each national securities exchange on which the

Stock is listed, the Company, or its designee, shall not be liable for any act it may do or omit to do with respect to holding the Shares in escrow and while acting in good faith and in the exercise of its judgment.

(b) The Company will retain custody of all cash dividends and other distributions (“Retained Distributions”) made or declared with respect to Unreleased Shares (and such Retained Distributions will be subject to the Forfeiture Restriction and the other terms and conditions under this Agreement that are applicable to the Shares) until such time, if ever, as the Unreleased Shares with respect to which such Retained Distributions shall have been made, paid or declared shall have become vested pursuant to the Grant Notice. Retained Distributions that were made or declared in cash will be deemed reinvested in notional shares of Stock such that upon release and distribution of such Retained Distributions to Participant as set forth in the immediately preceding sentence, Participant shall be entitled to receive on the date of such distribution or release an amount of cash or the number of whole shares of Stock or a combination thereof, as determined by the Committee, the aggregate fair value of which shall be equal to the Fair Market Value of the notional shares of Stock to which such released Retained Distributions relate. Any Retained Distributions with respect to Unreleased Shares shall be forfeited in the event such Unreleased Shares are forfeited.

3.4 Rights as Stockholder. Except as otherwise provided herein, upon issuance of the Shares by the Company, Participant shall have all the rights of a stockholder with respect to said Shares, subject to the restrictions herein, including the right to vote the Shares and to receive all dividends or other distributions paid or made with respect to the Shares.

ARTICLE IV.

TAXATION AND TAX WITHHOLDING

4.1 Representation. Participant represents to the Company that Participant has reviewed with his or her own tax advisors the federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences of this investment and the transactions contemplated by this Agreement. Participant is relying solely on such advisors and not on any statements or representations of the Company or any of its agents. Participant is ultimately liable and responsible for all taxes owed in connection with this investment and the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, regardless of any action the Company or any of its Affiliates take with respect to any tax withholding obligations that arise in connection with the Shares. Neither the Company nor any of its Affiliates make any representation or undertaking regarding the treatment of any tax withholding in connection with the Shares or Participant’s sale of shares of Stock. The Company and its Affiliates do not commit and are under no obligation to structure this investment or the transactions contemplated by this Agreement to reduce or eliminate Participant’s tax liability.

4.2 Section 83(b) Election. If Participant makes an election under Section 83(b) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), to be taxed with respect to the Shares as of the date of transfer of the Shares rather than as of the date or dates upon which Participant would otherwise be taxable under Section 83(a) of the Code, Participant shall deliver a copy of such election to the Company promptly upon filing such election with the Internal Revenue Service.

4.3 Tax Withholding. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement:

(a) The Company and its Affiliates have the authority to deduct or withhold, or require Participant to remit to the Company or the applicable Affiliate, an amount sufficient to satisfy applicable federal, state, local and foreign taxes (including the employee portion of any FICA obligation) required by law to be withheld with respect to any taxable event arising pursuant to this Agreement. The

Company and its Affiliates may withhold or Participant may make such payment in one or more of the forms specified below:

(i) by cash or check made payable to the Company or its Affiliate with respect to which the withholding obligation arises;

(ii) by the deduction of such amount from other compensation payable to Participant;

(iii) with respect to any withholding taxes arising in connection with the vesting of the Shares, with the consent of the Committee, by requesting that the Company and its Affiliates withhold a net number of vested Shares having a then current Fair Market Value not exceeding the amount necessary to satisfy the withholding obligation of the Company and its Affiliates based on the minimum applicable statutory withholding rates for federal, state, local and foreign income tax and payroll tax purposes;

(iv) with respect to any withholding taxes arising in connection with the vesting of the Shares, with the consent of the Committee, by tendering to the Company vested shares of Stock having a then current Fair Market Value not exceeding the amount necessary to satisfy the withholding obligation of the Company and its Affiliates based on the minimum applicable statutory withholding rates for federal, state, local and foreign income tax and payroll tax purposes;

(v) with respect to any withholding taxes arising in connection with the vesting of the Shares, through the delivery of a notice that Participant has placed a market sell order with a broker acceptable to the Company with respect to those Shares that are then becoming vested and that the broker has been directed to pay a sufficient portion of the net proceeds of the sale to the Company or the Affiliate with respect to which the withholding obligation arises in satisfaction of such withholding taxes; provided that payment of such proceeds is then made to the Company or the applicable Affiliate at such time as may be required by the Committee, but in any event not later than the settlement of such sale; or

(vi) in any combination of the foregoing.

(b) With respect to any withholding taxes arising in connection with the Shares, in the event Participant fails to provide timely payment of all sums required pursuant to Section 4.3(a), the Company shall have the right and option, but not the obligation, to treat such failure as an election by Participant to satisfy all or any portion of Participant's required payment obligation pursuant to Section 4.3(a)(ii) or Section 4.3(a)(iii) above, or any combination of the foregoing as the Company may determine to be appropriate; provided that, in the event a taxable event occurs in connection with the shares of a successor entity following a Change in Control, then Participant shall have the right to elect to satisfy applicable withholding taxes in accordance with the cashless method described in Section 4.3(a)(iii) above.

(c) The Company shall not be obligated to deliver any certificate representing the Shares to Participant or his or her legal representative unless and until Participant or his or her legal representative shall have paid or otherwise satisfied in full the amount of all federal, state, local and foreign taxes applicable with respect to the taxable income of Participant resulting from the vesting of the Shares or any other taxable event related to the Shares.

(d) In the event any tax withholding obligation arising in connection with the Shares will be satisfied under Section 4.3(a)(iii), then the Company may elect to instruct any brokerage firm determined acceptable to the Company for such purpose to sell on Participant's behalf a whole number of shares of Stock from those Shares that are then becoming vested as the Company determines to be appropriate to generate cash proceeds sufficient to satisfy the tax withholding obligation and to remit the proceeds of such sale to the Company or the Affiliate with respect to which the withholding obligation arises. Participant's acceptance of this Agreement constitutes Participant's instruction and authorization to the Company and such brokerage firm to complete the transactions described in this Section 4.3(d), including the transactions described in the previous sentence, as applicable. The Company may refuse to deliver any certificate representing the Shares to Participant or his or her legal representative until the foregoing tax withholding obligations are satisfied.

(e) Participant is ultimately liable and responsible for all taxes owed in connection with the Shares, regardless of any action the Company or any of its Affiliates takes with respect to any tax withholding obligations that arise in connection with the Shares. Neither the Company nor any of its Affiliates make any representation or undertaking regarding the treatment of any tax withholding in connection with the awarding, vesting or payment of the Shares or the subsequent sale of the Shares. The Company and its Affiliates do not commit and are under no obligation to structure this Agreement to reduce or eliminate Participant's tax liability.

ARTICLE V.

RESTRICTIVE LEGENDS AND STOP-TRANSFER ORDERS

5.1 Legends. The certificate or certificates representing the Shares, if any, shall bear the following legend (as well as any legends required by the Company's charter and applicable law):

THE SHARES REPRESENTED BY THIS CERTIFICATE ARE SUBJECT TO FORFEITURE IN FAVOR OF THE COMPANY AND MAY BE TRANSFERRED ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF A RESTRICTED STOCK AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND THE STOCKHOLDER, A COPY OF WHICH IS ON FILE WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE COMPANY.

5.2 Refusal to Transfer; Stop-Transfer Notices. The Company shall not be required (a) to transfer on its books any Shares that have been sold or otherwise transferred in violation of any of the provisions of this Agreement or (b) to treat as owner of such Shares or to accord the right to vote or pay dividends to any purchaser or other transferee to whom such Shares shall have been so transferred. Participant agrees that, in order to ensure compliance with the restrictions referred to herein, the Company may issue appropriate "stop transfer" instructions to its transfer agent, if any, and that, if the Company transfers its own securities, it may make appropriate notations to the same effect in its own records.

5.3 Removal of Legend. After such time as the Forfeiture Restriction shall have lapsed with respect to the Shares, and upon Participant's request, a new certificate or certificates representing such Shares shall be issued without the legend referred to in Section 5.1 and delivered to Participant. If the Shares are held in book entry form, the Company shall cause any restrictions noted on the book form to be removed.

ARTICLE VI.

OTHER PROVISIONS

6.1 Administration. The Committee shall have the power to interpret the Plan, the Grant Notice and this Agreement and to adopt such rules for the administration, interpretation and application of the Plan, the Grant Notice and this Agreement as are consistent therewith and to interpret, amend or revoke any such rules. All actions taken and all interpretations and determinations made by the Committee will be final, binding, and conclusive upon Participant, the Company and all other interested persons. To the extent allowable pursuant to applicable law, no member of the Committee or the Board will be personally liable for any action, determination or interpretation made with respect to the Plan, the Grant Notice or this Agreement.

6.2 Shares Not Transferable. The Shares and Retained Distributions may not be sold, pledged, assigned or transferred in any manner unless and until the Forfeiture Restrictions have lapsed. No Unreleased Shares or Retained Distributions or any interest or right therein or part thereof shall be liable for the debts, contracts or engagements of Participant or his or her successors in interest or shall be subject to disposition by transfer, alienation, anticipation, pledge, encumbrance, assignment or any other means whether such disposition be voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law by judgment, levy, attachment, garnishment or any other legal or equitable proceedings (including bankruptcy), and any attempted disposition thereof shall be null and void and of no effect.

6.3 Adjustments. The Committee may accelerate the vesting of all or a portion of the Unreleased Shares in such circumstances as it, in its sole discretion, may determine. Participant acknowledges that the Shares are subject to adjustment, modification and termination in certain events as provided in this Agreement and Section 11 of the Plan.

6.4 Notices. Any notice to be given under the terms of this Agreement to the Company shall be addressed to the Company in care of the Secretary of the Company at the Company's principal office, and any notice to be given to Participant shall be addressed to Participant at Participant's last address reflected on the Company's records. By a notice given pursuant to this Section 6.4, either party may hereafter designate a different address for notices to be given to that party. Any notice shall be deemed duly given when sent via email or when sent by certified mail (return receipt requested) and deposited (with postage prepaid) in a post office or branch post office regularly maintained by the United States Postal Service.

6.5 Titles. Titles are provided herein for convenience only and are not to serve as a basis for interpretation or construction of this Agreement.

6.6 Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the internal laws of Bermuda without reference to the principles of conflicts of laws thereof.

6.7 Conformity to Securities Laws. Participant acknowledges that the Plan, the Grant Notice and this Agreement are intended to conform to the extent necessary with all applicable laws, including, without limitation, the provisions of the Securities Act and the Exchange Act, and any and all regulations and rules promulgated thereunder by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and state securities laws and regulations. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Plan shall be administered, and the Shares are granted, only in such a manner as to conform to applicable law. To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Plan and this Agreement shall be deemed amended to the extent necessary to conform to applicable law.

6.8 Amendment, Suspension and Termination. To the extent permitted by the Plan, this Agreement may be wholly or partially amended or otherwise modified, suspended or terminated at any time or from time to time by the Committee or the Board, provided that, except as may otherwise be provided by the Plan, no amendment, modification, suspension or termination of this Agreement shall adversely affect the Shares in any material way without the prior written consent of Participant.

6.9 Successors and Assigns. The Company may assign any of its rights under this Agreement to single or multiple assignees, and this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of the successors and assigns of the Company. Subject to the restrictions on transfer set forth in Section 6.2 and the Plan, this Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the heirs, legatees, legal representatives, successors and assigns of the parties hereto.

6.10 Limitations Applicable to Section 16 Persons. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan or this Agreement, if Participant is subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act, the Plan, the Shares, the Grant Notice and this Agreement shall be subject to any additional limitations set forth in any applicable exemptive rule under Section 16 of the Exchange Act (including any amendment to Rule 16b-3 of the Exchange Act) that are requirements for the application of such exemptive rule. To the extent permitted by applicable law, this Agreement shall be deemed amended to the extent necessary to conform to such applicable exemptive rule.

6.11 Not a Contract of Employment. Nothing in this Agreement or in the Plan shall confer upon Participant any right to continue to serve as an employee or other service provider of the Company or any of its Affiliates or shall interfere with or restrict in any way the rights of the Company or its Affiliates, which rights are hereby expressly reserved, to discharge or terminate the services of Participant at any time for any reason whatsoever, with or without cause, except to the extent expressly provided otherwise in a written agreement between the Company or one of its Affiliates and Participant.

6.12 Entire Agreement. The Plan, the Grant Notice and this Agreement (including any exhibit hereto) constitute the entire agreement of the parties and supersede in their entirety all prior undertakings and agreements of the Company and Participant with respect to the subject matter hereof.

6.13 Sections 409A and 457A. This Agreement is not intended to constitute “nonqualified deferred compensation” within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code (together with any Department of Treasury regulations and other interpretive guidance issued thereunder, including without limitation any such regulations or other guidance that may be issued after the date hereof, “Section 409A”). However, notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan, the Grant Notice or this Agreement, if at any time the Committee determines that this Agreement (or any portion thereof) may be subject to Section 409A or Section 457A of the Code (together with any Department of Treasury regulations and other interpretive guidance issued thereunder, including without limitation any such regulations or other guidance that may be issued after the date hereof, “Section 457A”), the Committee shall have the right in its sole discretion (without any obligation to do so or to indemnify Participant or any other person for failure to do so) to adopt such amendments to the Plan, the Grant Notice or this Agreement, or adopt other policies and procedures (including amendments, policies and procedures with retroactive effect), or take any other actions, as the Committee determines are necessary or appropriate for this Agreement and the award of Shares either to be exempt from the application of Section 409A or Section 457A or to comply with the requirements of Section 409A or Section 457A.

6.14 Agreement Severable. In the event that any provision of the Grant Notice or this Agreement is held invalid or unenforceable, such provision will be severable from, and such invalidity or

unenforceability will not be construed to have any effect on, the remaining provisions of the Grant Notice or this Agreement.

6.15 Limitation on Participant's Rights. Participation in the Plan confers no rights or interests other than as herein provided. This Agreement creates only a contractual obligation on the part of the Company as to amounts payable and shall not be construed as creating a trust. Neither the Plan nor any underlying program, in and of itself, has any assets. Participant shall have only the rights of a general unsecured creditor of the Company with respect to amounts credited and benefits payable, if any, with respect to the Shares.

6.16 Counterparts. The Grant Notice may be executed in one or more counterparts, including by way of any electronic signature, subject to applicable law, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which together shall constitute one instrument.

6.17 Broker-Assisted Sales. In the event of any broker-assisted sale of shares of Stock in connection with the payment of withholding taxes as provided in Section 4.3(a)(iii) or Section 4.3(a)(v): (A) any shares of Stock to be sold through a broker-assisted sale will be sold on the day the tax withholding obligation arises or as soon thereafter as practicable; (B) such shares of Stock may be sold as part of a block trade with other participants in the Plan in which all participants receive an average price; (C) Participant will be responsible for all broker's fees and other costs of sale, and Participant agrees to indemnify and hold the Company harmless from any losses, costs, damages, or expenses relating to any such sale; (D) to the extent the proceeds of such sale exceed the applicable tax withholding obligation, the Company agrees to pay such excess in cash to Participant as soon as reasonably practicable; (E) Participant acknowledges that the Company or its designee is under no obligation to arrange for such sale at any particular price, and that the proceeds of any such sale may not be sufficient to satisfy the applicable tax withholding obligation; and (F) in the event the proceeds of such sale are insufficient to satisfy the applicable tax withholding obligation, Participant agrees to pay immediately upon demand to the Company or its Affiliate with respect to which the withholding obligation arises an amount in cash sufficient to satisfy any remaining portion of the Company's or the applicable Affiliate's withholding obligation.

6.18 Lock-Up. Participant shall agree, if so requested by the Company and any underwriter in connection with any public offering of securities of the Company, not to directly or indirectly offer, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right or warrant for the sale of or otherwise dispose of or transfer any shares of Stock held by him or her for such period, not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days following the effective date of the relevant registration statement filed under the Securities Act in connection with such public offering, as such underwriter shall specify reasonably and in good faith. The Company may impose stop-transfer instructions with respect to securities subject to the foregoing restrictions until the end of such 180-day period.

6.19 Acceptance of Agreement, Plan and Grant Notice. By his or her acceptance of the Grant Notice, Participant agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Agreement, the Plan and the Grant Notice. Participant has reviewed the Agreement, the Plan and the Grant Notice in their entirety, has had an opportunity to obtain the advice of counsel prior to accepting the Grant Notice and fully understands all provisions of the Grant Notice, the Agreement and the Plan. Participant agrees to accept as binding, conclusive and final all decisions or interpretations of the Committee upon any questions arising under the Agreement, Plan or the Grant Notice.

* * *

EXHIBIT A

CERTAIN DEFINED TERMS

For purposes of the Grant Notice and the Agreement, the following terms have the following meanings:

(a) “Adjusted Book Value” means, as of any date, (i) the consolidated stockholder’s equity of the Company computed in accordance with GAAP, as reflected in the Company’s financial statements, plus or minus (ii) accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) (within the meaning of GAAP) as reflected in the Company’s financial statements, plus (iii) the proceeds from the assumed exercise of all outstanding “in-the-money” stock options, warrants, or similar instruments, plus (iv) cash dividends and other distributions paid in respect of the Company’s outstanding equity during the Performance Period, and assuming that all cash dividends and cash distributions are immediately reinvested in common shares of the Company using the closing market price on the ex-dividend date (but with respect to subsections (iii) and (iv) above, such adjustments shall be made only in the case of the determination of Adjusted Book Value for a date after the beginning of the Performance Period). For purposes of determining “Adjusted Book Value” (A) the following items shall not be taken into account, (x) the cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles under GAAP, (y) the cumulative effective of changes in tax laws and/or tax rates, and (z) the impact of extraordinary, unusual and/or non-recurring items, in each case, at the discretion of the Committee and (B) there shall be adjustments to give effect to any stock dividends or stock splits.

(b) “Beginning Share Price” shall mean the product of (x) the average closing price of the common stock of the applicable company during the thirty (30) consecutive trading days preceding the first day of the Performance Period, in each case, with such stock price rounded down to the nearest cent, and (y) the sum of (A) one share of common stock of the applicable company, plus (B) a cumulative number of shares of common stock purchased with the dividends declared on the common stock, assuming same day reinvestment of the dividend in shares of common stock at the closing price on the ex-dividend date, for the ex-dividend dates that occur during the thirty (30) consecutive trading days preceding the first day of the Performance Period, rounded down to the nearest thousandths.

(c) “BVPS” means, as of any date, Adjusted Book Value divided by Diluted Common Shares Outstanding, as determined by the Committee in good faith.

(d) “BVPS Growth Percentage” means, for the Performance Period, the compounded annual growth rate in BVPS measured at the end of the Performance Period over the BVPS measured at the end of the year prior to the beginning of the Performance Period.

(e) “Comparator Group” shall mean companies comprising the S&P 1500 Financials Index as of the first day of the Performance Period, inclusive of the Company. The Comparator Group may be changed as follows: (i) in the event of a merger, acquisition or business combination transaction of a member of the Comparator Group with or by another member of the Comparator Group, the surviving entity will remain in the Comparator Group; (ii) in the event of a merger, acquisition or other business combination transaction of a member of the Comparator Group with or by another company that is not a member of the Comparator Group, or “going private transaction” where the member of the Comparator Group is not the surviving entity or is otherwise no longer publicly traded, the company will no longer be a member of the Comparator group; and (iii) in the event of a bankruptcy of a member of the Comparator Group such company will remain a member of the Comparator Group so long as such company is publicly traded.

(f) “Diluted Common Shares Outstanding” means, as of any date, the total number shares of Stock outstanding, plus all “in-the-money” stock options, warrants and similar instruments and equity instruments (including any Restricted Stock Units) issued to employees, officers, directors and consultants of the Company and its Affiliates; provided, however, that Diluted Common Shares Outstanding shall be equitably adjusted (but only with respect to the determination of Diluted Common Shares Outstanding for a date after the beginning of the Performance Period) to give effect to any stock dividends or stock splits during the Performance Period.

(g) “Earned Shares” means (i) fifty percent (50%) of the number of Shares granted herein, *multiplied* by (ii) the Vesting Percentage.

(h) “Ending Share Price” shall mean the product of (x) the average closing price of the common stock of the applicable company during the thirty (30) consecutive trading days ending on (and including) the last day of the Performance Period, in each case, with such stock price rounded down to the nearest cent, and (y) the sum of (A) one share of common stock of the applicable company, plus (B) a cumulative number of shares of common stock purchased with the dividends declared on the common stock, assuming same day reinvestment of the dividend in shares of common stock at the closing price on the ex-dividend date, for the ex-dividend dates that occur during the thirty (30) consecutive trading days preceding the first day of the Performance Period through the expiration of the Performance Period, rounded down to the nearest thousandths; provided, that, notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of a Change in Control, the Ending Share Price in respect of the Company shall be equal to the price per share of Stock to be paid to the holder thereof in accordance with the definitive agreement governing the transaction constituting the Change in Control (or, in the absence of such agreement, the closing price per share of Stock as reported for the last trading day immediately preceding the consummation of the Change in Control), adjusted to reflect an assumed reinvestment of any dividends in accordance with clause (B) above.

(i) “Performance Period” means the period commencing on January 1, 20__ and ending on the earlier of (i) December 31, 20__ or (ii) the consummation of a Change in Control.

(j) “Relative Total Shareholder Return” shall mean the Company’s Total Shareholder Return relative to the Total Shareholder Return of the Comparator Group, expressed as a percentile rank. Relative Total Shareholder Return shall be determined by calculating the Total Shareholder Return of the Company and each member of the Comparator Group for the Performance Period, and the Company and each member of the Comparator Group will be ranked in order of maximum to minimum according to their respective Total Shareholder Return for the Performance Period, with the company with the highest return ranked as 1. After this ranking, the percentile performance of the Company relative to the Comparator Group will be determined as follows:

$$P = 1 - \frac{R-1}{N-1}$$

Where: “P” represents the percentile performance, which will be rounded, if necessary, to the nearest tenth of a percent.

“N” represents the number of companies in the Comparator Group (inclusive of the Company).

“R” represents the Company’s ranking versus the Comparator Group.

Example: If there are 225 companies in the Comparator Group (inclusive of the Company), and the Company ranked 86th out of 225, the performance would be at the 62nd percentile: $.620 = 1 - ((86-1)/(225-1))$.

(k) “Total Shareholder Return” shall mean for each member of the Comparator Group, the percentage change in the value of the Stock or the common stock of a member of the Comparator Group, as applicable, determined by dividing (x) the Ending Share Price by (y) the Beginning Share Price, as determined by the Committee in its sole discretion, and then subtracting by 1.

(l) “Vesting Percentage” means a function of the BVPS Growth Percentage achieved by the Company during the Performance Period, rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent (0.1%) and the Relative Total Shareholder Return achieved by the Company during the Performance Period, and shall be determined as follows:

		Relative Total Shareholder Return* vs. S&P 1500 Financial Services Index		
		≤25 th percentile	50 th percentile “Target”	≥75 th percentile
Three- Year Book Value Per Share CAGR*	11% “Target”			
	10%			
	9%			
	7%			
	6%			

* In the event that the BVPS Growth Percentage or the Relative Total Shareholder Return falls between the performance levels shown above, the Vesting Percentage shall be determined using a straight line linear interpolation between the respective levels shown.

(m)

RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT AGREEMENT

Pursuant to the Notice of Grant of Stock attached to this Agreement (the “Grant Notice”), Essent Group Ltd. (the “Company”) has granted to the holder named in the row entitled “Participant Name” in the Grant Notice (the “Participant”) the number of Restricted Stock Units (“RSUs”) set forth in the row entitled “Share Amount” in the Grant Notice pursuant to the Company’s 2013 Long-Term Incentive Plan, as amended from time to time (the “Plan”).

ARTICLE I.

GENERAL

1.1 Defined Terms. Capitalized terms not specifically defined herein shall have the meanings specified in the Plan or the Grant Notice.

1.2 Incorporation of Terms of Plan. The RSUs and the Company’s common shares, par value \$0.015 per share (“Stock”) to be issued to Participant hereunder (“Shares”) are subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement and the Plan, which is incorporated herein by reference. In the event of any inconsistency between the Plan and this Agreement, the terms of the Plan shall control.

ARTICLE II.

AWARD OF RESTRICTED STOCK UNITS AND DIVIDEND EQUIVALENTS

2.1 Award of RSUs and Dividend Equivalents.

(a) In consideration of Participant’s past and/or continued employment with or service to the Company or one of its Affiliates and for other good and valuable consideration, effective as of the date set forth in the Grant Notice in the row entitled “Grant/Award Date” (the “Grant Date”), the Company has granted to Participant the number of RSUs set forth in the row entitled “Share Amount” in the Grant Notice, upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Grant Notice, the Plan and this Agreement, subject to adjustments as provided in Section 11 of the Plan. Each RSU represents the right to receive one Share or, at the option of the Company, an amount of cash as set forth in Section 2.3(b), in either case, at the times and subject to the conditions set forth herein. However, unless and until the RSUs have vested, Participant will have no right to the payment of any Shares subject thereto. Prior to the actual delivery of any Shares, the RSUs will represent an unsecured obligation of the Company, payable only from the general assets of the Company.

(b) The RSUs set forth in the Grant Notice are granted with dividend equivalent rights (“Dividend Equivalents”) for all ordinary cash dividends which are paid to all or substantially all holders of the outstanding shares of Stock between the Grant Date and the date when the applicable RSU is distributed or paid to Participant or is forfeited or expires. The Dividend Equivalents for each RSU shall be equal to the amount of cash which is paid as a dividend on one share of Stock. All such Dividend Equivalents shall be credited to Participant and be deemed to be reinvested in additional RSUs as of the date of payment of any such dividend based on the Fair Market Value of a share of Stock on such date. Each additional RSU which results from such deemed reinvestment of Dividend Equivalents granted hereunder shall be subject to the same vesting, distribution or payment, adjustment and other provisions which apply to the underlying RSU to which such additional RSU relates.

2.2 Vesting of RSUs and Dividend Equivalents.

(a) Following the completion of the Performance Period, the Committee shall determine the Company's BVPS Growth Percentage and Relative Total Shareholder Return and will certify the level of achievement with respect to the Vesting Percentage and the portion of RSUs that have become Earned RSUs. Following the Committee's determination, Participant shall immediately forfeit for no consideration any and all RSUs which do not become Earned RSUs, and Participant's rights in any such RSUs which do not become Earned RSUs shall immediately lapse and expire.

(b) Subject to Participant's continued employment with or service to the Company or one of its Affiliates on the applicable vesting date and subject to the terms of this Agreement, the Earned RSUs shall be fully vested on the date set forth in the Grant Notice under the heading "Vesting Schedule". Each additional RSU which results from deemed reinvestments of Dividend Equivalents pursuant to Section 2.1(b) hereof shall vest whenever the underlying RSU to which such additional RSU relates vests.

(c) In the event Participant incurs a Termination, except as may be otherwise provided by the Committee in the Grant Notice or as set forth in a written agreement between Participant and the Company, Participant shall immediately forfeit for no consideration any and all RSUs and Dividend Equivalents granted under this Agreement which have not vested or do not vest on or prior to the date on which such Termination occurs, and Participant's rights in any such RSUs and Dividend Equivalents which are not so vested shall lapse and expire.

2.3 Distribution or Payment of RSUs.

(a) Participant's RSUs shall be distributed in Shares (either in book-entry form or otherwise) or, at the option of the Company, paid in an amount of cash as set forth in Section 2.3(b), in either case, as soon as administratively practicable following the vesting of the applicable RSU pursuant to Section 2.2, and, in any event, within sixty (60) days following such vesting. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company may delay a distribution or payment in settlement of RSUs if it reasonably determines that such payment or distribution will violate applicable laws or the applicable rules of each national securities exchange on which the Stock is listed, provided that such distribution or payment shall be made at the earliest date at which the Company reasonably determines that the making of such distribution or payment will not cause such violation, as required by Treasury Regulation Section 1.409A-2(b)(7)(ii), and provided further that no payment or distribution shall be delayed under this Section 2.3(a) if such delay will result in a violation of Section 409A of the Code.

(b) In the event that the Company elects to make payment of Participant's RSUs in cash, the amount of cash payable with respect to each RSU shall be equal to the Fair Market Value of a Share on the day immediately preceding the applicable distribution or payment date set forth in Section 2.3(a). All distributions made in Shares shall be made by the Company in the form of whole Shares, and any fractional share shall be distributed in cash in an amount equal to the value of such fractional share determined based on the Fair Market Value as of the date immediately preceding the date of such distribution.

2.4 Conditions to Issuance of Certificates. The Company shall not be required to issue or deliver any certificate or certificates for any Shares prior to the fulfillment of all of the following conditions: (A) the admission of the Shares to listing on all stock exchanges on which such Shares are then listed, (B) the completion of any registration or other qualification of the Shares under any state or

federal law or under rulings or regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission or other governmental regulatory body, which the Committee shall, in its absolute discretion, deem necessary or advisable, and (C) the obtaining of any approval or other clearance from any state or federal governmental agency that the Committee shall, in its absolute discretion, determine to be necessary or advisable.

2.5 Tax Withholding. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement:

(a) The Company and its Affiliates have the authority to deduct or withhold, or require Participant to remit to the Company or the applicable Affiliate, an amount sufficient to satisfy applicable federal, state, local and foreign taxes (including the employee portion of any FICA obligation) required by law to be withheld with respect to any taxable event arising pursuant to this Agreement. The Company and its Affiliates may withhold or Participant may make such payment in one or more of the forms specified below:

(i) by cash or check made payable to the Company or its Affiliate with respect to which the withholding obligation arises;

(ii) by the deduction of such amount from other compensation payable to Participant;

(iii) with respect to any withholding taxes arising in connection with the distribution of the RSUs, with the consent of the Committee, by requesting that the Company and its Affiliates withhold a net number of vested shares of Stock otherwise issuable pursuant to the RSUs having a then current Fair Market Value not exceeding the amount necessary to satisfy the withholding obligation of the Company and its Affiliates based on the minimum applicable statutory withholding rates for federal, state, local and foreign income tax and payroll tax purposes;

(iv) with respect to any withholding taxes arising in connection with the distribution of the RSUs, with the consent of the Committee, by tendering to the Company vested shares of Stock having a then current Fair Market Value not exceeding the amount necessary to satisfy the withholding obligation of the Company and its Affiliates based on the minimum applicable statutory withholding rates for federal, state, local and foreign income tax and payroll tax purposes;

(v) with respect to any withholding taxes arising in connection with the distribution of the RSUs, through the delivery of a notice that Participant has placed a market sell order with a broker acceptable to the Company with respect to shares of Stock then issuable to Participant pursuant to the RSUs, and that the broker has been directed to pay a sufficient portion of the net proceeds of the sale to the Company or the Affiliate with respect to which the withholding obligation arises in satisfaction of such withholding taxes; *provided* that payment of such proceeds is then made to the Company or the applicable Affiliate at such time as may be required by the Committee, but in any event not later than the settlement of such sale; or

(vi) in any combination of the foregoing.

(b) With respect to any withholding taxes arising in connection with the RSUs, in the event Participant fails to provide timely payment of all sums required pursuant to Section 2.5(a), the Company shall have the right and option, but not the obligation, to treat such failure as an election by Participant to satisfy all or any portion of Participant's required payment obligation pursuant to Section 2.5(a) (ii) or Section 2.5(a)(iii) above, or any combination of the foregoing as the Company may

determine to be appropriate. The Company shall not be obligated to deliver any certificate representing shares of Stock issuable with respect to the RSUs to Participant or his or her legal representative unless and until Participant or his or her legal representative shall have paid or otherwise satisfied in full the amount of all federal, state, local and foreign taxes applicable with respect to the taxable income of Participant resulting from the vesting or settlement of the RSUs or any other taxable event related to the RSUs.

(a) In the event any tax withholding obligation arising in connection with the RSUs will be satisfied under Section 2.5(a)(iii), then the Company may elect to instruct any brokerage firm determined acceptable to the Company for such purpose to sell on Participant's behalf a whole number of shares from those shares of Stock then issuable to Participant pursuant to the RSUs as the Company determines to be appropriate to generate cash proceeds sufficient to satisfy the tax withholding obligation and to remit the proceeds of such sale to the Company or the Affiliate with respect to which the withholding obligation arises. Participant's acceptance of this Agreement constitutes Participant's instruction and authorization to the Company and such brokerage firm to complete the transactions described in this Section 2.5(c), including the transactions described in the previous sentence, as applicable. The Company may refuse to issue any shares of Stock in settlement of the RSUs to Participant or his or her legal representative until the foregoing tax withholding obligations are satisfied, provided that no payment shall be delayed under this Section 2.5(c) if such delay will result in a violation of Section 409A of the Code.

(c) Participant is ultimately liable and responsible for all taxes owed in connection with the RSUs, regardless of any action the Company or any of its Affiliates takes with respect to any tax withholding obligations that arise in connection with the RSUs. Neither the Company nor any of its Affiliates make any representation or undertaking regarding the treatment of any tax withholding in connection with the awarding, vesting or payment of the RSUs or the subsequent sale of the Shares. The Company and its Affiliates do not commit and are under no obligation to structure this Agreement to reduce or eliminate Participant's tax liability.

2.6 Rights as Stockholder. Neither Participant nor any person claiming under or through Participant will have any of the rights or privileges of a stockholder of the Company in respect of any Shares deliverable hereunder unless and until certificates representing such Shares (which may be in book-entry form) will have been issued and recorded on the records of the Company or its transfer agents or registrars, and delivered to Participant (including through electronic delivery to a brokerage account). Except as otherwise provided herein, after such issuance, recordation and delivery, Participant will have all the rights of a stockholder of the Company with respect to such Shares, including, without limitation, the right to receipt of dividends and distributions on such Shares.

ARTICLE III.

OTHER PROVISIONS

3.1 Administration. The Committee shall have the power to interpret the Plan, the Grant Notice and this Agreement and to adopt such rules for the administration, interpretation and application of the Plan, the Grant Notice and this Agreement as are consistent therewith and to interpret, amend or revoke any such rules. All actions taken and all interpretations and determinations made by the Committee will be final, binding, and conclusive upon Participant, the Company and all other interested persons. To the extent allowable pursuant to applicable law, no member of the Committee or the Board will be personally liable for any action, determination or interpretation made with respect to the Plan, the Grant Notice or this Agreement.

3.2 RSUs Not Transferable. The RSUs may not be sold, pledged, assigned or transferred in any manner other than by will or the laws of descent and distribution, unless and until the Shares underlying the RSUs have been issued, and all restrictions applicable to such Shares have lapsed. No RSUs or any interest or right therein or part thereof shall be liable for the debts, contracts or engagements of Participant or his or her successors in interest or shall be subject to disposition by transfer, alienation, anticipation, pledge, encumbrance, assignment or any other means whether such disposition be voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law by judgment, levy, attachment, garnishment or any other legal or equitable proceedings (including bankruptcy), and any attempted disposition thereof shall be null and void and of no effect, except to the extent that such disposition is permitted by the preceding sentence.

3.3 Adjustments. The Committee may accelerate the vesting of all or a portion of the RSUs in such circumstances as it, in its sole discretion, may determine. Participant acknowledges that the RSUs and the Shares subject to the RSUs are subject to adjustment, modification and termination in certain events as provided in this Agreement and Section 11 of the Plan.

3.4 Notices. Any notice to be given under the terms of this Agreement to the Company shall be addressed to the Company in care of the Secretary of the Company at the Company's principal office, and any notice to be given to Participant shall be addressed to Participant at Participant's last address reflected on the Company's records. By a notice given pursuant to this Section 3.4, either party may hereafter designate a different address for notices to be given to that party. Any notice shall be deemed duly given when sent via email or when sent by certified mail (return receipt requested) and deposited (with postage prepaid) in a post office or branch post office regularly maintained by the United States Postal Service.

3.5 Titles. Titles are provided herein for convenience only and are not to serve as a basis for interpretation or construction of this Agreement.

3.6 Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the internal laws of Bermuda without reference to the principles of conflicts of laws thereof.

3.7 Conformity to Securities Laws. Participant acknowledges that the Plan, the Grant Notice and this Agreement are intended to conform to the extent necessary with all applicable laws, including, without limitation, the provisions of the Securities Act and the Exchange Act, and any and all regulations and rules promulgated thereunder by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and state securities laws and regulations. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Plan shall be administered, and the RSUs are granted, only in such a manner as to conform to applicable law. To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Plan and this Agreement shall be deemed amended to the extent necessary to conform to applicable law.

3.8 Amendment, Suspension and Termination. To the extent permitted by the Plan, this Agreement may be wholly or partially amended or otherwise modified, suspended or terminated at any time or from time to time by the Committee or the Board, provided that, except as may otherwise be provided by the Plan, no amendment, modification, suspension or termination of this Agreement shall adversely affect the RSUs in any material way without the prior written consent of Participant.

3.9 Successors and Assigns. The Company may assign any of its rights under this Agreement to single or multiple assignees, and this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of the successors and assigns of the Company. Subject to the restrictions on transfer set forth in Section 3.2 and the Plan,

this Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the heirs, legatees, legal representatives, successors and assigns of the parties hereto.

3.10 Limitations Applicable to Section 16 Persons. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan or this Agreement, if Participant is subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act, the Plan, the RSUs (including RSUs which result from the deemed reinvestment of Dividend Equivalents), the Dividend Equivalents, the Grant Notice and this Agreement shall be subject to any additional limitations set forth in any applicable exemptive rule under Section 16 of the Exchange Act (including any amendment to Rule 16b-3 of the Exchange Act) that are requirements for the application of such exemptive rule. To the extent permitted by applicable law, this Agreement shall be deemed amended to the extent necessary to conform to such applicable exemptive rule.

3.11 Not a Contract of Employment. Nothing in this Agreement or in the Plan shall confer upon Participant any right to continue to serve as an employee or other service provider of the Company or any of its Affiliates or shall interfere with or restrict in any way the rights of the Company or its Affiliates, which rights are hereby expressly reserved, to discharge or terminate the services of Participant at any time for any reason whatsoever, with or without cause, except to the extent expressly provided otherwise in a written agreement between the Company or one of its Affiliates and Participant.

3.12 Entire Agreement. The Plan, the Grant Notice and this Agreement (including any exhibit hereto) constitute the entire agreement of the parties and supersede in their entirety all prior undertakings and agreements of the Company and Participant with respect to the subject matter hereof.

3.13 Sections 409A and 457A. This Agreement is not intended to constitute “nonqualified deferred compensation” within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code (together with any Department of Treasury regulations and other interpretive guidance issued thereunder, including without limitation any such regulations or other guidance that may be issued after the date hereof, “Section 409A”). However, notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan, the Grant Notice or this Agreement, if at any time the Committee determines that this Agreement (or any portion thereof) may be subject to Section 409A or Section 457A of the Code (together with any Department of Treasury regulations and other interpretive guidance issued thereunder, including without limitation any such regulations or other guidance that may be issued after the date hereof, “Section 457A”), the Committee shall have the right in its sole discretion (without any obligation to do so or to indemnify Participant or any other person for failure to do so) to adopt such amendments to the Plan, the Grant Notice or this Agreement, or adopt other policies and procedures (including amendments, policies and procedures with retroactive effect), or take any other actions, as the Committee determines are necessary or appropriate for this Agreement and the RSUs either to be exempt from the application of Section 409A or Section 457A or to comply with the requirements of Section 409A or Section 457A.

3.14 Agreement Severable. In the event that any provision of the Grant Notice or this Agreement is held invalid or unenforceable, such provision will be severable from, and such invalidity or unenforceability will not be construed to have any effect on, the remaining provisions of the Grant Notice or this Agreement.

3.15 Limitation on Participant’s Rights. Participation in the Plan confers no rights or interests other than as herein provided. This Agreement creates only a contractual obligation on the part of the Company as to amounts payable and shall not be construed as creating a trust. Neither the Plan nor any underlying program, in and of itself, has any assets. Participant shall have only the rights of a general

unsecured creditor of the Company with respect to amounts credited and benefits payable, if any, with respect to the RSUs and Dividend Equivalents.

3.16 Counterparts. The Grant Notice may be executed in one or more counterparts, including by way of any electronic signature, subject to applicable law, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which together shall constitute one instrument.

3.17 Broker-Assisted Sales. In the event of any broker-assisted sale of shares of Stock in connection with the payment of withholding taxes as provided in Section 2.5(a)(iii) or Section 2.5(a)(v): (A) any shares of Stock to be sold through a broker-assisted sale will be sold on the day the tax withholding obligation arises or as soon thereafter as practicable; (B) such shares of Stock may be sold as part of a block trade with other participants in the Plan in which all participants receive an average price; (C) Participant will be responsible for all broker's fees and other costs of sale, and Participant agrees to indemnify and hold the Company harmless from any losses, costs, damages, or expenses relating to any such sale; (D) to the extent the proceeds of such sale exceed the applicable tax withholding obligation, the Company agrees to pay such excess in cash to Participant as soon as reasonably practicable; (E) Participant acknowledges that the Company or its designee is under no obligation to arrange for such sale at any particular price, and that the proceeds of any such sale may not be sufficient to satisfy the applicable tax withholding obligation; and (F) in the event the proceeds of such sale are insufficient to satisfy the applicable tax withholding obligation, Participant agrees to pay immediately upon demand to the Company or its Affiliate with respect to which the withholding obligation arises an amount in cash sufficient to satisfy any remaining portion of the Company's or the applicable Affiliate's withholding obligation.

3.18 Lock-Up. The Participant shall agree, if so requested by the Company and any underwriter in connection with any public offering of securities of the Company, not to directly or indirectly offer, sell, contract to sell, sell any option or contract to purchase, purchase any option or contract to sell, grant any option, right or warrant for the sale of or otherwise dispose of or transfer any shares of Common Stock held by him or her for such period, not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days following the effective date of the relevant registration statement filed under the Securities Act in connection with such public offering, as such underwriter shall specify reasonably and in good faith. The Company may impose stop-transfer instructions with respect to securities subject to the foregoing restrictions until the end of such 180-day period.

3.19 Acceptance of Agreement, Plan and Grant Notice. By his or her acceptance of the Grant Notice, Participant agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Agreement, the Plan and the Grant Notice. Participant has reviewed the Agreement, the Plan and the Grant Notice in their entirety, has had an opportunity to obtain the advice of counsel prior to accepting the Grant Notice and fully understands all provisions of the Grant Notice, the Agreement and the Plan. Participant agrees to accept as binding, conclusive and final all decisions or interpretations of the Committee upon any questions arising under the Agreement, Plan or the Grant Notice.

* * *

EXHIBIT A

CERTAIN DEFINED TERMS

For purposes of the Grant Notice and the Agreement, the following terms have the following meanings:

(a) “Adjusted Book Value” means, as of any date, (i) the consolidated stockholder’s equity of the Company computed in accordance with GAAP, as reflected in the Company’s financial statements, plus or minus (ii) accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) (within the meaning of GAAP) as reflected in the Company’s financial statements, plus (iii) the proceeds from the assumed exercise of all outstanding “in-the-money” stock options, warrants, or similar instruments, plus (iv) cash dividends and other distributions paid in respect of the Company’s outstanding equity during the Performance Period, and assuming that all cash dividends and cash distributions are immediately reinvested in common shares of the Company using the closing market price on the ex-dividend date (but with respect to subsections (iii) and (iv) above, such adjustments shall be made only in the case of the determination of Adjusted Book Value for a date after the beginning of the Performance Period). For purposes of determining “Adjusted Book Value” (A) the following items shall not be taken into account, (x) the cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles under GAAP, (y) the cumulative effective of changes in tax laws and/or tax rates, and (z) the impact of extraordinary, unusual and/or non-recurring items, in each case, at the discretion of the Committee and (B) there shall be adjustments to give effect to any stock dividends or stock splits.

(b) “Beginning Share Price” shall mean the product of (x) the average closing price of the common stock of the applicable company during the thirty (30) consecutive trading days preceding the first day of the Performance Period, in each case, with such stock price rounded down to the nearest cent, and (y) the sum of (A) one share of common stock of the applicable company, plus (B) a cumulative number of shares of common stock purchased with the dividends declared on the common stock, assuming same day reinvestment of the dividend in shares of common stock at the closing price on the ex-dividend date, for the ex-dividend dates that occur during the thirty (30) consecutive trading days preceding the first day of the Performance Period, rounded down to the nearest thousandths.

(c) “BVPS” means, as of any date, Adjusted Book Value divided by Diluted Common Shares Outstanding, as determined by the Committee in good faith.

(d) “BVPS Growth Percentage” means, for the Performance Period, the compounded annual growth rate in BVPS measured at the end of the Performance Period over the BVPS measured at the end of the year prior to the beginning of the Performance Period.

(e) “Comparator Group” shall mean companies comprising the S&P 1500 Financials Index as of the first day of the Performance Period, inclusive of the Company. The Comparator Group may be changed as follows: (i) in the event of a merger, acquisition or business combination transaction of a member of the Comparator Group with or by another member of the Comparator Group, the surviving entity will remain in the Comparator Group; (ii) in the event of a merger, acquisition or other business combination transaction of a member of the Comparator Group with or by another company that is not a member of the Comparator Group, or “going private transaction” where the member of the Comparator Group is not the surviving entity or is otherwise no longer publicly traded, the company will no longer be a member of the Comparator Group; and (iii) in the event of a bankruptcy of a member of

the Comparator Group such company will remain a member of the Comparator Group so long as such company is publicly traded.

(f) “Diluted Common Shares Outstanding” means, as of any date, the total number shares of Stock outstanding, plus all “in-the-money” stock options, warrants and similar instruments and equity instruments (including any Restricted Stock Units) issued to employees, officers, directors and consultants of the Company and its Affiliates; provided, however, that Diluted Common Shares Outstanding shall be equitably adjusted (but only with respect the determination of Diluted Common Shares Outstanding for a date after the beginning of the Performance Period) to give effect to any stock dividends or stock splits during the Performance Period.

(g) “Earned RSUs” means (i) fifty percent (50%) of the number of RSUs granted herein, *multiplied* by (ii) the Vesting Percentage.

(h) “Ending Share Price” shall mean the product of (x) the average closing price of the common stock of the applicable company during the thirty (30) consecutive trading days ending on (and including) the last day of the Performance Period, in each case, with such stock price rounded down to the nearest cent, and (y) the sum of (A) one share of common stock of the applicable company, plus (B) a cumulative number of shares of common stock purchased with the dividends declared on the common stock, assuming same day reinvestment of the dividend in shares of common stock at the closing price on the ex-dividend date, for the ex-dividend dates that occur during the thirty (30) consecutive trading days preceding the first day of the Performance Period through the expiration of the Performance Period, rounded down to the nearest thousandths; provided, that, notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of a Change in Control, the Ending Share Price in respect of the Company shall be equal to the price per share of Stock to be paid to the holder thereof in accordance with the definitive agreement governing the transaction constituting the Change in Control (or, in the absence of such agreement, the closing price per share of Stock as reported for the last trading day immediately preceding the consummation of the Change in Control), adjusted to reflect an assumed reinvestment of any dividends in accordance with clause (B) above.

(i) “Performance Period” means the period commencing on January 1, 20__ and ending on the earlier of (i) December 31, 20__ or (ii) the consummation of a Change in Control.

(j) “Relative Total Shareholder Return” shall mean the Company’s Total Shareholder Return relative to the Total Shareholder Return of the Comparator Group, expressed as a percentile rank. Relative Total Shareholder Return shall be determined by calculating the Total Shareholder Return of the Company and each member of the Comparator Group for the Performance Period, and the Company and each member of the Comparator Group will be ranked in order of maximum to minimum according to their respective Total Shareholder Return for the Performance Period, with the company with the highest return ranked as 1. After this ranking, the percentile performance of the Company relative to the Comparator Group will be determined as follows:

$$\frac{P}{N-1} = \frac{1 - R-1}{N-1}$$

Where: “P” represents the percentile performance, which will be rounded, if necessary, to the nearest tenth of a percent.

“N” represents the number of companies in the Comparator Group (inclusive of the Company).

“R” represents the Company’s ranking versus the Comparator Group.

Example: If there are 225 companies in the Comparator Group (inclusive of the Company), and the Company ranked 86th out of 225, the performance would be at the 62nd percentile: $.620 = 1 - ((86-1)/(225-1))$.

(k) “Total Shareholder Return” shall mean for each member of the Comparator Group, the percentage change in the value of the Stock or the common stock of a member of the Comparator Group, as applicable, determined by dividing (x) the Ending Share Price by (y) the Beginning Share Price, as determined by the Committee in its sole discretion, and then subtracting by 1.

(l) “Vesting Percentage” means a function of the BVPS Growth Percentage achieved by the Company during the Performance Period, rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent (0.1%) and the Relative Total Shareholder Return achieved by the Company during the Performance Period, and shall be determined as follows:

		Relative Total Shareholder Return* vs. S&P 1500 Financial Services Index		
		≤25 th percentile	50 th percentile	≥75 th percentile
Three-Year Book Value Per Share CAGR*	%			
	%			
	%			
	%			
	%			

* In the event that the BVPS Growth Percentage or the Relative Total Shareholder Return falls between the performance levels shown above, the Vesting Percentage shall be determined using a straight line linear interpolation between the respective levels shown.

Essent Group Ltd.

List of Subsidiaries

<u>Subsidiary</u>	<u>Jurisdiction of Incorporation/Formation</u>
Essent Reinsurance Ltd. (1)	Bermuda
Essent Agency (Bermuda) Ltd. (2)	Bermuda
Essent Irish Intermediate Holdings Ltd. (1)	Republic of Ireland
Essent US Holdings, Inc. (3)	Delaware
CUW Solutions, LLC (4)	Delaware
Essent Treasury Services, LLC (4)	Delaware
EssentVentures, LLC (4)	Delaware
Essent Guaranty of PA, Inc. (4)	Pennsylvania
Essent Guaranty, Inc. (4)	Pennsylvania
Essent Solutions, LLC (5)	Delaware
Essent Title Holdings, Inc. (4)	Delaware
ETI Escrow Services, LLC (6)	Delaware
Agents National Title Holding Company (6)	Missouri
Essent Title Insurance, Inc. (7)(10)	Pennsylvania
TitleNet Systems LLC (7)	Missouri
Boston National Holdings LLC (6)	Delaware
Boston National Title Agency LLC (8)	Florida
BNT of Alabama LLC (8)	Alabama
Essent Title of California, Inc. (8)	California
Essent Escrow of Arizona, LLC (9)	North Carolina
Essent Title of Texas, LLC (8)	Texas
BNT of Utah LLC (8)	Utah
BNT of Oklahoma LLC (8)	North Carolina
Essent Title of Louisiana, LLC (8)	Louisiana
Essent Title of New Mexico, LLC (8)	North Carolina
BNT Escrow Services LLC (8)	North Carolina
The Closer LLC (8)	North Carolina

(1) 100% of common shares held by Essent Group Ltd.

(2) 100% of common shares held by Essent Reinsurance Ltd.

(3) 100% of common shares held by Essent Irish Intermediate Holdings Ltd.

(4) 100% of common shares or limited liability company interests held by Essent US Holdings Inc.

(5) 100% of limited liability company interests held by Essent Guaranty, Inc.

(6) 100% of common shares held by Essent Title Holdings, Inc.

(7) 100% of limited liability company interests held by Essent Title Holdings, Inc.

(8) 100% of limited liability company interests held by Boston National Holdings LLC

(9) 100% of limited liability company interests held by Essent Title of California, Inc.

(10) Effective January 1, 2025, Agents National Title Insurance Company redomiciled from Missouri to Pennsylvania and was renamed Essent Title Insurance, Inc.

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statements on Form S-3 (No. 333-277287) and Form S-8 (No. 333-192092) of Essent Group Ltd. of our report dated February 18, 2026 relating to the financial statements, financial statement schedules and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, which appears in this Form 10-K.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
February 18, 2026

CERTIFICATION

I, Mark A. Casale, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Essent Group Ltd.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - (a) all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - (b) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 18, 2026

/s/ MARK A. CASALE

Mark A. Casale

President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman

(Principal Executive Officer)

CERTIFICATION

I, David B. Weinstock, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Essent Group Ltd.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - (a) all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - (b) any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: February 18, 2026

/s/ DAVID B. WEINSTOCK

David B. Weinstock

Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

(Principal Financial Officer)

**CERTIFICATION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER PURSUANT TO 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350, AS
ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

The undersigned, Mark A. Casale, President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Essent Group Ltd. (the “Company”), and David B. Weinstock, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company, each hereby certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350 as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that to the best of his knowledge:

- (1) the Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2025 (the “Report”) fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) the information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Date: February 18, 2026

/s/ MARK A. CASALE

Mark A. Casale
President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman

/s/ DAVID B. WEINSTOCK

David B. Weinstock
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer