RLI CORP
Form 10-Q
July 20, 2018
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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 June 30, 2018

or

Transition Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the transition period from to

Commission File Number: 001-09463

RLI Corp.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	37-0889946 (I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)
9025 North Lindbergh Drive, Peoria, IL (Address of principal executive offices)	61615 (Zip Code)

(309) 692-1000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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, smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer	Accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Smaller reporting company
	Emerging growth company

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

APPLICABLE ONLY TO CORPORATE ISSUERS:

As of July 13, 2018, the number of shares outstanding of the registrant's Common Stock was 44,339,939.

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PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

RLI Corp. and Subsidiaries

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Earnings and Comprehensive Earnings

(Unaudited)

(in thousands, except per share data)	For the Three-Month Periods Ended June 30, 2018	2017	For the Six-Month Periods Ended June 30, 2018	2017
Net premiums earned	$ 196,522	$ 184,331	$ 386,549	$ 367,616
Net investment income	14,577	13,238	28,809	26,243
Net realized gains (losses)	20,849	(1,359)	29,309	1,355
Other-than-temporary impairment (OTTI) losses on investments	-	-	(56)	(2,090)
Net unrealized losses on equity securities	(12,611)	-	(39,383)	-
Consolidated revenue	$ 219,337	$ 196,210	$ 405,228	$ 393,124
Losses and settlement expenses	101,653	90,347	194,074	183,737
Policy acquisition costs	66,325	60,695	133,059	124,198
Insurance operating expenses	14,398	13,546	27,783	26,881
Interest expense on debt	1,858	1,857	3,714	3,713
General corporate expenses	2,641	2,535	4,924	5,860
Total expenses	$ 186,875	$ 168,980	$ 363,554	$ 344,389
Equity in earnings of unconsolidated investees	7,100	6,806	12,266	11,744
Earnings before income taxes	$ 39,562	$ 34,036	$ 53,940	$ 60,479
Income tax expense	6,311	7,828	8,473	14,443
Net earnings	$ 33,251	$ 26,208	$ 45,467	$ 46,036
Other comprehensive earnings (loss), net of tax	(7,675)	10,599	(34,073)	22,368
Comprehensive earnings	$ 25,576	$ 36,807	$ 11,394	$ 68,404
Earnings per share:				
Basic:				
Basic net earnings per share	$ 0.75	$ 0.60	$ 1.03	$ 1.05
Basic comprehensive earnings per share	$ 0.58	$ 0.84	$ 0.26	$ 1.56
Diluted:				
Diluted net earnings per share	$ 0.74	$ 0.59	$ 1.01	$ 1.03
Diluted comprehensive earnings per share	$ 0.57	$ 0.83	$ 0.25	$ 1.54

Weighted average number of common shares outstanding:				
Basic	44,310	44,005	44,266	43,983
Diluted	44,742	44,519	44,853	44,517
Cash dividends paid per common share	$ 0.22	$ 0.21	$ 0.43	$ 0.41

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

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RLI Corp. and Subsidiaries

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

(Unaudited)

(in thousands, except share data)	June 30, 2018	December 31, 2017
ASSETS		
Investments and cash:		
Fixed income:		
Available-for-sale, at fair value (amortized cost - $1,727,075 at 6/30/18 and $1,646,411 at 12/31/17)	$ 1,710,612	$ 1,672,239
Equity securities, at fair value (cost - $207,214 at 6/30/18 and $182,002 at 12/31/17)	386,603	400,492
Short-term investments, at cost which approximates fair value	-	9,980
Other invested assets	36,562	33,808
Cash	34,102	24,271
Total investments and cash	$ 2,167,879	$ 2,140,790
Accrued investment income	14,473	15,166
Premiums and reinsurance balances receivable, net of allowances for uncollectible amounts of $16,933 at 6/30/18 and $16,935 at 12/31/17	143,442	134,351
Ceded unearned premium	65,007	57,928
Reinsurance balances recoverable on unpaid losses and settlement expenses, net of allowances for uncollectible amounts of $10,005 at 6/30/18 and $10,014 at 12/31/17	315,117	301,991
Deferred policy acquisition costs	83,624	77,716
Property and equipment, at cost, net of accumulated depreciation of $51,026 at 6/30/18 and $47,676 at 12/31/17	56,019	55,849
Investment in unconsolidated investees	91,594	90,067
Goodwill and intangibles	54,693	59,302
Other assets	15,957	14,084
TOTAL ASSETS	$ 3,007,805	$ 2,947,244
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Unpaid losses and settlement expenses	$ 1,343,248	$ 1,271,503
Unearned premiums	482,156	451,449
Reinsurance balances payable	18,938	21,624
Funds held	68,795	74,560
Income taxes-deferred	36,432	53,768
Bonds payable, long-term debt	149,022	148,928
Accrued expenses	38,384	52,848
Other liabilities	21,033	18,966
TOTAL LIABILITIES	$ 2,158,008	$ 2,093,646
Shareholders' Equity		

Common stock ($0.01 par value at 6/30/18 and $1.00 par value at 12/31/17)		
(100,000,000 shares authorized at 6/30/18 and 12/31/17)		
(67,270,153 shares issued, 44,339,939 shares outstanding at 6/30/18)		
(67,078,569 shares issued, 44,148,355 shares outstanding at 12/31/17)	$ 673	$ 67,079
Paid-in capital	303,245	233,077
Accumulated other comprehensive earnings	(14,648)	157,919
Retained earnings	953,526	788,522
Deferred compensation	7,936	8,640
Less: Treasury shares at cost		
(22,930,214 shares at 6/30/18 and 12/31/17)	(400,935)	(401,639)
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	$ 849,797	$ 853,598
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	$ 3,007,805	$ 2,947,244

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

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RLI Corp. and Subsidiaries

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(Unaudited)

	For the Six-Month Periods Ended June 30,	
(in thousands)	2018	2017
Net cash provided by operating activities	$ 100,000	$ 74,570
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Investments purchased	$ (431,061)	$ (207,963)
Investments sold	282,276	110,679
Investments called or matured	67,493	56,501
Net change in short-term investments	9,980	(10,995)
Net property and equipment purchased	(3,638)	(5,372)
Other	62	(92)
Net cash used in investing activities	$ (74,888)	$ (57,242)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Cash dividends paid	$ (19,043)	$ (18,036)
Stock plan share issuance	3,762	3,794
Net cash used in financing activities	$ (15,281)	$ (14,242)
Net increase in cash	$ 9,831	$ 3,086
Cash at the beginning of the period	$ 24,271	$ 18,269
Cash at June 30	$ 34,102	$ 21,355

See accompanying notes to the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

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NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS

RLI Corp. (the “Company”) is an insurance holding company that was organized in 1965. On May 4, 2018, RLI Corp. changed its state of incorporation from the State of Illinois to the State of Delaware (the “Reincorporation”). The Reincorporation was effected by merging RLI Corp., an Illinois corporation (“RLI Illinois”) into RLI Corp., a Delaware corporation (“RLI Delaware”). The separate corporate existence of RLI Illinois ceased and RLI Delaware continues in existence as the surviving corporation and possesses all rights, privileges, powers and franchises of RLI Illinois. The Reincorporation did not result in any change in the name, business, management, fiscal year, location of the principal executive offices, assets or liabilities of the Company. Each outstanding share of RLI Illinois common stock, which had a par value of $1.00 per share, was automatically converted into one outstanding share of RLI Delaware common stock, with a par value of $0.01 per share. In order to reflect the new par value of common stock on the balance sheet, a $66.6 million reclassification from common stock to paid-in-capital was made during the second quarter. For more information on the Reincorporation, see RLI Corp.’s Form 8-K filed on May 7, 2018.

B. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP) for interim financial reporting and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the disclosures required by GAAP for complete financial statements. As such, these unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with our 2017 Annual Report on Form 10-K. Management believes that the disclosures are adequate to make the information presented not misleading, and all normal and recurring adjustments necessary to present fairly the financial position at June 30, 2018 and the results of operations of RLI Corp. and subsidiaries for all periods presented have been made. The results of operations for any interim period are not necessarily indicative of the operating results for a full year. Certain reclassifications were made to 2017 to conform to the classifications used in the current year.

The preparation of the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions relating to the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the period. These estimates are inherently subject to change and actual results could differ significantly from these estimates.

C. ADOPTED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

ASU 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)

ASU 2014-09 was issued to clarify and remove inconsistencies within revenue recognition requirements. The core principle of the update is that an entity should recognize 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. To achieve that core principle, the transaction price for a contract is allocated among separately identifiable performance obligations and a portion of the transaction price is recognized as revenue when the associated performance obligation has been completed or transferred to the customer. All contracts and fulfillment activities within the scope of Topic 944, Financial Services – Insurance, investment income, investment related gains and losses and equity in earnings of unconsolidated investees are outside the scope of this ASU.

We adopted ASU 2014-09 on January 1, 2018. However, nearly all (over 99 percent) of our consolidated revenue is scoped out and therefore exempt from the guidance contained within this ASU. For the remaining portion, the revenue recognition policy we utilize aligns with the new guidance and there were no changes to the way we recognize revenue. Although the recognition of earnings from equity method investees is out of scope from the update, the recognition of revenue by our equity method investees would be subject to the new guidance if the revenue streams are within this update's scope. Any impact on revenues would affect the net income of each of the equity method investees, upon which we calculate our portion of earnings to recognize. Our equity method investees are private companies and this guidance becomes effective for private companies in periods beginning after December 15, 2018. As a result, their earnings and our portion of those earnings

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are not impacted in 2018. We expect that revenue generated by both of our equity method investees will either be outside the scope of this update or largely unaffected by the changes.

ASU 2016-01, Financial Instruments - Overall (Subtopic 825-10): Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities

This ASU was issued to improve the recognition and measurement of financial instruments. The new guidance makes targeted improvements to GAAP as follows:

a. Requires equity investments (except those accounted for under the equity method of accounting or those that result in consolidation of the investee) to be measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in net earnings;
b. Simplifies the impairment assessment of equity investments without readily determinable fair values by requiring a qualitative assessment to identify impairment;
c. Eliminates the requirement for public business entities to disclose the method(s) and significant assumptions used to estimate the fair value that is required to be disclosed for financial instruments measured at amortized cost on the balance sheet;
d. Requires public business entities to use the exit price notion when measuring the fair value of financial instruments for disclosure purposes;
e. Requires an entity to present separately in other comprehensive earnings the portion of the total change in the fair value of a liability resulting from a change in the instrument-specific credit risk when the entity has elected to measure the liability at fair value in accordance with the fair value option for financial instruments;
f. Requires separate presentation of financial assets and financial liabilities by measurement category and form of financial asset on the balance sheet or the accompanying notes to the financial statements; and
g. Clarifies that an entity should evaluate the need for a valuation allowance on a deferred tax asset related to available-for-sale securities in combination with the entity's other deferred tax assets.

We adopted ASU 2016-01 on January 1, 2018. A cumulative-effect adjustment to the balance sheet was made as of the beginning of the year, which moved $142.2 million of net unrealized gains and losses on equity securities from accumulated other comprehensive earnings to retained earnings. During the first six months of 2018, we recognized $39.4 million of unrealized losses on equity securities within net earnings and $8.3 million of income tax benefit. This compares to $8.5 million of unrealized gains on equity securities, net of tax, that was recognized through other comprehensive earnings for the comparable period in 2017. The future impact to our net earnings will vary depending upon the level of volatility in the performance of the securities held in our equity portfolio and the overall market.

ASU 2016-15, Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230): Classification of Certain Cash Receipts and Cash Payments

ASU 2016-15 was issued to reduce the diversity in practice of how certain cash receipts and payments, for which current guidance is silent, are classified in the statement of cash flows. The update addresses eight specific issues, including contingent consideration payments made after a business combination, distributions received from equity method investees and the classification of cash receipts and payments that have aspects of more than one class of cash flows. We adopted ASU 2016-15 on January 1, 2018. The adoption did not have a material impact on our statement of cash flows.

ASU 2018-02, Income Statement - Reporting Comprehensive Income (Topic 220): Reclassification of Certain Tax Effects from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income

ASU 2018-02 was issued as a result of the enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) on December 22, 2017. Accounting guidance required deferred tax items to be revalued based on the new tax laws (the most significant of which reduced the corporate tax rate to 21 percent from 35 percent) with the change included in income from continuing operations. Since other comprehensive income was not affected by the revaluation of the deferred tax items, the net accumulated other comprehensive income (AOCI) balance was reflective of the historic 35 percent tax rate instead of the newly enacted rate, a difference that is referred to as a stranded tax effect. This ASU allows for the option to reclassify the stranded tax effects resulting from the implementation of the TCJA out of AOCI and into retained earnings. ASU 2018-02 does not replace the guidance requiring changes from the enactment of other tax laws or rates to be included within income from continuing operations and is applicable only to changes from the TCJA.

We adopted ASU 2018-02 during the first quarter of 2018. A current period adjustment was made to the balance sheet, which moved $3.7 million of stranded tax effects on the unrealized balances of our fixed income securities and equity method investees from accumulated other comprehensive earnings to retained earnings. The entire unrealized balance on equity securities was reclassified from AOCI into retained earnings from the adoption of ASU 2016-01 on January 1, 2018 and was

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therefore unaffected by this ASU. As there was no impact to net earnings and the balance sheet effect is limited to a reclassification within the equity section, there was not a material impact on our financial statements.

D. PROSPECTIVE ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

ASU 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842)

ASU 2016-02 was issued to improve the financial reporting of leasing transactions. Under current guidance for lessees, leases are only included on the balance sheet if certain criteria, classifying the agreement as a capital lease, are met. This update will require the recognition of a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability, discounted to the present value, for all leases that extend beyond 12 months. For operating leases, the asset and liability will be expensed over the lease term on a straight-line basis, with all cash flows included in the operating section of the statement of cash flows. For finance leases, interest on the lease liability will be recognized separately from the amortization of the right-of-use asset in the statement of comprehensive income and the repayment of the principal portion of the lease liability will be classified as a financing activity while the interest component will be included in the operating section of the statement of cash flows.

This ASU is effective for annual and interim reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018. Early adoption is permitted. Upon adoption, leases will be recognized and measured at the beginning of the earliest period presented using a modified retrospective approach. We do not have any financing leases. Approximately $31 million of undiscounted future lease liabilities would have to be discounted to present value and added to our balance sheet with a corresponding right-of-use asset if the guidance were applicable on June 30, 2018. We have approximately $7 million of annual operating lease expenses and do not expect that there will be a materially different annual rental expense upon adoption.

ASU 2016-13, Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326)

ASU 2016-13 was issued to provide more decision-useful information about the expected credit losses on financial instruments. Current GAAP delays the recognition of credit losses until it is probable a loss has been incurred. The update will require a financial asset measured at amortized cost, including reinsurance balances recoverable, to be presented at the net amount expected to be collected by means of an allowance for credit losses that runs through net earnings. Credit losses relating to available-for-sale debt securities will also be recorded through an allowance for credit losses. However, the amendments would limit the amount of the allowance to the amount by which fair value is below amortized cost. The measurement of credit losses on available-for-sale securities is similar under current GAAP, but the update requires the use of the allowance account through which amounts can be reversed, rather than through an irreversible write-down.

This ASU is effective for annual and interim reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2019. Early adoption is permitted beginning after December 15, 2018. Upon adoption, the update will be applied using the modified-retrospective approach, by which a cumulative-effect adjustment will be made to retained earnings as of the beginning of the first reporting period presented. We do not have any assets measured at amortized cost that would be impacted by this accounting standards update. Additionally, as our fixed income portfolio is weighted towards higher rated bonds (82.5 percent rated A or better at June 30, 2018) and we purchase reinsurance from financially strong reinsurers, we do not expect that credit loss will be material.

ASU 2018-07, Compensation-Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Improvements to Nonemployee Share-Based Payment Accounting

ASU 2018-07 was issued to simplify the accounting for share-based transactions by expanding the scope of Topic 718 from only being applicable to share-based payments to employees to also include share-based payment transactions for acquiring goods and services from nonemployees. As a result, nonemployee share-based transactions will be measured by estimating the fair value of the equity instruments at the grant date, taking into consideration the probability of satisfying performance conditions. This ASU is effective for annual and interim reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018. Early adoption is permitted. Our long term incentive plan limits the awards of share-based payments to employees and directors of the Company or any affiliate. The share-based compensation expense to nonemployee directors was less than $0.1 million in the first six months of 2018. Costs associated with such payments are not expected to materially increase and we do not expect this update to have a material impact on our financial statements.

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E. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Goodwill and intangible assets totaled $54.7 million and $59.3 million at June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively, as detailed in the following table.

Goodwill and Intangible Assets (in thousands)	June 30, 2018	December 31, 2017
Goodwill		
Energy surety	$ 25,706	$ 25,706
Miscellaneous and contract surety	15,110	15,110
Small commercial	5,246	5,246
Medical professional liability *	-	3,595
Total goodwill	$ 46,062	$ 49,657
Intangibles		
State insurance licenses	$ 7,500	$ 7,500
Definite-lived intangibles, net of accumulated amortization of $2,862 at 6/30/18 and $5,678 at 12/31/17	1,131	2,145
Total intangibles	$ 8,631	$ 9,645
Total goodwill and intangibles	$ 54,693	$ 59,302

* The medical professional liability goodwill balance reflects a cumulative non-cash impairment charge of $12.4 million and $8.8 million as of June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively.

All definite-lived intangible assets are amortized against future operating results based on their estimated useful lives. Amortization of intangible assets was $0.1 million for the second quarter of 2018 and $0.2 million for the six-month period ended June 30, 2018, compared to $0.2 million for the second quarter of 2017 and $0.4 million for the six-month period ended June 30, 2017.

Annual impairment testing was performed on our energy surety goodwill, miscellaneous and contract surety goodwill, small commercial goodwill and state insurance license indefinite-lived intangible asset during the second quarter of 2018. Based upon these reviews, none of the assets were impaired. In addition, as of June 30, 2018, there were no triggering events that would suggest an updated review was necessary on the above mentioned goodwill and intangible assets.

As previously disclosed, adverse loss experience triggered the need to test the medical professional liability reporting unit during the first quarter of 2018 and the second quarter of 2017. The testing resulted in a $4.4 million non-cash impairment charge in 2018 and a $3.4 million non-cash impairment charge in 2017. In each instance, a fair value for the medical professional liability reporting unit's agency relationships, carried as a definite-lived intangible, was determined by using a discounted cash flow valuation. In 2018, the carrying value exceeded the fair value, resulting in a $0.8 million non-cash impairment charge. In 2017, the resulting non-cash impairment charge on definite-lived intangibles was $1.8 million. A fair value for the medical professional liability reporting unit's goodwill was determined by using a weighted average of a market approach and discounted cash flow valuation. The carrying value exceeded the fair value in each year, resulting in a $3.6 million non-cash impairment charge in the first quarter of 2018 and a $1.6 million non-cash impairment charge during the second quarter of 2017. Subsequent to the first quarter 2018 impairment, the medical professional liability reporting unit had no remaining goodwill or intangible assets. All impairment charges were recorded as net realized losses in the respective period's consolidated statement of earnings.

F. EARNINGS PER SHARE

Basic earnings per share (EPS) excludes dilution and is computed by dividing income available to common shareholders by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted EPS reflects the dilution that could occur if securities or other contracts to issue common stock or common stock equivalents were exercised or converted into common stock. When inclusion of common stock equivalents increases the earnings per share or reduces the loss per share, the effect on earnings is anti-dilutive. Under these circumstances, the diluted net earnings or net loss per share is computed

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excluding the common stock equivalents. The following represents a reconciliation of the numerator and denominator of the basic and diluted EPS computations contained in the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

	For the Three-Month Period Ended June 30, 2018			For the Three-Month Period Ended June 30, 2017		
(in thousands, except per share data)	Income (Numerator)	Shares (Denominator)	Per Share Amount	Income (Numerator)	Shares (Denominator)	Per Share Amount
Basic EPS						
Income available to common shareholders	$ 33,251	44,310	$ 0.75	$ 26,208	44,005	$ 0.60
Effect of Dilutive Securities						
Stock options	-	432		-	514	
Diluted EPS						
Income available to common shareholders	$ 33,251	44,742	$ 0.74	$ 26,208	44,519	$ 0.59

	For the Six-Month Period Ended June 30, 2018			For the Six-Month Period Ended June 30, 2017		
(in thousands, except per share data)	Income (Numerator)	Shares (Denominator)	Per Share Amount	Income (Numerator)	Shares (Denominator)	Per Share Amount
Basic EPS						
Income available to common shareholders	$ 45,467	44,266	$ 1.03	$ 46,036	43,983	$ 1.05
Effect of Dilutive Securities						
Stock options	-	587		-	534	
Diluted EPS						
Income available to common shareholders	$ 45,467	44,853	$ 1.01	$ 46,036	44,517	$ 1.03

G. COMPREHENSIVE EARNINGS

Our comprehensive earnings include net earnings plus after-tax unrealized gains and losses on our fixed income portfolio in 2018. In 2017, after-tax unrealized gains and losses on our equity portfolio were also included. With the adoption of ASU 2016-01 on January 1, 2018, we began recognizing unrealized gains and losses on the equity portfolio through net income. See note 1.C to the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements for more information. In reporting comprehensive earnings on a net basis in the statement of earnings, we used the federal statutory tax rate of 21 percent in 2018 and 35 percent in 2017.

Unrealized losses, net of tax, on the fixed income portfolio for the first six months of 2018 were $34.1 million, compared to $22.4 million of unrealized gains, net of tax, on the fixed income and equity portfolios during the same period last year. Unrealized losses in the first half of 2018 were attributable to rising interest rates, which decreased the fair value of securities held in the fixed income portfolio. In 2017, unrealized gains were primarily the result of increases in the fixed income portfolio due to slight declines in interest rates, though positive pricing movements in equity securities also contributed.

The following table illustrates the changes in the balance of each component of accumulated other comprehensive earnings for each period presented in the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements. The 2017 activity and balances include the net unrealized gain and loss activity on both fixed income and equity securities, while the 2018 activity and ending balance reflect only the net unrealized gain and loss activity on fixed income securities due to the aforementioned adoption of ASU 2016-01.

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(in thousands)	For the Three-Month Periods Ended June 30,		For the Six-Month Periods Ended June 30,	
Unrealized Gains/Losses on Available-for-Sale Securities	2018	2017	2018	2017
Beginning balance	$ (6,973)	$ 134,379	$ 157,919	$ 122,610
Cumulative effect adjustment of ASU 2016-01	-	-	(142,219)	-
Adjusted beginning balance	$ (6,973)	$ 134,379	$ 15,700	$ 122,610
Other comprehensive earnings before reclassifications	(8,385)	11,753	(34,795)	23,925
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive earnings	710	(1,154)	722	(1,557)
Net current-period other comprehensive earnings (loss)	$ (7,675)	$ 10,599	$ (34,073)	$ 22,368
Reclassification of stranded tax effect per ASU 2018-02	-	-	3,725	-
Ending balance	$ (14,648)	$ 144,978	$ (14,648)	$ 144,978

The sale or other-than-temporary impairment of an available-for-sale security results in amounts being reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive earnings to current period net earnings. The effects of reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive earnings by the respective line items of net earnings are presented in the following table. As previously mentioned, 2018 activity is reflective of activity on fixed income securities classified as available-for-sale, while 2017 also includes activity from the equity portfolio.

(in thousands)	Amount Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Earnings				
Component of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Earnings	For the Three-Month Periods Ended June 30, 2018	2017	For the Six-Month Periods Ended June 30, 2018	2017	Affected line item in the Statement of Earnings
Unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale securities	$ (899)	$ 1,775	$ (858)	$ 4,485	Net realized gains (losses)
	-	-	(56)	(2,090)	Other-than-temporary impairment (OTTI) losses on investments
	$ (899)	$ 1,775	$ (914)	$ 2,395	Earnings before income taxes
	189	(621)	192	(838)	Income tax expense
	$ (710)	$ 1,154	$ (722)	$ 1,557	Net earnings

2. INVESTMENTS

Our investments are primarily composed of fixed income debt securities and common stock equity securities. We carry our equity securities at fair value and categorize all of our debt securities as available-for-sale, which are carried at fair value. When available, we obtain quoted market prices to determine fair value for our investments. If a quoted market price is not available, fair value is estimated using a secondary pricing source or using quoted market prices of similar securities. We have no investment securities for which fair value is determined using Level 3 inputs as defined in note 3 to the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements, “Fair Value Measurements.”

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Fixed Income Securities - Available-for-Sale

The amortized cost and fair value of available-for-sale securities at June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017 were as follows:

Available-for-sale
(in thousands)

	June 30, 2018			
Asset Class	Cost or Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
U.S. government	$ 151,446	$ 96	$ (2,377)	$ 149,165
U.S. agency	30,650	213	(607)	30,256
Non-U.S. govt. & agency	8,186	-	(291)	7,895
Agency MBS	364,298	1,685	(11,638)	354,345
ABS/CMBS*	101,075	152	(1,033)	100,194
Corporate	633,159	3,061	(11,534)	624,686
Municipal	438,261	8,198	(2,388)	444,071
Total Fixed Income	$ 1,727,075	$ 13,405	$ (29,868)	$ 1,710,612

Available-for-sale
(in thousands)

	December 31, 2017			
Asset Class	Cost or Amortized Cost	Gross Unrealized Gains	Gross Unrealized Losses	Fair Value
U.S. government	$ 92,561	$ 23	$ (895)	$ 91,689
U.S. agency	18,541	347	(110)	18,778
Non-U.S. govt. & agency	7,501	143	(56)	7,588
Agency MBS	329,129	3,420	(4,078)	328,471
ABS/CMBS*	70,405	436	(315)	70,526
Corporate	508,128	12,575	(1,681)	519,022
Municipal	620,146	17,272	(1,253)	636,165
Total Fixed Income	$ 1,646,411	$ 34,216	$ (8,388)	$ 1,672,239

*Non-agency asset-backed and commercial mortgage-backed

The following table presents the amortized cost and fair value of available-for-sale debt securities by contractual maturity dates as of June 30, 2018:

	June 30, 2018	
Available-for-sale	Amortized	Fair
(in thousands)	Cost	Value
Due in one year or less	$ 37,920	$ 37,787
Due after one year through five years	349,532	349,582
Due after five years through 10 years	653,536	648,164
Due after 10 years	220,714	220,540
Mtge/ABS/CMBS*	465,373	454,539
Total available-for-sale	$ 1,727,075	$ 1,710,612

*Mortgage-backed, asset-backed and commercial mortgage-backed

Unrealized Losses on Fixed Income Securities

We conduct and document periodic reviews of all fixed income securities with unrealized losses to evaluate whether the impairment is other-than-temporary. The following tables are used as part of our impairment analysis and illustrate the total value of fixed income securities that were in an unrealized loss position as of June 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017. The tables segregate the securities based on type, noting the fair value, cost (or amortized cost) and unrealized loss on each category of investment as well as

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in total. The tables further classify the securities based on the length of time they have been in an unrealized loss position. As of June 30, 2018 unrealized losses on fixed income securities, as shown in the following tables, were 1.4 percent of total invested assets. Unrealized losses increased through the first half of 2018, as interest rates increased from the end of 2017, which decreased the fair value of securities held in the fixed income portfolio.

	June 30, 2018			December 31, 2017		
(in thousands)	< 12 Mos.	12 Mos. & Greater	Total	< 12 Mos.	12 Mos. & Greater	Total
U.S. Government						
Fair value	$ 104,958	$ 33,589	$ 138,547	$ 58,009	$ 30,888	$ 88,897
Cost or amortized cost	106,718	34,206	140,924	58,443	31,349	89,792
Unrealized Loss	$ (1,760)	$ (617)	$ (2,377)	$ (434)	$ (461)	$ (895)
U.S. Agency						
Fair value	$ 15,422	$ —	$ 15,422	$ 10,917	$ —	$ 10,917
Cost or amortized cost	16,029	—	16,029	11,027	—	11,027
Unrealized Loss	$ (607)	$ —	$ (607)	$ (110)	$ —	$ (110)
Non-U.S. government						
Fair value	$ 6,208	$ 1,687	$ 7,895	$ —	$ 1,840	$ 1,840
Cost or amortized cost	6,289	1,897	8,186	—	1,896	1,896
Unrealized Loss	$ (81)	$ (210)	$ (291)	$ —	$ (56)	$ (56)
Agency MBS						
Fair value	$ 199,344	$ 106,745	$ 306,089	$ 122,130	$ 111,306	$ 233,436
Cost or amortized cost	205,847	111,880	317,727	123,559	113,955	237,514
Unrealized Loss	$ (6,503)	$ (5,135)	$ (11,638)	$ (1,429)	$ (2,649)	$ (4,078)
ABS/CMBS*						
Fair value	$ 66,925	$ 18,028	$ 84,953	$ 23,406	$ 21,587	$ 44,993
Cost or amortized cost	67,707	18,279	85,986	23,491	21,817	45,308
Unrealized Loss	$ (782)	$ (251)	$ (1,033)	$ (85)	$ (230)	$ (315)
Corporate						
Fair value	$ 391,379	$ 34,255	$ 425,634	$ 86,946	$ 28,600	$ 115,546
Cost or amortized cost	400,716	36,452	437,168	87,736	29,491	117,227
Unrealized Loss	$ (9,337)	$ (2,197)	$ (11,534)	$ (790)	$ (891)	$ (1,681)
Municipal						

Fair value	$ 85,824	$ 22,227	$ 108,051	$ 71,059	$ 60,049	$ 131,108
Cost or amortized cost	87,458	22,981	110,439	71,534	60,827	132,361
Unrealized Loss	$ (1,634)	$ (754)	$ (2,388)	$ (475)	$ (778)	$ (1,253)
Total fixed income						
Fair value	$ 870,060	$ 216,531	$ 1,086,591	$ 372,467	$ 254,270	$ 626,737
Cost or amortized cost	890,764	225,695	1,116,459	375,790	259,335	635,125
Unrealized Loss	$ (20,704)	$ (9,164)	$ (29,868)	$ (3,323)	$ (5,065)	$ (8,388)

* Non-agency asset-backed and commercial mortgage-backed

The following table shows the composition of the fixed income securities in unrealized loss positions at June 30, 2018 by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) rating and the generally equivalent Standard & Poor’s (S&P) and Moody’s ratings. The vast majority of the securities are rated by S&P and/or Moody’s.

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NAIC Rating	Equivalent S&P Rating	Equivalent Moody's Rating	(dollars in thousands) Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Unrealized Loss	Percent to Total
1	AAA/AA/A	Aaa/Aa/A	$ 932,315	$ 908,318	$ (23,997)	80.3 %
2	BBB	Baa	124,031	119,785	(4,246)	14.2 %
3	BB	Ba	36,317	35,400	(917)	3.1 %
4	B	B	21,826	21,267	(559)	1.9 %
5	CCC	Caa	1,354	1,243	(111)	0.4 %
6	CC or lower	Ca or lower	616	578	(38)	0.1 %
		Total	$ 1,116,459	$ 1,086,591	$ (29,868)	100.0 %

Evaluating Fixed Income Securities for OTTI

The fixed income portfolio contained 706 securities in an unrealized loss position as of June 30, 2018. The $29.9 million in associated unrealized losses for these 706 securities represents 1.7 percent of the fixed income portfolio's cost basis. Of these 706 securities, 121 have been in an unrealized loss position for 12 consecutive months or longer. All fixed income securities in the investment portfolio continue to pay the expected coupon payments under the contractual terms of the securities. Any credit-related impairment related to fixed income securities we do not plan to sell and for which we are not more likely than not to be required to sell is recognized in net earnings, with the non-credit related impairment recognized in comprehensive earnings. Based on our analysis, our fixed income portfolio is of high credit quality and we believe we will recover the amortized cost basis of our fixed income securities. We continually monitor the credit quality of our fixed income investments to assess if it is probable that we will receive our contractual or estimated cash flows in the form of principal and interest. In the first six months of 2018, we recognized $0.1 million in other-than-temporary impairment (OTTI) charges in earnings on one fixed income security that we no longer had the intent to hold. Comparatively, we recognized $2.1 million in OTTI losses in earnings on two fixed income securities that we no longer had the intent to hold in same period in 2017. There were no OTTI losses recognized in other comprehensive earnings on the fixed income portfolio for the periods presented.

Unrealized Gains and Losses on Equity Securities

During the second quarter of 2018, net unrealized losses on equity securities included an unrealized gain of $9.1 million on securities held as of June 30, 2018. Net unrealized losses on equity securities for the first half of 2018 included an unrealized loss of $4.8 million on securities held as of June 30, 2018.

Other Invested Assets

We had $36.6 million of other invested assets at June 30, 2018, compared to $33.8 million at the end of 2017. Other invested assets include investments in low income housing tax credit partnerships (LIHTC), membership in the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLBC) and investments in private funds. Our LIHTC investments are carried at amortized cost and our investment in FHLBC stock is carried at cost. Due to the nature of the LIHTC and our membership in the FHLBC, their carrying amounts approximate fair value. The private funds are carried at fair value, using each investment's net asset value.

Our LIHTC interests had a balance of $14.5 million at June 30, 2018, compared to $15.5 million at December 31, 2017 and recognized a total tax benefit of $0.6 million during the second quarter of 2018, the same as the prior year. For the six-month periods ended June 30, 2018 and 2017, our LIHTC interests recognized a total benefit of $1.1 million and $1.3 million, respectively. Our unfunded commitment for our LIHTC investments totaled $2.0 million at June 30, 2018 and will be paid out in installments through 2025.

As of June 30, 2018, $16.8 million of investments were pledged as collateral with the FHLBC to ensure timely access to the secured lending facility that ownership of FHLBC stock provides. As of and during the six month period ending June 30, 2018, there were no outstanding borrowings with the FHLBC.

We had $28.2 million of unfunded commitments related to our investments in private funds at June 30, 2018. Additionally, our interest in these investments is generally restricted from being transferred or otherwise redeemed without prior consent by the respective entities. An IPO would allow for the transfer of interest in some situations, while the timed dissolution of the partnership would trigger redemption in others.

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Cash and Short-term Investments

Cash consists of uninvested balances in bank accounts. We had a cash balance of $34.1 million at June 30, 2018, compared to $24.3 million at the end of 2017. We did not have any short-term investments at June 30, 2018, but had $10.0 million of short-term investments that were carried at cost and approximated fair value at December 31, 2017.

3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Assets and Liabilities Recorded at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

Fair value is defined as the price in the principal market that would be received for an asset to facilitate an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date.

We determined the fair value of certain financial instruments based on their underlying characteristics and relevant transactions in the marketplace. We maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value.

Financial assets are classified based upon the lowest level of significant input that is used to determine fair value. The following are the levels of the fair value hierarchy and a brief description of the type of valuation inputs that are used to establish each level:

Pricing Level 1 is applied to valuations based on readily available, unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets.

Pricing Level 2 is applied to valuations based upon quoted prices for similar assets in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets in inactive markets; or valuations based on models where the significant inputs are observable (e.g. interest rates, yield curves, prepayment speeds, default rates, loss severities) or can be corroborated by observable market data.

Pricing Level 3 is applied to valuations that are derived from techniques in which one or more of the significant inputs are unobservable.

As a part of management’s process to determine fair value, we utilize widely recognized, third-party pricing sources to determine our fair values. We have obtained an understanding of the third-party pricing sources’ valuation methodologies and inputs. The following is a description of the valuation techniques used for financial assets that are measured at fair value, including the general classification of such assets pursuant to the fair value hierarchy.

Corporate, Agencies, Government and Municipal Bonds: The pricing vendor employs a multi-dimensional model which uses standard inputs including (listed in approximate order of priority for use) benchmark yields, reported trades, broker/dealer quotes, issuer spreads, two-sided markets, benchmark securities, market bids/offers and other reference data. The pricing vendor also monitors market indicators, as well as industry and economic events. All bonds valued using these techniques are classified as Level 2. All corporate, agency, government and municipal securities were deemed Level 2.

Mortgage-backed Securities (MBS)/Commercial Mortgage-backed Securities (CMBS) and Asset-backed Securities (ABS): The pricing vendor evaluation methodology includes principally interest rate movements and new issue data. Evaluation of the tranches (non-volatile, volatile or credit sensitivity) is based on the pricing vendors’ interpretation of accepted modeling and pricing conventions. This information is then used to determine the cash flows for each tranche, benchmark yields, prepayment assumptions and to incorporate collateral performance. To evaluate MBS and CMBS volatility, an option adjusted spread model is used in combination with models that simulate interest rate paths to determine market price information. This process allows the pricing vendor to obtain evaluations of a broad universe of securities in a way that reflects changes in yield curve, index rates, implied volatility, mortgage rates and recent trade activity. MBS/CMBS and ABS with corroborated, observable inputs are classified as Level 2. All of our MBS/CMBS and ABS are deemed Level 2.

Common Stock: Exchange traded equities have readily observable price levels and are classified as Level 1 (fair value based on quoted market prices). All of our common stock holdings are deemed Level 1.

For the Level 2 securities, as described above, we periodically conduct a review to assess the reasonableness of the fair values provided by our pricing services. Our review consists of a two pronged approach. First, we compare prices provided by

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our pricing services to those provided by an additional source. Second, we obtain prices from securities brokers and compare them to the prices provided by our pricing services. In both comparisons, when discrepancies are found, we compare our prices to actual reported trade data for like securities. Based on this assessment, we determined that the fair values of our Level 2 securities provided by our pricing services are reasonable.

For common stock, we receive prices from a nationally recognized pricing service. Prices are based on observable inputs in an active market and are therefore disclosed as Level 1. Based on this assessment, we determined that the fair values of our Level 1 securities provided by our pricing service are reasonable.

Our investments in private funds, classified as other invested assets, are carried at fair value and are measured using each investment's net asset value, but are not categorized within the fair value hierarchy.

Due to the relatively short-term nature of cash, short-term investments, accounts receivable and accounts payable, their carrying amounts are reasonable estimates of fair value.

Assets measured at fair value in the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements on a recurring basis are summarized below:

	As of June 30, 2018 Fair Value Measurements Using			
(in thousands)	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total
Fixed income securities - available-for-sale				
U.S. government	$ —	$ 149,165	$ —	$ 149,165
U.S. agency	—	30,256	—	30,256
Non-U.S. govt. & agency	—	7,895	—	7,895
Agency MBS	—	354,345	—	354,345
ABS/CMBS*	—	100,194	—	100,194
Corporate	—	624,686	—	624,686
Municipal	—	444,071	—	444,071
Total fixed income securities - available-for-sale	$ —	$ 1,710,612	$ —	$ 1,710,612
Equity securities	386,603	—	—	386,603
Total	$ 386,603	$ 1,710,612	$ —	$ 2,097,215

	As of December 31, 2017			
	Fair Value Measurements Using			
(in thousands)	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	Total
Fixed income securities - available-for-sale				
U.S. government	$ —	$ 91,689	$ —	$ 91,689
U.S. agency	—	18,778	—	18,778
Non-U.S. govt. & agency	—	7,588	—	7,588
Agency MBS	—	328,471	—	328,471
ABS/CMBS*	—	70,526	—	70,526
Corporate	—	519,022	—	519,022
Municipal	—	636,165	—	636,165
Total fixed income securities - available-for-sale	$ —	$ 1,672,239	$ —	$ 1,672,239
Equity securities	400,492	—	—	400,492
Total	$ 400,492	$ 1,672,239	$ —	$ 2,072,731

* Non-agency asset-backed and commercial mortgage-backed

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As noted in the above table, we did not have any assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) during the period. Additionally, there were no securities transferred in or out of levels 1 or 2 during the six-month period ended June 30, 2018.

4. HISTORICAL LOSS AND LAE DEVELOPMENT

The following table is a reconciliation of our unpaid losses and settlement expenses (LAE) for the first six months of 2018 and 2017.

(in thousands)	For the Six-Month Periods Ended June 30, 2018	2017
Unpaid losses and LAE at beginning of year		
Gross	$ 1,271,503	$ 1,139,337
Ceded	(301,991)	(288,224)
Net	$ 969,512	$ 851,113
Increase (decrease) in incurred losses and LAE		
Current accident year	$ 222,121	$ 203,371
Prior accident years	(28,047)	(19,634)
Total incurred	$ 194,074	$ 183,737
Loss and LAE payments for claims incurred		
Current accident year	$ (16,805)	$ (18,732)
Prior accident year	(118,650)	(113,501)
Total paid	$ (135,455)	$ (132,233)
Net unpaid losses and LAE at June 30,	$ 1,028,131	$ 902,617
Unpaid losses and LAE at June 30,		
Gross	$ 1,343,248	$ 1,183,185
Ceded	(315,117)	(280,568)
Net	$ 1,028,131	$ 902,617

For the first six months of 2018, incurred losses and LAE included $28.0 million of favorable development on prior years' loss reserves. The majority of products experienced modest amounts of favorable development on prior accident years, with notable contributions from commercial and personal umbrella, general liability, marine and surety. Executive products, transportation and medical professional liability were exceptions, experiencing adverse development.

For the first six months of 2017, incurred losses and LAE included $19.6 million of favorable development on prior years' loss reserves. Commercial umbrella, general liability, executive products, surety and marine were drivers of the favorable development, while adverse experience in transportation and medical professional liability partially offset the result.

5. INCOME TAXES

Our effective tax rate for the three and six-month periods ended June 30, 2018 was 16.0 percent and 15.7 percent, respectively, compared to 23.0 percent and 23.9 percent, respectively, for the same periods in 2017. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) lowered the federal corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent effective January 1, 2018, which accounts for the majority of the decrease in effective tax rate for each period over the prior year. Effective rates are also dependent upon components of pretax earnings and the related tax effects. Tax favored investment activity was lower in 2018, which resulted in a lower spread between the corporate rate and effective rate when compared to 2017. There have been no changes to the provisional amounts that we recorded in the fourth quarter of 2017 associated with the TCJA as no new information has been made available by the Internal Revenue Service.

Income tax expense attributable to income from operations for the three and six-month periods ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 differed from the amounts computed by applying the U.S. federal tax rate of 21 percent and 35 percent, respectively, to

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pretax income by the items detailed in the below table. In interim periods, income taxes are adjusted to reflect the effective tax rate we anticipate for the year, with adjustments flowing through the other items line.

	For the Three-Month Periods Ended June 30,				For the Six-Month Periods Ended June 30,			
	2018		2017		2018		2017	
(in thousands)	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%
Provision for income taxes at the statutory rate of 21% in 2018 and 35% in 2017	$ 8,308	21.0 %	$ 11,912	35.0 %	$ 11,327	21.0 %	$ 21,168	35.0 %
Increase (reduction) in taxes resulting from:								
Excess tax benefit on share-based compensation	(924)	(2.3) %	(2,791)	(8.2) %	(2,067)	(3.9) %	(3,234)	(5.3) %
Tax exempt interest income	(504)	(1.3) %	(1,160)	(3.4) %	(1,085)	(2.0) %	(2,338)	(3.9) %
Dividends received deduction	(169)	(0.4) %	(405)	(1.2) %	(366)	(0.7) %	(935)	(1.5) %
ESOP dividends paid deduction	(145)	(0.4) %	(251)	(0.7) %	(284)	(0.5) %	(484)	(0.8) %
Other items, net	(255)	(0.6) %	523	1.5 %	948	1.8 %	266	0.4 %
Total tax expense	$ 6,311	16.0 %	$ 7,828	23.0 %	$ 8,473	15.7 %	$ 14,443	23.9 %

6. STOCK BASED COMPENSATION

Our RLI Corp. Omnibus Stock Plan (omnibus plan) was in place from 2005 to 2010. The omnibus plan provided for equity-based compensation, including stock options, up to a maximum of 3,000,000 shares of common stock (subject to adjustment for changes in our capitalization and other events). Between 2005 and 2010, we granted 2,458,059 stock options under this plan, including incentive stock options (ISOs), which were adjusted as part of the special dividends paid in 2014 and prior years. The omnibus plan was replaced in 2010.

In 2010, our shareholders approved the RLI Corp. Long-Term Incentive Plan (2010 LTIP), which provides for equity-based compensation and replaced the omnibus plan. In conjunction with the adoption of the 2010 LTIP, effective May 6, 2010, options were no longer granted under the omnibus plan. The 2010 LTIP provided for equity-based compensation, including stock options, up to a maximum of 4,000,000 shares of common stock (subject to adjustment for changes in our capitalization and other events). Between 2010 and 2015, we granted 2,878,000 stock options under the 2010 LTIP. The 2010 LTIP was replaced in 2015.

In 2015, our shareholders approved the 2015 RLI Corp. Long-Term Incentive Plan (2015 LTIP), which provides for equity-based compensation and replaced the 2010 LTIP. In conjunction with the adoption of the 2015 LTIP, effective May 7, 2015, options were no longer granted under the 2010 LTIP. Awards under the 2015 LTIP may be in the form of restricted stock, restricted stock units, stock options (non-qualified only), stock appreciation rights, performance units as well as other stock-based awards. Eligibility under the 2015 LTIP is limited to employees and directors of the company or any affiliate. The granting of awards under the 2015 LTIP is solely at the discretion of the board of directors. The maximum number of shares of common stock available for distribution under the 2015 LTIP is 4,000,000 shares (subject to adjustment for changes in our capitalization and other events). Since 2015, we have granted 1,837,828 awards under the 2015 LTIP, including 389,253 thus far in 2018.

Stock Options

Under the 2015 LTIP, as under the 2010 LTIP and omnibus plan, we grant stock options for shares with an exercise price equal to the fair market value of the shares at the date of grant (subject to adjustments for changes in our capitalization, special dividends and other events as set forth in such plans). Options generally vest and become exercisable ratably over a five-year period and expire eight years after grant.

For most participants, the requisite service period and vesting period will be the same. For participants who are retirement eligible, defined by the plan as those individuals whose age and years of service equals 75, the requisite service period is deemed to be met and options are immediately expensed on the date of grant. For participants who will become retirement eligible during the vesting period, the requisite service period over which expense is recognized is the period between the grant date and the attainment of retirement eligibility. Shares issued upon option exercise are newly issued shares.

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The following tables summarize option activity for the periods ended June 30, 2018 and 2017:

	Number of Options Outstanding	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (in 000's)
Outstanding options at January 1, 2018	2,257,015	$ 46.80		
Options granted	367,500	$ 63.27		
Options exercised	(337,000)	$ 31.60		$ 11,151
Options canceled/forfeited	(5,200)	$ 62.04		
Outstanding options at June 30, 2018	2,282,315	$ 51.66	5.34	$ 33,224
Exercisable options at June 30, 2018	996,265	$ 44.04	3.89	$ 22,089

	Number of Options Outstanding	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Life	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (in 000's)
Outstanding options at January 1, 2017	2,207,110	$ 40.90		
Options granted	407,875	$ 56.88		
Options exercised	(134,090)	$ 25.23		$ 4,328
Options canceled/forfeited	(40,600)	$ 48.09		
Outstanding options at June 30, 2017	2,440,295	$ 44.32	5.03	$ 29,968
Exercisable options at June 30, 2017	1,162,455	$ 35.77	3.47	$ 22,859

The majority of our stock options are granted annually at our regular board meeting in May. In addition, options are approved at the May meeting for quarterly grants to certain retirement eligible employees. Since stock option grants to retirement eligible employees are fully expensed when issued, the approach allows for a more even expense distribution throughout the year.

Thus far in 2018, 367,500 stock options were granted with a weighted average exercise price of $63.27 and a weighted average fair value of $10.20. We recognized $1.3 million of expense in the second quarter of 2018 and $2.3 million in the first six months of 2018 related to options vesting. Since options granted under our 2010 LTIP and 2015 LTIP are non-qualified, we recorded a tax benefit of $0.3 million in the second quarter of 2018 and $0.5 million in the first six months of 2018 related to this compensation expense. Total unrecognized compensation expense relating to outstanding and unvested options was $7.0 million, which will be recognized over the remainder of the vesting period. Comparatively, we recognized $1.2 million of expense in the second quarter of 2017 and $2.0 million in the first six months of 2017. We recorded a tax benefit of $0.4 million in the second quarter of 2017 and $0.7 million in the first six months of 2017 related to this compensation expense.

The fair value of options was estimated using a Black-Scholes based option pricing model with the following weighted average grant-date assumptions and weighted average fair values as of June 30:

	2018		2017	
Weighted-average fair value of grants	$ 10.20		$ 7.94	
Risk-free interest rates	2.69	%	1.89	%
Dividend yield	3.15	%	3.60	%
Expected volatility	22.88	%	22.95	%
Expected option life	5.06	years	5.05	years

The risk-free rate was determined based on U.S. treasury yields that most closely approximated the option's expected life. The dividend yield was determined based on the average annualized quarterly dividends paid during the most recent five-year period and incorporated a consideration for special dividends paid in recent history. The expected volatility was calculated based on the median of the rolling volatilities for the expected life of the options. The expected option life was determined based on historical exercise behavior and the assumption that all outstanding options will be exercised at the midpoint of the current date and remaining contractual term, adjusted for the demographics of the current year's grant.

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Restricted Stock Units

In addition to stock options, restricted stock units (RSUs) are granted with a value equal to the closing stock price of the Company's stock on the dates the shares are granted. Generally, these units have a three-year cliff vesting. When participants terminate employment with the Company after having met the definition of retirement under the 2015 LTIP, defined as those individuals whose age and years of service equals 75, the RSUs will become fully vested. In addition, the RSUs have dividend participation which accrues and is settled in additional shares with all granted stock units at the end of the three-year period.

As of June 30, 2018, 30,075 RSUs have been granted to employees under the 2015 LTIP, including 14,625 during 2018, and 29,675 remain outstanding. We recognized $0.1 million of expense on these units in the second quarter of 2018 and $0.2 million in the first six months of 2018. Total unrecognized compensation expense relating to outstanding and unvested RSUs was $1.1 million, which will be recognized over the remainder of the vesting period. Comparatively, we recognized $0.2 million related to this compensation expense in the three and six-month period ended June 30, 2017.

In 2018, each outside director received restricted stock units with a fair market value of $50,000 on the date of grant as part of annual director compensation. The units were granted from the 2015 LTIP at the May board meeting and vest one year from the date of grant. In the second quarter of 2018, we granted a total of 7,128 restricted stock units and recognized $0.1 million of compensation expense. Total unrecognized compensation expense relating to outstanding and unvested director RSUs was $0.4 million, which will be recognized over the remainder of the vesting period.

7. OPERATING SEGMENT INFORMATION

Selected information by operating segment is presented in the table below. Additionally, the table reconciles segment totals to total earnings and total revenues.

	For the Three-Month Periods		For the Six-Month Periods	
REVENUES	Ended June 30,		Ended June 30,	
(in thousands)	2018	2017	2018	2017
Casualty	$ 129,613	$ 119,259	$ 255,463	$ 236,243
Property	37,190	34,485	72,372	70,290
Surety	29,719	30,587	58,714	61,083

Net premiums earned	$ 196,522	$ 184,331	$ 386,549	$ 367,616
Net investment income	14,577	13,238	28,809	26,243
Net realized gains (losses)	20,849	(1,359)	29,253	(735)
Net unrealized losses on equity securities	(12,611)	-	(39,383)	-
Total consolidated revenue	$ 219,337	$ 196,210	$ 405,228	$ 393,124

NET EARNINGS				
(in thousands)	2018	2017	2018	2017
Casualty	$ 2,854	$ 8,648	$ 4,415	$ 1,767
Property	3,647	2,863	9,529	11,667
Surety	7,645	8,232	17,689	19,366
Net underwriting income	$ 14,146	$ 19,743	$ 31,633	$ 32,800
Net investment income	14,577	13,238	28,809	26,243
Net realized gains (losses)	20,849	(1,359)	29,253	(735)
Net unrealized losses on equity securities	(12,611)	-	(39,383)	-
General corporate expense and interest on debt	(4,499)	(4,392)	(8,638)	(9,573)
Equity in earnings of unconsolidated investees	7,100	6,806	12,266	11,744
Total earnings before income taxes	$ 39,562	$ 34,036	$ 53,940	$ 60,479
Income tax expense	6,311	7,828	8,473	14,443
Total net earnings	$ 33,251	$ 26,208	$ 45,467	$ 46,036

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The following table further summarizes revenues by major product type within each operating segment:

NET PREMIUMS EARNED (in thousands)	For the Three-Month Periods Ended June 30, 2018	2017	For the Six-Month Periods Ended June 30, 2018	2017
Casualty				
Commercial and personal umbrella	$ 30,649	$ 28,861	$ 60,601	$ 57,438
General liability	23,338	22,851	46,503	44,434
Commercial transportation	20,648	20,395	39,823	41,496
Professional services	19,846	20,016	39,669	39,242
Small commercial	12,901	11,765	25,791	24,052
Executive products	5,144	4,438	10,196	8,850
Medical professional liability	4,362	4,265	8,834	8,556
Other casualty	12,725	6,668	24,046	12,175
Total	$ 129,613	$ 119,259	$ 255,463	$ 236,243
Property				
Commercial property	$ 17,856	$ 15,873	$ 34,807	$ 31,591
Marine	14,941	11,607	28,798	23,893
Specialty personal	4,129	5,508	8,271	11,526
Property reinsurance	14	1,479	26	3,262
Other property	250	18	470	18
Total	$ 37,190	$ 34,485	$ 72,372	$ 70,290
Surety				
Miscellaneous	$ 11,719	$ 11,854	$ 23,361	$ 23,711
Commercial	6,761	6,938	13,474	14,081
Contract	7,012	7,147	13,358	14,231
Energy	4,227	4,648	8,521	9,060
Total	$ 29,719	$ 30,587	$ 58,714	$ 61,083
Grand Total	$ 196,522	$ 184,331	$ 386,549	$ 367,616

8. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Carriage Hill Associates Coverage Dispute

In December 2010, Carriage Hill Associates of Charleston, LLC and certain other plaintiffs (collectively, “Plaintiffs”) filed a complaint in the Court of Common Pleas (the “Court”) for the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Berkeley County, South Carolina against Mt. Hawley Insurance Company (“Mt. Hawley”), a subsidiary of our principal subsidiary, RLI Insurance Company, relating to a coverage dispute. The complaint seeks, among other things, compensatory damages, punitive damages and attorneys’ fees.

On May 25, 2018, the Court issued an Order finding in favor of Plaintiffs (the “Order”). The Court held that Mt. Hawley was responsible for compensatory damages relating to the alleged breach of duty to defend, breach of duty to indemnify and breach of duty of good faith totaling $21.7 million. The Court further held that Plaintiffs are entitled to attorneys’ fees and costs and that punitive damages are appropriate, with a hearing to be conducted at a later date to determine the amount of attorney fees and costs, and punitive damages.

Mt. Hawley continues to vigorously contest all the claims against it in this matter and has filed certain post-trial motions seeking to, among other things, set aside the Order. Management believes Mt. Hawley has numerous meritorious legal and factual defenses that support our conclusion that the ultimate resolution of this matter will not have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, cash flows or financial position. However, litigation is subject to inherent uncertainties, and there exists a reasonable possibility of an unfavorable outcome and such outcome may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, cash flows or financial position in the period in which it occurs. At the present time, due to the substantial uncertainties that exist, management cannot reasonably estimate the loss or range of loss that could potentially be incurred based upon future developments in this matter.

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

"SAFE HARBOR" STATEMENT UNDER THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995: This discussion and analysis may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are not historical facts, and involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expected and projected. Various risk factors that could affect future results are listed in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

OVERVIEW

RLI Corp. (the "Company") is an insurance holding company that was organized in 1965. On May 4, 2018, RLI Corp. changed its state of incorporation from the State of Illinois to the State of Delaware. For more information on the reincorporation, see note 1.A to the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements. We underwrite selected property and casualty insurance through major subsidiaries collectively known as RLI Insurance Group (the Group). We conduct operations principally through three insurance companies. RLI Insurance Company (RLI Ins.), a subsidiary of RLI Corp. and our principal insurance subsidiary, writes multiple lines of insurance on an admitted basis in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. Mt. Hawley Insurance Company (Mt. Hawley), a subsidiary of RLI Ins., writes excess and surplus lines insurance on a non-admitted basis in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company (CBIC), a subsidiary of RLI Ins., writes multiple lines of insurance on an admitted basis in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Each of our insurance companies is domiciled in Illinois.

As a specialty insurance company with a niche focus, we offer insurance coverages in both the specialty admitted and excess and surplus markets. Coverages in the specialty admitted market, such as our energy surety bonds, are for risks that are unique or hard-to-place in the standard market, but must remain with an admitted insurance company for regulatory or marketing reasons. In addition, our coverages in the specialty admitted market may be designed to meet specific insurance needs of targeted insured groups, such as our professional liability and package coverages for design professionals and our stand-alone personal umbrella policy. The specialty admitted market is subject to more state regulation than the excess and surplus market, particularly with regard to rate and form filing requirements, restrictions on the ability to exit lines of business, premium tax payments and membership in various state associations, such as state guaranty funds and assigned risk plans. We also underwrite coverages in the excess and surplus market. The excess and surplus market, unlike the admitted market, is less regulated and more flexible in terms of policy forms and premium rates. This market provides an alternative for customers with risks or loss exposures that generally cannot be written in the standard market. This typically results in coverages that are more restrictive and more expensive than coverages in the admitted market. When we underwrite within the excess and surplus market, we are selective in the lines of business and type of risks we choose to write. Using our non-admitted status in this market allows us to tailor terms and conditions to manage these exposures effectively. Often, the development of these coverages is generated through proposals brought to us by an agent or broker seeking coverage for a specific group of clients or loss exposures. Once a proposal is submitted, our underwriters determine whether it would be a viable product based on our business objectives.

The foundation of our overall business strategy is to underwrite for profit in all market conditions and we have achieved this for 22 consecutive years, averaging an 87.8 combined ratio over that period of time. This drives our ability to provide shareholder returns in three different ways: the underwriting income itself, net investment income from our investment portfolio and long-term appreciation in our equity portfolio. Our investment strategy is based on preservation of capital as the first priority, with a secondary focus on generating total return. The fixed income portfolio consists primarily of highly-rated, diversified, liquid, investment-grade securities. Consistent underwriting income allows a portion of our investment portfolio to be invested in equity securities and other risk asset classes. Our equity portfolio consists of a core stock portfolio weighted toward dividend-paying stocks, as well as exchange traded funds (ETFs). Our minority equity ownership interests in Maui Jim, Inc. (Maui Jim), a manufacturer of high-quality sunglasses, and Prime Holdings Insurance Services, Inc. (Prime), a specialty insurance company, has also enhanced financial results. We have a diversified investment portfolio and closely monitor our investment risks. Despite periodic fluctuations in market value, our equity portfolio is part of a long-term asset allocation strategy and has contributed significantly to our historic growth in book value.

We measure the results of our insurance operations by monitoring certain measures of growth and profitability across three distinct business segments: casualty, property and surety. Growth is measured in terms of gross premiums written and

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profitability is analyzed through combined ratios, which are further subdivided into their respective loss and expense components.

The property and casualty insurance business is cyclical and influenced by many factors, including price competition, economic conditions, natural or man-made disasters (for example, earthquakes, hurricanes and terrorism), interest rates, state regulations, court decisions and changes in the law.

One of the unique and challenging features of the property and casualty insurance business is that coverages must be priced before costs have fully developed, because premiums are charged before claims are incurred. This requires that liabilities be estimated and recorded in recognition of future loss and settlement obligations. Due to the inherent uncertainty in estimating these liabilities, there can be no assurance that actual liabilities will not be more or less than recorded amounts; if actual liabilities differ from recorded amounts, there will be an adverse or favorable effect on net earnings. In evaluating the objective performance measures previously mentioned, it is important to consider the following individual characteristics of each major insurance segment.

The casualty portion of our business consists largely of commercial umbrella, personal umbrella, general liability, transportation and executive products coverages, as well as package business and other specialty coverages, such as professional liability and workers' compensation for office-based professionals. We also offer fidelity and crime coverage for commercial insureds and select financial institutions and medical and healthcare professional liability coverage. The casualty business is subject to the risk of estimating losses and related loss reserves because the ultimate settlement of a casualty claim may take several years to fully develop. The casualty segment is also subject to inflation risk and may be affected by evolving legislation and court decisions that define the extent of coverage and the amount of compensation due for injuries or losses.

Our property segment is comprised primarily of commercial fire, earthquake, difference in conditions and marine coverages. We also offer select personal lines policies, including homeowners' coverages. Our property reinsurance and recreational vehicle products are in runoff after we began curtailing offerings at the end of 2015 and 2016, respectively. Property insurance results are subject to the variability introduced by perils such as earthquakes, fires and hurricanes. Our major catastrophe exposure is to losses caused by earthquakes, primarily on the West Coast. Our second largest catastrophe exposure is to losses caused by wind storms to commercial properties throughout the Gulf and East Coast, as well as to homes we insure in Hawaii. We limit our net aggregate exposure to a catastrophic event by minimizing the total policy limits written in a particular region, purchasing reinsurance and maintaining policy terms and conditions throughout market cycles. We also use computer-assisted modeling techniques to provide estimates that help us carefully manage the concentration of risks exposed to catastrophic events.

The surety segment specializes in writing small to large-sized commercial and contract surety coverages, as well as those for the energy, petrochemical and refining industries. We also offer miscellaneous bonds including license and permit, notary and court bonds. Often, our surety coverages involve a statutory requirement for bonds. While these bonds typically maintain a relatively low loss ratio, losses may fluctuate due to adverse economic conditions affecting the financial viability of our insureds. The contract surety product guarantees the construction work of a commercial contractor for a specific project. Generally, losses occur due to the deterioration of a contractor's financial condition. This line has historically produced marginally higher loss ratios than other surety lines during economic downturns.

The insurance marketplace is intensely competitive across all of our segments. Despite challenges that exist in today's marketplace, we believe that our business model is built to create underwriting income by focusing on sound risk selection and discipline. Our primary focus will continue to be on underwriting profitability, with a secondary focus on premium growth where we believe underwriting profit exists, as opposed to general premium growth or market share measurements.

GAAP, non-GAAP and Performance Measures

Throughout this quarterly report, we include certain non-generally accepted accounting principles ("non-GAAP") financial measures. Management believes that these non-GAAP measures better explain the Company's results of operations and allow for a more complete understanding of the underlying trends in the Company's business. These measures should not be viewed as a substitute for those determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP). In addition, our definitions of these items may not be comparable to the definitions used by other companies.

Following is a list of non-GAAP measures found throughout this report with their definitions, relationships to GAAP measures and explanations of their importance to our operations.

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Underwriting Income

Underwriting income or profit represents one measure of the pretax profitability of our insurance operations and is derived by subtracting losses and settlement expenses, policy acquisition costs and insurance operating expenses from net premiums earned, which are all GAAP financial measures. Each of these captions is presented in the statements of earnings but is not subtotaled. However, this information is available in total and by segment in note 11 to the consolidated financial statements in our 2017 Annual Report on Form 10-K, regarding operating segment information. The nearest comparable GAAP measure is earnings before income taxes which, in addition to underwriting income, includes net investment income, net realized gains or losses, net unrealized gain or losses on equity securities in 2018, general corporate expenses, debt costs and our portion of earnings from unconsolidated investees.

Combined Ratio

The combined ratio, which is derived from components of underwriting income, is a common industry performance measure of profitability for underwriting operations and is calculated in two components. First, the loss ratio is losses and settlement expenses divided by net premiums earned. The second component, the expense ratio, reflects the sum of policy acquisition costs and insurance operating expenses divided by net premiums earned. All items included in these components of the combined ratio are presented in our GAAP consolidated financial statements. The sum of the loss and expense ratios is the combined ratio. The difference between the combined ratio and 100 reflects the per-dollar rate of underwriting income or loss. For example, a combined ratio of 85 implies that for every $100 of premium we earn, we record $15 of underwriting income.

Net Unpaid Loss and Settlement Expenses

Unpaid losses and settlement expenses, as shown in the liabilities section of our balance sheets, represents the total obligations to claimants for both estimates of known claims and estimates for incurred but not reported (IBNR) claims. The related asset item, reinsurance balances recoverable on unpaid losses and settlement expense, is the estimate of known claims and estimates of IBNR that we expect to recover from reinsurers. The net of these two items is generally referred to as net unpaid loss and settlement expenses and is commonly used in our disclosures regarding the process of establishing these various estimated amounts.

Critical Accounting Policies

In preparing the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements, we are required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities as of the date of the condensed consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses for the reporting period. Actual results could differ significantly from those estimates.

The most critical accounting policies involve significant estimates and include those used in determining the liability for unpaid losses and settlement expenses, investment valuation and OTTI, recoverability of reinsurance balances, deferred policy acquisition costs and deferred taxes. For a detailed discussion of each of these policies, refer to our 2017 Annual Report on Form 10-K. There have been no significant changes to any of these policies during the current year.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Six Months Ended June 30, 2018 Compared to Six Months Ended June 30, 2017

Consolidated revenue for the first half of 2018 increased $12.1 million, or 3 percent, from the same period in 2017. Net premiums earned for the Group increased 5 percent, driven by growth from our casualty and property segments, while investment income increased 10 percent due to an increased asset base and rising interest rates. Realized gains during the first half of 2018 were $29.3 million, compared to $0.7 million of realized losses during the same period of 2017. The 2018 gain was comprised of $34.5 million of realized gains on equity securities from rebalancing the portfolio, $0.9 million of realized losses on the fixed income portfolio and a $4.4 million non-cash impairment charge on goodwill and definite-lived intangible assets. This compares to realized gains of $3.9 million on equity securities, $1.5 million of losses on the fixed income portfolio and a $3.4 million non-cash impairment charge on goodwill and definite-lived intangible assets in 2017. These increases were partially offset by the $39.4 million of net unrealized losses on equity securities, which are required to be recognized in earnings for 2018 and forward due to the adoption of ASU 2016-01. Prior to 2018, unrealized gains and losses on equity securities were recognized through other comprehensive earnings.

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	For the Six-Month Periods Ended June 30,	
	2018	2017
Consolidated revenues (in thousands)		
Net premiums earned	$ 386,549	$ 367,616
Net investment income	28,809	26,243
Net realized gains (losses)	29,253	(735)
Net unrealized losses on equity securities	(39,383)	-
Total consolidated revenue	$ 405,228	$ 393,124

Net after-tax earnings for the first half of 2018 totaled $45.5 million, compared to $46.0 million for the same period last year. The reduction in earnings for 2018 was attributable to the $31.1 million of unrealized losses on equity securities, net of tax, recognized in net earnings. In 2017, these amounts were recognized through other comprehensive earnings. The impact of the unrealized losses was partially offset by the $23.1 million of realized gains, net of tax, in 2018. In comparison, 2017 had $0.5 million of realized losses, net of tax. Underwriting results for both periods reflect profitable current accident year results and favorable development from prior years' loss reserves. Favorable development on prior years' loss reserves provided additional pretax earnings of $29.3 million in the first half of 2018 compared to $20.5 million in 2017. The volcanic activity in Hawaii drove an increase in total catastrophe losses for the first half of the year, with $10.0 million of total catastrophe losses in 2018 and $3.0 million in 2017. Bonus and profit sharing-related expenses associated with the net impact of prior years' reserve development and catastrophe losses totaled $2.9 million in 2018, compared to $2.5 million in 2017. These performance-related expenses affected policy acquisition, insurance operating and general corporate expenses. Bonus and profit-sharing amounts earned by executives, managers and associates are predominately influenced by corporate performance including operating earnings, combined ratio and return on capital.

During the first half of 2018, equity in earnings of unconsolidated investees totaled $12.3 million. This amount includes $10.7 million from Maui Jim and $1.5 million from Prime. Comparatively, the first half of 2017 reflected $11.7 million of earnings, including $10.5 million from Maui Jim and $1.2 million from Prime. In addition, net earnings for the six-month period benefited from a lower effective tax rate, 16 percent in 2018 compared to 24 percent in 2017, resulting from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA), which reduced the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent beginning January 1, 2018.

Comprehensive earnings totaled $11.4 million for the first half of 2018, compared to $68.4 million for the first half of 2017. Other comprehensive earnings primarily included after-tax unrealized gains and losses from the fixed income portfolio in 2018 and after-tax unrealized gains and losses from both the fixed income and equity portfolios in 2017. The $34.1 million other comprehensive loss in the first half of 2018 was due to unrealized losses on the fixed income portfolio as interest rates rose during the first six months of the year. This compares to $22.4 million of other comprehensive earnings for the same period in 2017, as equity market returns were strong and interest rates declined slightly.

RLI Insurance Group

Gross premiums written for the Group increased 12 percent to $486.7 million for the first six months of 2018. The majority of our products contributed to growth in the period, with the bulk of the increase driven by products in our casualty and property segments. Net premiums earned increased $18.9 million, or 5 percent, also driven by products in our casualty and property segments.

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(in thousands)	Gross Premiums Written For the Six-Month Periods Ended June 30, 2018	2017	% Change		Net Premiums Earned For the Six-Month Periods Ended June 30, 2018	2017	% Change	
Casualty								
Commercial and personal umbrella	$ 76,527	$ 70,463	8.6	%	$ 60,601	$ 57,438	5.5	%
General liability	49,495	50,942	(2.8)	%	46,503	44,434	4.7	%
Commercial transportation	47,190	38,755	21.8	%	39,823	41,496	(4.0)	%
Professional services	44,511	43,017	3.5	%	39,669	39,242	1.1	%
Small commercial	28,019							