

Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc.
Form 10-Q
November 09, 2015
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 or 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT
of 1934

For the Quarterly Period Ended September 30, 2015

OR

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

For the Transition Period From _____ To _____

Commission file number 001-34626

PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or
organization)

58-2328421

(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

11695 Johns Creek Parkway

Ste. 350

Johns Creek, Georgia 30097

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

(770) 418-8800

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A

(Former name, former address, and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

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

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

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

Large Accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-Accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting
company)

Smaller reporting company

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes No

Number of shares outstanding of the Registrant's
common stock, as of November 6, 2015:

145,508,307 shares

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CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements contained in this Form 10-Q may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. In addition, Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc. ("Piedmont"), or its executive officers on Piedmont's behalf, may from time to time make forward-looking statements in reports and other documents Piedmont files with the Securities and Exchange Commission or in connection with other written or oral statements made to the press, potential investors, or others. Statements regarding future events and developments and Piedmont's future performance, as well as management's expectations, beliefs, plans, estimates, or projections relating to the future, are forward-looking statements within the meaning of these laws. Forward-looking statements include statements preceded by, followed by, or that include the words "may," "will," "expect," "intend," "anticipate," "estimate," "believe," "con" or other similar words. Examples of such statements in this report include descriptions of our real estate, financings, and operating objectives; discussions regarding future dividends and share repurchases; and discussions regarding the potential impact of economic conditions on our real estate and lease portfolio.

These statements are based on beliefs and assumptions of Piedmont's management, which in turn are based on information available at the time the statements are made. Important assumptions relating to the forward-looking statements include, among others, assumptions regarding the demands for office space in the markets in which Piedmont operates, competitive conditions, and general economic conditions. These assumptions could prove inaccurate. The forward-looking statements also involve risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement. Many of these factors are beyond Piedmont's ability to control or predict. Such factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

Economic, regulatory, and/or socio-economic changes (including accounting standards) that impact the real estate market generally, or that could affect patterns of use of commercial office space, may cause our operating results to suffer and decrease the value of our real estate properties;

The impact of competition on our efforts to renew existing leases or re-let space on terms similar to existing leases; Changes in the economies and other conditions affecting the office sector in general and the specific markets in which we operate, particularly in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and the New York metropolitan area, where we have high concentrations of office properties;

Lease terminations or lease defaults, particularly by one of our large lead tenants;

- Adverse market and economic conditions may negatively affect us and could cause us to recognize impairment charges on both our long-lived assets or goodwill or otherwise impact our performance;

The success of our real estate strategies and investment objectives, including our ability to identify and consummate suitable acquisitions and divestitures;

The illiquidity of real estate investments could significantly impede our ability to respond to adverse changes in the performance of our properties;

Acquisitions of properties may have unknown risks and other liabilities at the time of acquisition;

Development and construction delays and resultant increased costs and risks may negatively impact our operating results;

Our real estate development strategies may not be successful;

Future terrorist attacks in the major metropolitan areas in which we own properties could significantly impact the demand for, and value of, our properties;

Costs of complying with governmental laws and regulations;

Additional risks and costs associated with directly managing properties occupied by government tenants;

Future offerings of debt or equity securities may adversely affect the market price of our common stock;

Changes in market interest rates may have an effect on the value of our common stock;

Uncertainties associated with environmental and other regulatory matters;

Potential changes in political environment and reduction in federal and/or state funding of our governmental tenants;

We may be subject to litigation, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition;

-

Changes in tax laws impacting REITs and real estate in general, as well as Piedmont's ability to continue to qualify as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code"); and

The risk factors discussed under Item 1A. of Piedmont's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Management believes these forward-looking statements are reasonable; however, undue reliance should not be placed on any forward-looking statements, which are based on current expectations. Further, forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and management undertakes no obligation to update publicly any of them in light of new information or future events.

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PART I. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ITEM 1. CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The information presented in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets and related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows reflects all adjustments that are, in management's opinion, necessary for a fair and consistent presentation of financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

The accompanying financial statements should be read in conjunction with the notes to Piedmont's financial statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in this report on Form 10-Q and with Piedmont's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014. Piedmont's results of operations for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 are not necessarily indicative of the operating results expected for the full year.

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PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(in thousands, except for share and per share amounts)

| | (Unaudited) September 30, 2015 | December 31, 2014 |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Assets: | | |
| Real estate assets, at cost: | | |
| Land | \$671,832 | \$674,554 |
| Buildings and improvements, less accumulated depreciation of \$933,717 and \$889,997 as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively | 2,655,581 | 2,741,583 |
| Intangible lease assets, less accumulated amortization of \$87,633 and \$79,860 as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively | 60,770 | 70,177 |
| Construction in progress | 75,083 | 61,891 |
| Real estate assets held for sale, net | 470,847 | 526,887 |
| Total real estate assets | 3,934,113 | 4,075,092 |
| Investments in and amounts due from unconsolidated joint ventures | 7,652 | 7,798 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 7,702 | 12,306 |
| Tenant receivables, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$86 and \$231 as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively | 26,748 | 27,711 |
| Notes receivable | 45,400 | — |
| Straight-line rent receivables | 149,060 | 146,836 |
| Restricted cash and escrows | 37,705 | 5,679 |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets | 31,764 | 25,656 |
| Goodwill | 180,097 | 180,097 |
| Interest rate swaps | — | 430 |
| Deferred financing costs, less accumulated amortization of \$6,971 and \$6,067 as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively | 7,220 | 7,667 |
| Deferred lease costs, less accumulated amortization of \$143,676 and \$129,601 as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively | 231,379 | 228,953 |
| Other assets held for sale, net | 81,034 | 77,276 |
| Total assets | \$4,739,874 | \$4,795,501 |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Unsecured debt, net of discount of \$7,137 and \$5,424 as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively | \$1,925,863 | \$1,828,544 |
| Secured debt, inclusive of premium of \$2,209 and \$3,258 as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively | 502,456 | 449,045 |
| Accounts payable, accrued expenses, and accrued capital expenditures | 132,741 | 133,988 |
| Deferred income | 26,087 | 22,215 |
| Intangible lease liabilities, less accumulated amortization of \$40,542 and \$35,628 as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively | 38,896 | 42,560 |
| Interest rate swaps | 20,526 | 6,417 |
| Other liabilities held for sale, net | 567 | 717 |
| Total liabilities | 2,647,136 | 2,483,486 |
| Commitments and Contingencies | — | — |
| Stockholders' Equity: | | |
| Shares-in-trust, 150,000,000 shares authorized; none outstanding as of September 30, 2015 or December 31, 2014 | — | — |
| | — | — |

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| | | |
|--|-------------|----------------|
| Preferred stock, no par value, 100,000,000 shares authorized; none outstanding as of September 30, 2015 or December 31, 2014 | | |
| Common stock, \$.01 par value, 750,000,000 shares authorized; 145,633,869 and 154,324,089 shares issued and outstanding as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively | 1,456 | 1,543 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 3,669,154 | 3,666,182 |
| Cumulative distributions in excess of earnings | (1,570,377 |) (1,365,620) |
| Other comprehensive income/(loss) | (8,524 |) 8,301 |
| Piedmont stockholders' equity | 2,091,709 | 2,310,406 |
| Noncontrolling interest | 1,029 | 1,609 |
| Total stockholders' equity | 2,092,738 | 2,312,015 |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$4,739,874 | \$4,795,501 |
| See accompanying notes | | |

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PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(in thousands, except for share and per share amounts)

| | (Unaudited) Three Months Ended September 30, | | (Unaudited) Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|--|-------------|---|-------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Rental income | \$ 117,994 | \$ 114,529 | \$ 353,255 | \$ 338,720 |
| Tenant reimbursements | 30,273 | 29,579 | 90,476 | 79,253 |
| Property management fee revenue | 548 | 533 | 1,577 | 1,568 |
| | 148,815 | 144,641 | 445,308 | 419,541 |
| Expenses: | | | | |
| Property operating costs | 61,677 | 62,027 | 187,392 | 177,434 |
| Depreciation | 31,199 | 35,366 | 103,470 | 103,154 |
| Amortization | 14,021 | 14,235 | 43,646 | 42,407 |
| Impairment loss on real estate assets | 34,815 | — | 40,169 | — |
| General and administrative | 8,236 | 5,814 | 22,726 | 17,514 |
| | 149,948 | 117,442 | 397,403 | 340,509 |
| Real estate operating income/(loss) | (1,133) | 27,199 | 47,905 | 79,032 |
| Other income (expense): | | | | |
| Interest expense | (18,832) | (18,654) | (56,020) | (55,592) |
| Other income | 803 | 524 | 1,218 | 68 |
| Net recoveries/(loss) from casualty events and litigation settlements | — | (8) | — | 4,514 |
| Equity in income/(loss) of unconsolidated joint ventures | 135 | 89 | 418 | (510) |
| | (17,894) | (18,049) | (54,384) | (51,520) |
| Income/(loss) from continuing operations | (19,027) | 9,150 | (6,479) | 27,512 |
| Discontinued operations: | | | | |
| Operating income | 16 | 16 | 13 | 996 |
| Gain/(loss) on sale of real estate assets | (2) | — | (2) | 1,198 |
| Income from discontinued operations | 14 | 16 | 11 | 2,194 |
| Gain on sale of real estate assets | 17,142 | — | 53,826 | 1,140 |
| Net income/(loss) | (1,871) | 9,166 | 47,358 | 30,846 |
| Less: Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest | (4) | (4) | (12) | (12) |
| Net income/(loss) attributable to Piedmont | \$(1,875) | \$9,162 | \$47,346 | \$30,834 |
| Per share information – basic and diluted: | | | | |
| Income/(loss) from continuing operations and gain on sale of real estate assets | \$(0.01) | \$0.06 | \$0.31 | \$0.19 |
| Income from discontinued operations | — | — | — | 0.01 |
| Net income/(loss) available to common stockholders | \$(0.01) | \$0.06 | \$0.31 | \$0.20 |
| Weighted-average common shares outstanding – basic | 148,855,336 | 154,325,073 | 152,231,060 | 154,495,761 |
| Weighted-average common shares outstanding – diluted | 149,176,207 | 154,561,362 | 152,499,430 | 154,664,834 |
| See accompanying notes | | | | |

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PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
(in thousands)

| | (Unaudited) Three Months Ended September 30, 2015 | | (Unaudited) Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015 | | 2014 | |
|---|--|------------|---|-----------|------|-----------|
| Net income/(loss) attributable to Piedmont | | \$(1,875) | \$9,162 | \$47,346 | | \$30,834 |
| Other comprehensive income/(loss): | | | | | | |
| Effective portion of gain/(loss) on derivative instruments that are designated and qualify as cash flow hedges (See Note 5) | (22,263) | | 1,360 | (21,389) | | (12,143) |
| Plus: Reclassification of previously recorded loss included in net income (See Note 5) | | 1,506 | 1,295 | 4,575 | | 3,623 |
| Unrealized loss on investment in available for sale securities | (9) | | — | (11) | | — |
| Other comprehensive income/(loss) | (20,766) | | 2,655 | (16,825) | | (8,520) |
| Comprehensive income/ (loss) attributable to Piedmont | | \$(22,641) | \$11,817 | \$30,521 | | \$22,314 |

See accompanying notes

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PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014
AND FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 (UNAUDITED)
(in thousands, except per share amounts)

| | Common Shares | Stock Amount | Additional Paid-In Capital | Cumulative Distributions in Excess of Earnings | Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss) | Non- controlling Interest | Total Stockholders' Equity |
|--|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Balance, December 31, 2013 | 157,461 | \$1,575 | \$3,668,906 | \$(1,231,209) | \$ 20,278 | \$ 1,609 | \$2,461,159 |
| Share repurchases as part of an announced plan | (3,190) | (32) | — | (52,764) | — | — | (52,796) |
| Retirement of shares returned from escrow | (85) | (1) | (1,478) | — | — | — | (1,479) |
| Redemption of noncontrolling interest in consolidated variable interest entity | — | — | (4,054) | — | — | — | (4,054) |
| Dividends to common stockholders (\$0.81 per share), dividends to shareholders of subsidiary, and dividends reinvested | — | — | (188) | (124,995) | — | (15) | (125,198) |
| Shares issued and amortized under the 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan, net of tax | 138 | 1 | 2,996 | — | — | — | 2,997 |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest | — | — | — | — | — | 15 | 15 |
| Net income attributable to Piedmont | — | — | — | 43,348 | — | — | 43,348 |
| Other comprehensive loss | — | — | — | — | (11,977) | — | (11,977) |
| Balance, December 31, 2014 | 154,324 | 1,543 | 3,666,182 | (1,365,620) | 8,301 | 1,609 | 2,312,015 |
| Share repurchases as part of an announced plan | (8,849) | (88) | — | (156,387) | — | — | (156,475) |
| Offering costs | — | — | (326) | — | — | — | (326) |
| Redemption of noncontrolling interest in consolidated variable interest entity | — | — | 54 | — | — | — | 54 |
| Reallocation of noncontrolling interest of subsidiary | — | — | 1,128 | — | — | (584) | 544 |
| Dividends to common stockholders (\$0.63 per share), dividends to shareholders of subsidiary, and dividends reinvested | — | — | (186) | (95,716) | — | (8) | (95,910) |
| Shares issued and amortized under the 2007 Omnibus Incentive Plan, net of tax | 159 | 1 | 2,302 | — | — | — | 2,303 |
| | — | — | — | — | — | 12 | 12 |

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| | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest | | | | | | | |
| Net income attributable to Piedmont | — | — | — | 47,346 | — | — | 47,346 |
| Other comprehensive loss | — | — | — | — | (16,825) | — | (16,825) |
| Balance, September 30, 2015 | 145,634 | \$1,456 | \$3,669,154 | \$(1,570,377) | \$ (8,524) | \$ 1,029 | \$2,092,738 |

See accompanying notes

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PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(in thousands)

| | (Unaudited) | |
|---|-------------------|------------|
| | Nine Months Ended | |
| | September 30, | |
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities: | | |
| Net income | \$47,358 | \$30,846 |
| Operating distributions received from unconsolidated joint ventures | 565 | 266 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation | 103,470 | 103,237 |
| Amortization of deferred financing costs | 1,281 | 1,299 |
| Gain/(loss) on settlement of forward starting interest rate swaps | (1,284) | 14,960 |
| Other amortization | 44,091 | 42,007 |
| Impairment loss on real estate assets | 40,169 | — |
| Stock compensation expense | 5,027 | 3,046 |
| Equity in (income)/loss of unconsolidated joint ventures | (418) | 510 |
| Gain on sale of real estate assets | (53,824) | (2,338) |
| Retirement of shares returned from escrow | — | (1,479) |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | | |
| Increase in tenant and straight-line rent receivables, net | (22,996) | (29,277) |
| Increase in restricted cash and escrows | (20,333) | (114) |
| Increase in prepaid expenses and other assets | (5,845) | (10,588) |
| Increase/(decrease) in accounts payable and accrued expenses | (8,284) | 5,617 |
| Increase/(decrease) in deferred income | 3,619 | (476) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 132,596 | 157,516 |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities: | | |
| Acquisition of real estate assets and related intangibles | (75,976) | (109,930) |
| Capitalized expenditures, net of accruals | (81,917) | (122,804) |
| Redemption of noncontrolling interest in unconsolidated variable interest entity | (4,000) | — |
| Net sales proceeds from wholly-owned properties | 151,564 | 46,240 |
| Net sales proceeds from unconsolidated joint ventures | — | 6,017 |
| Investments in unconsolidated joint ventures | — | (42) |
| Deferred lease costs paid | (23,889) | (20,732) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (34,218) | (201,251) |
| Cash Flows from Financing Activities: | | |
| Deferred financing costs paid | (1,048) | (1,112) |
| Proceeds from debt | 1,205,857 | 979,564 |
| Repayments of debt | (1,055,902) | (784,320) |
| Discount paid due to loan modification | — | (1,135) |
| Costs of issuance of common stock | (326) | — |
| Repurchases of common stock as part of announced plan | (155,653) | (54,685) |
| Dividends paid and discount on dividend reinvestments | (95,910) | (92,735) |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities | (102,982) | 45,577 |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | (4,604) | 1,842 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period | 12,306 | 6,973 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period | \$7,702 | \$8,815 |

Supplemental Disclosures of Significant Noncash Investing and Financing Activities:

| | | | | |
|--|----------|---|----------|---|
| Change in accrued share repurchases as part of an announced plan | \$(822 |) | \$(2,005 |) |
| Accrued capital expenditures and deferred lease costs | \$24,588 | | \$17,573 | |

See accompanying notes

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PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.
CONDENSED NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2015
(unaudited)

1. Organization

Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc. ("Piedmont") (NYSE: PDM) is a Maryland corporation that operates in a manner so as to qualify as a real estate investment trust ("REIT") for federal income tax purposes and engages in the acquisition, development, management, and ownership of commercial real estate properties throughout the United States, including properties that are under construction, are newly constructed, or have operating histories. Piedmont was incorporated in 1997 and commenced operations in 1998. Piedmont conducts business primarily through Piedmont Operating Partnership, L.P. ("Piedmont OP"), a Delaware limited partnership, as well as performing the management of its buildings through two wholly-owned subsidiaries, Piedmont Government Services, LLC and Piedmont Office Management, LLC. Piedmont owns 99.9% of, and is the sole general partner of, Piedmont OP and as such, possesses full legal control and authority over the operations of Piedmont OP. The remaining 0.1% ownership interest of Piedmont OP is held indirectly by Piedmont through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Piedmont Office Holdings, Inc. ("POH"), the sole limited partner of Piedmont OP. Piedmont OP owns properties directly, through wholly-owned subsidiaries, and through both consolidated and unconsolidated joint ventures. References to Piedmont herein shall include Piedmont and all of its subsidiaries, including Piedmont OP and its subsidiaries and joint ventures.

As of September 30, 2015, Piedmont owned 68 office properties, one redevelopment asset and two development assets, and one building through an unconsolidated joint venture. Piedmont's 68 office properties comprise 20.7 million square feet of primarily Class A commercial office space, and were 90.6% leased as of September 30, 2015. As of September 30, 2015, approximately 80% of Piedmont's Annualized Lease Revenue was generated from select office sub-markets in the following cities: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Minneapolis, New York, and Washington, D.C.

Piedmont internally evaluates all of its real estate assets as one operating segment, and accordingly, does not report segment information.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation and Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements of Piedmont have been prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), including the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X, and do not include all of the information and footnotes required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, the statements for the unaudited interim periods presented include all adjustments, which are of a normal and recurring nature, necessary for a fair presentation of the results for such periods. Results for these interim periods are not necessarily indicative of a full year's results.

Piedmont's consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Piedmont, Piedmont's wholly-owned subsidiaries, any variable interest entity ("VIE") of which Piedmont or any of its wholly-owned subsidiaries is considered to have the power to direct the activities of the entity and the obligation to absorb losses/right to receive benefits, or any entity in which Piedmont or any of its wholly-owned subsidiaries owns a controlling interest. In determining whether Piedmont or Piedmont OP has a controlling interest, the following factors, among others, are considered: equity ownership, voting rights, protective rights of investors, and participatory rights of investors. For further information, refer to the financial statements and footnotes included in Piedmont's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

All inter-company balances and transactions have been eliminated upon consolidation.

Further, Piedmont has formed special purpose entities to acquire and hold real estate. Each special purpose entity is a separate legal entity and consequently the assets of the special purpose entities are not available to all creditors of Piedmont. The assets owned by these special purpose entities are being reported on a consolidated basis with Piedmont's assets for financial reporting purposes only.

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Use of Estimates

The preparation of the accompanying consolidated financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the accompanying consolidated financial statements and notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Income Taxes

Piedmont has elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and has operated as such, beginning with its taxable year ended December 31, 1998. To qualify as a REIT, Piedmont must meet certain organizational and operational requirements, including a requirement to distribute at least 90% of its annual REIT taxable income. As a REIT, Piedmont is generally not subject to federal income taxes. Piedmont is subject to certain taxes related to the operations of properties in certain locations, as well as operations conducted by its taxable REIT subsidiary, POH, which have been provided for in the financial statements.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

The Financial Accounting Standards Board (the "FASB") has issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606) ("ASU 2014-09"). The amendments in ASU 2014-09 change the criteria for the recognition of revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services using a five-step determination process. Steps 1 through 5 involve (i) identifying contracts with a customer, (ii) identifying the performance obligations in the contract, (iii) determining the transaction price, (iv) allocating the transaction price to the performance obligations, and (v) recognizing revenue as an entity satisfies a performance obligation. Additionally, lease contracts are specifically excluded from ASU 2014-09. The amendments in ASU 2014-09 are effective in the first quarter of 2018 for Piedmont, and Piedmont is currently evaluating the potential impact, if any, of adoption.

The FASB has issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-02, Consolidation (Topic 810), Amendments to the Consolidation Analysis ("ASU 2015-02"). The amendments in ASU 2015-02 modify the consolidation analysis of certain types of entities. Specifically, ASU 2015-02 changes the assessment criteria of whether limited partnerships are VIEs, eliminates the presumption that general partners should consolidate a limited partner, eliminates certain conditions from the evaluation of whether a fee paid to a decision maker constitutes a VIE, and changes the evaluation regarding the impact of related parties in the primary beneficiary determination of a VIE. The amendments in ASU 2015-02 are effective in the first quarter of 2016 for Piedmont, and Piedmont does not anticipate any material impact to its consolidated financial statements as a result of adoption.

The FASB has issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-03, Interest - Imputation of Interest (Subtopic 835-30), Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs ("ASU 2015-03"). The amendments in ASU 2015-03 require debt issuance costs to be presented in the balance sheet as a reduction to the underlying debt instrument, as opposed to a separate asset. The amendments do not change the method by which such costs are amortized against earnings, nor do they change their classification in the consolidated statements of income, as a component of interest expense. The amendments in ASU 2015-03 are effective in the first quarter of 2016 for Piedmont, and Piedmont is currently evaluating the potential impact of adoption.

3. Acquisitions

During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, Piedmont acquired 100% ownership of the following properties and land parcel using proceeds from the \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit, proceeds from the sales of other properties (see Note 9), and cash on hand, as noted below:

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| Property | Metropolitan Statistical Area | Date of Acquisition | Rentable Square Feet | Percentage Leased as of Acquisition | Purchase Price (in millions) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Park Place on Turtle Creek | Dallas, Texas | January 16, 2015 | 177,844 | 88 % | \$46.6 |
| 80 Central Street | Boxborough, Massachusetts | July 24, 2015 | 149,661 | 93 % | \$13.5 |
| Land Parcel | Metropolitan Statistical Area | Date of Acquisition | Acreage | Contractual Purchase Price (in millions) | |
| Two Pierce Land Parcel | Chicago, Illinois | June 2, 2015 | 4.73 | \$3.7 | |

4. Debt

During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, Piedmont replaced its existing \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit with a new \$500 million line of credit facility (the "\$500 Million Unsecured 2015 Line of Credit"). The existing \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit was scheduled to expire on August 19, 2016, and was terminated concurrently with the closing of the new facility. The term of the new \$500 Million Unsecured 2015 Line of Credit is four years with a maturity date of June 18, 2019, and Piedmont may extend the term for up to one additional year (through two available six-month extensions) provided Piedmont is not then in default and upon payment of extension fees. As of September 30, 2015, the stated interest rate spread over LIBOR on the \$500 Million Unsecured 2015 Line of Credit is 1.00%, down from 1.175% on the prior line of credit.

Additionally, during the nine months ended September 30, 2015, Piedmont entered into a \$160 million note payable secured by a mortgage against its 1901 Market Street building located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (the "\$160 Million Fixed-Rate Loan"). The \$160 Million Fixed-Rate Loan replaced the \$105 Million Fixed-Rate Loan secured by the US Bancorp Center building in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which was paid in full in April 2015, and the remaining proceeds were used to pay down outstanding borrowings on the \$500 Million Unsecured 2015 Line of Credit. The \$160 Million Fixed-Rate Loan bears interest at 3.48% per year and matures on July 5, 2022.

Finally, during the nine months ended September 30, 2015, Piedmont entered into a \$170 million unsecured term loan facility (the "\$170 Million Unsecured 2015 Term Loan") with a consortium of lenders. The term of the \$170 Million Unsecured 2015 Term Loan is approximately three years with a maturity date of May 15, 2018. Piedmont may prepay the \$170 Million Unsecured 2015 Term Loan, in whole or in part, at any time without premium or penalty. As of September 30, 2015, the stated interest rate spread on the \$170 Million Unsecured 2015 Term Loan was 1.125%.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, Piedmont incurred additional working capital borrowings on its \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit (which was subsequently replaced with the \$500 Million Unsecured 2015 Line of Credit) of \$408.0 million and, utilizing a portion of the proceeds of the \$170 Million Unsecured 2015 Term Loan and the \$160 Million Fixed-Rate Loan described above, as well as other cash on hand, made repayments totaling \$429.0 million on its line of credit facility. As of September 30, 2015, Piedmont believes it was in compliance with all financial covenants associated with its debt instruments.

Additionally, see Note 7 for a description of Piedmont's estimated fair value of debt as of September 30, 2015.

Piedmont also made interest payments on all debt facilities, including interest rate swap cash settlements, of approximately \$20.1 million and \$20.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and approximately \$58.8 million and \$54.1 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014,

respectively. Piedmont capitalized interest of approximately \$1.0 million and \$0.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, and approximately \$2.7 million and \$1.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

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The following table summarizes the terms of Piedmont's indebtedness outstanding as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014 (in thousands):

| Facility | Collateral | Stated Rate ⁽¹⁾ | Maturity | Amount Outstanding as of | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| | | | | September 30, 2015 | December 31, 2014 | |
| Secured (Fixed) | | | | | | |
| \$105 Million Fixed-Rate Loan | US Bancorp Center Four Property | 5.29 % | 5/11/2015 | \$— | \$ 105,000 | |
| \$125 Million Fixed-Rate Loan | Collateralized Pool ⁽²⁾ | 5.50 % | 4/1/2016 | 125,000 | 125,000 | |
| \$42.5 Million Fixed-Rate Loan | Las Colinas Corporate Center I & II | 5.70 % | 10/11/2016 | 42,525 | 42,525 | |
| \$140 Million WDC Fixed-Rate Loans | 1201 & 1225 Eye Street | 5.76 % | 11/1/2017 | 140,000 | 140,000 | |
| \$35 Million Fixed-Rate Loan | 5 Wall Street | 5.55 % ⁽³⁾ | 9/1/2021 | 35,617 | 36,520 | |
| \$160 Million Fixed-Rate Loan | 1901 Market Street | 3.48 % ⁽⁴⁾ | 7/5/2022 | 159,314 | — | |
| Subtotal/Weighted Average ⁽⁵⁾ | | 4.95 % | | 502,456 | 449,045 | |
| Unsecured (Variable and Fixed) | | | | | | |
| \$50 Million Unsecured Term Loan | | LIBOR + 1.15% | 4/1/2015 | — | 49,968 | |
| \$500 Million Unsecured Line of Credit | | LIBOR + 1.175% | 8/19/2016 | — | 434,000 | |
| \$170 Million Unsecured 2015 Term Loan | | LIBOR + 1.125% | ⁽⁶⁾ 5/15/2018 | 169,645 | — | |
| \$300 Million Unsecured 2013 Term Loan | | LIBOR + 1.20% | ⁽⁷⁾ 1/31/2019 | 300,000 | 300,000 | |
| \$500 Million Unsecured 2015 Line of Credit | | LIBOR + 1.00% | ⁽⁸⁾ 6/18/2019 ⁽⁹⁾ | 411,145 | 0 | |
| \$300 Million Unsecured 2011 Term Loan | | LIBOR + 1.15% | ⁽¹⁰⁾ 1/15/2020 | 299,101 | 298,944 | |
| \$350 Million Unsecured Senior Notes | | 3.40 % ⁽¹¹⁾ | 6/1/2023 | 348,893 | 348,800 | |
| \$400 Million Unsecured Senior Notes | | 4.45 % ⁽¹²⁾ | 3/15/2024 | 397,079 | 396,832 | |
| Subtotal/Weighted Average ⁽⁵⁾ | | 2.71 % | | 1,925,863 | 1,828,544 | |
| Total/ Weighted Average ⁽⁵⁾ | | 3.17 % | | \$2,428,319 | \$ 2,277,589 | |

(1) Other than the \$35 Million Fixed-Rate Loan, all of Piedmont's outstanding debt as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014 is interest-only.

(2) Property collateralized pool includes 1430 Enclave Parkway in Houston, Texas, Windy Point I and II in Schaumburg, Illinois, and 1055 East Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California.

(3) The \$35 Million Fixed-Rate Loan has a contractual fixed rate of 5.55% ; however, the amortization of the premium recorded in order to adjust the note to its estimated fair value, results in an effective interest rate of 3.75%.

(4) The \$160 Million Fixed-Rate Loan has a fixed coupon rate of 3.48%, however, after consideration of the impact of settled interest rate swap agreements, the effective interest rate on this debt is 3.58%.

(5) Weighted average is based on contractual balance of outstanding debt and interest rates in the table as of September 30, 2015.

(6) On a periodic basis, Piedmont may select from multiple interest rate options, including the prime rate and various-length LIBOR locks. All LIBOR selections are subject to an additional spread (1.125% as of

September 30, 2015) over the selected rate based on Piedmont's current credit rating. The principal balance as of September 30, 2015 consisted of the 30-day LIBOR rate of 0.20% (subject to the additional spread mentioned above).

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(7) The \$300 Million Unsecured 2013 Term Loan has a stated variable rate; however, Piedmont entered into interest rate swap agreements which effectively fix, absent any changes to Piedmont's credit rating, the rate on this facility to 2.78%.

(8) Piedmont may select from multiple interest rate options with each draw, including the prime rate and various-length LIBOR locks. All LIBOR selections are subject to an additional spread (1.00% as of September 30, 2015) over the selected rate based on Piedmont's current credit rating. The outstanding balance as of September 30, 2015 consisted of 30-day LIBOR draws at an average rate of 0.21% (subject to the additional spread mentioned above).

(9) Piedmont may extend the term for up to one additional year (through two available six month extensions to a final extended maturity date of June 18, 2020) provided Piedmont is not then in default and upon payment of extension fees.

(10) The \$300 Million Unsecured 2011 Term Loan has a stated variable rate; however, Piedmont has entered into interest rate swap agreements which effectively fix, exclusive of changes to Piedmont's credit rating, the rate on this facility to 2.39% through the original maturity date of November 22, 2016 and 3.35% from November 22, 2016 to January 15, 2020.

(11) The \$350 Million Senior Notes have a fixed coupon rate of 3.40%, however, as a result of the issuance of the notes at a discount, Piedmont recognizes an effective interest rate on this debt issuance of 3.45%. After consideration of the impact of settled interest rate swap agreements, in addition to the issuance discount, the effective interest rate on this debt is 3.43%.

(12) The \$400 Million Senior Notes have a fixed coupon rate of 4.45%, however, as a result of the issuance of the notes at a discount, Piedmont recognizes an effective interest rate on this debt issuance of 4.48%. After consideration of the impact of settled interest rate swap agreements, in addition to the issuance discount, the effective interest rate on this debt is 4.10%.

5. Derivative Instruments

Risk Management Objective of Using Derivatives

In addition to operational risks which arise in the normal course of business, Piedmont is exposed to economic risks such as interest rate, liquidity, and credit risk. In certain situations, Piedmont has entered into derivative financial instruments such as interest rate swap agreements and other similar agreements to manage interest rate risk exposure arising from current or future debt transactions. Interest rate swap agreements involve the receipt or payment of future known and uncertain cash amounts, the value of which are determined by interest rates. Piedmont's objective in using interest rate derivatives is to add stability to interest expense and to manage its exposure to interest rate movements.

Cash Flow Hedges of Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate swaps designated as cash flow hedges involve the receipt of variable-rate amounts from a counterparty in exchange for Piedmont making fixed-rate payments over the life of the agreements without changing the underlying notional amount. As of September 30, 2015, Piedmont was party to various forward starting interest rate swap agreements which fully hedge the variable cash flows associated with all of its outstanding unsecured, variable-rate debt, other than the \$500 Million Unsecured 2015 Line of Credit and the \$170 Million Unsecured 2015 Term Loan. During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, Piedmont settled various forward starting swaps with a total notional value of \$250 million in conjunction with the issuance of the \$160 Million Fixed-Rate Loan (see Note 4) for a net loss totaling \$1.3 million, of which approximately \$0.1 million was expensed immediately upon termination. The remaining loss was recorded as accumulated other comprehensive income and is being amortized as an increase to interest expense over the seven-year term of the \$160 Million Fixed-Rate Loan. Additionally, as of September 30, 2015, Piedmont held \$250 million of forward starting interest rate swaps to hedge its exposure to the variability in future cash flows associated with potential future debt issuances in 2016. The maximum length of time over which Piedmont is hedging its exposure to the variability in future cash flows for forecasted transactions is 125 months.

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A detail of Piedmont's interest rate derivatives outstanding as of September 30, 2015 is as follows:

| Interest Rate Derivatives: | Number of Swap Agreements | Associated Debt Instrument | Total Notional Amount (in millions) | Effective Date | Maturity Date |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Interest rate swaps | 4 | \$300 Million Unsecured 2011 Term Loan | \$ 300 | 11/22/2011 | 11/22/2016 |
| Interest rate swaps | 4 | \$300 Million Unsecured 2013 Term Loan | 200 | 1/30/2014 | 1/31/2019 |
| Interest rate swaps | 2 | \$300 Million Unsecured 2013 Term Loan | 100 | 8/29/2014 | 1/31/2019 |
| Forward starting interest rate swaps | 3 | \$300 Million Unsecured 2011 Term Loan | 300 | 11/22/2016 | 1/15/2020 |
| Forward starting interest rate swaps | 4 | Potential Future Issuance | 250 | 2/25/2016 | 2/25/2026 |
| Total | | | \$ 1,150 | | |

Piedmont presents its interest rate derivatives on its consolidated balance sheets on a gross basis as interest rate swap assets and interest rate swap liabilities. A detail of Piedmont's interest rate derivatives on a gross and net basis as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively, is as follows (in thousands):

| Interest rate swaps classified as: | September 30, 2015 | December 31, 2014 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Gross derivative assets | \$— | \$430 |
| Gross derivative liabilities | (20,526) | (6,417) |
| Net derivative liability | \$(20,526) | \$(5,987) |

All of Piedmont's interest rate derivative agreements outstanding for the periods presented were designated as cash flow hedges of interest rate risk. As such, the effective portion of changes in the estimated fair value of these derivatives is recorded in other comprehensive income ("OCI") and is reclassified into earnings as interest expense in the period that the hedged forecasted transaction affects earnings. In addition, in conjunction with the issuance of various unsecured senior notes during the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, as well as the issuance of the \$160 Million Fixed-Rate Loan mentioned above, Piedmont settled various forward starting swap agreements for gains/losses which were recorded as accumulated other comprehensive income during the respective period and are being amortized as an offset to interest expense over the term of the respective notes on a straight line basis (which approximates the effective interest method). Piedmont classifies cash flows from the settlement of hedging derivative instruments in the same category as the underlying exposure which is being hedged. As the settlements were the result of hedging Piedmont's exposure to interest rate changes and their effect on interest expense, they are classified as operating cash flows in the accompanying consolidated statements of cash flows.

The effective portion of Piedmont's interest rate derivatives, including the gain/(loss) on settlement of forward swaps described above, and other gains/(losses) associated with the swap that were recorded in the accompanying consolidated statements of income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, were as follows (in thousands):

| Derivative in Cash Flow Hedging Relationships (Interest Rate Swaps) (in thousands) | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | September 30, 2015 | September 30, 2014 | September 30, 2015 | September 30, 2014 |
| | | | | |

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| | | | | |
|--|-------------|----------|-------------|--------------|
| Amount of gain/(loss) recognized in OCI on derivative | \$(22,263) | \$ 1,360 | \$(21,389) | \$ (12,143) |
| Amount of previously recorded loss reclassified from accumulated OCI into interest expense | \$1,506 | \$ 1,295 | \$4,575 | \$ 3,623 |

Piedmont estimates that approximately \$5.0 million will be reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss to interest expense over the next twelve months. Piedmont recognized no loss related to hedge ineffectiveness for the three months ended

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September 30, 2015 and 2014, and approximately \$0.1 million and \$0 of loss related to hedge ineffectiveness and terminations of its cash flow hedges was recognized during the nine months ended September 30, 2015 or 2014, respectively.

See Note 7 for fair value disclosures of Piedmont's derivative instruments.

Credit-risk-related Contingent Features

Piedmont has agreements with its derivative counterparties that contain a provision whereby if Piedmont defaults on any of its indebtedness, including default where repayment of the indebtedness has not been accelerated by the lender, then Piedmont could also be declared in default on its derivative obligations. If Piedmont were to breach any of the contractual provisions of the derivative contracts, it would be required to settle its obligations under the agreements at their termination value of the estimated fair values plus accrued interest, or approximately \$21.0 million as of September 30, 2015. Additionally, Piedmont has rights of set-off under certain of its derivative agreements related to potential termination fees and amounts payable under the agreements, if a termination were to occur.

6. Variable Interest Entities

Variable interest holders who have the power to direct the activities of the VIE that most significantly impact the entity's economic performance and have the obligation to absorb the majority of losses of the entity or the right to receive significant benefits of the entity must consolidate the VIE.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, Piedmont paid \$4.0 million to settle the redemption option associated with an equity participation in Medici Atlanta, LLC, eliminating any ongoing third party interest.

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A summary of Piedmont's interests in and consolidation treatment of its outstanding VIEs as of September 30, 2015 and their related carrying values as of December 31, 2014 is as follows (net carrying amount in millions):

| Entity | Piedmont's % Ownership of Entity | Related Building | Consolidated/ Unconsolidated | Net Carrying Amount as of September 30, 2015 | Net Carrying Amount as of December 31, 2014 | Primary Beneficiary Considerations |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1201 Eye Street NW Associates, LLC | 49.5% | 1201 Eye Street | Consolidated | \$ (7.2) | \$ (2.8) | In accordance with the partnership's governing documents, Piedmont is entitled to 100% of the cash flow of the entity until certain financial returns are achieved and has sole discretion in directing the management and leasing activities of the building. |
| 1225 Eye Street NW Associates, LLC | 49.5% | 1225 Eye Street | Consolidated | \$ 2.2 | \$ (1.1) | In accordance with the partnership's governing documents, Piedmont is entitled to 100% of the cash flow of the entity until certain financial returns are achieved and has sole discretion in directing the management and leasing activities of the building. |
| Piedmont 500 W. Monroe Fee, LLC | 100% | 500 W. Monroe | Consolidated | \$ 246.9 | \$ 245.3 | The Omnibus Agreement with the previous owner includes equity participation rights for the previous owner, if certain financial returns are achieved; however, Piedmont has sole decision making authority and is entitled to the economic benefits of the property until such returns are met. |
| Piedmont TownPark Land, LLC | 100% | Land Parcel Adjacent to 400 TownPark building | Consolidated | \$ 5.9 | \$ 7.9 | The equity participation and service fee agreement includes equity participation rights for the third party manager if certain defined events occur and certain returns on investment are achieved; however, Piedmont has sole decision making authority |

and is entitled to the economic benefits of the property until such events occur and returns are achieved.

Each of the VIEs described above has the sole purpose of holding land and office buildings and their resulting operations, and are classified in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets in the same manner as Piedmont's wholly-owned properties.

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7. Fair Value Measurement of Financial Instruments

Piedmont considers its cash and cash equivalents, tenant receivables, notes receivable, restricted cash and escrows, accounts payable and accrued expenses, interest rate swap agreements, and debt to meet the definition of financial instruments. The following table sets forth the carrying and estimated fair value for each of Piedmont's financial instruments, as well as its level within the GAAP fair value hierarchy, as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively (in thousands):

| Financial Instrument | September 30, 2015 | | | December 31, 2014 | | |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Carrying Value | Estimated Fair Value | Level Within Fair Value Hierarchy | Carrying Value | Estimated Fair Value | Level Within Fair Value Hierarchy |
| Assets: | | | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents ⁽¹⁾ | \$7,702 | \$ 7,702 | Level 1 | \$12,306 | \$ 12,306 | Level 1 |
| Tenant receivables, net ⁽¹⁾ | \$26,748 | \$ 26,748 | Level 1 | \$27,711 | \$ 27,711 | Level 1 |
| Notes receivable ⁽¹⁾ | \$45,400 | \$ 45,400 | Level 1 | \$— | \$ — | Level 1 |
| Restricted cash and escrows ⁽¹⁾ | \$37,705 | \$ 37,705 | Level 1 | \$5,679 | \$ 5,679 | Level 1 |
| Interest rate swap asset | \$— | \$ — | Level 2 | \$430 | \$ 430 | Level 2 |
| Liabilities: | | | | | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses ⁽¹⁾ | \$17,200 | \$ 17,200 | Level 1 | \$14,395 | \$ 14,395 | Level 1 |
| Interest rate swap liability | \$20,526 | \$ 20,526 | Level 2 | \$6,417 | \$ 6,417 | Level 2 |
| Debt | \$2,428,319 | \$ 2,450,580 | Level 2 | \$2,277,589 | \$ 2,314,020 | Level 2 |

⁽¹⁾ For the periods presented, the carrying value of these financial instruments approximates estimated fair value due to their short-term maturity.

Piedmont's debt was carried at book value as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014; however, Piedmont's estimate of its fair value is disclosed in the table above. Piedmont uses widely accepted valuation techniques including discounted cash flow analysis based on the contractual terms of the debt facilities, including the period to maturity of each instrument, and uses observable market-based inputs for similar debt facilities which have transacted recently in the market. Therefore, the estimated fair values determined are considered to be based on significant other observable inputs (Level 2). Scaling adjustments are made to these inputs to make them applicable to the remaining life of Piedmont's outstanding debt. Piedmont has not changed its valuation technique for estimating the fair value of its debt.

Piedmont's interest rate swap and forward starting interest rate swap agreements presented above, and further discussed in Note 5, are classified as "Interest rate swap" assets and liabilities in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets and were carried at estimated fair value as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014. The valuation of these derivative instruments was determined using widely accepted valuation techniques including discounted cash flow analysis based on the contractual terms of the derivatives, including the period to maturity of each instrument, and uses observable market-based inputs, including interest rate curves and implied volatilities. Therefore, the estimated fair values determined are considered to be based on significant other observable inputs (Level 2). In addition, Piedmont considered both its own and the respective counterparties' risk of nonperformance in determining the estimated fair value of its derivative financial instruments by estimating the current and potential future exposure under the derivative financial instruments that both Piedmont and the counterparties were at risk for as of the valuation date. The credit risk of Piedmont and its counterparties was factored into the calculation of the estimated fair value of the interest rate swaps; however, as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, this credit valuation

adjustment did not comprise a material portion of the estimated fair value. Therefore, Piedmont believes that any unobservable inputs used to determine the estimated fair values of its derivative financial instruments are not significant to the fair value measurements in their entirety, and does not consider any of its derivative financial instruments to be Level 3 assets or liabilities.

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8. Commitments and Contingencies

Commitments Under Existing Lease Agreements

Certain lease agreements include provisions that, at the option of the tenant, may obligate Piedmont to provide funding for capital improvements. Under its existing lease agreements, Piedmont may be required to fund significant tenant improvements, leasing commissions, and building improvements. In addition, certain agreements contain provisions that require Piedmont to issue corporate or property guarantees to provide funding for capital improvements or other financial obligations. Further, Piedmont classifies such tenant and building improvements into two categories: (i) improvements which incrementally enhance the building's asset value by expanding its revenue generating capacity ("incremental capital expenditures") and (ii) improvements which maintain the building's existing asset value and its revenue generating capacity ("non-incremental capital expenditures"). As of September 30, 2015, commitments for funding potential non-incremental capital expenditures over the next five years for tenant improvements totaled approximately \$52.3 million related to Piedmont's existing lease portfolio over the respective lease terms, the majority of which Piedmont estimates may be required to be funded over the next three years based on when the underlying leases commence. For most of Piedmont's leases, the timing of the actual funding of these tenant improvements is largely dependent upon tenant requests for reimbursement. In some cases, these obligations may expire with the leases without further recourse to Piedmont.

Additionally, as of September 30, 2015, commitments for incremental capital expenditures for tenant improvements associated with new and existing leases totaled approximately \$55.9 million.

Contingencies Related to Tenant Audits/Disputes

Certain lease agreements include provisions that grant tenants the right to engage independent auditors to audit their annual operating expense reconciliations. Such audits may result in the re-interpretation of language in the lease agreements which could result in the refund of previously recognized tenant reimbursement revenues, resulting in financial loss to Piedmont. Piedmont recorded no reductions in reimbursement revenues related to such tenant audits/disputes during the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, and approximately \$0.1 million and \$0.6 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Letters of Credit

As of September 30, 2015, Piedmont was subject to a letter of credit of approximately \$0.4 million, which reduces the total available capacity under its \$500 Million 2015 Unsecured Line of Credit. This letter of credit is scheduled to expire in December 2015.

9. Property Dispositions, Assets Held for Sale, and Discontinued Operations

Property Dispositions

Since April 1, 2014, we have sold nine properties which did not meet the criteria to be reported as discontinued operations. The operational results for these properties for periods prior to their sale date are presented as continuing operations in the accompanying consolidated statements of income, and the gain on sale is presented separately on the face of the income statement unless otherwise indicated below. Details of such properties sold are presented below (in thousands):

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| Buildings Sold | Location | Date of Sale | Gain/(Loss) on Sale | Net Sales Proceeds |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 2020 W. 89th Street | Leawood, Kansas | May 19, 2014 | \$1,132 | \$5,515 |
| Two Park Center ⁽¹⁾ | Hoffman Estates, Illinois | May 29, 2014 | \$(169) |) \$6,017 |
| 3900 Dallas Parkway | Plano, Texas | January 30, 2015 | \$10,073 | \$25,801 |
| 5601 Headquarters Drive | Plano, Texas | April 28, 2015 | \$7,959 | \$33,326 |
| River Corporate Center | Tempe, Arizona | April 29, 2015 | \$5,303 | \$24,228 |
| Copper Ridge Center | Lyndhurst, New Jersey | May 1, 2015 | \$13,753 | \$4,972 ⁽²⁾ |
| Eastpoint I & II | Mayfield Heights, Ohio | July 28, 2015 | \$(177) |) \$17,342 |
| 3750 Brookside Parkway | Alpharetta, Georgia | August 10, 2015 | \$1,406 | \$13,624 |
| Chandler Forum | Chandler, Arizona | September 1, 2015 | \$15,509 | \$32,271 |

(1) Property was owned as part of the unconsolidated joint venture, Fund XIII and REIT Joint Venture. As such, the loss on sale was presented as equity in income/(loss) of unconsolidated joint ventures.

As part of the transaction, Piedmont accepted a secured promissory note from the buyer for the remaining \$45.4 million owed on the sale. The note bears interest at a rate of 8.45% and matures on December 31, 2015. The maturity date may be extended for two terms of six months each upon 30 days prior written notice and a 25 bps extension fee.

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Assets Held for Sale

During the three months ended September 30, 2015, Piedmont reclassified the Aon Center building located in Chicago, Illinois, from real estate assets held for use to real estate assets held for sale as a result of entering into a binding agreement to sell the property. The sale of the Aon Center building subsequently closed on October 29, 2015. During the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, Piedmont recognized net income from Aon Center of approximately \$8.3 million and \$1.1 million, respectively. During the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, Piedmont recognized net income/(loss) from Aon Center of approximately \$8.8 million and \$(0.8) million, respectively.

Assets held for sale as of December 31, 2014 include the Aon Center building (mentioned above), the 3900 Dallas Parkway building (sold on January 30, 2015), the Eastpoint I and II buildings (sold on July 28, 2015), and the 3750 Brookside Parkway building (sold on August 10, 2015). Details of assets held for sale as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014 are presented below (in thousands):

| | September 30, 2015 | December 31, 2014 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Real estate assets held for sale, net: | | |
| Land | \$23,966 | \$29,763 |
| Building and improvements, less accumulated depreciation of \$198,150 and \$208,408 as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively | 444,099 | 495,622 |
| Construction in progress | 2,782 | 1,502 |
| Total real estate assets held for sale, net | \$470,847 | \$526,887 |
| Other assets held for sale, net: | | |
| Straight-line rent receivables | \$25,790 | \$23,464 |
| Prepaid expenses and other assets | 1,870 | 2,164 |
| Deferred lease costs, less accumulated amortization of \$14,990 and \$14,866 as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively | 53,374 | 51,648 |
| Total other assets held for sale, net | \$81,034 | \$77,276 |
| Other liabilities held for sale, net: | | |
| Intangible lease liabilities, less accumulated amortization of \$2,486 and \$2,335 as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively | \$567 | \$717 |

In addition, Piedmont entered into a binding contract to sell the 2 Gatehall Drive building located in Parsippany, New Jersey on October 2, 2015. The contract did not meet the requirements for held for sale classification as of September 30, 2015; however, as the contracted sales price, less estimated selling costs, was less than the carrying value of the asset, Piedmont recognized a loss on impairment of approximately \$34.8 million during the three months ended September 30, 2015. Further, during the nine months ended September 30, 2015, Piedmont recognized an impairment loss of approximately \$5.4 million due to the reclassification of the Eastpoint I & II buildings upon meeting the held for sale criteria. The fair value measurements used in the evaluation of both of these non-financial assets are considered to be Level 1 valuations within the fair value hierarchy as defined by GAAP, as there are direct observations and transactions involving the assets by unrelated, potential third-party purchasers. Piedmont expects the 2 Gatehall Drive building to close during fourth quarter 2015, while the Eastpoint I & II buildings were sold in July 2015.

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Discontinued Operations

Asset disposals in previous periods that were previously classified as, and that continue to be reported as, discontinued operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 were as follows (in thousands):

| Buildings Sold | Location | Date of Sale | Gain/(Loss) on Sale | Net Sales Proceeds |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 11107 and 11109 Sunset Hills Road | Reston, Virginia | March 19, 2014 | \$(102) | \$22,326 |
| 1441 West Long Lake Road | Troy, Michigan | April 30, 2014 | \$562 | \$7,202 |
| 4685 Investment Drive | Troy, Michigan | April 30, 2014 | \$747 | \$11,198 |

Details comprising income from discontinued operations for the three and nine months ended ended September 30, 2015 and 2014 are presented below (in thousands):

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | September 30, 2015 | September 30, 2014 | September 30, 2015 | September 30, 2014 |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Rental income | \$19 | \$— | \$19 | \$ 1,365 |
| Tenant reimbursements | — | 12 | (3) | 126 |
| Property management fee revenue | — | — | — | 1 |
| | 19 | 12 | 16 | 1,492 |
| Expenses: | | | | |
| Property operating costs | 3 | 3 | 2 | 185 |
| Depreciation | — | — | — | 83 |
| Amortization | — | — | — | 223 |
| General and administrative | — | (7) | 1 | (1) |
| | 3 | (4) | 3 | 490 |
| Other income/(expense) | — | — | — | (6) |
| Operating income, excluding gain on sale | 16 | 16 | 13 | 996 |
| Gain/(loss) on sale of real estate assets | (2) | — | (2) | 1,198 |
| Income from discontinued operations | \$14 | \$ 16 | \$11 | \$ 2,194 |

10. Stock Based Compensation

From time to time, Piedmont has granted equity awards to all of its employees. The deferred stock awards are determined by the Compensation Committee of the board of directors of Piedmont and typically vest on the award anniversary date ratably over a multi-year period. Piedmont also has a multi-year performance share program for certain of its employees whereby equity awards may be earned based on the relative performance of Piedmont's total stockholder return ("TSR") as compared with a predetermined peer group's total stockholder return over the same multi-year period. Shares are not awarded until after the end of the multi-year performance period and vest upon award.

A rollforward of Piedmont's equity based award activity for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 is as follows:

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| | Shares | Weighted-Average Grant Date Fair Value |
|--|----------|--|
| Unvested Deferred Stock Awards as of December 31, 2014 | 506,404 | \$ 18.12 |
| Deferred Stock Awards Granted During Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015 | 299,360 | \$ 17.59 |
| Adjustment to Estimated Future Grants of Performance Share Awards During Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015 | 386,536 | \$ 18.01 |
| Deferred Stock Awards Vested During Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015 | (228,734 |) \$ 17.96 |
| Deferred Stock Awards Forfeited During Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015 | (8,405 |) \$ 18.04 |
| Unvested Deferred Stock Awards as of September 30, 2015 | 955,161 | \$ 17.88 |

The following table provides additional information regarding stock award activity during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively (in thousands except for per share data):

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | September 30, 2015 | September 30, 2014 | September 30, 2015 | September 30, 2014 |
| Weighted-Average Grant Date Fair Value of Shares Granted During the Period (per share) | \$18.31 | \$— | \$17.59 | \$17.78 |
| Total Grant Date Fair Value of Shares Vested During the Period | \$32 | \$28 | \$4,109 | \$3,223 |
| Share-based Liability Awards Paid During the Period ⁽¹⁾ | \$— | \$— | \$— | \$— |

⁽¹⁾ Amount reflects the issuance of performance share awards during the period, if any.

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A detail of Piedmont's outstanding employee stock awards as of September 30, 2015 is as follows:

| Date of grant | Type of Award | Net Shares Granted ⁽¹⁾ | Grant Date Fair Value | Vesting Schedule | Unvested Shares as of September 30, 2015 | |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|-----|
| November 7, 2012 | Deferred Stock Award | 14,836 | \$ 18.04 | Of the shares granted, 25% vested on the date of grant, and 25% vested or will vest on April 4, 2013, 2014, and 2015, respectively. | 4,989 | |
| April 2, 2013 | Deferred Stock Award | 118,174 | \$ 19.47 | Of the shares granted, 25% vested on the date of grant, and 25% vested or will vest on April 2, 2014, 2015, and 2016, respectively. | 37,084 | |
| April 2, 2013 | Fiscal Year 2013-2015 Performance Share Program | — | \$ 18.91 | Shares awarded, if any, will vest immediately upon determination of award in 2016. | 53,287 | (2) |
| January 3, 2014 | Deferred Stock Award | 95,476 | \$ 16.45 | Of the shares granted, 20% will vest on January 3, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019, respectively. | 82,673 | |
| May 9, 2014 | Deferred Stock Award | 163,222 | \$ 18.47 | Of the shares granted, 25% vested on the date of grant, and 25% vested or will vest on May 9, 2015, 2016, and 2017, respectively. | 96,032 | |
| May 9, 2014 | Fiscal Year 2014-2016 Performance Share Program | — | \$ 22.00 | Shares awarded, if any, will vest immediately upon determination of award in 2017. | 159,271 | (2) |
| May 1, 2015 | Deferred Stock Award | 271,970 | \$ 17.59 | Of the shares granted, 25% vested on the date of grant, and 25% vested or will vest on May 1, 2016, 2017, and 2018, respectively. | 219,403 | |
| May 1, 2015 | Fiscal Year 2015-2017 Performance Share Program | — | \$ 18.42 | Shares awarded, if any, will vest immediately upon determination of award in 2018. | 302,422 | (2) |
| Total | | | | | 955,161 | |

(1) Amounts reflect the total grant to employees, net of shares surrendered upon vesting to satisfy required minimum tax withholding obligations through September 30, 2015.

Estimated based on Piedmont's cumulative TSR for the respective performance period through September 30,

(2) 2015. Share estimates are subject to change in future periods based on both Piedmont's and its peers' stock performance and dividends paid.

During the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, Piedmont recognized approximately \$2.6 million and \$1.1 million of compensation expense related to stock awards, all of which related to the amortization of unvested shares, respectively. During the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, Piedmont recognized approximately \$6.8 million and \$4.3 million of compensation expense related to stock awards, of which \$5.0 million and \$2.9 million related to the amortization of unvested shares, respectively. During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, a net total of 159,047 shares were issued to employees, directors, and officers. As of September 30, 2015, approximately \$4.3 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to unvested deferred stock awards remained, which Piedmont will record in its consolidated statements of income over a weighted-average vesting period of approximately two years.

11.Earnings Per Share

There are no adjustments to “Net income attributable to Piedmont” or “Income from continuing operations” for the diluted earnings per share computations.

Net income per share-basic is calculated as net income available to common stockholders divided by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Net income per share-diluted is calculated as net income available to common

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stockholders divided by the diluted weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period, including unvested deferred stock awards. Diluted weighted average number of common shares reflects the potential dilution under the treasury stock method that would occur if the remaining unvested deferred stock awards vested and resulted in additional common shares outstanding. Certain unvested deferred stock awards are not included in the calculation because they would be anti-dilutive and have no effect for the periods presented.

The following table reconciles the denominator for the basic and diluted earnings per share computations shown on the consolidated statements of income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively (in thousands):

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | September 30, 2015 | September 30, 2014 | September 30, 2015 | September 30, 2014 |
| Weighted-average common shares – basic | 148,855 | 154,325 | 152,231 | 154,496 |
| Plus incremental weighted-average shares from time-vested conversions: | | | | |
| Deferred stock awards | 321 | 236 | 268 | 169 |
| Weighted-average common shares – diluted ⁽¹⁾ | 149,176 | 154,561 | 152,499 | 154,665 |

⁽¹⁾ Due to repurchases of common stock during the nine months ended September 30, 2015, Piedmont has 145,633,869 shares of common stock outstanding as of September 30, 2015.

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12. Guarantor and Non-Guarantor Financial Information

The following condensed consolidating financial information for Piedmont Operating Partnership, L.P. (the "Issuer"), Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc. (the "Guarantor"), and the other directly and indirectly owned subsidiaries of the Guarantor (the "Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries") is provided pursuant to the requirements of Rule 3-10 of Regulation S-X regarding financial statements of guarantors and issuers of guaranteed registered securities. The Issuer is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Guarantor, and all guarantees by the Guarantor of securities issued by the Issuer are full and unconditional. The principal elimination entries relate to investments in subsidiaries and intercompany balances and transactions, including transactions with the Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries.

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Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

As of September 30, 2015

| (in thousands) | Issuer | Guarantor | Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries | Eliminations | Consolidated |
|---|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Assets: | | | | | |
| Real estate assets, at cost: | | | | | |
| Land | \$64,218 | \$— | \$ 607,614 | \$— | \$ 671,832 |
| Buildings and improvements, less accumulated depreciation | 340,658 | — | 2,315,223 | (300) | 2,655,581 |
| Intangible lease assets, less accumulated amortization | 1,405 | — | 59,365 | — | 60,770 |
| Construction in progress | 37 | — | 75,046 | — | 75,083 |
| Real estate assets held for sale, net | — | — | 470,847 | — | 470,847 |
| Total real estate assets | 406,318 | — | 3,528,095 | (300) | 3,934,113 |
| Investments in and amounts due from unconsolidated joint ventures | 7,652 | — | — | — | 7,652 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 3,935 | 151 | 3,616 | — | 7,702 |
| Tenant and straight-line rent receivables, net | 27,561 | — | 148,247 | — | 175,808 |
| Advances to affiliates | 6,447,352 | 1,253,328 | — | (7,700,680) | — |
| Investment in subsidiary | — | 3,783,080 | 189 | (3,783,269) | — |
| Notes receivable | 134,750 | — | 23,890 | (113,240) | 45,400 |
| Prepaid expenses, restricted cash, escrows, and other assets | 43,597 | 52 | 27,531 | (1,711) | 69,469 |
| Goodwill | 180,097 | — | — | — | 180,097 |
| Interest rate swaps | — | — | — | — | — |
| Deferred financing costs, net | 6,467 | — | 753 | — | 7,220 |
| Deferred lease costs, net | 20,829 | — | 210,550 | — | 231,379 |
| Other assets held for sale, net | — | — | 81,034 | — | 81,034 |
| Total assets | \$7,278,558 | \$5,036,611 | \$ 4,023,905 | \$(11,599,200) | \$ 4,739,874 |
| Liabilities: | | | | | |
| Debt, net | \$1,949,753 | \$— | \$ 591,806 | \$(113,240) | \$ 2,428,319 |
| Accounts payable, accrued expenses, and accrued capital expenditures | 15,809 | 1,365 | 117,279 | (1,712) | 132,741 |
| Advances from affiliates | 566,461 | 5,032,684 | 2,173,303 | (7,772,448) | — |
| Deferred income | 4,065 | — | 22,022 | — | 26,087 |
| Intangible lease liabilities, net | — | — | 38,896 | — | 38,896 |
| Interest rate swaps | 20,526 | — | — | — | 20,526 |
| Liabilities held for sale, net | — | — | 567 | — | 567 |
| Total liabilities | 2,556,614 | 5,034,049 | 2,943,873 | (7,887,400) | 2,647,136 |
| Stockholders' Equity: | | | | | |
| Common stock | — | 1,456 | — | — | 1,456 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 3,779,080 | 3,672,038 | 1,304 | (3,783,268) | 3,669,154 |
| Retained/(cumulative distributions in excess of) earnings | 951,388 | (3,670,932) | 1,077,699 | 71,468 | (1,570,377) |
| Other comprehensive loss | (8,524) | — | — | — | (8,524) |
| Piedmont stockholders' equity | 4,721,944 | 2,562 | 1,079,003 | (3,711,800) | 2,091,709 |
| Noncontrolling interest | — | — | 1,029 | — | 1,029 |
| Total stockholders' equity | 4,721,944 | 2,562 | 1,080,032 | (3,711,800) | 2,092,738 |

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| | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$7,278,558 | \$5,036,611 | \$4,023,905 | \$(11,599,200) | \$4,739,874 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|

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Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

As of December 31, 2014

| (in thousands) | Issuer | Guarantor | Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries | Eliminations | Consolidated |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Assets: | | | | | |
| Real estate assets, at cost: | | | | | |
| Land | \$77,125 | \$— | \$ 597,429 | \$— | \$ 674,554 |
| Buildings and improvements, less accumulated depreciation | 414,515 | — | 2,327,368 | (300) | 2,741,583 |
| Intangible lease assets, less accumulated amortization | 1,812 | — | 68,365 | — | 70,177 |
| Construction in progress | 1,345 | — | 60,546 | — | 61,891 |
| Real estate assets held for sale, net | 46,354 | — | 480,533 | — | 526,887 |
| Total real estate assets | 541,151 | — | 3,534,241 | (300) | 4,075,092 |
| Investments in and amounts due from unconsolidated joint ventures | 7,798 | — | — | — | 7,798 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 8,143 | 1,790 | 2,373 | — | 12,306 |
| Tenant and straight-line rent receivables, net | 35,363 | — | 139,184 | — | 174,547 |
| Advances to affiliates | 6,084,243 | 1,282,443 | — | (7,366,686) | — |
| Investment in subsidiary | — | 3,878,811 | 192 | (3,879,003) | — |
| Notes receivable | 161,350 | — | 23,890 | (185,240) | — |
| Prepaid expenses, restricted cash, escrows, and other assets | 10,897 | — | 21,392 | (954) | 31,335 |
| Goodwill | 180,097 | — | — | — | 180,097 |
| Interest rate swaps | 430 | — | — | — | 430 |
| Deferred financing costs, net | 7,242 | — | 425 | — | 7,667 |
| Deferred lease costs, net | 29,696 | — | 199,257 | — | 228,953 |
| Other assets held for sale, net | 4,798 | — | 72,478 | — | 77,276 |
| Total assets | \$7,071,208 | \$5,163,044 | \$ 3,993,432 | \$(11,432,183) | \$ 4,795,501 |
| Liabilities: | | | | | |
| Debt, net | \$ 1,852,434 | \$— | \$ 610,395 | \$(185,240) | \$ 2,277,589 |
| Accounts payable, accrued expenses, and accrued capital expenditures | 19,403 | 465 | 115,074 | (954) | 133,988 |
| Advances from affiliates | 376,122 | 4,909,362 | 2,138,140 | (7,423,624) | — |
| Deferred income | 4,998 | — | 17,217 | — | 22,215 |
| Intangible lease liabilities, net | — | — | 42,560 | — | 42,560 |
| Interest rate swaps | 6,417 | — | — | — | 6,417 |
| Liabilities held for sale, net | — | — | 717 | — | 717 |
| Total liabilities | 2,259,374 | 4,909,827 | 2,924,103 | (7,609,818) | 2,483,486 |
| Stockholders' Equity: | | | | | |
| Common stock | — | 1,543 | — | — | 1,543 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 3,874,757 | 3,670,236 | 192 | (3,879,003) | 3,666,182 |
| Retained/(cumulative distributions in excess of) earnings | 928,776 | (3,418,562) | 1,067,528 | 56,638 | (1,365,620) |
| Other comprehensive loss | 8,301 | — | — | — | 8,301 |
| Piedmont stockholders' equity | 4,811,834 | 253,217 | 1,067,720 | (3,822,365) | 2,310,406 |
| Noncontrolling interest | — | — | 1,609 | — | 1,609 |
| Total stockholders' equity | 4,811,834 | 253,217 | 1,069,329 | (3,822,365) | 2,312,015 |

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| | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$7,071,208 | \$5,163,044 | \$3,993,432 | \$(11,432,183) | \$4,795,501 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|

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Table of ContentsCondensed Consolidated Statements of Income
For the three months ended September 30, 2015

| (in thousands) | Issuer | Guarantor | Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries | Eliminations | Consolidated |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Revenues: | | | | | |
| Rental income | \$ 15,841 | \$— | \$ 102,888 | \$ (735) | \$ 117,994 |
| Tenant reimbursements | 3,369 | — | 26,935 | (31) | 30,273 |
| Property management fee revenue | — | — | 4,603 | (4,055) | 548 |
| | 19,210 | — | 134,426 | (4,821) | 148,815 |
| Expenses: | | | | | |
| Property operating costs | 9,253 | — | 57,455 | (5,031) | 61,677 |
| Depreciation | 4,943 | — | 26,256 | — | 31,199 |
| Amortization | 1,126 | — | 12,895 | — | 14,021 |
| Impairment loss on real estate assets | — | — | 34,815 | — | 34,815 |
| General and administrative | 8,103 | 71 | 9,497 | (9,435) | 8,236 |
| | 23,425 | 71 | 140,918 | (14,466) | 149,948 |
| Real estate operating income/(loss) | (4,215) | (71) | (6,492) | 9,645 | (1,133) |
| Other income (expense): | | | | | |
| Interest expense | (12,963) | — | (8,413) | 2,544 | (18,832) |
| Other income/(expense) | 3,199 | — | 148 | (2,544) | 803 |
| Equity in income of unconsolidated joint ventures | 135 | — | — | — | 135 |
| | (9,629) | — | (8,265) | — | (17,894) |
| Income/(loss) from continuing operations | (13,844) | (71) | (14,757) | 9,645 | (19,027) |
| Discontinued operations: | | | | | |
| Operating loss | 16 | — | — | — | 16 |
| Loss on sale of real estate assets, net | (2) | — | — | — | (2) |
| Income from discontinued operations | 14 | — | — | — | 14 |
| Gain on sale of real estate assets | 17,142 | — | — | — | 17,142 |
| Net income/(loss) | 3,312 | (71) | (14,757) | 9,645 | (1,871) |
| Less: Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest | — | — | (4) | — | (4) |
| Net income/(loss) attributable to Piedmont | \$ 3,312 | \$(71) | \$(14,761) | \$ 9,645 | \$(1,875) |

Table of ContentsCondensed Consolidated Statements of Income
For the three months ended September 30, 2014

| (in thousands) | Issuer | Guarantor | Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries | Eliminations | Consolidated |
|--|-------------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Revenues: | | | | | |
| Rental income | \$ 19,178 | \$— | \$ 96,656 | \$ (1,305) | \$ 114,529 |
| Tenant reimbursements | 4,526 | — | 25,167 | (114) | 29,579 |
| Property management fee revenue | — | — | 4,098 | (3,565) | 533 |
| | 23,704 | — | 125,921 | (4,984) | 144,641 |
| Expenses: | | | | | |
| Property operating costs | 11,355 | — | 55,868 | (5,196) | 62,027 |
| Depreciation | 5,963 | — | 29,403 | — | 35,366 |
| Amortization | 1,225 | — | 13,010 | — | 14,235 |
| General and administrative | 5,638 | 74 | 6,951 | (6,849) | 5,814 |
| | 24,181 | 74 | 105,232 | (12,045) | 117,442 |
| Real estate operating income | (477) |) (74) |) 20,689 | 7,061 | 27,199 |
| Other income (expense): | | | | | |
| Interest expense | (12,776) |) — | (9,013) |) 3,135 | (18,654) |
| Other income/(expense) | 3,433 | 35 | 191 | (3,135) | 524 |
| Net loss from casualty events and litigation settlements | (8) |) — | — | — | (8) |
| Equity in loss of unconsolidated joint ventures | 89 | — | — | — | 89 |
| | (9,262) |) 35 | (8,822) |) — | (18,049) |
| Income from continuing operations | (9,739) |) (39) |) 11,867 | 7,061 | 9,150 |
| Discontinued operations: | | | | | |
| Operating income | 16 | — | — | — | 16 |
| Income from discontinued operations | 16 | — | — | — | 16 |
| Net income | (9,723) |) (39) |) 11,867 | 7,061 | 9,166 |
| Less: Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest | — | — | (4) |) — | (4) |
| Net income attributable to Piedmont | \$ (9,723) |) \$(39) |) \$ 11,863 | \$ 7,061 | \$ 9,162 |

Table of ContentsCondensed Consolidated Statements of Income
For the nine months ended September 30, 2015

| (in thousands) | Issuer | Guarantor | Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries | Eliminations | Consolidated |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Revenues: | | | | | |
| Rental income | \$51,824 | \$— | \$ 303,603 | \$ (2,172) | \$ 353,255 |
| Tenant reimbursements | 11,171 | — | 79,634 | (329) | 90,476 |
| Property management fee revenue | — | — | 13,543 | (11,966) | 1,577 |
| | 62,995 | — | 396,780 | (14,467) | 445,308 |
| Expenses: | | | | | |
| Property operating costs | 29,464 | — | 172,996 | (15,068) | 187,392 |
| Depreciation | 15,904 | — | 87,566 | — | 103,470 |
| Amortization | 3,477 | — | 40,169 | — | 43,646 |
| Impairment loss on real estate assets | 5,354 | — | 34,815 | — | 40,169 |
| General and administrative | 22,206 | 266 | 26,485 | (26,231) | 22,726 |
| | 76,405 | 266 | 362,031 | (41,299) | 397,403 |
| Real estate operating income | (13,410) | (266) | 34,749 | 26,832 | 47,905 |
| Other income (expense): | | | | | |
| Interest expense | (39,592) | — | (25,130) | 8,702 | (56,020) |
| Other income/(expense) | 9,357 | — | 563 | (8,702) | 1,218 |
| Equity in income of unconsolidated joint ventures | 418 | — | — | — | 418 |
| | (29,817) | — | (24,567) | — | (54,384) |
| Income/(loss) from continuing operations | (43,227) | (266) | 10,182 | 26,832 | (6,479) |
| Discontinued operations: | | | | | |
| Operating income | 13 | — | — | — | 13 |
| Loss on sale of real estate assets, net | (2) | — | — | — | (2) |
| Income from discontinued operations | 11 | — | — | — | 11 |
| Gain on sale of real estate assets | 53,826 | — | — | — | 53,826 |
| Net income | 10,610 | (266) | 10,182 | 26,832 | 47,358 |
| Less: Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest | — | — | (12) | — | (12) |
| Net income attributable to Piedmont | \$10,610 | \$(266) | \$ 10,170 | \$ 26,832 | \$ 47,346 |

Table of ContentsCondensed Consolidated Statements of Income
For the nine months ended September 30, 2014

| (in thousands) | Issuer | Guarantor | Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries | Eliminations | Consolidated |
|--|-------------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Revenues: | | | | | |
| Rental income | \$53,687 | \$— | \$ 289,507 | \$ (4,474) | \$ 338,720 |
| Tenant reimbursements | 12,304 | — | 67,268 | (319) | 79,253 |
| Property management fee revenue | — | — | 12,208 | (10,640) | 1,568 |
| | 65,991 | — | 368,983 | (15,433) | 419,541 |
| Expenses: | | | | | |
| Property operating costs | 31,730 | — | 161,754 | (16,050) | 177,434 |
| Depreciation | 17,453 | — | 85,701 | — | 103,154 |
| Amortization | 3,441 | — | 38,966 | — | 42,407 |
| General and administrative | 17,057 | 218 | 20,762 | (20,523) | 17,514 |
| | 69,681 | 218 | 307,183 | (36,573) | 340,509 |
| Real estate operating income | (3,690) | (218) | 61,800) | 21,140 | 79,032 |
| Other income (expense): | | | | | |
| Interest expense | (34,378) | —) | (30,616) | 9,402 | (55,592) |
| Other income/(expense) | 8,993 | 105 | 372 | (9,402) | 68 |
| Net recoveries from casualty events and litigation settlements | 1,344 | 1,479 | 1,691 | — | 4,514 |
| Equity in loss of unconsolidated joint ventures | (510) | —) | — | — | (510) |
| | (24,551) | 1,584) | (28,553) | — | (51,520) |
| Income from continuing operations | (28,241) | 1,366) | 33,247 | 21,140 | 27,512 |
| Discontinued operations: | | | | | |
| Operating income | 957 | — | 39 | — | 996 |
| Gain on sale of real estate assets, net | 451 | — | 747 | — | 1,198 |
| Income from discontinued operations | 1,408 | — | 786 | — | 2,194 |
| Gain on sale of real estate assets | — | — | 1,140 | — | 1,140 |
| Net income | (26,833) | 1,366) | 35,173 | 21,140 | 30,846 |
| Less: Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest | — | — | (12) | —) | (12) |
| Net income attributable to Piedmont | \$(26,833) | \$1,366) | \$ 35,161 | \$ 21,140 | \$ 30,834 |

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Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

For the nine months ended September 30, 2015

| (in thousands) | Issuer | Guarantor | Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries | Eliminations | Consolidated |
|---|-------------|------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities | \$(41,584) | \$2,107 | \$ 145,240 | \$ 26,833 | \$ 132,596 |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities: | | | | | |
| Investment in real estate assets and real estate related intangibles, net of accruals | (28,249) | — | (129,644) | — | (157,893) |
| Redemption of noncontrolling interest in unconsolidated variable interest entity | — | — | (4,000) | — | (4,000) |
| Intercompany note receivable | 72,000 | — | — | (72,000) | — |
| Net sales proceeds from wholly-owned properties | 151,564 | — | — | — | 151,564 |
| Deferred lease costs paid | (2,577) | — | (21,312) | — | (23,889) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | 192,738 | — | (154,956) | (72,000) | (34,218) |
| Cash Flows from Financing Activities: | | | | | |
| Deferred financing costs paid | (545) | — | (503) | — | (1,048) |
| Proceeds from debt | 1,046,578 | — | 159,279 | — | 1,205,857 |
| Repayments of debt | (950,000) | — | (177,902) | 72,000 | (1,055,902) |
| Costs of issuance of common stock | — | (326) | — | — | (326) |
| Repurchases of common stock as part of announced plan | — | (155,653) | — | — | (155,653) |
| (Distributions to)/repayments from affiliates | (251,395) | 248,135 | 30,093 | (26,833) | — |
| Dividends paid and discount on dividend reinvestments | — | (95,902) | (8) | — | (95,910) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (155,362) | (3,746) | 10,959 | 45,167 | (102,982) |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents | (4,208) | (1,639) | 1,243 | — | (4,604) |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period | 8,143 | 1,790 | 2,373 | — | 12,306 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period | \$3,935 | \$151 | \$ 3,616 | \$ — | \$ 7,702 |

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Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

For the nine months ended September 30, 2014

| (in thousands) | Issuer | Guarantor | Non-Guarantor Subsidiaries | Eliminations | Consolidated |
|---|------------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities | \$11,529 | \$2,165 | \$ 122,682 | \$ 21,140 | \$ 157,516 |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities: | | | | | |
| Investment in real estate assets and real estate related intangibles, net of accruals | (15,144) | — | (217,590) | — | (232,734) |
| Intercompany note receivable | (100) | — | — | 100 | — |
| Net sales proceeds from wholly-owned properties | 29,519 | — | 16,721 | — | 46,240 |
| Net sales proceeds received from unconsolidated joint ventures | 6,017 | — | — | — | 6,017 |
| Investments in unconsolidated joint ventures | (42) | — | — | — | (42) |
| Deferred lease costs paid | (3,667) | — | (17,065) | — | (20,732) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | 16,583 | — | (217,934) | 100 | (201,251) |
| Cash Flows from Financing Activities: | | | | | |
| Deferred financing costs paid | (1,112) | — | — | — | (1,112) |
| Proceeds from debt | 979,564 | — | — | — | 979,564 |
| Repayments of debt | (209,000) | — | (575,320) | — | (784,320) |
| Discount due to loan modification | (1,135) | — | — | — | (1,135) |
| Intercompany note payable | — | — | 100 | (100) | — |
| Repurchases of common stock as part of announced plan | — | (54,685) | — | — | (54,685) |
| (Distributions to)/repayments from affiliates | (796,271) | 145,328 | 672,083 | (21,140) | — |
| Dividends paid and discount on dividend reinvestments | — | (92,729) | (6) | — | (92,735) |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | (27,954) | (2,086) | 96,857 | (21,240) | 45,577 |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | 158 | 79 | 1,605 | — | 1,842 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period | 3,261 | 150 | 3,562 | — | 6,973 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period | \$3,419 | \$229 | \$ 5,167 | \$ — | \$ 8,815 |

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13.Subsequent Events

Fourth Quarter Dividend Declaration

On November 9, 2015, the board of directors of Piedmont declared dividends for the fourth quarter 2015 in the amount of \$0.21 per common share outstanding to stockholders of record as of the close of business on November 27, 2015. Such dividends are to be paid on December 18, 2015.

Acquisitions

On November 4, 2015, Piedmont acquired a two asset portfolio for \$259.1 million comprised of: Galleria 300, an approximately 430,000 square foot Class A office building prominently located within the master-planned "Galleria" development in Atlanta's Cumberland/Galleria office submarket; and SunTrust Center, a two-building, approximately 650,000 square foot Class A office complex located in Orlando's central business district.

Dispositions

On October 2, 2015, Piedmont entered into a binding contract to sell 2 Gatehall Drive, an approximately 400,000 square foot office building and 100% leased to two tenants, for \$51 million (\$126 per square foot). As the agreed upon sales price was less than the carrying value of the asset, Piedmont recorded a \$34.8 million impairment loss which is reflected in Piedmont's statement of income for the three months ended September 30, 2015. See Note 9 for further detail.

On October 29, 2015, Piedmont closed on the sale of Aon Center, a 2.7 million square foot tower located at 200 East Randolph Street in downtown Chicago and 87% leased to multiple tenants for a gross sales price of \$712 million (approximately \$260 per square foot). Net sales proceeds from the transaction were \$646.1 million after deducting closing costs, buyer-assumed lease abatements, and contractual tenant capital improvements and leasing commissions. See Note 9 for further information.

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ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with the accompanying consolidated financial statements and notes thereto of Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc. ("Piedmont"). See also "Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" preceding Part I, as well as the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes thereto and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

We intend to use cash flows generated from the operation of our properties, proceeds from property dispositions, and proceeds from our \$500 Million Unsecured 2015 Line of Credit as our primary sources of immediate liquidity. In addition, we believe we have immediate access to, and may issue, additional equity or debt securities from time to time or seek additional borrowings from third-party lenders as further sources of capital.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, we took advantage of a strong sellers' market by disposing of several assets in accordance with our ongoing portfolio refinement strategy. During the third quarter we sold three non-core assets resulting in net proceeds of \$63.2 million. Subsequent to quarter end, we also completed the disposition of our largest asset, the Aon Center building, in downtown Chicago, Illinois, which resulted in the receipt of approximately \$646.1 million in net sales proceeds. We utilized the net sales proceeds received from the sale of the Aon Center building, as well as other cash on hand, to repay the entire \$432.0 million balance outstanding on our \$500 Million Unsecured 2015 Line of Credit, which included approximately \$110.2 million in borrowings made to repurchase approximately 6.2 million shares of our own common stock during the quarter ended September 30, 2015. Further, an additional \$259.1 million of the Aon Center proceeds was used to acquire two properties (Galleria 300 in Atlanta, Georgia and the SunTrust Center in Orlando, Florida).

We have also entered into a continuous equity offering program under which we may sell, from time to time, up to an aggregate of \$250 million in shares of our common stock in at-the-market ("ATM") offerings. The use of the ATM equity program, as well as the availability and attractiveness of terms for the other additional sources of capital mentioned above, are highly dependent on the timing and volume of our property acquisition and disposition activities, as well as overall market conditions. As of the date of this filing, we had not yet used our ATM equity program.

Our most consistent use of capital has historically been, and will continue to be, to fund capital expenditures related to new or our existing portfolio of properties. During the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2014 we paid for the following types of capital expenditures (in thousands):

| | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| | September 30, 2015 | September 30, 2014 |
| Capital expenditures for development | \$26,590 | \$16,226 |
| Capital expenditures for redevelopment/renovations | 14,292 | 5,123 |
| Other capital expenditures, including tenant improvements | 41,035 | 101,455 |
| Total capital expenditures ⁽¹⁾ | \$81,917 | \$122,804 |

Of the total amounts paid, approximately \$4.3 million and \$2.5 million relates to soft costs such as capitalized interest, payroll, and other general and administrative expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

"Capital expenditures for development" relate to two development projects: Enclave Place, a 300,000 square foot, 11-story office tower in Houston, Texas, and 500 TownPark, a new 135,000 square foot, 80% pre-leased, four-story office building to be constructed adjacent to our existing 400 TownPark asset in Lake Mary, Florida. The construction phase of the Enclave Place project is substantially complete, with an estimated \$33-\$38 million remaining to be spent on lease-up costs. The 500 TownPark project is currently in the planning and design phase. Total additional project costs are anticipated to be between \$27-\$29 million, inclusive of leasing costs. Construction is expected to begin during the fourth quarter of 2015 and to be delivered to the tenant early in 2017.

"Capital expenditures for redevelopment/renovations" relate to a repositioning project to convert our 3100 Clarendon Boulevard building in Arlington, Virginia from governmental use to private sector use. The renovation of the office tower and first phase of the retail work is substantially complete. Additional retail and plaza work involving longer lead times for certain materials will

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be completed later in 2015. We currently anticipate spending an additional \$25-\$27 million to complete physical construction and subsequent lease-up costs.

"Other capital expenditures" include all other capital expenditures during the period and are typically comprised of tenant and building improvements and leasing commissions necessary to lease or maintain our existing portfolio of office properties.

Piedmont classifies its tenant and building improvements into two categories: (i) improvements which incrementally enhance the building's asset value by expanding its revenue generating capacity ("incremental capital expenditures") and (ii) improvements which maintain the building's existing asset value and its revenue generating capacity ("non-incremental capital expenditures"). After adjusting for capital commitments assumed by the purchaser of Aon Center (mentioned above), commitments for funding non-incremental capital expenditures for tenant improvements over the next five years related to Piedmont's existing lease portfolio total approximately \$35.5 million. The timing of the funding of these commitments is largely dependent upon tenant requests for reimbursement; however, we anticipate that a significant portion of these improvement allowances may be requested over the next three years based on when the underlying leases commence. In some instances, these obligations may expire with the respective lease, without further recourse to us. Additionally, after adjusting for capital commitments assumed by the purchaser of Aon Center, commitments for incremental capital expenditures for tenant improvements associated with new and existing leases totaled approximately \$34.3 million.

In addition to the amounts described above that we have already committed to as a part of executed leases, we anticipate continuing to incur similar market-based tenant improvement allowances and leasing commissions in conjunction with procuring future leases. For example, for leases executed during the nine months ended September 30, 2015, we committed to spend approximately \$4.86 and \$1.84 per square foot per year of lease term for tenant improvement allowances and leasing commissions, respectively, and for the twelve months ended December 31, 2014, we committed to \$3.48 and \$1.53 per square foot per year of lease term for leases for tenant improvement allowances and leasing commissions, respectively. A substantial portion of the increase during 2015 is related to our leasing to new tenants in high capital cost markets, such as Chicago and Washington, D.C. Given that our average lease size is approximately 27,000 square feet and our operating model requires us to frequently lease large blocks of space to credit-worthy tenants, some of these items can result in significant capital outlays. Both the timing and magnitude of such future leases' expenditures have yet to be determined and are highly dependent on the competitive market conditions of the respective office market at the time of lease negotiations.

Subject to the identification and availability of attractive investment opportunities and our ability to consummate such acquisitions on satisfactory terms, acquiring new assets compatible with our investment strategy could also be a significant use of capital. Further, our Board of Directors has authorized a \$200 million stock repurchase program pursuant to which we may use capital resources to purchase our common stock when we believe the stock is trading at a meaningful discount to what we believe the estimated fair value of our net assets to be. During the three months ended September 30, 2015, we used approximately \$110.2 million to purchase 6.2 million shares of our common stock. As of September 30, 2015, there was \$80.6 million of authorized capacity remaining on the plan which may be spent prior to the plan's expiration in second quarter 2017. Finally, although we currently have no debt maturing until April 2016, on a longer term basis, we expect to use capital to repay debt when obligations become due.

The amount and form of payment (cash or stock issuance) of future dividends to be paid to our stockholders will continue to be largely dependent upon (i) the amount of cash generated from our operating activities; (ii) our expectations of future cash flows; (iii) our determination of near-term cash needs for debt repayments, development projects, and selective acquisitions of new properties; (iv) the timing of significant expenditures for tenant improvements, building redevelopment projects, and general property capital improvements; (v) long-term payout ratios for comparable companies; (vi) our ability to continue to access additional sources of capital, including potential

sales of our properties; and (vii) the amount required to be distributed to maintain our status as a REIT. Given the fluctuating nature of cash flows and expenditures, we may periodically borrow funds on a short-term basis to cover timing differences in cash receipts and cash disbursements.

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Results of Operations

Overview

Our income from continuing operations and gain on sale of real estate assets per share on a fully diluted basis decreased from \$0.06 per diluted share for the three months ended September 30, 2014, to a loss of \$0.01 per diluted share for the three months ended September 30, 2015. The decrease was due to the recognition of a \$34.8 million impairment charge to adjust our 2 Gatehall Drive building to contracted sales price less estimated selling costs upon entering into a binding purchase and sale agreement. The decrease was partially offset by gains recognized on the sales of our 3750 Brookside Parkway building in Alpharetta, Georgia and our Chandler Forum building in Chandler, Arizona, as well as an increase in rental income and a decrease in depreciation expense compared to the prior period (see below for more details).

Comparison of the three months ended September 30, 2015 versus the three months ended September 30, 2014

The following table sets forth selected data from our consolidated statements of income for the three months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, as well as each balance as a percentage of total revenues for the same periods presented (dollars in millions):

| | September 30, 2015 | % | September 30, 2014 | % | \$ Increase (Decrease) |
|---|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|------|------------------------------|
| Revenue: | | | | | |
| Rental income | \$ 118.0 | | \$ 114.5 | | \$ 3.5 |
| Tenant reimbursements | 30.3 | | 29.6 | | 0.7 |
| Property management fee revenue | 0.5 | | 0.5 | | — |
| Total revenues | 148.8 | 100 | 144.6 | 100 | 4.2 |
| Expense: | | | | | |
| Property operating costs | 61.7 | 41 | 62.0 | 43 | (0.3) |
| Depreciation | 31.2 | 20 | 35.3 | 24 | (4.1) |
| Amortization | 14.0 | 9 | 14.2 | 10 | (0.2) |
| Impairment loss on real estate assets | 34.8 | 23 | — | — | 34.8 |
| General and administrative | 8.2 | 6 | 5.8 | 4 | 2.4 |
| Real estate operating income/(loss) | (1.1) |) — | 27.3 | 19 | (28.4) |
| Other income (expense): | | | | | |
| Interest expense | (18.8) |) 13 | (18.7) |) 13 | (0.1) |
| Other income/(expense) | 0.8 | 1 | 0.5 | — | 0.3 |
| Equity in income of unconsolidated joint ventures | 0.1 | — | 0.1 | — | — |
| Income/(loss) from continuing operations | \$(19.0) |) — | \$ 9.2 | 6 | \$(28.2) |
| Gain on sale of real estate assets | \$ 17.1 | | \$ — | | 17.1 |

Income from Continuing Operations

Revenue

Rental income increased approximately \$3.5 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in the prior year primarily due to new leases commencing since the third quarter of 2014 across our portfolio of assets, which contributed approximately \$4.8 million of additional revenue. This increase was partially

offset by property dispositions since July 1, 2014, which, when netted against acquisitions, decreased rental income by approximately \$1.3 million.

Tenant reimbursements increased approximately \$0.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in the prior year. The increase in tenant reimbursements is primarily driven by acquisitions completed since the third quarter of 2014 which contributed approximately \$1.1 million to the increase as compared to the three months ended September 30, 2014. The increase was partially offset by property dispositions which occurred in 2015.

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Expense

Property operating costs decreased approximately \$0.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in the prior year primarily due to lower tenant-requested services of approximately \$0.9 million related to our existing portfolio of assets as compared to the same period in the prior year. Offsetting this decrease were increases in utility expenses (\$0.3 million) and janitorial expenses (\$0.3 million) as compared to the same period in the prior year at our existing portfolio of properties.

Depreciation expense decreased approximately \$4.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in the prior year. In July 2015, the Aon Center building was reclassified as held-for-sale upon execution of a binding contract. Depreciation expense is no longer recognized on assets once they are classified as held-for-sale. The decrease is primarily due to the recognition of a full quarter of depreciation expense related to this asset in the prior year as compared to the current period.

Amortization expense decreased approximately \$0.2 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in the prior year. The decrease is attributable to the non-recurrence of accelerated amortization expense from lease modifications/terminations in the prior period of approximately \$0.8 million. We also no longer recognized amortization on intangible assets associated with the Aon Center building once it was classified as held-for-sale in July 2015, resulting in approximately \$0.7 million less expense as compared to the same period in the prior year. These decreases were offset by additional amortization associated with intangible lease assets recognized as part of acquiring new properties during 2014 and 2015.

During the third quarter of 2015, we received an unsolicited bid to acquire our 2 Gatehall Drive building. Subsequent to September 30, 2015, we entered into a binding purchase and sale agreement to dispose of this building. Piedmont recorded a loss on impairment of real estate assets of approximately \$34.8 million during the three months ended September 30, 2015 as a result of adjusting the asset to the net contracted sales price less estimated selling costs.

General and administrative expenses increased approximately \$2.4 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in the prior year primarily due to the accrual of potential incentive and performance-based compensation costs driven by improved operating results and comparative stock performance.

Other Income (Expense)

Interest expense increased approximately \$0.1 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in the prior year as a result of higher outstanding debt balances during the current year, partially offset by lower average interest rates due to refinancing activity during 2014 and early 2015.

Other income/(expense) increased approximately \$0.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in the prior year. The increase is attributable to approximately \$1.0 million of interest income recognized during the current period associated with a \$45.4 million secured note receivable from the buyer of our Copper Ridge Center building located in Lyndhurst, New Jersey. The increase was offset by approximately \$0.7 million of income recognized in the prior period due to the sale of density rights related to our Sarasota Commerce Center Two building in Sarasota, Florida.

Income from Discontinued Operations

The operations of assets that were classified as discontinued operations prior to April 1, 2014 (see Note 9 to our accompanying consolidated financial statements for a complete listing) are presented in the accompanying statement of operations as discontinued operations for all periods presented. The presentation of discontinued operations in the

future is subject to the occurrence and timing of future property dispositions that meet the criteria to be classified as discontinued operations.

Comparison of the nine months ended September 30, 2015 versus the nine months ended September 30, 2014

The following table sets forth selected data from our consolidated statements of income for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively, as well as each balance as a percentage of total revenues for the same periods presented (dollars in millions):

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| | September 30, 2015 | | September 30, 2014 | | \$ Increase (Decrease) |
|--|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| Revenue: | | | | | |
| Rental income | \$ 353.3 | | \$ 338.7 | | \$ 14.6 |
| Tenant reimbursements | 90.5 | | 79.3 | | 11.2 |
| Property management fee revenue | 1.6 | | 1.6 | | — |
| Total revenues | 445.4 | 100 | 419.6 | 100 | 25.8 |
| Expense: | | | | | |
| Property operating costs | 187.4 | 42 | 177.4 | 42 | 10.0 |
| Depreciation | 103.5 | 23 | 103.2 | 25 | 0.3 |
| Amortization | 43.7 | 10 | 42.4 | 10 | 1.3 |
| Impairment loss on real estate assets | 40.2 | 9 | — | — | 40.2 |
| General and administrative | 22.7 | 5 | 17.5 | 4 | 5.2 |
| Real estate operating income | 47.9 | 11 | 79.1 | 19 | (31.2) |
| Other income (expense): | | | | | |
| Interest expense | (56.0) |) — | (55.6) |) — | (0.4) |
| Other income/(expense) | 1.2 | — | — | — | 1.2 |
| Net recoveries from casualty events and litigation settlements | — | — | 4.5 | 1 | (4.5) |
| Equity in income/(loss) of unconsolidated joint ventures | 0.4 | — | (0.5) |) — | 0.9 |
| Income/(loss) from continuing operations | \$(6.5) |) — | \$ 27.5 | 7 | \$(34.0) |
| Income from discontinued operations | \$— | | \$ 2.2 | | \$(2.2) |
| Gain on sale of real estate assets | \$53.8 | | \$ 1.1 | | 52.7 |

Income from Continuing Operations

Revenue

Rental income increased approximately \$14.6 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in the prior year primarily due to new leases commencing since the third quarter of 2014 across our portfolio of assets, which contributed approximately \$11.0 million of additional revenue. Additionally, property acquisitions during 2014 and 2015, when netted against dispositions, further increased rental income by approximately \$3.2 million.

Tenant reimbursements increased approximately \$11.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in the prior year. The increase in tenant reimbursements is mainly driven by an increase in occupancy, the most significant occurring at our Aon Center building and 500 West Monroe building, both in Chicago, Illinois, as well as the expiration of operating expense abatements for several significant tenants. Reimbursement income was further impacted by an increase in our recoverable property operating costs as a result of increased recoverable property taxes, snow removal costs, utility expenses, and janitorial expenses. Finally, acquisitions completed during 2014 and early in 2015 contributed another \$4.1 million to the increase as compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2014.

Expense

Property operating costs increased approximately \$10.0 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in the prior year primarily due to \$5.3 million of additional operating expenses

attributable to properties acquired during 2014 and 2015. In addition, we incurred higher recoverable property tax expense of approximately \$3.5 million related to our existing portfolio of assets as compared to the same period in the prior year. Further, we also incurred higher landscaping costs in the current period of approximately \$0.6 million due mainly to ice and snow removal at certain of our existing properties in the Boston and New York office sub-markets due to an unusually harsh winter in those markets.

Amortization expense increased approximately \$1.3 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in the prior year. Of the total variance, approximately \$5.2 million of expense is due to additional amortization of intangible lease assets recognized as part of acquiring new properties during 2014 and early in 2015. This increase was partially offset by the nonrecurrence of accelerated amortization expense in the prior year totaling approximately \$2.6 million related to the early termination of a lease at our 400 Bridgewater Crossing building in Bridgewater, New Jersey and a structured partial lease termination at our

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1430 Enclave Parkway building in Houston, Texas. Additionally, we no longer recognized amortization on intangible assets associated with the Aon Center building once it was classified as held-for-sale in July 2015, resulting in approximately \$0.6 million less expense as compared to the prior year.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, we recognized \$40.2 million in impairment charges related to the sale our Eastpoint I & II buildings in Cleveland, Ohio, and anticipated sale of our 2 Gatehall Drive building in Lyndhurst, New Jersey as a result of adjusting the assets to the net contracted sales price less estimated selling costs.

General and administrative expenses increased approximately \$5.2 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in the prior year primarily due to the accrual of potential incentive and other performance-based compensation costs driven by improved operating results and comparative stock performance, contributing approximately \$4.9 million to the increase. The remainder of the increase is due mainly to higher legal and accounting fees in the current period.

Other Income (Expense)

Interest expense increased approximately \$0.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 compared to the same period in the prior year as a result of higher outstanding debt balances during the current year, which were partially offset by lower average interest rates due to refinancing activity during 2014 and early in 2015.

We recognized approximately \$1.2 million of other income/(expense) for the nine months ended September 30, 2015 most of which is attributable to \$1.6 million of interest income associated with a \$45.4 million secured note receivable from the buyer of our Copper Ridge Center building. This interest income was offset by approximately \$0.3 million of transactional costs associated with acquisition transactions.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2014, we recognized approximately \$4.5 million of net insurance recoveries related to either casualty loss or litigation settlement expenses incurred in previous periods. These recoveries are non-recurring in nature and the timing of such reimbursements is dependent upon outside parties.

Equity in income of unconsolidated joint ventures for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 included the operations of two properties, Two Park Center located in Hoffman Estates, Illinois, and 8560 Upland Drive located in Parker, Colorado. Two Park Center was vacant during the prior period and sold in May 2014 which resulted in a \$0.2 million loss. The results of operations of the current year consist solely of the remaining property.

Income from Discontinued Operations

The operations of assets that were classified as discontinued operations prior to April 1, 2014 (see Note 9 to our accompanying consolidated financial statements for a complete listing) are presented in the accompanying statement of operations as discontinued operations for all periods presented. The presentation of discontinued operations in the future is subject to the occurrence and timing of future property dispositions that meet the criteria to be classified as discontinued operations.

Funds From Operations (“FFO”), Core FFO, and Adjusted Funds from Operations (“AFFO”)

Net income calculated in accordance with GAAP is the starting point for calculating FFO, Core FFO, and AFFO. These metrics are non-GAAP financial measures and should not be viewed as an alternative measurement of our operating performance to net income. Management believes that accounting for real estate assets in accordance with GAAP implicitly assumes that the value of real estate assets diminishes predictably over time. Since real estate values have historically risen or fallen with market conditions, many industry investors and analysts have considered the

presentation of operating results for real estate companies that use historical cost accounting to be insufficient by themselves. As a result, we believe that the use of FFO, Core FFO, and AFFO, together with the required GAAP presentation, provides a more complete understanding of our performance relative to our competitors and a more informed and appropriate basis on which to make decisions involving operating, financing, and investing activities.

We calculate FFO in accordance with the current National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts ("NAREIT") definition as follows: Net income (computed in accordance with GAAP), excluding gains or losses from sales of property and impairment charges (including our proportionate share of any impairment charges and/or gains or losses from sales of property related to investments in unconsolidated joint ventures), plus depreciation and amortization on real estate assets (including our proportionate share of depreciation and amortization related to investments in unconsolidated joint ventures). Other REITs may not define FFO in accordance with the NAREIT definition, or may interpret the current NAREIT definition differently than we do; therefore, our computation of FFO may not be comparable to such other REITs. Further, other REITs may not compute Core FFO or AFFO in a manner comparable to ours, if computed at all.

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We calculate Core FFO as FFO (calculated as set forth above) less acquisition costs and other significant, non-recurring items, such as the infrequent and non-recurring gains or losses from the early extinguishment of swaps and other financial instruments, and litigation settlements expense and casualty losses, and their subsequent insurance recoveries.

We calculate AFFO as Core FFO (calculated as set forth above) exclusive of the net effects of: (i) amortization associated with deferred financing costs; (ii) depreciation of non real estate assets; (iii) straight-line lease revenue/expense; (iv) amortization of above and below-market lease intangibles; (v) stock-based and other non-cash compensation expense; (vi) amortization of mezzanine discount income; and (vii) acquisition costs, less non-incremental capital expenditures (as defined below). Our proportionate share of such adjustments related to investments in unconsolidated joint ventures are also included when calculating AFFO.

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Reconciliations of net income to FFO, Core FFO, and AFFO are presented below (in thousands except per share amounts):

| | Three Months Ended | | September 30, Per | | Nine Months Ended | | September 30, Per | |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | September 30, Per | Share ⁽¹⁾ | September 30, Per | Share ⁽¹⁾ | September 30, Per | Share ⁽¹⁾ | September 30, Per | Share ⁽¹⁾ |
| | 2015 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2014 | |
| GAAP net income/(loss) applicable to common stock | \$(1,875) | \$(0.01) | \$ 9,162 | \$0.06 | \$47,346 | \$0.31 | \$ 30,834 | \$0.20 |
| Depreciation of real estate assets ⁽²⁾ | 31,093 | 0.21 | 35,286 | 0.23 | 103,125 | 0.68 | 103,132 | 0.67 |
| Amortization of lease-related costs ⁽²⁾ | 14,037 | 0.09 | 14,248 | 0.09 | 43,694 | 0.29 | 42,660 | 0.28 |
| Impairment loss on real estate assets | 34,815 | 0.23 | — | — | 40,169 | 0.26 | — | — |
| Gain on sale - wholly-owned properties, net | (17,140) | (0.11) | — | — | (53,824) | (0.35) | (2,338) | (0.02) |
| Loss on sale-unconsolidated partnership | — | — | — | — | — | — | 169 | — |
| NAREIT Funds From Operations applicable to common stock | \$60,930 | \$0.41 | \$ 58,696 | \$0.38 | \$180,510 | \$1.19 | \$ 174,457 | \$1.13 |
| Adjustments: | | | | | | | | |
| Acquisition costs | 128 | — | 110 | — | 275 | — | 539 | — |
| Loss on extinguishment of swaps | — | — | — | — | 132 | — | — | — |
| Net loss/(recoveries) from casualty events and litigation settlements | — | — | 8 | — | — | — | (4,514) | (0.03) |
| Core Funds From Operations applicable to common stock | \$61,058 | \$0.41 | \$ 58,814 | \$0.38 | \$180,917 | \$1.19 | \$ 170,482 | \$1.10 |
| Adjustments: | | | | | | | | |
| Deferred financing cost amortization | 718 | — | 598 | — | 2,122 | 0.01 | 2,076 | 0.01 |
| Amortization of estimated fair market adjustments on notes payable | (121) | — | (120) | — | (363) | — | (126) | — |
| Amortization of discount on senior notes | 49 | — | 47 | — | 146 | — | 128 | — |
| Depreciation of non real estate assets | 168 | — | 141 | — | 529 | — | 370 | — |

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| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|---------|-----------|---------|------------|---------|-----------|---------|---|
| Straight-line effects of lease revenue ⁽²⁾ | (2,519 |) (0.01 |) (6,780 |) (0.04 |) (10,774 |) (0.07 |) (23,950 |) (0.15 |) |
| Stock-based and other non-cash compensation | 2,622 | 0.02 | 1,139 | 0.01 | 5,039 | 0.03 | 3,046 | 0.02 | |
| Net effect of amortization of above and below-market in-place lease intangibles | (1,145 |) (0.01 |) (1,010 |) (0.01 |) (3,369 |) (0.02 |) (3,653 |) (0.02 |) |
| Acquisition costs | (128 |) — | (110 |) — | (275 |) — | (539 |) — | |
| Non-incremental capital expenditures ⁽³⁾ | (8,269 |) (0.06 |) (30,890 |) (0.20 |) (30,197 |) (0.20 |) (70,862 |) (0.46 |) |
| Adjusted Funds From Operations applicable to common stock | \$52,433 | \$0.35 | \$ 21,829 | \$0.14 | \$ 143,775 | \$0.94 | \$ 76,972 | \$0.50 | |
| Weighted-average shares outstanding – diluted | 149,176 | | 154,561 | | 152,499 | | 154,665 | | |

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- (1) Based on weighted average shares outstanding – diluted.
- (2) Includes amounts for wholly-owned properties, as well as such amounts for our proportionate ownership in unconsolidated joint ventures.
Piedmont defines non-incremental capital expenditures as capital expenditures of a recurring nature related to tenant improvements, leasing commissions, and building capital that do not incrementally enhance the underlying assets' income generating capacity. Tenant improvements, leasing commissions, building capital and deferred lease
- (3) incentives incurred to lease space that was vacant at acquisition, leasing costs for spaces vacant for greater than one year, leasing costs for spaces at newly acquired properties for which in-place leases expire shortly after acquisition, improvements associated with the expansion of a building, and renovations that either change the underlying classification from a Class B to a Class A property or enhance the marketability of a building are excluded from this measure.

Property and Same Store Net Operating Income (Cash Basis)

Property Net Operating Income on a cash basis ("Property NOI") is a non-GAAP measure which we use to assess our operating results. It is calculated as real estate operating income with the add-back of corporate general and administrative expense, depreciation and amortization, impairment losses, and the deduction of income and expense associated with property management performed by Piedmont for other organizations. We present this measure on a cash basis, which eliminates the effects of straight lined rents and fair value lease revenue. We use this measure as a proxy for the cash generated by our real estate properties. Same Store Net Operating Income on a cash basis ("Same Store NOI") is another non-GAAP measure very similar to Property NOI; however, Same Store NOI only reflects Property NOI attributable to the properties owned or placed in service during the entire span of the current and prior year reporting periods. Same Store NOI also excludes amounts attributable to unconsolidated joint venture assets. We believe Same Store NOI is an important measure because it allows us to compare the cash flows generated by our same real estate properties from one period to another. Other REITs may calculate Property NOI and Same Store NOI differently, if calculated at all, and our calculations should not be compared to that of other REITs.

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The following table sets forth our Property NOI and Same Store NOI with a reconciliation to net income attributable to Piedmont (GAAP basis) for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively (in thousands):

| | Three Months Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | September 30, | September 30, | September 30, | September 30, |
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Net income/(loss) attributable to Piedmont (GAAP basis) | \$(1,875) | \$ 9,162 | \$47,346 | \$ 30,834 |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest | 4 | 4 | 12 | 12 |
| Interest expense | 18,832 | 18,654 | 56,020 | 55,592 |
| Depreciation ⁽¹⁾ | 31,261 | 35,427 | 103,654 | 103,502 |
| Amortization ⁽¹⁾ | 14,037 | 14,248 | 43,694 | 42,660 |
| Acquisition costs | 128 | 110 | 275 | 539 |
| Impairment loss on real estate assets ⁽¹⁾ | 34,815 | — | 40,169 | — |
| Net loss/(recoveries) of casualty events and litigation settlements ⁽¹⁾ | — | 8 | — | (4,514) |
| Gain on sale of properties ⁽¹⁾ | (17,140) | — | (53,824) | (2,169) |
| General & administrative expenses ⁽¹⁾ | 8,246 | 5,808 | 22,764 | 17,550 |
| Management fee revenue | (329) | (299) | (891) | (839) |
| Other (income)/expense ⁽¹⁾ | (931) | 21 | (1,493) | 54 |
| Straight line rent effects of lease revenue ⁽¹⁾ | (2,519) | (6,780) | (10,774) | (23,950) |
| Amortization of lease-related intangibles ⁽¹⁾ | (1,145) | (1,010) | (3,369) | (3,653) |
| Property NOI (cash basis) | \$83,384 | \$ 75,353 | \$243,583 | \$ 215,618 |
| Change period over period in Property NOI (cash basis) | 10.7 | % N/A | 13.0 | % N/A |
| Net operating loss/(income) from: | | | | |
| Acquisitions ⁽²⁾ | (3,190) | (1,387) | (8,698) | (1,442) |
| Dispositions ⁽³⁾ | (429) | (2,885) | (5,153) | (10,366) |
| Other investments ⁽⁴⁾ | (276) | (214) | (822) | 258 |
| Same Store NOI (cash basis) | \$79,489 | \$ 70,867 | \$228,910 | \$ 204,068 |
| Change period over period in Same Store NOI (cash basis) | 12.2 | % N/A | 12.2 | % N/A |

(1) Includes amounts attributable to consolidated properties, including discontinued operations, and our proportionate share of amounts attributable to unconsolidated joint ventures.

Acquisitions consist of 5 Wall Street in Burlington, Massachusetts, purchased on June 27, 2014; 1155 Perimeter Center West in Atlanta, Georgia, purchased on August 28, 2014; TownPark Land in Lake Mary, Florida, purchased on November 21, 2014; Park Place on Turtle Creek in Dallas, Texas, purchased on January 16, 2015; and 80 Central Street in Boxborough, Massachusetts, purchased on July 24, 2015.

(3) Dispositions consist of 11107 and 11109 Sunset Hills Road in Reston, Virginia, sold on March 19, 2014; 1441 West Long Lake Road and 4685 Investment Drive in Troy, Michigan, sold on April 30, 2014; 2020 West 89th Street in Leawood, Kansas, sold on May 19, 2014; 3900 Dallas Parkway in Plano, Texas, sold on January 30, 2015; 5601 Headquarters Drive in Plano, Texas, sold on April 28, 2015; River Corporate Center in Tempe,

Arizona, sold on April 29, 2015; Copper Ridge Center in Lyndhurst, New Jersey, sold on May 1, 2015; Eastpoint I and II in Mayfield Heights, Ohio, sold on July 28, 2015; 3750 Brookside Parkway in Alpharetta, Georgia, sold on August 10, 2015; and Chandler Forum in Chandler, Arizona, sold on September 1, 2015.

- (4) Other investments consist of operating results from our investments in unconsolidated joint ventures and our redevelopment project at 3100 Clarendon Boulevard.

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Overview

Our portfolio is a national portfolio located in several geographic markets. We typically lease space to large, credit-worthy corporate or governmental tenants on a long-term basis. Our average lease is approximately 27,000 square feet with 7.1 years of lease term remaining as of September 30, 2015. As a result, leased percentage, as well as rent roll ups and roll downs, which we experience as a result of re-leasing, can fluctuate widely between markets, between buildings, and between tenants within a given market depending on when a particular lease is scheduled to expire. We have re-leased a significant portion of our portfolio over the last several years, with many leases containing free rent abatements, typically during the first months of the lease. As rental abatement periods related to certain significant renewals and replacement leases began to expire during 2014, Property NOI began to improve as evidenced by the approximately 11% and 13% increase in Property NOI for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, respectively, as compared to the corresponding periods in 2014. Same Store NOI improved 12% for both the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015. On a prospective basis, we expect continued positive growth in Same Store NOI in 2015 as compared to the prior year, as certain significant leases for currently vacant space commence and rental abatement periods expire. Further, any absorption of currently vacant space in the portfolio due to additional new leasing activity could also favorably impact Property NOI and/or Same Store NOI comparisons depending on the timing of commencement dates and abatement periods of the new leases.

Leased Percentage

Excluding one property owned through an unconsolidated joint venture, two properties under development, and one property that was not in service due to a redevelopment project as of September 30, 2015, our portfolio in total was 90.6% leased as of September 30, 2015, up from 87.7% leased as of December 31, 2014. As of September 30, 2015, scheduled lease expirations for the portfolio as a whole for the remainder of 2015 and 2016 represented 0.5% and 5.9%, respectively, of our Annualized Lease Revenue; therefore, our current leasing efforts are primarily focused on leasing currently vacant space. To the extent we are able to execute new leases for currently vacant space, offset by scheduled expirations, such new leasing should favorably impact our leased percentage, Property NOI, and possibly our Same Store NOI comparisons once any associated abatement periods expire.

Impact of Downtime, Abatement Periods, and Rental Rate Changes

We have re-leased a significant portion of our portfolio over the past several years, and as of September 30, 2015, we still had approximately 0.7 million square feet of executed leases related to vacant space which had not yet commenced. Commencement of new leases typically occurs 6-24 months from the lease execution date, after refurbishment of the space is completed. The downtime between a lease expiration and the new lease's commencement can negatively impact Property NOI and Same Store NOI. In addition, office leases, both new and lease renewals, typically contain upfront rental and/or operating expense abatement periods which delay the cash flow benefits of the lease even after the new lease or renewal has commenced. As of September 30, 2015, approximately 1.1 million square feet of our commenced leases were still in some form of abatement. Lastly, if we are unable to replace expiring leases with new or renewal leases at rental rates equal to or greater than the expiring rates, rental rate roll downs can also negatively impact Property NOI and Same Store NOI comparisons. As mentioned above, our geographically diverse portfolio and large block tenant model result in rent roll ups and roll downs that can fluctuate widely on a market by market basis; however, given the large volume of leasing activity over the last several years, we estimate that our portfolio, taken as a whole, is currently at market. Property NOI and Same Store NOI comparisons for any given period may still fluctuate as a result of rent roll ups and roll downs, however, depending on the leasing activity in individual geographic markets during the respective period.

Election as a REIT

We have elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Code and have operated as such beginning with our taxable year ended December 31, 1998. To qualify as a REIT, we must meet certain organizational and operational requirements, including a requirement to distribute at least 90% of our adjusted REIT taxable income, computed without regard to the dividends-paid deduction and by excluding net capital gains attributable to our stockholders, as defined by the Code. As a REIT, we generally will not be subject to federal income tax on income that we distribute to our stockholders. If we fail to qualify as a REIT in any taxable year, we may be subject to federal income taxes on our taxable income for that year and for the four years following the year during which qualification is lost and/or penalties, unless the IRS grants us relief under certain statutory provisions. Such an event could materially adversely affect our net income and net cash available for distribution to our stockholders. However, we believe that we are organized and operate in such a manner as to qualify for treatment as a REIT and intend to continue to operate in the foreseeable future in such a manner that we will remain qualified as a REIT for federal income tax purposes. We have elected to treat Piedmont Office Holdings, Inc. ("POH"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Piedmont, as a taxable REIT subsidiary. We perform non-customary services for tenants of buildings that we own, including solar power generation, and real estate and non-real estate related-services; however, any earnings related to such services performed by our taxable REIT subsidiary are subject to federal and state income taxes. In addition, for us to continue to qualify as a REIT, our investments in taxable REIT subsidiaries cannot exceed 25% of the value of our total assets.

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Inflation

We are exposed to inflation risk, as income from long-term leases is the primary source of our cash flows from operations. There are provisions in the majority of our tenant leases that are intended to protect us from, and mitigate the risk of, the impact of inflation. These provisions include rent steps, reimbursement billings for operating expense pass-through charges, real estate tax, and insurance reimbursements on a per square-foot basis, or in some cases, annual reimbursement of operating expenses above certain per square-foot allowances. However, due to the long-term nature of the leases, the leases may not readjust their reimbursement rates frequently enough to fully cover inflation.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We are not dependent on off-balance sheet financing arrangements for liquidity. As of September 30, 2015, our off-balance sheet arrangements consist of one investment in an unconsolidated joint venture and operating lease obligations related to a ground lease at one of our properties. The unconsolidated joint venture in which we currently invest is prohibited by its governing documents from incurring debt. For further information regarding our commitments under operating lease obligations, see the Contractual Obligations table below.

Application of Critical Accounting Policies

Our accounting policies have been established to conform with GAAP. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to use judgment in the application of accounting policies, including making estimates and assumptions. These judgments affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the dates of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting periods. If our judgment or interpretation of the facts and circumstances relating to various transactions had been different, it is possible that different accounting policies would have been applied, thus, resulting in a different presentation of the financial statements. Additionally, other companies may utilize different estimates that may impact comparability of our results of operations to those of companies in similar businesses. The critical accounting policies outlined below have been discussed with members of the Audit Committee of the board of directors.

Investment in Real Estate Assets

We are required to make subjective assessments as to the useful lives of our depreciable assets. We consider the period of future benefit of the asset to determine the appropriate useful lives. These assessments have a direct impact on net income attributable to Piedmont. The estimated useful lives of our assets by class are as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Buildings | 40 years |
| Building improvements | 5-25 years |
| Land improvements | 20-25 years |
| Tenant allowances | Lease term |
| Furniture, fixtures, and equipment | 3-5 years |
| Intangible lease assets | Lease term |

Allocation of Purchase Price of Acquired Assets

Upon the acquisition of real properties, we allocate the purchase price of properties to acquired tangible assets, consisting of land and building, and identified intangible assets and liabilities, consisting of the value of above-market and below-market leases and the value of in-place leases, based on their estimated fair values.

The estimated fair values of the tangible assets of an acquired property (which includes land and buildings) are determined by valuing the property as if it were vacant, and the “as-if-vacant” value is then allocated to land and building based on management's determination of the estimated fair value of these assets. We determine the as-if-vacant estimated fair value of a property using methods similar to those used by independent appraisers. Factors considered by us in performing these analyses include an estimate of carrying costs during the expected lease-up periods considering current market conditions and costs to execute similar leases. In estimating carrying costs, we include real estate taxes, insurance, and other operating expenses and estimates of lost rental revenue during the expected lease-up periods based on current market demand. We also estimate the cost to execute similar leases including leasing commissions, legal, and other related costs.

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The estimated fair values of above-market and below-market in-place lease values are recorded based on the present value (using an interest rate that reflects the risks associated with the leases acquired) of the difference between (i) the contractual amounts to be paid pursuant to the in-place leases and (ii) our estimate of market lease rates for the corresponding in-place leases, measured over a period equal to the remaining terms of the leases, taking into consideration the probability of renewals for any below-market leases. The capitalized above-market and below-market lease values are recorded as intangible lease assets or liabilities and amortized as an adjustment to rental income over the remaining terms of the respective leases.

The estimated fair values of in-place leases include direct costs associated with obtaining a new tenant, opportunity costs associated with lost rentals that are avoided by acquiring an in-place lease, and tenant relationships. Direct costs associated with obtaining a new tenant include commissions, tenant improvements, and other direct costs and are estimated based on our consideration of current market costs to execute a similar lease. These direct costs are included in deferred lease costs in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets and are amortized to expense over the remaining terms of the respective leases. The value of opportunity costs is calculated using the contractual amounts to be paid pursuant to the in-place leases over a market absorption period for a similar lease. Customer relationships are valued based on expected renewal of a lease or the likelihood of obtaining a particular tenant for other locations. These lease intangibles are included in intangible lease assets in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets and are amortized to expense over the remaining terms of the respective leases.

Estimating the fair values of the tangible and intangible assets requires us to estimate market lease rates, property operating expenses, carrying costs during lease-up periods, discount and capitalization rates, market absorption periods, and the number of years the property is held for investment. The use of inappropriate estimates would result in an incorrect assessment of our purchase price allocations, which would impact the amount of our reported net income attributable to Piedmont.

Valuation of Real Estate Assets and Investments in Joint Ventures Which Hold Real Estate Assets

We continually monitor events and changes in circumstances that could indicate that the carrying amounts of the real estate and related intangible assets, both operating properties and properties under construction, in which we have an ownership interest, either directly or through investments in joint ventures, may not be recoverable. When indicators of potential impairment are present for wholly-owned properties, which indicate that the carrying amounts of real estate and related intangible assets may not be recoverable, we assess the recoverability of these assets by determining whether the carrying value will be recovered from the undiscounted future operating cash flows expected from the use of the asset and its eventual disposition. In the event that such expected undiscounted future cash flows do not exceed the carrying value, we adjust the real estate and related intangible assets to the estimated fair value and recognize an impairment loss. For our investments in unconsolidated joint ventures, we assess the estimated fair value of our investment, as compared to our carrying amount. If we determine that the carrying value is greater than the estimated fair value at any measurement date, we must also determine if such a difference is temporary in nature. Value fluctuations which are "other than temporary" in nature are then recorded to adjust the carrying value to the estimated fair value amount.

Projections of expected future cash flows require that we estimate future market rental income amounts subsequent to the expiration of current lease agreements, property operating expenses, the number of months it takes to re-lease the property, and the number of years the property is held for investment, among other factors. The subjectivity of assumptions used in the future cash flow analysis, including capitalization and discount rates, could result in an incorrect assessment of the property's estimated fair value and, therefore, could result in the misstatement of the carrying value of our real estate and related intangible assets and our reported net income attributable to Piedmont.

Goodwill

Goodwill is the excess of cost of an acquired entity over the amounts specifically assigned to assets acquired and liabilities assumed in purchase accounting for business combinations, as well as costs incurred as part of the acquisition. We test the carrying value of our goodwill for impairment on an annual basis, or on an interim basis if an event occurs or circumstances change that would indicate the carrying amount may be impaired. Such interim circumstances may include, but are not limited to, significant adverse changes in legal factors or in the general business climate, adverse action or assessment by a regulator, unanticipated competition, the loss of key personnel, or persistent declines in an entity's stock price below carrying value of the entity. We have the option, should we choose to use it, to first assess qualitative factors to determine whether the existence of events or circumstances leads to a determination that it is more likely than not that the estimated fair value of the reporting unit is less than its carrying amount. If, after assessing the totality of events or circumstances, we conclude that the estimated fair value is greater than the carrying amount, then performing the two-step impairment test is unnecessary. However, if we chose to forgo the availability of the qualitative analysis, the test prescribed by authoritative accounting guidance is a two-step test. The first step involves comparing the estimated fair value of the entity to its carrying value, including goodwill. Estimated fair value is determined by adjusting the trading price of the stock for a control premium, if necessary, multiplied by the common shares outstanding. If such calculated estimated fair

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value exceeds the carrying value, no further procedures or analysis is required. However, if the carrying value exceeds the calculated fair value, goodwill is potentially impaired and step two of the analysis would be required. Step two of the test involves calculating the implied fair value of goodwill by deducting the estimated fair value of all tangible and intangible net assets of the entity from the entity's estimated fair value calculated in step one of the test. If the implied value of the goodwill (the remainder left after deducting the estimated fair values of the entity from its calculated overall estimated fair value in step one of the test) is less than the carrying value of goodwill, an impairment loss would be recognized. We are not aware of any events or circumstances that would indicate an impairment of our carrying value of goodwill as of September 30, 2015.

Interest Rate Derivatives

We periodically enter into interest rate derivative agreements to hedge our exposure to changing interest rates on variable rate debt instruments. As required by GAAP, we record all derivatives on the balance sheet at estimated fair value. We reassess the effectiveness of our derivatives designated as cash flow hedges on a regular basis to determine if they continue to be highly effective and also to determine if the forecasted transactions remain highly probable. Currently, we do not use derivatives for trading or speculative purposes.

The changes in estimated fair value of interest rate swap agreements designated as effective cash flow hedges are recorded in other comprehensive income ("OCI"), and subsequently reclassified to earnings when the hedged transactions occur. Changes in the estimated fair values of derivatives designated as cash flow hedges that do not qualify for hedge accounting treatment, if any, would be recorded as gain/(loss) on interest rate swap in the consolidated statements of income. The estimated fair value of the interest rate derivative agreement is recorded as interest rate derivative asset or as interest rate derivative liability in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets. Amounts received or paid under interest rate derivative agreements are recorded as interest expense in the consolidated income statements as incurred. All of our interest rate derivative agreements as of September 30, 2015 are designated as effective cash flow hedges. See Note 5 to our accompanying consolidated financial statements for further detail on our interest rate derivatives.

Investment in Variable Interest Entities

Variable Interest Entities ("VIEs") are defined by GAAP as entities in which equity investors do not have sufficient equity at risk for the entity to finance its activities without additional subordinated financial support from other parties. If an entity is determined to be a VIE, it must be consolidated by the primary beneficiary. The primary beneficiary is the enterprise that has the power to direct the activities of the VIE that most significantly impact the VIE's economic performance, absorbs the majority of the entity's expected losses, or receives a majority of the entity's expected residual returns. Generally, expected losses and expected residual returns are the anticipated negative and positive variability, respectively, in the estimated fair value of the VIE's net assets. When we make an investment, we assess whether the investment represents a variable interest in a VIE and, if so, whether we are the primary beneficiary of the VIE. Incorrect assumptions or assessments may result in an inaccurate determination of the primary beneficiary. The result could be the consolidation of an entity acquired or formed in the future that would otherwise not have been consolidated or the non-consolidation of such an entity that would otherwise have been consolidated.

We evaluate each investment to determine whether it represents variable interests in a VIE. Further, we evaluate the sufficiency of the entities' equity investment at risk to absorb expected losses, and whether as a group, the equity has the characteristics of a controlling financial interest. See Note 6 to our accompanying consolidated financial statements for further detail on our investment in variable interest entities as of September 30, 2015.

Stock-based Compensation

We have issued stock-based compensation in the form of restricted stock to our employees and directors. For employees, such compensation has been issued pursuant to our Long-term Incentive Compensation ("LTIC") program. The LTIC program is comprised of an annual deferred stock grant component and a multi-year performance share component. Awards granted pursuant to the annual deferred stock component are considered equity awards and expensed straight-line over the vesting period, with issuances recorded as a reduction to additional paid in capital. Awards granted pursuant to the performance share component are considered liability awards and are expensed over the service period, with issuances recorded as a reduction to accrued expense. The compensation expense recognized related to both of these award types is recorded as property operating costs for those employees whose job is related to property operation and as general and administrative expense for all other employees and directors in the accompanying consolidated statements of income. See Note 10 to our accompanying consolidated financial statements for further detail on our stock-based compensation.

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Recent Accounting Pronouncements

The Financial Accounting Standards Board has issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606) ("ASU 2014-09"). The amendments in ASU 2014-09 change the criteria for the recognition of revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services using a five-step determination process. Steps 1 through 5 involve (i) identifying contracts with a customer, (ii) identifying the performance obligations in the contract, (iii) determining the transaction price, (iv) allocating the transaction price to the performance obligations, and (v) recognizing revenue as an entity satisfies a performance obligation. Additionally, lease contracts are specifically excluded from ASU 2014-09. The amendments in ASU 2014-09 are effective in the first quarter of 2018 for us. We are currently evaluating the potential impact, if any, of adoption.

The FASB has issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-02, Consolidation (Topic 810), Amendments to the Consolidation Analysis ("ASU 2015-02"). The amendments in ASU 2015-02 modifies the consolidation analysis of certain types of entities. Specifically, ASU 2015-02 changes the assessment criteria of whether limited partnerships are VIEs, eliminates the presumption that general partners should consolidate a limited partner, eliminates certain conditions from the evaluation of whether a fee paid to a decision maker constitutes a VIE, and changes the evaluation regarding the impact of related parties in the primary beneficiary determination of a VIE. The amendments in ASU 2015-02 are effective in the first quarter of 2016 for us, and we do not anticipate any material impact to our consolidated financial statements as a result of adoption.

The FASB has issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2015-03, Interest - Imputation of Interest (Subtopic 835-30), Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs ("ASU 2015-03"). The amendments in ASU 2015-03 require debt issuance costs to be presented in the balance sheet as a reduction to the underlying debt instrument, as opposed to a separate asset. The amendments do not change the method by which such costs are amortized against earnings, nor do they change their classification in the consolidated statements of income, as a component of interest expense. The amendments in ASU 2015-03 are effective in the first quarter of 2016 for us, and we are currently evaluating the potential impact of adoption.

Related-Party Transactions and Agreements

There were no related-party transactions during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015.

Contractual Obligations

Our contractual obligations as of September 30, 2015 were as follows (in thousands):

| Contractual Obligations | Payments Due by Period | | | | |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------|---|
| | Total | Less than 1 year | 1-3 years | 3-5 years | More than 5 years |
| Long-term debt ⁽¹⁾ | \$2,433,247 | \$125,847 | \$354,367 | \$1,015,058 | ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾ ₍₄₎ \$937,975 |
| Operating lease obligations ⁽⁵⁾ | 3,021 | 93 | 186 | 187 | 2,555 |
| Total | \$2,436,268 | \$125,940 | \$354,553 | \$1,015,245 | \$940,530 |

⁽¹⁾ Amounts include principal payments only and balances outstanding as of September 30, 2015, not including unamortized issuance discounts or estimated fair value adjustments. We made interest payments, including payments under our interest rate swaps, of approximately \$58.8 million during the nine months ended

September 30, 2015, and expect to pay interest in future periods on outstanding debt obligations based on the rates and terms disclosed herein and in Note 4 of our accompanying consolidated financial statements.

Includes the balance outstanding as of September 30, 2015 of the \$500 Million 2015 Unsecured Line of Credit.

- (2) However, Piedmont may extend the term for up to one additional year (through two available six month extensions to a final extended maturity date of June 18, 2020) provided Piedmont is not then in default and upon payment of extension fees.

Includes the \$300 Million Unsecured 2013 Term Loan which has a stated variable rate; however, we have entered into interest rate swap agreements which effectively fix, exclusive of changes to our credit rating, the rate on this

- (3) facility to 2.78% through maturity. As such, we estimate incurring, exclusive of changes to our credit rating, approximately \$8.3 million per annum in total interest (comprised of combination of variable contractual rate and settlements under interest rate swap agreements) through maturity in January 2019.

Includes the \$300 Million Unsecured 2011 Term Loan which has a stated variable rate; however, we have entered into interest rate swap agreements which effectively fix, exclusive of changes to our credit rating, the rate on this facility to 2.39% through the original maturity date of November 22, 2016 and 3.35% for the extension period

- (4) (November 22, 2016 to January 15, 2020). As such, we estimate incurring, exclusive of changes to our credit rating, approximately \$7.2 million per annum in total interest (comprised of combination of variable contractual rate and settlements under interest rate swap agreements) through the original maturity of the debt facility in November 2016, and approximately \$10.1 million per annum for the extension period ending in January 2020.

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The 2001 NW 64th Street building in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida is subject to a ground lease with an expiration date in (5) 2048. The aggregate remaining payments required under the terms of these operating leases as of September 30, 2015 are presented above.

Commitments and Contingencies

We are subject to certain commitments and contingencies with regard to certain transactions. Refer to Note 8 of our consolidated financial statements for further explanation. Examples of such commitments and contingencies include:

- Commitments Under Existing Lease Agreements;
- Contingencies Related to Tenant Audits/Disputes; and
- Letters of Credit.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Our future income, cash flows, and estimated fair values of our financial instruments depend in part upon prevailing market interest rates. Market risk is the exposure to loss resulting from changes in interest rates, foreign currency, exchange rates, commodity prices, and equity prices. Our potential for exposure to market risk includes interest rate fluctuations in connection with borrowings under our \$500 Million Unsecured 2015 Line of Credit, our \$300 Million Unsecured 2011 Term Loan, the \$300 Million Unsecured 2013 Term Loan, and the \$170 Million Unsecured 2015 Term Loan. As a result, the primary market risk to which we believe we are exposed is interest rate risk. Many factors, including governmental monetary and tax policies, domestic and international economic and political considerations, and other factors that are beyond our control contribute to interest rate risk. Our interest rate risk management objectives are to limit the impact of interest rate changes on earnings and cash flow primarily through a low-to-moderate level of overall borrowings, as well as managing the variability in rate fluctuations on our outstanding debt. As such, as of the time of this filing, all of our debt other than the \$500 Million Unsecured 2015 Line of Credit and the \$170 Million Unsecured 2015 Term Loan is based on fixed, or effectively-fixed, interest rates to hedge against instability in the credit markets.

We do not enter into derivative or interest rate transactions for speculative purposes, as such all of our debt and derivative instruments were entered into for other than trading purposes. The estimated fair value of our debt was approximately \$2.5 billion and \$2.3 billion as of September 30, 2015 and December 31, 2014, respectively. Our interest rate swap agreements in place at September 30, 2015 carried a notional amount totaling \$1.2 billion with a weighted-average fixed interest rate (not including the corporate credit spread) of 1.81%. Our interest swap agreements in place at December 31, 2014 carried a notional amount totaling \$1.2 billion with a weighted-average fixed interest rate (not including the corporate credit spread) of 1.77%.

Our total outstanding debt subject to fixed, or effectively fixed, interest rates has an average effective interest rate of approximately 3.78% per annum with expirations ranging from 2016 to 2024. A change in the market interest rate impacts the net financial instrument position of our fixed-rate debt portfolio but has no impact on interest incurred or cash flows.

As of September 30, 2015, we had \$413.0 million outstanding on our \$500 Million Unsecured 2015 Line of Credit. Our \$500 Million Unsecured 2015 Line of Credit currently has a stated rate of LIBOR plus 1.00% per annum or the prime rate, at our discretion. Draws outstanding as of September 30, 2015 were subject to a blended rate of 1.21% as of September 30, 2015. The current stated interest rate spread on the \$170 Million Unsecured 2015 Term Loan is LIBOR plus 1.125% (based on our current corporate credit rating). To the extent that we borrow additional funds in the future under the \$500 Million Unsecured 2015 Line of Credit or potential future variable-rate lines of credit, we would have exposure to increases in interest rates, which would potentially increase our cost of debt. Additionally, a 1.0% increase in variable interest rates on our existing outstanding borrowings as of September 30, 2015 would increase interest expense approximately \$5.8 million on a per annum basis.

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ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Management's Conclusions Regarding the Effectiveness of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of management, including the Principal Executive Officer and the Principal Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as defined in Rule 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") as of the end of the quarterly period covered by this report. Based upon that evaluation, the Principal Executive Officer and the Principal Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this quarterly report in providing a reasonable level of assurance that information we are required to disclose in the reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in applicable SEC rules and forms, including providing a reasonable level of assurance that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports we file under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including the Principal Executive Officer and the Principal Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended September 30, 2015 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Piedmont is not subject to any material pending legal proceedings. However, we are subject to routine litigation arising in the ordinary course of owning and operating real estate assets. Our management expects that these ordinary routine legal proceedings will be covered by insurance and does not expect these legal proceedings to have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations, or liquidity. Additionally, management is not aware of any legal proceedings contemplated by governmental authorities.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

There have been no known material changes from the risk factors previously disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

(a) There were no unregistered sales of equity securities during the third quarter 2015.

(b) Not applicable.

During the quarter ended September 30, 2015, we repurchased shares of our common stock in the open market in order to reissue such shares under our dividend reinvestment plan (the "DRP"), as well as repurchasing and retiring shares as part of our stock repurchase plan.

Of the 6,329,429 shares repurchased during the third quarter 2015, 6,200,576 shares (at an average price of \$17.76 per share) related to repurchases of our common stock pursuant to our stock repurchase plan, and 128,853 shares (at an average price of \$17.39 per share) related to shares purchased by our transfer agent on the open market and conveyed to participants in the DRP. The aggregate stock repurchases for the quarter ended September 30, 2015 are as follows:

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased (in 000's) ⁽¹⁾ | Average Price Paid per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plan (in 000's) | Maximum Approximate Dollar Value of Shares Available That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plan (in 000's) |
|---|--|------------------------------|--|--|
| July 1, 2015 to July 31, 2015 | 737 | \$ 18.09 | 737 | \$ 177,437 |
| August 1, 2015 to August 31, 2015 | 3,672 | \$ 17.92 | 3,672 | \$ 111,582 |
| September 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015 | 1,920 | \$ 17.31 | 1,792 | \$ 80,564 |
| Total | 6,329 | \$ 17.76 | 6,201 | |

Under our amended and restated DRP, as set forth in a Current Report on Form 8-K filed February 24, 2011, we have the option to either issue shares that we purchase in the open market or issue shares directly from Piedmont from authorized but unissued shares. Such election will take place at the settlement of each quarterly dividend in which there are participants in our DRP, and may change from quarter to quarter based on our judgment of the best use of proceeds for Piedmont.

Amounts available for purchase relate only to our stock repurchase plan, which was announced on June 24, 2015.

(2) Our board of directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$200 million of additional shares of our common stock pursuant to the stock repurchase plan prior to the second quarter ended June 30, 2017. The share repurchase plan is separate from shares purchased for DRP issuance.

ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

Not applicable.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

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ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

The Exhibits required to be filed with this report are set forth on the Exhibit Index to Third Quarter 2015 Form 10-Q of Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc. attached hereto.

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SIGNATURES

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

PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC.
(Registrant)

Dated: November 9, 2015

By: /s/ Robert E. Bowers
Robert E. Bowers
Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President
(Principal Financial Officer and Duly Authorized
Officer)

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EXHIBIT INDEX
TO
THIRD QUARTER 2015
FORM 10-Q

OF
PIEDMONT OFFICE REALTY TRUST, INC

| Exhibit Number | Description of Document |
|-------------------|--|
| 3.1 | Third Articles of Amendment and Restatement of Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc. (the “Company”) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 filed on March 16, 2010) |
| 3.2 | Articles of Amendment of the Company effective June 30, 2011 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 6, 2011) |
| 3.3 | Articles Supplementary of the Company effective June 30, 2011 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 6, 2011) |
| 3.4 | Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Company’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 22, 2010) |
| 31.1 | Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification, executed by Donald A. Miller, CFA, Principal Executive Officer of the Company |
| 31.2 | Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification, executed by Robert E. Bowers, Principal Financial Officer of the Company |
| 32.1 | Certification required by Rule 13a-14(b)/15d-14(b) and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code, executed by Donald A. Miller, CFA, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Company |
| 32.2 | Certification required by Rule 13a-14(b)/15d-14(b) and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code, executed by Robert E. Bowers, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice-President of the Company |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase |
| 101.PRE | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase |

