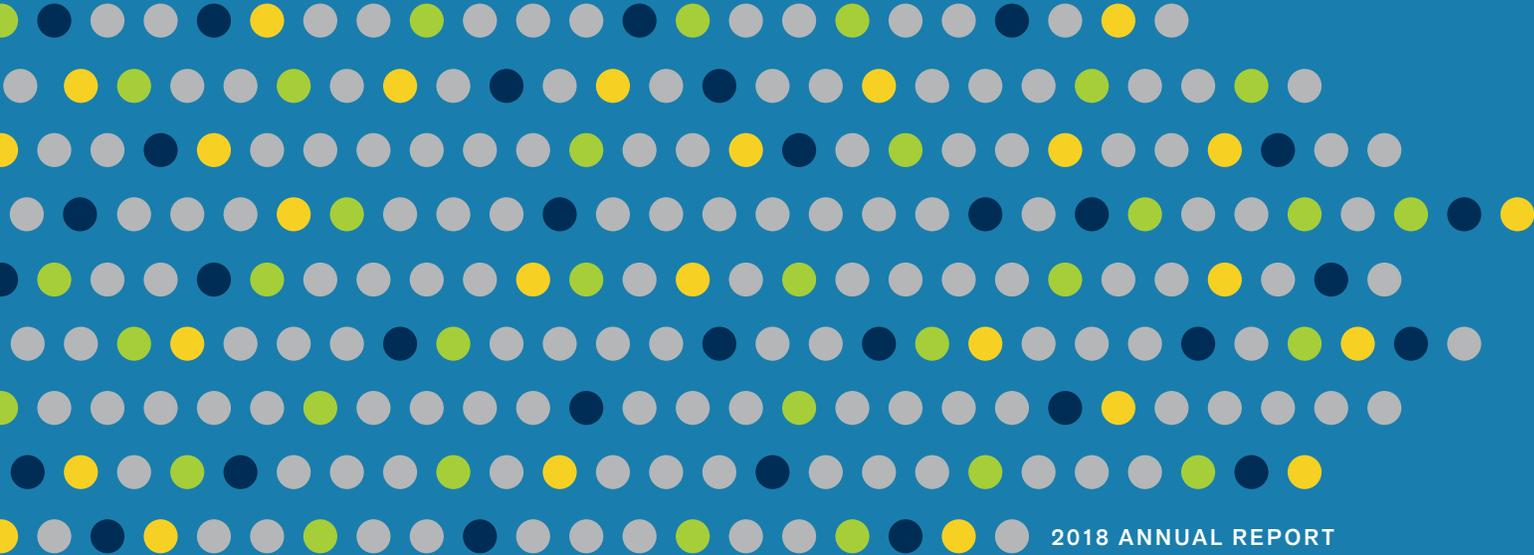


Aligned in Purpose. Accelerating Performance.



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

GRAYBAR ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC.





WE TAKE PRIDE in our achievements of 2018 and look forward to continued success in 2019 as we celebrate our 150th anniversary and 90 years of employee ownership.



SEVEN

CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF RECORD NET SALES

PAGE

3

PAGE

3

22%

SHAREHOLDER RETURN IN 2018

PAGE

8



Website
CONSOLIDATION
AND
Salesforce CRM
IMPLEMENTATION

15%

employer
contribution

TO THE PROFIT SHARING
AND SAVINGS PLAN FOR
ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES

PAGE

3

PAGE
11



Location Expansions
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
TAMPA BRANCH



PAGE
15

WINGS 10th anniversary

\$176,000+

RAISED FOR GRAYBAR
FAMILY FOUNDATION

PAGE
15

GRAYBAR

RECOGNITIONS

- Forbes America's Best Employers
- Fortune World's Most Admired Company
- Top Workplace
- Corporate Governance Award

PAGE
14



ACHIEVING RECORD

NET SALES performance for seven consecutive years reflects our consistent focus on executing our strategic plan and innovating for the future while remaining true to our values and culture.



KATHLEEN M. MAZZARELLA

Chairman, President and CEO

LETTER TO SHAREHOLDERS

I am very pleased to report that Graybar finished 2018 with excellent results. We achieved record net sales for the seventh consecutive year and also set a record for net income.

In 2018, Graybar's net sales totaled \$7.2 billion, an increase of 8.6 percent. The company's net income increased 100.1 percent to a record \$143.3 million. While 2017 tax reform legislation had a positive effect on our business last year, our record results are a testament to the dedication of our employees and their commitment to serving our customers.

Achieving record net sales performance for seven consecutive years reflects our consistent focus on executing our strategic plan and innovating for the future while remaining true to our values and culture. This long-term view of the business allows us to operate the company on a daily basis as we actively pursue new growth opportunities.

Because of our strong performance in 2018, our employee and retiree shareholders earned a 22 percent return on their investment including quarterly cash dividends and a 1 for 10 stock dividend that was announced in December of 2018 and issued in February of 2019.

Over the past three years, our shareholders have earned at least a 20 percent return on their investment, something we are proud of as an employee-owned company. In addition, eligible employees earned a 15 percent employer contribution to the Profit Sharing and Savings Plan (PSSP) based on our 2018 results.

Overall, 2018 was a great year, both in our results and in the progress we made toward our vision of digital transformation. Our company is healthy, and we are successfully positioning Graybar to thrive in a new era of distribution.

Our industry faces constant disruption, and only companies that embrace change and encourage innovative thinking will thrive in the future. At Graybar, we will continue to look forward in all we do, while honoring our achievements of the past. Together, we will write the next chapter of our story and preserve our culture of employee ownership for future generations.

Thanks to our employees and retirees for their ongoing support and commitment to our company. We take pride in our achievements of 2018 and look forward to continued success as we celebrate our 150th anniversary and 90 years of employee ownership in 2019.



KATHLEEN M. MAZZARELLA

Chairman, President and CEO

\$7.2

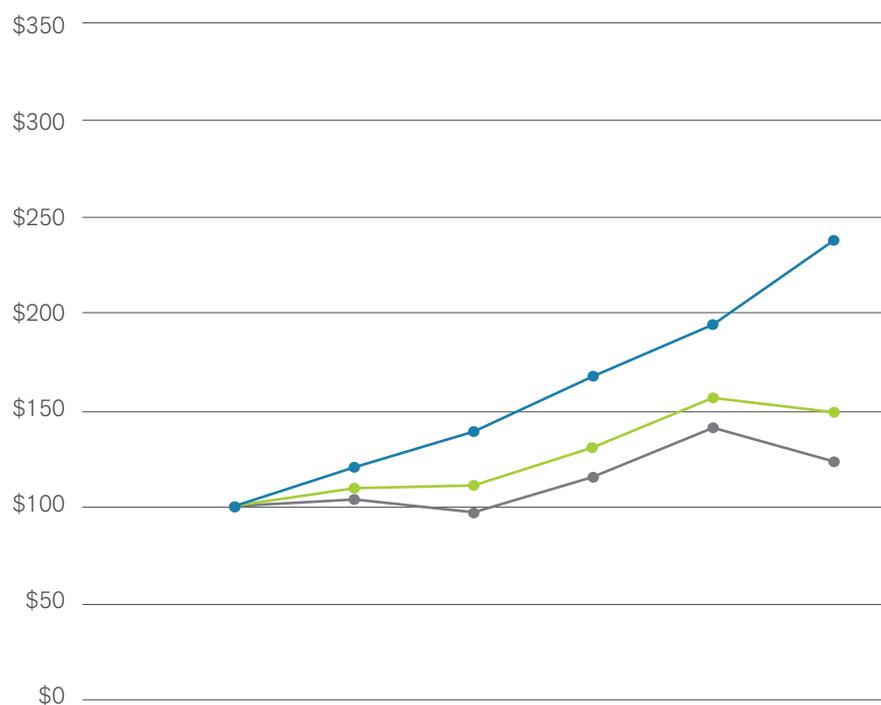
Billion in
Net Sales



TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' RETURNS

Company Performance

The following graph shows a five-year comparison of cumulative total returns for the Company, the Standard and Poor's 500 Composite Index, and the Dow Jones U.S. Electrical Components & Equipment Total Stock Market Index (index code DWELQ).



| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| GRAYBAR | \$100 | \$124 | \$143 | \$169 | \$195 | \$240 |
| S&P 500 | \$100 | \$114 | \$115 | \$129 | \$157 | \$150 |
| DOW JONES U.S. ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS | \$100 | \$104 | \$97 | \$118 | \$145 | \$125 |

The comparison above assumes \$100.00 invested on December 31, 2013 and reinvestment of dividends.

The market value of the company's stock, in the absence of a public market, assumes continuation of the company's practice of purchasing offered securities at \$20.00 per share.



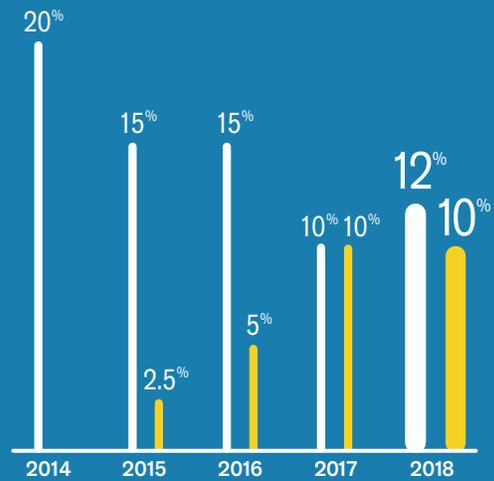
Net Sales
(in billions)



Pre-Tax & Net Income (in millions)
 Income Before Taxes Net Income



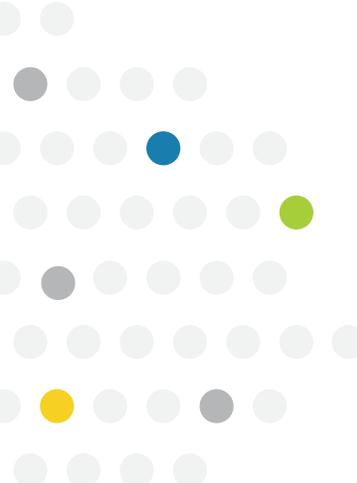
Working Capital
(in millions)



Cash & Stock Dividends (per share)
 Cash Stock

WINNING

IN A DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT



Graybar remains focused on achieving long-term, profitable growth. We do that by making progress toward our strategic plan and staying focused on solving our customers' challenges, big and small.

Success in wholesale distribution starts with outstanding execution of the basics, and we strive to give our customers our best every day. We do that by offering quality products from leading manufacturers, combined with an unwavering commitment to excellence in customer service. Beyond the basics, we continue to raise the bar with innovative services and solutions designed to transform the supply chain and create a better future for our customers.

Technology is changing our industry and society at a very rapid pace. In this new era, we face unprecedented disruption in all aspects of our business. As we have done throughout our history, we will continue to adapt and reinvent our capabilities to be the distributor of choice for our customers.

Our digital vision serves as a roadmap for the future.

Our vision is for Graybar to be a leader in digital innovation by building the culture and capabilities to reimagine the value of distribution and transform the supply chain for the future.

We believe this transformation is vital to sustaining Graybar as a growing company in a fast-changing world. To achieve this vision, we remain focused on delivering an exceptional customer experience, boosting efficiency in the supply chain and inspiring a culture that rewards innovation, agility and growth.

In 2018, we made strides toward our digital vision while accelerating our performance and achieving excellent results.

Last year, Graybar's net sales performance improved 8.6 percent, growing to a record \$7.2 billion. Graybar was adversely affected by tax legislation in 2017, but in 2018, we reduced our effective tax rate and achieved record net income of \$143.3 million.

In addition to the company's organic growth and overall stability, Graybar has significant financial flexibility thanks to our five-year revolving credit facility. In 2018, Graybar's unsecured revolving credit facility increased to \$750 million while the accordion feature of the amendment increased to \$375 million.

This financing agreement supports Graybar's general working capital needs and allows us to invest as needed to support our long-term growth initiatives. This includes investing in company-wide innovation, acquisitions and other strategic opportunities that will transform our company's future.

We know that winning in a dynamic business environment is about exploring new opportunities to grow our business while using technology in innovative ways to help people achieve more.

2018 SUCCESS

\$7.2 BILLION

IN NET SALES (8.6% INCREASE COMPARED TO 2017)

\$143.3 MILLION

IN NET INCOME (100.1% INCREASE OVER 2017)

\$750 MILLION

**FINANCING AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT COMPANY'S
LONG-TERM GROWTH AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

FUTURE GROWTH

Our vision is for Graybar to be a leader in digital innovation by building the culture and capabilities to reimagine the value of distribution and transform the supply chain for the future. To achieve our digital vision, Graybar remains focused on:

- 1. DELIVERING AN EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE**
- 2. BOOSTING EFFICIENCY IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN**
- 3. INSPIRING A CULTURE THAT REWARDS INNOVATION, AGILITY AND GROWTH**

FOCUSED ON

CUSTOMERS

The hallmark of Graybar's success over the years has been our ability to adapt to changes in technology that improve our customer service and enhance the solutions we offer.

Many of our customers are embracing new ways of doing business with tools such as prefabrication, robotics and Building Information Modeling (BIM). These technologies help customers work more efficiently and create opportunities for us to enhance our service platforms.

In 2018, Graybar launched a fully integrated website, making it a one-stop destination for customers to interact with us. The website now has more than 150,000 product listings from key manufacturers, along with more accurate search functionality that helps customers quickly find what they need. Also, customers can handle basic account management tasks online such as checking order status, paying invoices and finding answers to their questions around the clock.



In addition to the website, Graybar has offered electronic purchasing and back office synchronization with customers for years. Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) and PunchOut extend Graybar's relationships with many large customers by making it easy to manage business transactions.



“THE ESSENCE OF GRAYBAR'S DIGITAL STRATEGY is to grow our business by empowering customers and making it easier for them to do business with us.”



Another aspect of improving the customer experience is enhancing the company's logistics strategy. By bringing the right inventory closer to customers, we can shorten lead times, reduce transportation costs and improve fill rates.

Last year, Graybar piloted a new logistics strategy across several areas of the country and explored new ideas for tailoring services to customer preferences. Data analytics are playing an important role in this project, providing deeper insights into our investments in inventory, facilities and transportation. In 2019, Graybar will continue to expand this logistics approach as we work to make sure our customers have the right products at the right time to get the job done.



The essence of Graybar's digital strategy is to grow our business by empowering customers and making it easier for them to do business with us. To accomplish this goal, we must empower our customer-facing employees with tools that help them do their jobs faster and more productively.

To that end, Graybar started implementing Salesforce® as its customer relationship management (CRM) platform in 2018. Sales and customer service representatives can now view recent account level customer interactions, appointments, calls, marketing emails, orders and open sales opportunities all in one system.

Employees also have the ability to use the Chatter® feature in Salesforce to communicate instantly via mobile device or desktop with their entire account team to better service the customer and improve satisfaction.

Our Salesforce implementation will continue in 2019, and will ultimately provide many advantages for our sales, service and marketing teams by improving collaboration, decision making and customer service.

Salesforce and Chatter are registered trademarks of Salesforce.com, inc. and are used with permission.

SALESFORCE

Sales and customer service representatives can now view recent account level customer interactions, appointments, calls, marketing emails, orders and open sales opportunities all in one system.



**HELPING CUSTOMERS
WORK SMARTER, SAFER,
MORE EFFICIENTLY**

Graybar offers a wide range of services that help make a contractor's job easier.

**GRAYBAR SMARTSTOCK® | GRAYBAR SMARTREEL®
KITTING | JOB CARTS | FIXTURE CARTS**

BUILDING A BETTER

SUPPLY CHAIN

Graybar serves customers through its expansive distribution network of 289 locations and 8,700 employees.

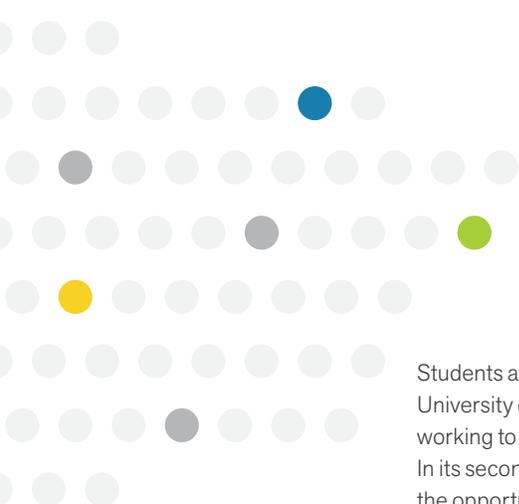
Graybar's distribution network is primarily comprised of sales offices and distribution facilities throughout the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. This provides customers with convenient access to the products they need, when they need them.

Over the past several years, Graybar has opened new locations, while moving and expanding other locations to better serve customers nationwide. In 2018, the most notable of these changes was the opening of our new Denver Service Center and the completion of our new branch in Tampa, which is the third facility in Graybar's history to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. When expanding locations like in Tampa and Denver, we continue to demonstrate our commitment to sustainability by utilizing many of the green technologies we distribute to our customers.



As a distributor, our job is to help customers work smarter, safer, more efficiently and more profitably. That is why Graybar continues to develop advanced supply chain services that deliver greater productivity for customers, especially contractors. In fact, Graybar offers a wide range of services that help make a contractor's job easier including Graybar SmartStock®, Graybar SmartReel®, kitting, job carts, fixture carts and more.





Students at Graybar's Innovation Lab (iLab) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign are also working to transform the way we serve customers. In its second year of operation, the iLab gives students the opportunity to apply their academic knowledge to help solve complex business problems while exploring new ideas to enhance the supply chain. In 2018, the iLab team worked on projects focused on BIM, jobsite automation and warehouse automation, as well as several data and analytics projects.

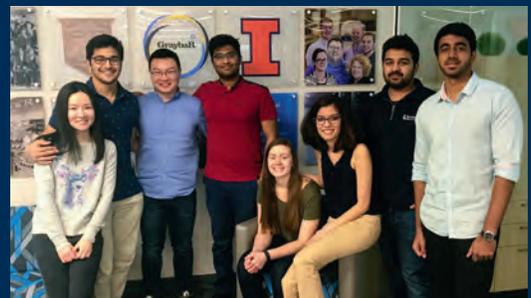
Behind the company's comprehensive logistics and service offering resides a passion for continually improving our business. Graybar's Continuous Improvement (CI) program serves as a means to remove waste, improve profitability and simplify processes across the company—a methodology we also share with our customers. With each order and customer interaction, Graybar employees strive for error-free performance while adhering to the safety policies that drive accuracy and efficiency. We also strive to use technology to minimize routine tasks so employees can spend more time working closely with customers.



For example, Graybar is expanding the use of QuickConvert, which can identify customer purchase orders that are attached to emails and automatically enter the order into SAP, eliminating the need to key in the items. We also started centralizing management of tax certificates, using technology to automate certain tasks such as credit and rebill transactions. Also, Graybar recently introduced a shared services concept for Accounting Services, Purchasing and Central Accounts Receivable. These teams are using robotic process automation to automate routine tasks and allow employees to focus on work that requires experience and problem-solving skills.

We believe these improvements will make it easier for customers to do business with us, improve our efficiency and enable us to reimagine the future of the supply chain.

“ WE CONTINUE TO RAISE THE BAR with innovative services and solutions designed to transform the supply chain and create a better future for our customers. **”**





Graybar

GRAYBAR'S
INNOVATION LAB (iLAB)

The iLab gives students the opportunity to apply their academic knowledge to help solve complex business problems.

**BIM | JOBSITE AUTOMATION AND WAREHOUSE
AUTOMATION | DATA AND ANALYTICS**

EMPOWERED

TO MAKE A

DIFFERENCE

Establishing new digital platforms and developing innovative ways to serve customers is critical to Graybar's success, and that can only happen when we create a culture that rewards innovation, agility and growth.

To that end, Graybar recently launched a new innovation program to involve employees in the process of digital transformation. This program gives employees a platform to share and collaborate with others on innovative ideas. A cross-functional innovation council oversees the program by identifying priorities and aligning resources for implementation. In 2019, Graybar employees are participating in innovation challenges and other ways to transform our business.

While we continue to embrace technology to accelerate our performance, we know that our people will continue to be the driving force behind our success.

In each of our locations, we strive to create a culture that brings out the best in our people and inspires a sense of teamwork and pride in the company. This positive work environment and cohesive spirit among our employees are just a few of the reasons why Graybar is continually recognized as a top place to work. Last year, Graybar was named to "Top Workplaces" lists by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the Bay Area News Group, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the Oregonian. Graybar was also named as a Fortune World's Most Admired Company and one of America's Best Large Employers by Forbes.

To support long-term career growth, Graybar has an extensive track record of hiring talented employees, investing in industry-leading employee development programs and providing opportunities for employees to explore new and challenging roles throughout the company.

Last year, we updated and conducted the Rutgers Graybar Digital Supply Chain Leadership Program. Nineteen leaders from across Graybar completed the program in January 2019.

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

500+

veterans and active military service members employed by Graybar.

The company continues to be a veteran-friendly employer that values potential job candidates who have military experience.

Last November on Veteran's Day, we honored our veterans and active service members by giving each one a challenge coin. These coins are Graybar's way of saying thanks to those employees who selflessly give their time and talents to serve our country.

In 2018, our employees completed more than 104,000 training courses and more than 90,000 continuing education credits on topics ranging from products and technology to company procedures and professional skills.

Every year, Graybar hosts two National Training Conferences, which serve as a dynamic forum to connect our employees with the best suppliers in the industry and provide ongoing sales training.

Additionally, 2018 marked Graybar's fifth year since launching the Accelerated Sales Development Program, the sixth year since rolling out our leadership trainee program and the seventh year since beginning our internship program.

Businesses thrive in vibrant and healthy communities. That's why we align our philanthropic efforts with the interests of our employees, customers and suppliers, as well as the needs of people near our districts and branches. In the spring of 2018, Graybar's locations and employees were challenged to a fundraising competition that raised more than \$176,000 for the Graybar Family Foundation. These efforts speak volumes about the Graybar culture and the teamwork across the company to help each other in times of need.



Also in 2018, WINGS (Women Influencing Graybar's Success) celebrated its tenth anniversary. The group celebrated the milestone with a special #BeBold conference in October featuring more than 200 St. Louis-area suppliers and employees. In addition, many local chapters of WINGS celebrated throughout the year by holding a variety of events and charitable activities. Since its founding in 2008, WINGS has served as a platform to give women at Graybar the opportunity to connect through networking, professional development and mentoring.

We are proud of Graybar's reputation as a great place to work, and will continue to be a company where employees can grow, learn and achieve their potential as they build successful careers.



Leadership Changes

Below is a summary of Graybar's key organizational changes in 2018 and during the first quarter of 2019.

JANUARY

ROB LEVINE named District Vice President in Chicago

DALE SHEFF named Vice President-Pricing and Profitability

TIM PROBST hired as Vice President-Controller

BILL HOYT hired as Vice President-Strategic Accounts

MARCH

CRAIG HOGAN hired as Vice President-Marketing and Customer Experience

APRIL

TIM CARPENTER named Vice President-Treasurer, upon Jon Reed's retirement

SEPTEMBER

JEFF WANNER named Phoenix District Vice President

RICK HARVEY (District Vice President in New York) elected to Graybar's Board of Directors

JANUARY 2019

ANDY CICCONE named Vice President-Commercial Institutional and Government (CIG) Sales

DAVE SCHWICHTENBERG named District Vice President in Tampa

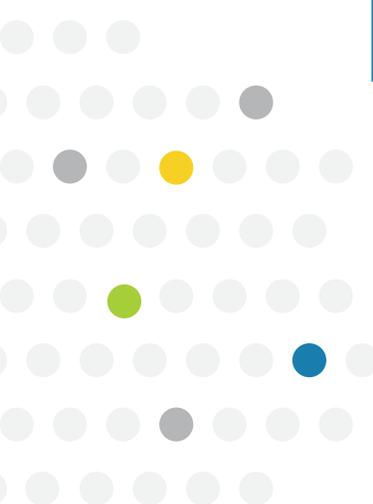
BRIAN DELANEY named District Vice President in Richmond

ELLEN REBNE named District Vice President in Minneapolis, upon Tom Pratt's retirement

BOARD OF

DIRECTORS

AS OF MARCH 1, 2019



KATHLEEN M. MAZZARELLA
Chairman, President and
Chief Executive Officer



DAVID A. BENDER
District Vice President,
Atlanta District



SCOTT S. CLIFFORD
Senior Vice President –
Supply Chain Management



MATTHEW W. GEEKIE
Senior Vice President, Secretary
and General Counsel



RICHARD H. HARVEY
District Vice President,
New York District



RANDALL R. HARWOOD
Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer



ROBERT C. LYONS
Regional Vice President



WILLIAM P. MANSFIELD
Senior Vice President –
Marketing



DAVID G. MAXWELL
Senior Vice President –
Sales



BEVERLY L. PROPST
Senior Vice President –
Human Resources



ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K
for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 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 000-00255

GRAYBAR ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

New York

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

13-0794380

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

34 North Meramec Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri

(Address of principal executive offices)

63105

(Zip Code)

(314) 573 – 9200

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: **Common Stock - Par Value \$1.00 Per Share with a Stated Value of \$20.00**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

YES NO

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

YES NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

YES NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

YES NO

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

If an emerging 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 Act). YES NO

The aggregate stated value of the Common Stock beneficially owned with respect to rights of disposition by persons who are not affiliates (as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act of 1933) of the registrant on June 30, 2018, was \$386,188,840. Pursuant to a Voting Trust Agreement, dated as of March 3, 2017, approximately 84% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock was held of record by five Trustees who were each directors or officers of the registrant and who collectively exercised the voting rights with respect to such shares at such date. The registrant is 100% owned by its active and retired employees, and there is no public trading market for the registrant's Common Stock. See Item 5 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

The number of shares of Common Stock outstanding at March 1, 2019 was 21,595,113.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the documents listed below have been incorporated by reference into the indicated Part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K: Information Statement relating to the 2019 Annual Meeting of Shareholders – Part III, Items 10-14

Graybar Electric Company, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Annual Report on Form 10-K
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2018

Table of Contents

| | Page |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <u>PART I</u> | |
| Item 1. <u>Business</u> | <u>3</u> |
| Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u> | <u>6</u> |
| Item 1B. <u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u> | <u>8</u> |
| Item 2. <u>Properties</u> | <u>8</u> |
| Item 3. <u>Legal Proceedings</u> | <u>8</u> |
| Item 4. <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u> | <u>8</u> |
| Supplemental Item <u>Executive Officers of the Registrant</u> | <u>9</u> |
| <u>PART II</u> | |
| Item 5. <u>Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u> | <u>10</u> |
| Item 6. <u>Selected Financial Data</u> | <u>11</u> |
| Item 7. <u>Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | <u>11</u> |
| Item 7A. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u> | <u>17</u> |
| Item 8. <u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u> | <u>19</u> |
| Item 9. <u>Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u> | <u>48</u> |
| Item 9A. <u>Controls and Procedures</u> | <u>48</u> |
| Item 9B. <u>Other Information</u> | <u>48</u> |
| <u>PART III</u> | |
| Item 10. <u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u> | <u>49</u> |
| Item 11. <u>Executive Compensation</u> | <u>49</u> |
| Item 12. <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u> | <u>49</u> |
| Item 13. <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u> | <u>49</u> |
| Item 14. <u>Principal Accounting Fees and Services</u> | <u>49</u> |
| <u>PART IV</u> | |
| Item 15. <u>Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules</u> | <u>50</u> |
| Signatures | |
| Certifications | |

PART I

CAUTION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the accompanying audited consolidated financial statements of Graybar Electric Company, Inc. and its Subsidiaries (collectively referred to as “Graybar” or the “Company” and sometimes referred to as “we”, “our”, or “us”), the notes thereto, and Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations as of and for the year ended December 31, 2018, included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The results shown herein are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected in any future periods.

Certain statements, other than purely historical information, including estimates, projections, statements relating to our business plans, objectives, and expected operating results, and the assumptions upon which those statements are based, are “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the “PSLRA”), Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These forward-looking statements generally are identified by the words “believes”, “projects”, “expects”, “anticipates”, “estimates”, “intends”, “strategy”, “plan”, “may”, “will”, “would”, “will be”, “will continue”, “will likely result”, and other similar expressions. We intend such forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe-harbor provisions for forward-looking statements contained in the PSLRA. Forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and assumptions that are subject to risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements. Our ability to predict results or the actual effect of future plans or strategies is inherently uncertain. Factors which could have a material adverse impact on our operations and future prospects on a consolidated basis include, but are not limited to: general economic conditions, particularly in the residential, commercial, and industrial building construction industries; volatility in the prices of industrial commodities; a sustained interruption in the operation of our information systems; cyber-attacks; increased funding requirements and expenses related to our pension plan; disruptions in our sources of supply; the inability, or limitations on our ability to borrow under our existing credit facilities or any replacements thereof; adverse legal proceedings or other claims; compliance with changing governmental regulations; and the inability, or limitations on our ability to raise debt or equity capital. These risks and uncertainties should also be considered in evaluating forward-looking statements and undue reliance should not be placed on such statements. We undertake no obligation to update or revise publicly any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, unless otherwise required by applicable securities law. Further information concerning our business, including additional factors that could materially impact our financial results, is included herein and in our other filings with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC” or “Commission”). Actual results and the timing of events could differ materially from the forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors, a number of which are outlined in Item 1A., “Risk Factors”, of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

All dollar amounts in this Annual Report on Form 10-K are stated in millions except for share and per share data.

Item 1. Business

The Company

Graybar is a leading North American distributor of electrical and communications and data networking products and is a provider of related supply chain management and logistics services. We primarily serve customers in the construction, industrial & utility, and commercial, institutional and government (“CIG”) vertical markets (“vertical” or “verticals”), with products and services that support new construction, infrastructure updates, building renovation, facility maintenance, repair and operations (“MRO”), and original equipment manufacturers (“OEM”).

Through a network of 289 locations across the United States and Canada, our 8,700 employees serve approximately 145,000 customers. Our business is primarily based in the United States (“U.S.”). We also have subsidiary operations with distribution facilities in Canada and Puerto Rico.

We distribute over one million products purchased from approximately 4,500 manufacturers and suppliers. We purchase all of the products we sell from others, and we neither manufacture nor contract to manufacture any products we sell.

We generally finance our inventory through the collection of trade receivables and trade accounts payable terms with our suppliers. We use short-term borrowing facilities to finance inventory purchases and other operating expenses when necessary, and we have not historically used long-term borrowings for this purpose.

In addition to our extensive product offering, we provide a wide range of supply chain management services that when combined with our network of locations are designed to deliver convenience, cost savings and improved efficiency for our customers.

We were incorporated in 1925 under the laws of the State of New York. Our active and retired employees own 100% of our stock. There is no public trading market for our common stock.

Our internet address is www.graybar.com. Information on our website does not constitute a part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Competition

Our industry is comprised of thousands of local and regional distributors, along with several large national and global distributors. Graybar is among the largest distributors of electrical and communications and data networking products to the construction, industrial & utility, and CIG verticals in North America. Our industry is highly competitive, and we estimate that the top five distributors account for approximately 30% of the total U.S. market. Some of our largest competitors have greater global geographic scope, which may provide them an advantage, particularly with certain multi-national customers.

Our industry is influenced by economic and regulatory factors that impact rates of new construction, as well as customers' or end users' decisions to invest in renovation and expansion of facilities and infrastructure. The industry is also affected by changes in technology, both in the products that are typically sold through distribution and in the ways customers choose to transact business with distributors. Driven by customers' omnichannel buying preferences and their desire to increase efficiency and productivity, digitalization is becoming increasingly important to both manufacturers and distributors in our industry.

Our pricing reflects the value associated with the products and services that we provide. We consider our prices to be generally competitive. We believe that, while price is an important customer consideration, the services we provide distinguish us from many of our competitors, whether they are distributors or manufacturers selling directly to our customer base. We view our ability to quickly supply our customers with a broad range of products through conveniently located distribution facilities as a competitive advantage that customers value. However, if a customer is not looking for one distributor to provide a wide range of products and does not require prompt delivery or other services, a competitor that does not provide this level of service may be in a position to offer lower prices.

Markets Served

Graybar serves a wide range of customers within certain primary verticals. The largest of these verticals is construction, which accounted for more than half our sales in 2018. Customers within this vertical include various types of contractors and installers that perform new construction and renovation of commercial and industrial facilities and utility infrastructure.

Our next two largest verticals we serve are the industrial & utility and CIG. The industrial & utility vertical includes customers and products for MRO, OEM, broadband utility and electrical transmission and distribution infrastructure. The CIG vertical includes a broad range of commercial office, warehouse, and retail facilities, federal, state, and local governmental agencies, education and health care sectors.

The following table provides the approximate percentages of our net sales attributable to each of the verticals we serve:

| Year Ended December 31, | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
|----------------------------------------|--------------|-------|-------|
| Construction | 59.6% | 59.6% | 58.9% |
| Industrial & Utility | 21.3% | 21.7% | 20.7% |
| Commercial, Institutional & Government | 19.1% | 18.7% | 20.4% |

Products and Suppliers

We distribute over one million products purchased from approximately 4,500 manufacturers and suppliers. Approximately 110,000 of these products are stocked in our warehouses, allowing us in most cases to provide customers with convenient, local access to the items they need every day. When the specialized nature or size of a particular shipment warrants, we arrange to ship products directly from our suppliers; otherwise, orders are filled from our own on-hand inventory. On a dollar volume basis, we filled approximately 55% and 50% of customer orders from our inventory in 2018 and 2017, respectively.

Approximately 50% of the products we sold during 2018 were purchased from our top 25 suppliers. However, we generally have the ability to purchase from more than one supplier for any product type, which allows us to offer alternative sources of comparable products for nearly all products. The products we distribute can be generally identified as follows:

- LED and Incandescent Lighting
- Building and Industrial Wire and Cable
- Distribution Equipment
- Telecommunications Material
- Communication Wire and Cable
- Conduit and Tray
- Data Connectivity
- Fluorescent Lighting
- Fittings
- Wiring Devices
- Data Cables and Cords
- Fasteners
- Electronic Equipment
- Automation and Controls
- Enclosures
- LED, Incandescent and Fluorescent Lamps
- MRO Supplies

These products may be sold into any of the verticals we target, depending on a customer's or end user's needs. Our salesforce is empowered to sell any of these products or related services to any customer, in some cases with the support of specialists who are trained in specific industries and/or new technologies.

Maintaining strong relationships with our suppliers is important to our business, and we enjoy longstanding relationships with several of our suppliers (or their predecessors). However, most of our supplier agreements are nonexclusive national or regional distributorships, terminable upon 30 to 90 days' notice by either party.

Sales and Distribution

We sell products and services manufactured or provided by others primarily through a network of sales offices and distribution facilities located in thirteen geographical districts throughout the U.S. We operate multiple distribution facilities in each district, each of which carries an inventory of products and operates as a wholesale distributor for the territory in which it is located. Some districts have sales offices that do not carry inventory. In addition, we have nineteen regional distribution centers containing inventories of both standard and specialized products. The regional distribution centers replenish inventories carried at our other U.S. distribution facilities and make shipments directly to customers. We also have subsidiary operations with distribution facilities located in the U.S. and Canada and a single distribution facility in Puerto Rico.

The sales and distribution facilities operated by us at December 31, 2018 are shown below:

| U.S. Locations | |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| District | Number of Sales and Distribution Facilities* |
| Atlanta | 23 |
| Boston | 13 |
| California | 23 |
| Chicago | 22 |
| Dallas | 20 |
| Minneapolis | 21 |
| New York | 13 |
| Phoenix | 12 |
| Pittsburgh | 21 |
| Richmond | 19 |
| Seattle | 12 |
| St. Louis | 18 |
| Tampa | 20 |
| *Includes Regional Distribution Centers | |
| U.S. Subsidiaries | 20 |
| International Locations | 32 |

At December 31, 2018, we employed approximately 4,400 people in sales capacities. Approximately 2,800 of these sales personnel were inside and outside sales representatives working to generate sales with current and prospective customers. The remaining 1,600 employees were customer service representatives who provided support services to our customers and our salesforce.

We had orders on hand totaling \$1,221.7 million and \$989.7 million on December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. We expect that approximately 90% of the orders we had on hand at December 31, 2018 will be filled within the twelve-month period ending December 31, 2019. Generally, orders placed by customers and accepted by us have resulted in sales. However, customers from time to time request cancellation, and we have historically allowed such cancellations.

Foreign Sales

Sales to customers in foreign countries were made primarily by our subsidiaries in Canada and Puerto Rico and accounted for approximately 5% of consolidated sales in 2018, 2017, and 2016. Long-lived assets located outside the U.S. represented approximately 1% of our consolidated total assets at the end of 2018, 2017, and 2016. We do not have significant foreign currency exposure and, we do not believe there are any significant risks attendant to our foreign operations, other than those noted in Item 1A. Risk Factors.

Employees

At December 31, 2018, we employed approximately 8,700 people on a full-time basis. Approximately 150 of these people were covered by union contracts. We have not had a material work stoppage and consider our relations with our employees to be good.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

Our liquidity, financial condition, and results of operations are subject to various risks, including, but not limited to, those discussed below. The risks outlined below are those that we believe are currently the most significant, although additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently deem less significant may also impact our liquidity, financial condition, and results of operations.

Our sales fluctuate with general economic conditions, particularly in the residential, commercial, and industrial building construction industries. Our operating locations are widely distributed geographically across the U.S. and, to a lesser extent, Canada. Customers for our products and services are similarly diverse – we have approximately 145,000 customers, and our largest customer accounts for approximately 1% of our total sales. While our geographic and customer concentrations are relatively low, our results of operations are nonetheless dependent on favorable conditions in both the general economy and the construction industry. In addition, conditions in the construction industry are greatly influenced by the availability of project financing and the cost of borrowing.

Our results of operations are impacted by changes in industrial commodity prices. Many of the products we sell are subject to wide and frequent price fluctuations because they are composed primarily of copper, steel, or petroleum-based resins, including poly-vinyl chlorides ("PVC"), industrial commodities that have been subject to price volatility during the past several years. Examples of such products include wire and cable, conduit, enclosures, and fittings. Our gross margin rate on these products is relatively constant over time, though not necessarily in the short term. Therefore, as the cost of these products to us declines, pricing to our customers may decrease. This impacts our results of operations by lowering both overall sales and gross margin.

Our daily activities are highly dependent on the uninterrupted operation of our information systems. We are a recognized industry leader for our use of information technology in all areas of our business – sales, customer service, inventory management, finance, accounting, and human resources. We maintain redundant information systems as part of our disaster recovery program and, if necessary, are able to operate in many respects using a paper-based system to help mitigate a complete interruption in our information processing capabilities. Nonetheless, our information systems remain vulnerable to natural disasters, wide-area telecommunications or power utility outages, terrorist or cyber-attack, or other major disruptions. A sustained interruption in the functioning of our information systems, however unlikely, could lower operating income by negatively impacting sales, expenses, or both.

Our business and our reputation could be adversely affected by the failure to protect sensitive customer, employee or vendor data or to comply with evolving regulations relating to obligations to protect systems, assets and data from the threat of cyber-attacks. Cyber-attacks designed to gain access to sensitive information by breaching mission-critical systems of large organizations are constantly evolving, and high profile electronic security breaches leading to unauthorized release of confidential information have occurred recently at a number of major U.S. companies, despite widespread recognition of the cyber-attack threat and improved data protection methods. While we have invested in the protection of our information technology and maintain what we believe are adequate security procedures and controls over financial and other individually

identifiable customer, employee and vendor data provided to us, our business model is evolving rapidly and increasingly requires us to receive, retain and transmit certain information, including individually identifiable information, that our customers provide to purchase products or services, register on our websites, or otherwise communicate and interact with us. All of these risks are also applicable where we rely on outside vendors to provide services, which may operate in a cloud environment. We are dependent on these third party vendors to operate secure and reliable systems. A breach in our systems or those of our third party providers that results in the unauthorized release of individually identifiable customer or other sensitive data could have a material adverse effect on our reputation and lead to financial losses from remedial actions, loss of business or potential liability. An electronic security breach resulting in the unauthorized release of sensitive data from our information systems could also materially increase the costs we already incur to protect against such risks. While we also seek to obtain assurances that third parties we interact with will protect individually identifiable information, there is a risk that such data may be compromised. In addition, as the regulatory environment relating to a company's obligation to protect such sensitive data becomes more strict, a material failure on our part to comply with applicable regulations could subject us to fines or other regulatory sanctions and potentially to lawsuits.

We may experience losses or be subject to increased funding and expenses related to our pension plan. A decline in the market value of plan assets or a change in the interest rates used to measure the required minimum funding levels and the pension obligation may increase the funding requirements of our defined benefit pension plan, the pension obligation itself, and pension expenses. Government regulations may accelerate the timing and amounts required to fund the plan. Demographic changes in our workforce, including longer life expectancies, increased numbers of retirements, and age at retirement may also cause funding requirements, pension expenses, and the pension obligation to be higher than expected. Any or all of these factors could have a negative impact on our liquidity, financial position, and/or our results of operations.

We purchase all of the products we sell to our customers from other parties. As a wholesale distributor, our business and financial results are dependent on our ability to purchase products from manufacturers not controlled by us that we, in turn, sell to our customers. Approximately 50% of our purchases are made from only 25 manufacturers. A sustained disruption in our ability to source product from one or more of the largest of these vendors might have a material impact on our ability to fulfill customer orders, resulting in lost sales and, in rare cases, damages for late or non-delivery.

Our borrowing agreements contain financial covenants and certain other restrictions on our activities and those of our subsidiaries. Our amended revolving credit facility and private placement shelf agreements impose contractual limits on, among other things, indebtedness, liens, changes in the nature of business, investments, mergers and acquisitions, the issuance of equity securities, the disposition of assets and the dissolution of certain subsidiaries, transactions with affiliates, restricted payments (subject to incurrence tests, with certain exceptions), as well as securitizations and factoring transactions. In addition, we are required to maintain acceptable financial ratios relating to debt leverage and interest coverage. Our failure to comply with these obligations may cause an event of default and may trigger an acceleration of the debt owed to our creditors or limit our ability to obtain additional credit under these facilities. While we expect to remain in compliance with the terms of our amended credit facility and private placement shelf agreements, our failure to do so could have a negative impact on our ability to borrow funds and maintain acceptable levels of cash flow from financing activities.

We are subject to legal proceedings and other claims arising out of the conduct of our business. These proceedings and claims relate to public and private sector transactions, product liability, contract performance, and employment matters. On the basis of information currently available to us, we do not believe that existing proceedings and claims will have a material impact on our financial position or results of operations. However, litigation is unpredictable, and we could incur judgments or enter into settlements for current or future claims that could adversely affect our financial position or our results of operations in a particular period.

More specifically, with respect to asbestos litigation, as of December 31, 2018, 3,321 individual cases and 67 multiple-plaintiff cases are pending that allege actual or potential asbestos-related injuries resulting from the use of or exposure to products allegedly sold by us. Additional claims will likely be filed against us in the future. Our insurance carriers have historically borne virtually all costs and liability with respect to this litigation and are continuing to do so. Accordingly, our future liability with respect to pending and unasserted claims is dependent on the continued solvency of our insurance carriers. Other factors that could impact this liability are: the number of future claims filed against us; the defense and settlement costs associated with these claims; changes in the litigation environment, including changes in federal or state law governing the compensation of asbestos claimants; adverse jury verdicts in excess of historic settlement amounts; and bankruptcies of other asbestos defendants. Because any of these factors may change, our future exposure is unpredictable, and it is possible that we may incur costs that would have a material adverse impact on our liquidity, financial position, or results of operations in future periods.

Compliance with changing government regulations may result in increased costs and risks to the company. Our public company and multi-national customers are increasingly subject to government regulation globally. Existing and future laws and

regulations may impede our growth. These regulations and laws may cover, among other things, taxation, privacy, data protection, pricing, content, copyrights, distribution, energy consumption, environmental regulation, electronic contracts, communications and marketing, consumer protection, the design and operation of websites, and the characteristics and quality of products and services. Unfavorable regulations and laws could diminish the demand for our products and services and increase our cost of doing business. If we are not able to obtain for certain customers the information that they require in part as a result of these regulations, they may limit their business with us. These regulatory and customer-driven requirements may increase our operating costs, and, due to competitive pressures, we may not be able to increase our prices sufficiently to avoid a reduction in our income from operations.

The value to our shareholders of our common stock depends on the regular payment of dividends, which are paid at the discretion of our Board of Directors. The purchase price for our common stock under our purchase option is the same as the issue price. Accordingly, as long as we exercises our option to purchase, appreciation in the value of an investment in our common stock is dependent primarily on our ability and our Board of Directors' willingness to declare stock dividends. Although cash dividends have been paid on the common stock each year since 1929, as with any corporation's common stock, payment of dividends is subject to the discretion of our Board of Directors.

There is no public trading market for our common stock. Our common stock is 100% owned by active and retired employees. Common stock may not be sold by the holder thereof, except after first offering it to us. We have always exercised this purchase option in the past and expect to continue to do so. As a result, no public trading market for our common stock exists, nor is one expected to develop. This lack of a public trading market for our common stock may limit our ability to raise large amounts of equity capital, which could constrain our long-term business growth.

Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

Not applicable.

Item 2. Properties

We operate in thirteen geographical districts in the U.S., each of which maintains multiple distribution facilities that consist primarily of warehouse space. A small portion of each distribution facility is used for offices. Some districts have sales offices that do not carry an inventory of products. The number of facilities, excluding the nineteen regional distribution centers, in a district varies from eleven to twenty-two and totals 218 for all districts. The facilities range in size from 800 to 132,000 square feet, with the average being 31,000 square feet. We own 116 of these facilities and lease 102 of them for varying terms, with the majority having a remaining lease term of less than five years.

We also have nineteen regional distribution centers ranging in size from 130,000 to 240,000 square feet. Ten of the nineteen regional distribution centers are owned and the other nine are leased. The remaining lease terms on the leased regional distribution centers are between one and nine years.

We also have three U.S. subsidiaries with six owned facilities and fourteen leased distribution facilities. The leased facilities have remaining lease terms between one and nine years. The facilities range in size from 5,000 to 42,000 square feet.

We maintain thirty-one distribution facilities in Canada, of which nineteen are owned and twelve are leased. The majority of the leased facilities have a remaining lease term of less than five years. The facilities range in size from 5,000 to 89,000 square feet. We have a 33,000 square foot facility in Puerto Rico, the lease on which expires in 2023.

Our headquarters are located in St. Louis, Missouri in an 83,000 square foot building owned by us. We also own a 200,000 square foot operations and administration center in St. Louis.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

There are presently no pending legal proceedings that are expected to have a material impact on the Company or its subsidiaries.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

Supplemental Item. Executive Officers of the Registrant

The following table lists the name, age as of March 1, 2019, position, offices and certain other information with respect to our executive officers. The term of office of each executive officer will expire upon the appointment of his or her successor by the Board of Directors.

| Name | Age | Business experience last five years |
|------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| S. S. Clifford | 48 | Senior Vice President - Supply Chain Management, February 2015 to present; Vice President - Chief Information Officer, April 2010 to January 2015. |
| M. W. Geekie | 57 | Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel, August 2008 to present. |
| R. R. Harwood | 62 | Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, January 2013 to present. |
| W. P. Mansfield | 56 | Senior Vice President - Marketing, May 2017 to present; Senior Vice President - Sales and Marketing, April 2014 to April 2017; Vice President - Marketing, April 2012 to March 2014. |
| D. G. Maxwell | 60 | Senior Vice President - Sales, May 2017 to present; Regional Vice President, January 2015 to April 2017; District Vice President - California District, July 2003 to December 2014. |
| K. M. Mazzarella | 58 | Chairman of the Board, January 2013 to present; President and Chief Executive Officer, June 2012 to present. |
| B. L. Propst | 49 | Senior Vice President – Human Resources, June 2009 to present. |

PART II

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

Our common stock is 100% owned by active and retired employees, and there is no public trading market for our common stock. Since 1928, substantially all of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock have been held of record by voting trustees under successive voting trust agreements. A new Voting Trust Agreement was established effective March 3, 2017, which expires by its terms on March 1, 2027. At December 31, 2018, approximately 83% of the common stock was held in the voting trust. The participation of shareholders in the voting trust is voluntary at the time the voting trust is created, but is irrevocable during its term. Shareholders who elect not to participate in the voting trust hold their common stock as shareholders of record. Shareholders may elect to participate in the voting trust at any time during the term of the voting trust.

No holder of our common stock or voting trust interests representing our common stock ("common stock", "common shares", or "shares") may sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any shares without first offering us the option to purchase those shares at the price at which they were issued. We also have the option to purchase at the issue price the common shares of any shareholder who ceases to be an employee for any reason other than death or "retirement" (as defined in our amended restated certificate of incorporation), and on the first anniversary of any holder's death. In the past, we have always exercised these purchase options, and we expect to continue to do so in the foreseeable future. However, we can make no assurance that we will continue to exercise our purchase option in the future. All outstanding shares have been issued at \$20.00 per share.

The following table sets forth information regarding purchases of common stock by the Company, all of which were made pursuant to the foregoing provisions:

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid Per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 1 to October 31, 2018 | 57,000 | \$20.00 | N/A |
| November 1 to November 30, 2018 | 29,983 | \$20.00 | N/A |
| December 1 to December 31, 2018 | 58,172 | \$20.00 | N/A |
| Total | 145,155 | \$20.00 | N/A |

Capital Stock at December 31, 2018

| Title of Class | Number of Security Holders | Number of Shares |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Voting Trust Interests issued with respect to Common Stock | 5,098 | 17,708,874 |
| Common Stock | 1,947 | 3,732,195 |
| Total | 7,045 | 21,441,069 |

| Dividend Data (in dollars per share) | Year Ended December 31, | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Period | | |
| First Quarter | \$ 0.30 | \$ 0.30 |
| Second Quarter | 0.30 | 0.30 |
| Third Quarter | 0.30 | 0.30 |
| Fourth Quarter | 1.50 | 1.10 |
| Total | \$ 2.40 | \$ 2.00 |

On December 13, 2018, our Board of Directors declared a 10% stock dividend to shareholders of record on December 17, 2018. Shares representing this dividend were issued on February 1, 2019.

On December 13, 2017, our Board of Directors declared a 10% stock dividend to shareholders of record on December 18, 2017. Shares representing this dividend were issued on February 2, 2018.

Item 6. Selected Financial Data

This summary should be read in conjunction with the accompanying consolidated financial statements and the notes to the consolidated financial statements included in Item 8., “Financial Statements and Supplementary Data”, of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Five Year Summary of Selected Consolidated Financial Data

(Stated in millions, except for per share data)

| For the Years Ended December 31, | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Gross Sales | \$ 7,235.7 | \$ 6,662.4 | \$ 6,413.2 | \$ 6,136.3 | \$ 6,004.2 |
| Cash Discounts | (33.2) | (31.2) | (28.2) | (26.0) | (25.3) |
| Net Sales | \$ 7,202.5 | \$ 6,631.2 | \$ 6,385.0 | \$ 6,110.3 | \$ 5,978.9 |
| Gross Margin | \$ 1,380.9 | \$ 1,261.3 | \$ 1,208.4 | \$ 1,154.7 | \$ 1,118.5 |
| Net Income attributable to Graybar Electric Company, Inc. | \$ 143.3 | \$ 71.6 | \$ 93.1 | \$ 91.1 | \$ 87.4 |
| Average common shares outstanding ^(A) | 21.4 | 21.3 | 21.0 | 20.8 | 20.6 |
| Net Income attributable to Graybar Electric Company, Inc. per share of Common Stock ^(A) | \$ 6.69 | \$ 3.36 | \$ 4.43 | \$ 4.38 | \$ 4.24 |
| Cash Dividends per share of Common Stock | \$ 2.40 | \$ 2.00 | \$ 3.00 | \$ 3.00 | \$ 4.00 |
| Total Assets | \$ 2,491.2 | \$ 2,261.4 | \$ 2,099.2 | \$ 2,049.5 | \$ 1,939.1 |
| Total Liabilities | \$ 1,620.7 | \$ 1,499.8 | \$ 1,368.3 | \$ 1,361.4 | \$ 1,257.1 |
| Shareholders' Equity | \$ 870.5 | \$ 761.6 | \$ 730.9 | \$ 688.1 | \$ 682.0 |
| Working Capital ^{(B)(C)} | \$ 542.0 | \$ 486.7 | \$ 432.4 | \$ 436.7 | \$ 438.8 |
| Long-term Debt | \$ 10.0 | \$ 7.0 | \$ 7.3 | \$ 10.3 | \$ 11.6 |

^(A)All periods adjusted for the declaration of a 10% stock dividend declared in December 2018, a 10% stock dividend declared in December 2017, a 5% stock dividend declared in December 2016, and a 2.5% stock dividend declared in December 2015. Prior to these adjustments, the average common shares outstanding for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016, 2015, and 2014 were 19.4 million shares, 17.4 million shares, 16.4 million shares, and 15.8 million shares, respectively.

^(B)All periods adjusted for certain balance sheet reclassifications to conform to the December 31, 2018 presentation.

^(C)Working capital is defined as total current assets less total current liabilities.

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

Management's Discussion and Analysis provides a narrative description of the Company's results of operations, financial condition, liquidity, and cash flows for the three-year period ended December 31, 2018. This discussion should be read in conjunction with the accompanying consolidated financial statements and the notes to the consolidated financial statements included in Item 8., “Financial Statements and Supplementary Data”, of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Business Overview

We set records for the financial results of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2018. Our 2018 net sales totaled \$7,202.5 million, an increase of \$571.3 million, or 8.6%, compared to net sales of \$6,631.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2017. In 2018, net sales in our construction, CIG, and industrial & utility verticals increased 10.3%, 6.9%, and 5.6%, respectively. We believe our continued investments in people, technology and service innovation contributed significantly to our strong sales performance for 2018.

Gross margin increased \$119.6 million, or 9.5%, to \$1,380.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2018, when compared to gross margin of \$1,261.3 million for the same twelve-month period last year. Gross margin rate was 19.2% for the year ended December 31, 2018, compared to 19.0% at December 31, 2017. The increase in gross margin rate was due to our ongoing gross margin rate improvement initiatives.

We also set a new annual net income record for the Company. Net income attributable to Graybar Electric Company, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2018 was \$143.3 million, which was \$71.7 million, or 100.1%, higher than net income attributable to Graybar Electric Company, Inc. of \$71.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2017. The increase in net income attributable to Graybar Electric Company, Inc. was due to a lower corporate income tax rate as a result of the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act ("TCJA") and ongoing tax planning initiatives.

We remain focused on growing our business and delivering an exceptional customer experience, while we invest in new opportunities for growth and innovation. We also continue to improve our operational efficiency, which allows us to work faster, smarter and more productively and produces better results for our Company and customers. Our efforts to drive growth and efficiency are enabled by technology that helps improve our performance and strengthen our position as a leader in the supply chain.

Consolidated Results of Operations

The following table sets forth certain information relating to our operations stated in millions of dollars and as a percentage of net sales for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016:

| | 2018 | | 2017 | | 2016 | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------|
| | Dollars | Percent of Net Sales | Dollars | Percent of Net Sales | Dollars | Percent of Net Sales |
| Net Sales | \$ 7,202.5 | 100.0% | \$ 6,631.2 | 100.0% | \$ 6,385.0 | 100.0% |
| Cost of merchandise sold | (5,821.6) | (80.8) | (5,369.9) | (81.0) | (5,176.6) | (81.1) |
| Gross Margin | 1,380.9 | 19.2 | 1,261.3 | 19.0 | 1,208.4 | 18.9 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | (1,125.0) | (15.6) | (1,026.6) | (15.5) | (986.3) | (15.5) |
| Depreciation and amortization | (49.6) | (0.7) | (48.9) | (0.7) | (47.9) | (0.7) |
| Other income, net | 3.4 | — | 6.5 | 0.1 | 5.3 | 0.1 |
| Income from Operations | 209.7 | 2.9 | 192.3 | 2.9 | 179.5 | 2.8 |
| Non-operating expenses | (30.6) | (0.4) | (24.8) | (0.4) | (26.0) | (0.4) |
| Income before provision for income taxes | 179.1 | 2.5 | 167.5 | 2.5 | 153.5 | 2.4 |
| Provision for income taxes | (35.4) | (0.5) | (95.6) | (1.4) | (60.2) | (0.9) |
| Net Income | 143.7 | 2.0 | 71.9 | 1.1 | 93.3 | 1.5 |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests | (0.4) | — | (0.3) | — | (0.2) | — |
| Net Income attributable to Graybar Electric Company, Inc. | \$ 143.3 | 2.0% | \$ 71.6 | 1.1% | \$ 93.1 | 1.5% |

2018 Compared to 2017

Net sales totaled \$7,202.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2018, compared to \$6,631.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2017, an increase of \$571.3 million, or 8.6%. For the year ended December 31, 2018, net sales in our construction, CIG, and industrial & utility verticals increased by 10.3%, 6.9%, and 5.6%, respectively, compared to the year ended December 31, 2017.

Gross margin increased \$119.6 million, or 9.5%, to \$1,380.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2018, from \$1,261.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2017. The increase resulted from higher net sales for the year ended December 31, 2018, compared to the year ended December 31, 2017. Our gross margin rate was 19.2% for the year ended December 31, 2018, compared to 19.0% for the year ended December 31, 2017. The increase in gross margin rate was due to our ongoing gross margin rate improvement initiatives.

Selling, general and administrative ("SG&A") expenses increased \$98.4 million, or 9.6%, to \$1,125.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2018, compared to \$1,026.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2017, mainly due to higher compensation and benefit-related costs. SG&A expenses as a percentage of net sales were 15.6% for the year ended December 31, 2018, compared to 15.5% for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Depreciation and amortization for the year ended December 31, 2018, increased \$0.7 million, or 1.4%, to \$49.6 million from \$48.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2017. This increase was primarily due to an increase in property, at cost. Total property, at cost, at December 31, 2018 was \$989.3 million, an increase of \$25.1 million, or 2.6%, when compared to total property, at cost, at December 31, 2017 of \$964.2 million. Depreciation as a percentage of net sales remained consistent at 0.7% for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017.

Other income, net totaled \$3.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2018, compared to \$6.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2017. Other income, net consists primarily of gains or losses on the disposal of property, trade receivable interest charges to customers, and other miscellaneous income items related to our business activities. The decrease in other income, net was primarily due to a favorable settlement of a prior claim substantially paid in 2017.

Non-operating expenses increased \$5.8 million, or 23.4%, to \$30.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2018, from \$24.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2017. The increase was due to increases in non-service cost components of net periodic benefit costs of \$3.1 million and interest expense, net of \$2.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2018, compared to the year ended December 31, 2017. The increase in interest expense, net was due to higher interest rates and higher levels of average outstanding short-term borrowings for the year ended December 31, 2018, compared to the year ended December 31, 2017.

Income before provision for income taxes increased \$11.6 million, or 6.9%, to \$179.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2018, compared to \$167.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2017. The increase in income before provision for income taxes was primarily due to the increase in gross margin, while SG&A expenses as a percentage of net sales remained relatively flat.

Our provision for income taxes decreased \$60.2 million, or 63.0%, to \$35.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2018 from \$95.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2017. Our effective tax rate was 19.8% for the year ended December 31, 2018, down from 57.1% for the year ended December 31, 2017. The decrease in the effective tax rate is due to the reduction in the statutory tax rate, tax planning, and remeasurement of deferred tax assets and liabilities in response to the TCJA.

Net income attributable to Graybar Electric Company, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2018 increased \$71.7 million, or 100.1%, to \$143.3 million from \$71.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2017.

2017 Compared to 2016

Net sales totaled \$6,631.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2017, compared to \$6,385.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2016, an increase of \$246.2 million, or 3.9%. For the year ended December 31, 2017, net sales in our construction vertical increased by 5.1%, while net sales in our industrial & utility vertical increased 9.2%. Our CIG vertical net sales decreased by 5.0% from 2016.

Gross margin increased \$52.9 million, or 4.4%, to \$1,261.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2017, from \$1,208.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2016. The increase resulted from an increase in net sales for the year ended December 31, 2017, compared to the year ended December 31, 2016, as well as our pricing and product diversification initiatives and our acquisition of Cape Electrical Supply LLC in 2016. Our gross margin rate was 19.0% for the year ended December 31, 2017, compared to 18.9% for the year ended December 31, 2016.

SG&A expenses increased \$40.3 million, or 4.1%, to \$1,026.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2017, mainly due to higher employment-related costs. SG&A expenses as a percentage of net sales remained consistent at 15.5% for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016.

Depreciation and amortization for the year ended December 31, 2017 increased \$1.0 million, or 2.1%, to \$48.9 million from \$47.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2016. This increase was primarily due to an increase in property, at cost. Total property, at cost, at December 31, 2017 was \$964.2 million, an increase of \$23.6 million, or 2.5%, when compared to total property, at cost, at December 31, 2016 of \$940.6 million. Depreciation and amortization as a percentage of net sales remained consistent at 0.7% for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016.

Other income, net totaled \$6.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2017, compared to \$5.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2016. Other income, net consists primarily of gains or losses on the disposal of property, trade receivable interest charges to customers, and other miscellaneous income items related to our business activities. The increase in other income, net was due to a favorable settlement of a prior claim partially offset by reduced net gains on the disposal of real and personal property in 2017 as compared to 2016. Net gains on the disposal of real and personal property was \$0.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2017, compared to net gains on the disposal of real and personal property of \$1.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2016.

Non-operating expenses decreased \$1.2 million, or 4.6%, to \$24.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2017, from \$26.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2016. The decrease was due to a decrease in non-service cost components of net periodic benefit costs of \$1.2 million, partially offset by an increase in interest expense, net of \$0.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2017, compared to the year ended December 31, 2016. The increase in interest expense, net was due to higher interest rates on our short-term borrowings for the year ended December 31, 2017, compared to the year ended December 31, 2016.

Income before provision for income taxes increased \$14.0 million, or 9.2% to \$167.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2017, compared to \$153.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2016. The increase in income before provision for income taxes was primarily due to our growth in gross margin and increased other income, net which outpaced our increases in SG&A expenses and depreciation and amortization.

Our provision for income taxes increased \$35.4 million, or 58.8%, to \$95.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2017, from \$60.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2016. Our effective tax rate was 57.1% for the year ended December 31, 2017, up from 39.2% for the year ended December 31, 2016. The increase in effective tax rate was primarily due to the remeasurement of deferred tax assets and liabilities in response to the TCJA.

Net income attributable to Graybar Electric Company, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2017 decreased \$21.5 million, or 23.1%, to \$71.6 million from \$93.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2016.

Financial Condition and Liquidity

Summary

We manage our liquidity and capital levels so that we have the capability to invest in the growth of our business, meet debt service obligations, finance anticipated capital expenditures, pay dividends, make benefit payments, finance information technology needs, fund acquisitions and finance other miscellaneous cash outlays. We believe that maintaining a strong company financial condition enables us to competitively access multiple financing channels, maintain an optimal cost of capital and enable our company to invest in strategic long-term growth plans.

We have historically funded our working capital requirements using cash flows generated by the collection of trade receivables and trade accounts payable terms with our suppliers, supplemented by short-term bank lines of credit. Capital expenditures have been financed primarily by cash from working capital management and short-term bank lines of credit.

Cash Flows

The following table summarizes our cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities for each of the past three years:

| Total cash provided by (used in): | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| Operating Activities | \$ 42.1 | \$ 45.1 | \$ 112.2 |
| Investing Activities | (42.3) | (39.1) | (91.0) |
| Financing Activities | 16.3 | (6.5) | (15.8) |
| Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash | \$ 16.1 | \$ (0.5) | \$ 5.4 |

Our cash was \$58.9 million at December 31, 2018, a increase of \$16.1 million, or 37.6%, from \$42.8 million at December 31, 2017. Our short-term borrowings increased during the year to \$235.0 million at December 31, 2018 from \$169.6 million at December 31, 2017, primarily as a result of higher working capital investment required to support operating activities due to the growth in sales and due to funding of employee benefits, all funded with short-term lines of credit. Current assets exceeded current liabilities by \$542.0 million at December 31, 2018, an increase of \$55.3 million, or 11.4%, from \$486.7 million at December 31, 2017.

Operating Activities

Cash flows provided by operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2018 was \$42.1 million, compared to cash provided by operating activities of \$45.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2017. Cash provided by operations for the year ended December 31, 2018, was attributable to net income of \$143.7 million and increases in accounts payable of \$59.7 million and accrued payroll and benefit costs of \$38.8, partially offset by increases in trade receivables of \$125.4 million and merchandise inventory of \$101.9 million both to support the increase in net sales, as well as a decrease in other non-current liabilities of \$24.4 million.

The average number of days of sales in trade receivables for the year ended December 31, 2018 increased moderately compared to the same twelve-month period in 2017 due to increased sales in the fourth quarter of 2018, as compared to the fourth quarter of 2017. The days in inventory increased significantly for the year ended December 31, 2018 as a result of higher merchandise inventory levels at December 31, 2018, compared to December 31, 2017.

Investing Activities

Net cash used by investing activities was \$42.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2018, compared to \$39.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2017, an increase of \$3.2 million, or 8.2%. The increase was due to higher capital expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2018, compared to the year ended December 31, 2017, partially offset by lower proceeds received on the disposal of property for the year ended December 31, 2018, compared to the same period in 2017.

Financing Activities

Net cash provided by financing activities totaled \$16.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2018, compared to net cash used by financing activities of \$6.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2017, an increase of \$22.8 million, or 350.8%. The increase was primarily due to higher short-term borrowings during the year ended December 31, 2018, compared to the same period in 2017, partially offset by higher cash dividends paid in 2018 as compared to 2017. Cash dividends paid totaled \$46.9 million, or \$2.40 per share, for the year ended December 31, 2018, compared to \$35.4 million, or \$2.00 per share, for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Liquidity

We had a \$750.0 million amended revolving credit facility with \$515.0 million in available capacity at December 31, 2018, compared to a \$550.0 million revolving credit facility with available capacity of \$380.4 million at December 31, 2017. At December 31, 2018 and 2017, we also had two uncommitted \$100.0 million private placement shelf agreements ("shelf agreements"). The first of the shelf agreements is expected to allow us to issue senior promissory notes to PGIM, Inc., at fixed rate terms to be agreed upon at the time of any issuance during a three-year issuance period ending in August 2020. The second of the shelf agreements is expected to allow us to issue senior promissory notes to Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and MetLife Investment Advisors, LLC and each other affiliate of MetLife Investment Advisors, LLC that becomes a party to the agreement, at fixed or floating rate terms to be agreed upon at the time of any issuance during a three-year issuance period ending in August 2021.

We have not issued any notes under the shelf agreements as of December 31, 2018 and 2017. For further discussion related to our revolving credit facility and our private placement shelf agreements, refer to Note 11, "Debt", of the notes to the consolidated financial statements located in Item 8., "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data", of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

We had total letters of credit of \$5.6 million and \$5.4 million outstanding, of which none were issued under the applicable credit agreements at December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. The letters of credit are issued primarily to support certain workers' compensation insurance policies.

Contractual Obligations and Commitments

We had the following contractual obligations as of December 31, 2018:

| Contractual obligations | Payments due by period | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Total | 2019 | 2020 and 2021 | 2022 and 2023 | After 2023 |
| Capital lease obligations | \$ 13.8 | \$ 2.7 | \$ 5.1 | \$ 3.0 | \$ 3.0 |
| Operating lease obligations | 109.1 | 30.3 | 39.1 | 21.5 | 18.2 |
| Purchase obligations | 942.0 | 942.0 | — | — | — |
| Other obligations | 3.6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | — | — |
| Total | \$ 1,068.5 | \$ 976.8 | \$ 46.0 | \$ 24.5 | \$ 21.2 |

Capital lease obligations consist of both principal and interest payments. There were no long-term debt obligations, other than capital lease obligations, at December 31, 2018.

Purchase obligations consist of open purchase orders issued in the normal course of business. Many of these purchase obligations may be cancelled with limited or no financial penalties.

The table above does not include \$120.5 million of accrued, unfunded pension obligations, \$81.2 million of accrued, unfunded employment-related benefit obligations, of which \$72.5 million is related to our postretirement benefit plan, and \$2.6

million in contingent payments for uncertain tax positions because it is not certain when these obligations will be settled or paid.

We also expect to fund \$1.7 million for nonqualified pension benefits during 2019 that are not included in the table. Required pension contributions under Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 regulations are expected to be zero in 2019; however, additional contributions may be made at our discretion. We contributed \$80.0 million to our defined benefit pension plan and funded \$1.6 million for nonqualified benefits in 2018.

Critical Accounting Estimates

Our consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the U.S. ("GAAP"). In connection with the preparation of our financial statements we are required to make estimates and assumptions about future events and apply judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenue, expenses and the related disclosures. We base our estimates, assumptions and judgments on historical experience, current trends and other factors that management believes to be relevant at the time our consolidated financial statements are prepared. On a regular basis, we review the accounting policies, estimates, assumptions, and judgments to ensure that our financial statements are presented fairly and in accordance with GAAP. However, because future events and their effects cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could differ from our estimates and assumptions, and such differences could be material.

Our significant accounting policies are discussed in Note 2, "Summary of Significant Accounting Policies", of the notes to the consolidated financial statements located in Item 8., "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data", of this Annual Report on Form 10-K. We believe that the following accounting estimates are the most critical to aid in fully understanding and evaluating our reported financial results, and they require our most difficult, subjective or complex judgments, resulting from the need to make estimates about the effect of matters inherently uncertain. We have reviewed these critical accounting estimates and related disclosures with the Audit Committee of our Board.

Income Taxes

We recognize deferred tax assets and liabilities to reflect the future tax consequences of events that have been recognized in the financial statements or tax returns. A deferred tax asset or liability results from the temporary difference between an item's carrying value as reflected in the financial statements and its tax basis, and is calculated using enacted applicable tax rates. We assess the likelihood that our deferred tax assets will be recovered from future taxable income and, to the extent we believe that recovery is not likely, a valuation allowance is established. Changes in the valuation allowance, when recorded, are included in the provision for income taxes in the consolidated financial statements. We classify interest expense and penalties as part of our provision for income taxes based upon applicable federal and state interest/underpayment percentages. We assess uncertainty regarding tax positions taken in previously filed returns and record reserves in accordance with the guidance under Accounting Standards Codification 740-10, "Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes".

Merchandise Inventory

We value our inventories at the lower of cost (generally determined using the last-in, first-out ("LIFO") cost method) or market. LIFO accounting is a method of accounting that, compared with other inventory accounting methods, generally provides better matching of current costs with current sales. In assessing the ultimate realization of inventories, we make judgments as to our return rights to suppliers and future demand requirements and record an inventory reserve for obsolete inventory. If actual future demand, market conditions, or supplier return provisions are less favorable than those projected by management, additional inventory write-downs may be required. For the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016, there were no material differences between our estimated reserve levels and actual write-offs.

Pension and Postretirement Benefits Plans

We account for our pension and postretirement benefit obligations in accordance with the accounting standards for defined benefit pension and other postretirement plans. These standards require the use of several important assumptions, including the discount rate and expected long-term rate of return on plan assets, among others, in determining our obligations and the annual cost of our pension and postretirement benefits. These assumptions are assessed annually in consultation with independent actuaries and investment advisors as of December 31 and adjustments are made as needed.

The following table presents key assumptions used to measure the pension and postretirement benefits obligations at December 31:

| | <u>Pension Benefits</u> | | <u>Postretirement Benefits</u> | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 | 2017 |
| Discount rate | 4.31% | 3.67% | 4.16% | 3.44% |
| Expected return on plan assets | 5.75% | 5.75% | — | — |

To determine the long-term expected rate of return, we consider macroeconomic conditions, the historical experience and expected future long-term performance of the plan assets, as well as the current and expected allocation of the plan assets. The pension plan's asset allocation as of December 31, 2018, was approximately 74% fixed income investments, 16% equity securities and 10% other investments, in line with our policy ranges. We periodically evaluate the allocation of plan assets among the different investment classes to ensure that they are within policy guidelines and ranges. Holding all other assumptions constant, we estimate that a 1% decrease in the expected return on plan assets would have increased our 2018 pension expense by approximately \$6.0 million. Our expected long-term rate of return on plan assets assumption will remain consistent for fiscal year 2019 at 5.75%.

In determining the discount rate, we use yields on high-quality fixed-income investments (including among other things, Moody's Aa corporate bond yields) that match the duration and expected cash flows of the future pension obligations. To the extent the discount rate increases or decreases, our pension and postretirement obligations are decreased or increased accordingly. Holding all other assumptions constant, we estimate that a 1% decrease in the discount rate used to calculate both pension expense for 2018 and the pension liability as of December 31, 2018 would have increased pension expense by \$7.1 million and the pension liability by \$79.4 million. Similarly, a 1% decrease in the discount rate would have increased postretirement benefits expense by \$0.2 million and the December 31, 2018 postretirement benefits liability by \$5.6 million.

New Accounting Standards

Our adoption of new accounting standards are discussed in Note 2, "Summary of Significant Accounting Policies", of the notes to the consolidated financial statements located in Item 8., "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data", of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Market risk is the risk of loss arising from adverse changes in market rates and prices, including commodity prices, foreign currency exchange rates, interest rates, and equity prices. Our primary exposures to market risk are commodity price risk, foreign currency exchange rate risk, and interest rate risk associated with debt obligations.

Commodity Price Risk

We have exposure to commodity price risk on products we purchase for resale. Examples of such products include wire and cable, conduit, enclosures, and fittings.

Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Risk

The functional currency for our Canadian subsidiary is the Canadian dollar. Accordingly, its balance sheet amounts are translated at the exchange rates in effect at year-end and its income and expenses are translated using average exchange rates prevailing during the year. Currency translation adjustments are included in accumulated other comprehensive loss. Exposure to foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations is not material.

Interest Rate Risk

Our interest expense is sensitive to changes in the general level of market interest rates. Changes in interest rates have different impacts on the fixed-rate and variable-rate portions of our debt portfolio. A change in market interest rates on the fixed-rate portion of our debt portfolio impacts the fair value of the financial instrument, but has no impact on interest incurred or cash flows. A change in market interest rates on the variable-rate portion of our debt portfolio impacts the interest incurred and cash flows, but does not impact the fair value of the financial instrument.

Based on \$235.0 million in variable-rate debt outstanding at December 31, 2018, a 1% increase in interest rates would increase our interest expense by \$2.4 million per year.

The following table provides information about financial instruments that are sensitive to changes in interest rates. The table presents principal payments on debt and related weighted-average interest rates by expected maturity dates:

| Debt Instruments | | | | | | | | December 31, 2018 | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|----------|--------------------------|--|
| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | After 2023 | Total | Fair Value | |
| Long-term, fixed-rate debt | \$ 3.4 | \$ 3.4 | \$ 1.8 | \$ 1.3 | \$ 1.0 | \$ 2.5 | \$ 13.4 | \$ 11.9 | |
| Weighted-average interest rate | 4.87% | 4.84% | 5.65% | 6.40% | 7.58% | 9.32% | | | |
| Short-term, variable-rate borrowings | \$ 235.0 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 235.0 | \$ 235.0 | |
| Weighted-average interest rate | 3.57% | | | | | | | | |

The fair value of long-term debt is estimated by calculating future cash flows at interpolated Treasury yields with similar maturities, plus an estimate of our credit risk spread as of December 31, 2018.

[THE REST OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

CAUTION REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS:

For additional information related to risks associated with our future performance, see Part I, "Caution Regarding Forward-looking Statements" above and Item 1A. Risk Factors of this Form 10-K.

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

[THE REST OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]



Ernst & Young LLP
The Plaza in Clayton
Suite 1300
190 Carondelet Plaza
St. Louis, MO 63105-3434

Tel: +1 314 290 1000
Fax: +1 314 290 1882

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Shareholders and the Board of Directors of Graybar Electric Company, Inc.

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Graybar Electric Company, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 31, 2018 and 2017, the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, shareholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2018, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "consolidated financial statements"). In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company at December 31, 2018 and 2017, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2018, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Ernst & Young LLP

We have served as the Company's auditor since 1996.

St. Louis, MO

March 13, 2019

Graybar Electric Company, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Income

| <i>(Stated in millions, except per share data)</i> | For the Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Net Sales | \$ 7,202.5 | \$ 6,631.2 | \$ 6,385.0 |
| Cost of merchandise sold | (5,821.6) | (5,369.9) | (5,176.6) |
| Gross Margin | 1,380.9 | 1,261.3 | 1,208.4 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | (1,125.0) | (1,026.6) | (986.3) |
| Depreciation and amortization | (49.6) | (48.9) | (47.9) |
| Other income, net | 3.4 | 6.5 | 5.3 |
| Income from Operations | 209.7 | 192.3 | 179.5 |
| Non-operating expenses | (30.6) | (24.8) | (26.0) |
| Income before Provision for Income Taxes | 179.1 | 167.5 | 153.5 |
| Provision for income taxes | (35.4) | (95.6) | (60.2) |
| Net Income | 143.7 | 71.9 | 93.3 |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests | (0.4) | (0.3) | (0.2) |
| Net Income attributable to Graybar Electric Company, Inc. | \$ 143.3 | \$ 71.6 | \$ 93.1 |
| Net Income attributable to Graybar Electric Company, Inc. per share of Common Stock^(A) | \$ 6.69 | \$ 3.36 | \$ 4.43 |

^(A) Adjusted for the declaration of a 10% stock dividend in December 2018, shares related to which were issued in February 2019. Prior to the adjustment, the average common shares outstanding were 19.4 million shares and 19.1 million shares for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

The accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Graybar Electric Company, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

| <i>(Stated in millions)</i> | For the Years Ended December 31, | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Net Income | \$ 143.7 | \$ 71.9 | \$ 93.3 |
| Other Comprehensive Income | | | |
| Foreign currency translation | (8.1) | 5.9 | 2.2 |
| Pension and postretirement benefits liability adjustment (net of tax of \$(6.1), \$10.0, and \$5.2, respectively) | 17.6 | (15.7) | (8.2) |
| Total Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) | 9.5 | (9.8) | (6.0) |
| Comprehensive Income | \$ 153.2 | \$ 62.1 | \$ 87.3 |
| Less: comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interests, net of tax | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.4 |
| Comprehensive Income attributable to Graybar Electric Company, Inc. | \$ 153.1 | \$ 61.6 | \$ 86.9 |

The accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Graybar Electric Company, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Balance Sheets

| <i>(Stated in millions, except share and per share data)</i> | December 31, | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| ASSETS | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 58.9 | \$ 42.8 |
| Trade receivables (less allowances of \$5.9 and \$6.0, respectively) | 1,187.0 | 1,061.6 |
| Merchandise inventory | 658.7 | 566.2 |
| Other current assets | 54.1 | 56.2 |
| Total Current Assets | 1,958.7 | 1,726.8 |
| Property, at cost | | |
| Land | 79.4 | 79.8 |
| Buildings | 489.2 | 470.8 |
| Furniture and fixtures | 233.0 | 225.5 |
| Software | 166.4 | 162.5 |
| Capital leases | 21.3 | 25.6 |
| Total Property, at cost | 989.3 | 964.2 |
| Less – accumulated depreciation and amortization | (565.4) | (539.3) |
| Net Property | 423.9 | 424.9 |
| Other Non-current Assets | | |
| Total Assets | \$ 2,491.2 | \$ 2,261.4 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Short-term borrowings | \$ 235.0 | \$ 169.6 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | 3.4 | 2.1 |
| Trade accounts payable | 895.2 | 835.5 |
| Accrued payroll and benefit costs | 158.2 | 119.4 |
| Other accrued taxes | 23.9 | 17.2 |
| Other current liabilities | 101.0 | 96.3 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 1,416.7 | 1,240.1 |
| Postretirement Benefits Liability | 66.7 | 70.7 |
| Pension Liability | 118.6 | 169.2 |
| Long-term Debt | 10.0 | 7.0 |
| Other Non-current Liabilities | 8.7 | 12.8 |
| Total Liabilities | 1,620.7 | 1,499.8 |
| SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| | Shares at December 31, | |
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Capital Stock | | |
| Common, stated value \$20.00 per share | | |
| Authorized | 50,000,000 | 50,000,000 |
| Issued to voting trustees | 17,754,923 | 15,912,467 |
| Issued to shareholders | 3,744,318 | 3,496,114 |
| In treasury, at cost | (58,172) | (24,243) |
| Outstanding Common Stock | 21,441,069 | 19,384,338 |
| Common shares subscribed | 958,439 | 923,156 |
| Less subscriptions receivable | (958,439) | (923,156) |
| Retained Earnings | 678.1 | 619.9 |
| Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss | (240.3) | (250.1) |
| Total Graybar Electric Company, Inc. Shareholders' Equity | 866.6 | 757.5 |
| Noncontrolling Interests | | |
| Total Shareholders' Equity | 870.5 | 761.6 |
| Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity | \$ 2,491.2 | \$ 2,261.4 |

The accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Graybar Electric Company, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

| <i>(Stated in millions)</i> | For the Years Ended December 31, | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities | | | |
| Net Income | \$ 143.7 | \$ 71.9 | \$ 93.3 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to cash provided by operating activities: | | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 49.6 | 48.9 | 47.9 |
| Deferred income taxes | 3.4 | 14.2 | 19.5 |
| Net gains on disposal of property | — | (0.1) | (1.8) |
| Losses on impairment of property | 0.3 | — | — |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests | (0.4) | (0.3) | (0.2) |
| Changes in assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions: | | | |
| Trade receivables | (125.4) | (97.5) | (18.6) |
| Merchandise inventory | (101.9) | (63.8) | 19.7 |
| Other current assets | 2.1 | (10.9) | 6.7 |
| Other non-current assets | (9.0) | (0.5) | (1.5) |
| Trade accounts payable | 59.7 | 83.3 | (25.5) |
| Accrued payroll and benefit costs | 38.8 | (2.1) | 9.8 |
| Other current liabilities | 5.6 | 13.3 | 0.7 |
| Other non-current liabilities | (24.4) | (11.3) | (37.8) |
| Total adjustments to net income | (101.6) | (26.8) | 18.9 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 42.1 | 45.1 | 112.2 |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities | | | |
| Proceeds from disposal of property | 0.7 | 2.2 | 4.1 |
| Capital expenditures for property | (43.0) | (41.3) | (35.2) |
| Acquisition of business, net of cash acquired | — | — | (59.9) |
| Net cash used by investing activities | (42.3) | (39.1) | (91.0) |
| Cash Flows from Financing Activities | | | |
| Net increase in short-term borrowings | 65.4 | 29.1 | 35.5 |
| Repayment of long-term debt | — | — | (1.9) |
| Principal payments under capital leases | (4.0) | (4.2) | (4.8) |
| Sales of common stock | 17.8 | 17.4 | 17.0 |
| Purchases of treasury stock | (15.7) | (13.7) | (11.3) |
| Sales of noncontrolling interests' common stock | — | 0.6 | — |
| Purchases of noncontrolling interests' common stock | (0.3) | (0.3) | (0.4) |
| Dividends paid | (46.9) | (35.4) | (49.9) |
| Net cash provided (used) by financing activities | 16.3 | (6.5) | (15.8) |
| Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash | 16.1 | (0.5) | 5.4 |
| Cash, Beginning of Year | 42.8 | 43.3 | 37.9 |
| Cash, End of Year | \$ 58.9 | \$ 42.8 | \$ 43.3 |
| Supplemental Cash Flow Information: | | | |
| Non-cash Investing and Financing Activities: | | | |
| Acquisitions of equipment under capital leases | \$ 3.1 | \$ 1.9 | \$ 0.4 |
| Acquisition of software and maintenance under financing arrangement | \$ 5.0 | \$ — | \$ — |
| Cash Paid During the Year for: | | | |
| Interest, net of amounts capitalized | \$ 6.3 | \$ 4.2 | \$ 3.7 |
| Income taxes, net of refunds | \$ 38.3 | \$ 78.4 | \$ 36.8 |

The accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Graybar Electric Company, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Consolidated Statements of Changes in Shareholders' Equity

| <i>(Stated in millions)</i> | Graybar Electric Company, Inc. | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| | Shareholders' Equity | | | | |
| | Common Stock | Retained Earnings | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss | Noncontrolling Interests | Total Shareholders' Equity |
| Balance, December 31, 2015 | \$ 326.5 | \$ 548.8 | \$ (190.4) | \$ 3.3 | \$ 688.2 |
| Net income | | 93.1 | | 0.2 | 93.3 |
| Other comprehensive (loss) income | | | (6.2) | 0.2 | (6.0) |
| Stock issued | 17.0 | | | | 17.0 |
| Stock purchased | (11.3) | | | (0.4) | (11.7) |
| Dividends declared | 16.6 | (66.5) | | | (49.9) |
| Balance, December 31, 2016 | \$ 348.8 | \$ 575.4 | \$ (196.6) | \$ 3.3 | \$ 730.9 |
| Net income | | 71.6 | | 0.3 | 71.9 |
| Other comprehensive (loss) income | | | (10.0) | 0.2 | (9.8) |
| Adoption of ASU 2018-02 | | 43.5 | (43.5) | | — |
| Stock issued | 17.4 | | | 0.6 | 18.0 |
| Stock purchased | (13.7) | | | (0.3) | (14.0) |
| Dividends declared | 35.2 | (70.6) | | | (35.4) |
| Balance, December 31, 2017 | \$ 387.7 | \$ 619.9 | \$ (250.1) | \$ 4.1 | \$ 761.6 |
| Net income | | 143.3 | | 0.4 | 143.7 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) | | | 9.8 | (0.3) | 9.5 |
| Adoption of ASC 606, net of tax | | 0.8 | | | 0.8 |
| Stock issued | 17.8 | | | | 17.8 |
| Stock purchased | (15.7) | | | (0.3) | (16.0) |
| Dividends declared | 39.0 | (85.9) | | | (46.9) |
| Balance, December 31, 2018 | \$ 428.8 | \$ 678.1 | \$ (240.3) | \$ 3.9 | \$ 870.5 |

The accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements are an integral part of the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Graybar Electric Company, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
as of December 31, 2018 and 2017 and
for the Years Ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016
(Stated in millions, except share and per share data)

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE BUSINESS

Graybar Electric Company, Inc. (“Graybar”, “Company”, “we”, “our”, or “us”) is a New York corporation, incorporated in 1925. We are engaged in the distribution of electrical and communications and data networking products and are a provider of related supply chain management and logistics services. We primarily serve customers in the construction, industrial & utility, and commercial, institutional and government (“CIG”) vertical markets, with products and services that support new construction, infrastructure updates, building renovation, facility maintenance, repair and operations (“MRO”), and original equipment manufacturers (“OEM”). We purchase all of the products we sell from others, and we neither manufacture nor contract to manufacture any products we sell. Our business activity is primarily based in the United States (“U.S.”). We also have subsidiary operations with distribution facilities in Canada and Puerto Rico.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Our accounting policies conform to generally accepted accounting principles in the U.S. (“GAAP”) and are applied on a consistent basis among all years presented. Significant accounting policies are described below.

Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Graybar and its subsidiary companies. All material intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated. The ownership interests that are held by owners other than the Company in subsidiaries consolidated by the Company are accounted for and reported as noncontrolling interests.

Estimates

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

Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to prior years' financial information to conform to the December 31, 2018 presentation. These changes consisted of reclassifying certain asset and liability items between current and non-current within the December 31, 2017 balance sheet. The reclassifications had no effect on total assets or liabilities as of December 31, 2017.

Subsequent Events

We have evaluated subsequent events through the time of the filing of this Annual Report on Form 10-K with the Commission. No material subsequent events have occurred since December 31, 2018 that require recognition or disclosure in our financial statements.

Revenue Recognition

Sales revenue is recognized when performance obligations are satisfied, which is typically upon delivery of the product to the customer. Sometimes product is purchased from the manufacturer and drop-shipped to the customer. We generally take control of the goods when shipped by the manufacturer and then recognize revenue when control of the product transfers to the customer. Revenues recognized are primarily for product sales, but may also include freight and handling charges. Our standard warehouse shipping terms are FOB shipping point, under which control passes to the customer at the time of shipment. We also earn revenue for professional services, general contracting services, and storage services. Service revenue represented less than 1% of gross sales for the year ended December 31, 2018. Revenue is reported net of all taxes assessed by governmental authorities as a result of revenue-producing transactions, primarily sales tax.

Outgoing Freight Expenses

We record certain outgoing freight expenses as a component of selling, general and administrative expenses. These costs totaled \$62.0 million, \$54.5 million, and \$50.9 million for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

We account for cash on hand, deposits in banks, and other short-term, highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less as cash and cash equivalents.

Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

We perform ongoing credit evaluations of our customers, and a significant portion of our trade receivables is secured by mechanic's lien or payment bond rights. We maintain allowances to reflect the expected uncollectability of trade receivables based on past collection history and specific risks identified in the receivables portfolio. Although actual credit losses have historically been within management's expectations, additional allowances may be required if the financial condition of our customers were to deteriorate.

Merchandise Inventory

Our inventory is stated at the lower of cost (generally determined using the last-in, first-out ("LIFO") cost method) or market. LIFO accounting is a method of accounting that, compared with other inventory accounting methods, generally provides better matching of current costs with current sales.

We make provisions for obsolete or excess inventories as necessary to reflect reductions in inventory value.

Vendor Allowances

Our agreements with many of our suppliers provide for us to earn volume incentives based on purchases during the agreement period. Based on the provisions of our vendor agreements, we develop vendor accrual rates by estimating the point at which we will have completed our performance under the agreement and the deferred amounts will be earned. We perform analyses and review historical trends to ensure the deferred amounts earned are appropriately recorded. Certain vendor agreements contain purchase volume incentives that provide for increased funding when graduated purchase volumes are met. Amounts accrued throughout the year are based on estimates of future activity levels, and could be materially impacted if actual purchase volumes differ. Changes in the estimated amount of incentives are treated as changes in estimate and are recognized in earnings in the period in which the change in estimate occurs. In the event that the operating performance of our suppliers were to decline, however, there can be no assurance that amounts earned would be paid or that the volume incentives would continue to be included in future agreements.

Property and Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment are recorded at cost. Depreciation is expensed on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the related assets. Interest costs incurred to finance expenditures for major long-term construction projects are capitalized as part of the asset's historical cost and included in property, plant and equipment, then depreciated over the useful life of the asset. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the term of the lease or the estimated useful life of the improvement, whichever is shorter. Expenditures for maintenance and repairs are charged to expense when incurred, while the costs of significant improvements, which extend the useful life of the underlying asset, are capitalized.

Credit Risk

Financial instruments that potentially expose us to concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of trade receivables. We perform ongoing credit evaluations of our customers, and a significant portion of our trade receivables are secured by mechanic's lien or payment bond rights. We maintain allowances for potential credit losses, and such losses historically have been within management's expectations.

Fair Value

We endeavor to utilize the best available information in measuring fair value. GAAP has established a fair value hierarchy, which prioritizes the inputs used in measuring fair value. The tiers in the hierarchy include: Level 1, defined as observable inputs such as quoted prices in active markets; Level 2, defined as inputs other than quoted prices in active markets that are

either directly or indirectly observable; and Level 3, defined as unobservable inputs for which little or no market data exists, therefore requiring an entity to develop its own data inputs and assumptions. We have used fair value measurements to value our pension plan assets.

Foreign Currency Exchange Rate

The functional currency for our Canadian subsidiary is the Canadian dollar. Accordingly, its balance sheet amounts are translated at the exchange rates in effect at the end of each reporting period and its statements of income amounts are translated at the average rates of exchange prevailing during the current period. Currency translation adjustments are included in accumulated other comprehensive loss.

Goodwill

Our goodwill is not amortized, but rather tested annually for impairment. Goodwill is reviewed annually in the fourth quarter and when circumstances or other events might indicate that impairment may have occurred. We first perform a qualitative assessment of goodwill impairment. The qualitative assessment considers several factors including the excess fair value over carrying value as of the last quantitative impairment test, the length of time since the last fair value measurement, the current carrying value, market conditions, actual performance compared to forecasted performance, and the current business outlook. If the qualitative assessment indicates that it is more likely than not that goodwill is impaired, the reporting unit is then quantitatively tested for impairment. If a quantitative assessment is required, the fair value is determined using a variety of assumptions including estimated future cash flows of the reporting unit using applicable discount rates.

Definite Lived Intangible Assets

The cost of intangible assets with determinable useful lives is amortized to reflect the pattern of economic benefits consumed, either on a straight-line or accelerated basis over the estimated periods benefited. Customer relationships, trade names and other non-contractual intangible assets with determinable lives are amortized over periods generally ranging from 3 to 20 years. Intangible assets are tested for impairment if events or circumstances occur indicating that the respective asset might be impaired.

Income Taxes

We recognize deferred tax assets and liabilities to reflect the future tax consequences of events that have been recognized in the financial statements or tax returns. A deferred tax asset or liability results from the temporary difference between an item's carrying value as reflected in the financial statements and its tax basis, and is calculated using enacted applicable tax rates. We assess the likelihood that our deferred tax assets will be recovered from future taxable income and, to the extent we believe that recovery is not likely, a valuation allowance is established. Changes in the valuation allowance, when recorded, are included in the provision for income taxes in the consolidated financial statements. We classify interest expense and penalties as part of our provision for income taxes based upon applicable federal and state interest/underpayment percentages. We assess uncertainty regarding tax positions taken in previously filed returns and record reserves in accordance with the guidance under Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 740-10, "Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes".

Other Postretirement Benefits

We account for postretirement benefits other than pension by accruing the costs of benefits to be provided over the eligible employees' periods of active service. These costs are determined on an actuarial basis. Our consolidated balance sheets reflect the funded status of postretirement benefits.

Pension Plan

We sponsor a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan accounted for by accruing the cost to provide the benefits over the eligible employees' periods of active service. These costs are determined on an actuarial basis. Our consolidated balance sheets reflect the funded status of the defined benefit pension plan.

Non-Operating Expenses

Non-operating expenses are comprised of interest expense, net and non-service cost components of the net periodic benefit cost for the pension and other postretirement benefit plans. The non-service cost components include interest cost, expected return on plan assets, amortization of net actuarial gains/losses, and amortization of prior service costs/gains.

New Accounting Standards

No new accounting standards that were issued or became effective during 2018 have had or are expected to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements except those noted below.

We adopted the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Accounting Standards Update ("ASU" or "Update") 2017-07, "Compensation - Retirement Benefits (Topic 715)" ("ASU 2017-07") on January 1, 2018 using the retrospective transition method. The updates to the standard require us to report the service cost component in the same line as other compensation costs arising from services rendered by employees during the reporting period. The other components of net benefit costs are presented in the income statement separately from the service cost and outside of a subtotal of income from operations. As a result of the adoption, the financial statement line previously entitled "interest expense, net" was changed to "non-operating expenses". The impact to the operating results for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016 within the consolidated statements of income as a result of adopting ASU 2017-07 is presented in the tables below:

Consolidated Statements of Income

| | Year Ended December 31, 2017 | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| | As Reported | Reclassification | As Adjusted |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | \$ 1,047.2 | \$ (20.6) | \$ 1,026.6 |
| Non-operating expenses | 4.2 | 20.6 | 24.8 |

| | Year Ended December 31, 2016 | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| | As Reported | Reclassification | As Adjusted |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | \$ 1,008.7 | \$ (22.4) | \$ 986.3 |
| Non-operating expenses | 3.6 | 22.4 | 26.0 |

On January 1, 2018, we adopted ASC Topic 606, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers." See Note 3, "Revenue", for further information.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-02, "Leases (Topic 842)" ("ASU 2016-02"). The core principle of Topic 842 requires a lessee to recognize a right of use asset ("ROU") and lease liability on the balance sheet for both operating and finance leases while disclosing key information about the leasing arrangements. The amendments in ASU 2016-02 are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, including interim periods within those fiscal years, using a modified retrospective approach.

We will adopt the new guidance on January 1, 2019. We will elect the package of transitional practical expedients which allows an entity not to reassess whether expired or existing contracts contain leases, lease classification of expired or existing leases, and whether previously capitalized initial direct costs would qualify for capitalization under Topic 842. As guidance allows, this package can be elected separate of any other practical expedient. As a practical expedient, the Company has elected as an accounting policy not to separate non-lease components from lease components for real estate properties and information technology.

In preparation for adoption of the standard, we have implemented internal controls and key system functionality to enable the preparation of financial information. The standard will have a material impact on our consolidated balance sheets, but will not have a material impact on our consolidated statements of income. The most significant impact will be the recognition of ROU assets and lease liabilities for operating leases, while our accounting for capital leases remains substantially unchanged.

Adoption of the ASU 2016-02 will result in the recognition of additional ROU assets and lease liabilities for operating leases of approximately \$100 million at January 1, 2019.

In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-13, "Financial Instruments-Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments", which introduces new guidance for the accounting for credit losses on certain financial instruments. The amendments in this ASU are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019, including interim periods within those fiscal years. Early adoption is permitted. We do not expect the adoption of this Update to have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In August 2018, the FASB issued ASU 2018-13, "Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Disclosure Framework-Changes to the Disclosure Requirements for Fair Value Measurement" ("ASU 2018-13") that makes minor changes to the disclosure

requirements on fair value measurements in Topic 820. The guidance eliminates requirements for certain disclosures that are no longer considered cost beneficial and adds new disclosure requirements that the FASB considers pertinent. ASU 2018-13 is effective for all entities for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning after December 15, 2019. Early adoption is permitted. We are currently evaluating the impact of the adoption of the Update on our financial statements, but do not expect it to have a material impact.

In August 2018, the FASB issued ASU 2018-14, "Compensation-Retirement Benefits-Defined Benefit Plans-General (Subtopic 715-20): Disclosure Framework-Changes to the Disclosure Requirements for Defined Benefit Plans" ("ASU 2018-14") that makes minor changes to the disclosure requirements for employers that sponsor defined benefit pension and/or other postretirement benefit plans. The guidance eliminates requirements for certain disclosures that are no longer considered cost beneficial and adds new disclosure requirements that the FASB considers pertinent. ASU 2018-14 is effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2020 for public entities. Early adoption is permitted. We are currently evaluating the impact of the adoption of the Update on our financial statements, but do not expect it to have a material impact.

In August 2018, the FASB issued ASU 2018-15, "Intangibles-Goodwill and Other-Internal-Use Software (Subtopic 350-40): Customer's Accounting for Implementation Costs Incurred in a Cloud Computing Arrangement That Is a Service Contract" ("ASU 2018-15") requiring a customer in a cloud computing arrangement that is a service contract to follow the internal use software guidance in ASC 350-40 to determine which implementation costs to capitalize as assets. Capitalized implementation costs related to a hosting arrangement that is a service contract will be amortized over the term of the hosting arrangement, beginning when the module or component of the hosting arrangement is ready for its intended use. ASU 2018-15 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2019, and interim periods within those fiscal years for public entities. Early adoption is permitted. The adoption of this Update will not have a material impact on our financial statements.

3. REVENUE

On January 1, 2018, we adopted ASC Topic 606, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers" ("ASC Topic 606") using the modified retrospective method applied to those contracts which were not completed as of January 1, 2018. Results for reporting periods beginning after January 1, 2018 are presented under ASC Topic 606, while prior period amounts are not adjusted and continue to be reported in accordance with our historic accounting under ASC Topic 605, "Revenue Recognition" ("ASC Topic 605").

We recorded an increase to opening retained earnings of \$0.8 million (net of tax of \$0.3 million) as of January 1, 2018 due to the cumulative impact of adopting ASC Topic 606, with the impact primarily related to the recognition of bill and hold transactions that were deferred under ASC Topic 605. The impact to net sales as a result of applying ASC Topic 606 for the year ended December 31, 2018 was an increase of \$0.2 million.

In accordance with the new revenue standard requirement, the disclosure impact of adoption on our consolidated statement of income for the year ended December 31, 2018 and the consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2018 was as follows:

Consolidated Statements of Income

| | For the Year Ended December 31, 2018 | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| | As Reported | Balance without Adoption | Effect of Change |
| Net sales | \$ 7,202.5 | \$ 7,202.3 | \$ 0.2 |
| Cost of merchandise sold | 5,821.6 | 5,821.6 | — |

Consolidated Balance Sheet

| | As of December 31, 2018 | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| | As Reported | Balance without Adoption | Effect of Change |
| Merchandise inventory | \$ 658.7 | \$ 668.2 | \$ (9.5) |
| Other current assets | 54.1 | 54.4 | (0.3) |
| Other non-current liabilities | 8.7 | 19.4 | (10.7) |
| Retained earnings | 678.1 | 677.2 | 0.9 |

The following table summarizes the percentages of our net sales attributable to each of our vertical markets for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017:

| | For the Years Ended December 31, | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Construction | 59.6% | 59.6% |
| Industrial & Utility | 21.3 | 21.7 |
| CIG | 19.1 | 18.7 |
| Total net sales | 100.0% | 100.0% |

We had no material contract assets, contract liabilities, or deferred contract costs recorded on the consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2018. In addition, for the year ended December 31, 2018, revenue recognized in the reporting period that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the period is not material.

Revenue expected to be recognized in any future year related to remaining performance obligations is not material. As permitted in ASC Topic 606, we have elected to omit disclosure related to performance obligations for revenue pertaining to contracts that have an original expected duration of one year or less, to contracts where revenue is recognized as invoiced and to contracts with variable consideration related to wholly unsatisfied performance obligations.

4. CASH DISCOUNTS AND DOUBTFUL ACCOUNTS

The following table summarizes the activity in the allowances for cash discounts and doubtful accounts:

| | Beginning Balance | Provision (Charged to Expense) | Deductions | Ending Balance |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| For the Year Ended December 31, 2018 | | | | |
| Allowance for cash discounts | \$ 2.0 | \$ 33.2 | \$ (33.0) | \$ 2.2 |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts | 4.0 | 2.9 | (3.2) | 3.7 |
| Total | \$ 6.0 | \$ 36.1 | \$ (36.2) | \$ 5.9 |
| For the Year Ended December 31, 2017 | | | | |
| Allowance for cash discounts | \$ 1.7 | \$ 31.2 | \$ (30.9) | \$ 2.0 |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts | 3.3 | 3.6 | (2.9) | 4.0 |
| Total | \$ 5.0 | \$ 34.8 | \$ (33.8) | \$ 6.0 |
| For the Year Ended December 31, 2016 | | | | |
| Allowance for cash discounts | \$ 1.7 | \$ 28.2 | \$ (28.2) | \$ 1.7 |
| Allowance for doubtful accounts | 4.1 | 2.3 | (3.1) | 3.3 |
| Total | \$ 5.8 | \$ 30.5 | \$ (31.3) | \$ 5.0 |

5. INVENTORY

Our inventory is stated at the lower of cost (generally determined using the LIFO cost method) or market. Inventories valued using the LIFO method comprised 91% and 90% of the total inventories at December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. Had the first-in, first-out (“FIFO”) method been used, merchandise inventory would have been \$188.8 million and \$170.9 million greater than reported under the LIFO method at December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. In 2018 and 2017, we did not liquidate any portion of previously-created LIFO layers. In 2016, we liquidated portions of previously-created LIFO layers, resulting in decreases in cost of merchandise sold of \$0.1 million.

Reserves for excess and obsolete inventories were \$7.8 million and \$9.2 million at December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. The change in the reserve for excess and obsolete inventories, included in cost of merchandise sold, was \$(1.4) million, \$2.7 million, and \$1.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively.

6. PROPERTY AND DEPRECIATION

We provide for depreciation and amortization using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful asset lives:

| Classification | Estimated Useful Asset Life |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Buildings | 42 years |
| Leasehold improvements | Over the shorter of the asset's life or the lease term |
| Furniture, fixtures, equipment and software | 3 to 14 years |
| Assets held under capital leases | Over the shorter of the asset's life or the lease term |

Depreciation expense was \$37.3 million, \$38.8 million, and \$39.3 million in 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively.

At the time property is retired or otherwise disposed of, the asset and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is credited or charged to other income, net.

Assets held under capital leases, consisting primarily of information technology equipment, are recorded in property with the corresponding obligations carried in long-term debt. The amount capitalized is the present value at the beginning of the lease term of the aggregate future minimum lease payments. Assets held under leases which were capitalized during the year ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 were \$3.1 million and \$1.9 million, respectively.

We capitalize interest expense on major construction and development projects while in progress. Interest capitalized in 2018 and 2017 was \$0.3 million and \$0.1 million, respectively. There was no interest capitalized in 2016.

Where applicable, we capitalize qualifying internal and external costs incurred to develop or obtain software for internal use during the application development stage. Costs incurred during the pre-application development and post-implementation stages are expensed as incurred. We capitalized software and software development costs of \$3.7 million and \$4.2 million in 2018 and 2017, respectively, and the amounts are recorded in software.

We consider properties to be assets held for sale when all of the following criteria are met: (i) a formal commitment to a plan to sell a property has been made and exercised; (ii) the property is available for sale in its present condition; (iii) actions required to complete the sale of the property have been initiated; (iv) sale of the property is probable and we expect the sale will occur within one year; and (v) the property is being actively marketed for sale at a price that is reasonable given its current market value.

Upon designation as an asset held for sale, we record the carrying value of each property at the lower of its carrying value or its estimated fair value, less estimated costs to sell, and depreciation of the property ceases. There were no assets held for sale at December 31, 2018 or 2017. During 2017, we sold assets classified as held for sale with net book values of \$0.5 million and recorded net gains on the assets held for sale of \$0.2 million in other income, net.

We review long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the asset may not be recoverable. For assets classified as held and used, impairment may occur if projected undiscounted cash flows are not adequate to cover the carrying value of the assets. In such cases, additional analysis is conducted to determine the amount of the loss to be recognized. The impairment loss is calculated as the difference between the carrying amount of the asset and its estimated fair value. The analysis requires estimates of the amount and timing of projected cash flows and, where applicable, selection of an appropriate discount rate. Such estimates are critical in determining whether any impairment charge should be recorded and the amount of such charge if an impairment loss is deemed necessary.

We recorded an impairment loss of \$0.3 million to account for the expected loss on an abandoned property that does not qualify as an asset held for sale, where the net book value of the property exceeded the estimated selling price less estimated selling expenses, during 2018. There were no impairment losses recorded during 2017 or 2016. The impairment losses are included in other income, net in the consolidated statements of income.

7. GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Goodwill

The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill, included in other non-current assets in our consolidated balance sheets, for the years ended December 31 were as follows:

| | 2018 | 2017 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|
| Beginning balance | \$ 30.1 | \$ 30.1 |
| Goodwill acquired | — | — |
| Ending balance | \$ 30.1 | \$ 30.1 |

As of December 31, 2018, we have completed our annual impairment test and concluded that there is no impairment of our goodwill.

Other Intangible Assets

Other intangible assets, included in other non-current assets in our consolidated balance sheets, consist of the following:

| As of December 31, 2018 | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| | Weighted Average Life | Gross Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization | Net Carrying Amount |
| Customer relationships | 8.5 to 10.8 years | \$ 17.1 | \$ (5.0) | \$ 12.1 |
| Trade name | 15 to 20 years | 14.3 | (2.1) | 12.2 |
| Non-compete agreements | 3 to 5 years | 0.3 | (0.2) | 0.1 |
| Other intangible assets | 10 years | 0.2 | (0.1) | 0.1 |
| Total | | \$ 31.9 | \$ (7.4) | \$ 24.5 |

| As of December 31, 2017 | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| | Weighted Average Life | Gross Carrying Amount | Accumulated Amortization | Net Carrying Amount |
| Customer relationships | 8.5 to 10.8 years | \$ 17.1 | \$ (3.2) | \$ 13.9 |
| Trade name | 15 to 20 years | 14.3 | (1.3) | 13.0 |
| Non-compete agreements | 3 to 5 years | 0.3 | (0.2) | 0.1 |
| Other intangible assets | 10 years | 0.2 | (0.1) | 0.1 |
| Total | | \$ 31.9 | \$ (4.8) | \$ 27.1 |

Amortization expense for other intangible assets was \$2.6 million in both 2018 and 2017.

Estimated future amortization expense related to our intangible assets for the years ending December 31 are as follows:

| | |
|------------|---------|
| 2019 | \$ 2.5 |
| 2020 | 2.5 |
| 2021 | 2.5 |
| 2022 | 2.5 |
| 2023 | 2.5 |
| After 2023 | 12.0 |
| | \$ 24.5 |

We did not incur impairment losses related to our other intangible assets during the year ended December 31, 2018.

8. INCOME TAXES

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act ("TCJA") was enacted on December 22, 2017. Among the provisions, the TCJA reduces the U.S. federal corporate income tax rate from a maximum of 35% to a flat 21% effective January 1, 2018, requires companies to pay a one-time transition tax on deemed repatriated earnings of certain foreign subsidiaries that were previously tax deferred, and creates new taxes on certain foreign sourced earnings. At December 31, 2018 we have completed our accounting for the tax effects of the enactment of the TCJA. We have finalized the tax effects on our existing deferred tax balances and the one-time transition tax under Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 118 ("SAB 118"). We have also included current year impacts of the TCJA in our tax provision.

At December 31, 2017 we remeasured domestic deferred tax assets and liabilities based on the expected future applicable tax rate and recorded a provisional tax expense of \$22.6 million, consisting of \$43.5 million of tax expense related to items previously recorded through accumulated other comprehensive income under FASB Statement No. 158, "Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans - An Amendment of FASB Statements No. 87, 88, 106, and 132(R)" ("FAS 158"), and \$20.9 million of tax benefit related to items previously recorded through our provision for income taxes. We adopted ASU 2018-02 "Income Statement - Reporting Comprehensive Income (Topic 220)" in 2017; refer to Note 15, "Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss". During 2018, we finalized calculations of cumulative timing differences, resulting in a decrease in tax expense of \$9.2 million due to the return vs. provision difference remeasurement of these balances related to tax planning initiatives as of December 31, 2018.

The one-time transition tax is based on our total post-1986 earnings and profits ("E&P") that we previously deferred from U.S. income taxation, and the amount of those earnings held in cash and other specified assets. At December 31, 2017, we recorded a provisional amount for our one-time transition tax liability of \$6.2 million. We finalized our calculation as of December 31, 2018, resulting in a decrease in income tax expense of \$2.4 million. The entire transition tax liability was settled with the filing of the 2017 U.S. federal income tax return; no additional payments are expected with regards to this liability. No additional income taxes have been provided for any outside basis difference inherent in these foreign entities, as these amounts continue to be indefinitely reinvested in foreign operations. We have made an accounting policy election to treat global intangible low-taxed income ("GILTI") as a period cost as it will not have a material impact on our tax provision.

We determine our deferred tax assets and liabilities based upon the difference between the financial statement and tax bases of our assets and liabilities calculated using enacted applicable tax rates. We then assess the likelihood that our deferred tax assets will be recovered from future taxable income and, to the extent we believe that recovery is not likely, we establish a valuation allowance. Changes in the valuation allowance, when recorded, are included in the provision for income taxes in the consolidated financial statements.

Our unrecognized tax benefits of \$2.6 million, \$2.3 million, and \$1.8 million as of December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively, are uncertain tax positions that would impact our effective tax rate if recognized. We are periodically engaged in tax return examinations, reviews of statute of limitations periods, and settlements surrounding income taxes. We do not anticipate a material change in unrecognized tax benefits during the next twelve months.

Our uncertain tax benefits, and changes thereto, during 2018, 2017, and 2016 were as follows:

| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Balance at January 1, | \$ 2.3 | \$ 1.8 | \$ 2.3 |
| Additions based on tax positions related to current year | 1.1 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Additions based on tax positions of prior years | — | 0.3 | — |
| Reductions for tax positions of prior years | (0.8) | (0.2) | (0.9) |
| Settlements | — | — | — |
| Balance at December 31, | \$ 2.6 | \$ 2.3 | \$ 1.8 |

We classify interest expense and penalties as part of our provision for income taxes based upon applicable federal and state interest/underpayment percentages. We have accrued \$0.4 million and \$1.0 million in interest and penalties at December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. Interest was computed on the difference between the provision for income taxes recognized in accordance with GAAP and the amount of benefit previously taken or expected to be taken in our federal, state, and local income tax returns.

Our federal income tax returns for the tax years 2015 and forward are available for examination by the United States Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"). The statute of limitation for the 2015 federal return will expire on September 15, 2019, unless extended by consent. Our state income tax returns for 2014 through 2018 remain subject to examination by various state

authorities with the latest period closing on December 31, 2023. We have not extended the statutes of limitations in any state jurisdictions with respect to years prior to 2014.

A reconciliation between the “statutory” federal income tax rate and the effective tax rate in the consolidated statements of income is as follows:

| | For the Years Ended December 31, | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| “Statutory” federal tax rate | 21.0% | 35.0% | 35.0% |
| State and local income taxes, net of federal benefit | 3.1 | 4.0 | 3.3 |
| Deemed repatriation of foreign earnings | (1.0) | 3.3 | — |
| Effect of tax rate changes | (5.1) | 13.5 | — |
| Meals and entertainment | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.6 |
| Other, net | 0.4 | (0.1) | (0.7) |
| Effective tax rate | 19.8% | 57.1% | 39.2% |

The effective tax rate decreased significantly in 2018 as a result of the reduction in the statutory federal tax rate, the final calculation and remeasurement of deferred tax assets and liabilities under SAB 118, and additional tax planning undertaken as a result of the TCJA.

The components of income before taxes and the provision for income taxes recorded in the consolidated statements of income are as follows:

| Components of Income before Taxes | For the Years Ended December 31, | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Domestic | \$ 163.3 | \$ 155.2 | \$ 143.6 |
| Foreign | 15.8 | 12.3 | 9.9 |
| Income before taxes | \$ 179.1 | \$ 167.5 | \$ 153.5 |

| Components of Income Tax Provision | For the Years Ended December 31, | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Current expense | | | |
| U.S. Federal | \$ 20.5 | \$ 66.5 | \$ 33.1 |
| State | 6.9 | 11.4 | 4.8 |
| Foreign | 4.6 | 3.5 | 2.8 |
| Total current expense | \$ 32.0 | \$ 81.4 | \$ 40.7 |
| Deferred expense (benefit) | | | |
| U.S. Federal | 2.5 | 15.3 | 16.7 |
| State | 0.8 | (1.1) | 3.0 |
| Foreign | 0.1 | — | (0.2) |
| Total deferred expense | \$ 3.4 | \$ 14.2 | \$ 19.5 |
| Total income tax provision | \$ 35.4 | \$ 95.6 | \$ 60.2 |

Deferred income taxes are provided based upon differences between the financial statement and tax bases of assets and liabilities. The following deferred tax assets (liabilities) were recorded at December 31:

| Assets (Liabilities) | 2018 | 2017 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Pension | \$ 31.0 | \$ 38.0 |
| Postretirement benefits | 18.6 | 19.8 |
| Inventory | 12.1 | 12.1 |
| Other deferred tax assets | 5.0 | 4.8 |
| Payroll accruals | 2.9 | 1.8 |
| Bad debt reserves | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Subtotal | 70.6 | 77.5 |
| Less: valuation allowances | — | — |
| Deferred tax assets | 70.6 | 77.5 |
| Fixed assets | (28.3) | (27.2) |
| Other deferred tax liabilities | (4.0) | (2.6) |
| Computer software | (3.2) | (3.2) |
| Deferred tax liabilities | (35.5) | (33.0) |
| Net deferred tax assets | \$ 35.1 | \$ 44.5 |

Deferred income taxes included in non-current assets (liabilities) at December 31 were:

| | 2018 | 2017 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Deferred tax assets included in other non-current assets | \$ 35.5 | \$ 44.9 |
| Deferred tax liabilities included in other non-current liabilities | (0.4) | (0.4) |

Operating loss and tax credit carryforwards included in net deferred tax assets at December 31 were:

| | 2018 | 2017 |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Foreign ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 0.1 | \$ 0.2 |
| State ⁽²⁾ | 0.4 | 0.5 |

⁽¹⁾Indefinite life

⁽²⁾Expires between 2023 and 2030

We have placed a valuation allowance on state net operating losses which totals less than \$0.1 million.

We have no material undistributed earnings of non-U.S. subsidiaries as of December 31, 2018, due to the one-time transition tax and GILTI provisions enacted under the TCJA. We have settled the entire transition tax liability with the filing of the 2017 federal income tax return.

9. CAPITAL STOCK

Our common stock is 100% owned by active and retired employees, and there is no public trading market for our common stock. Since 1928, substantially all of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock have been held of record by voting trustees under successive voting trust agreements. A new Voting Trust Agreement was established effective March 3, 2017, which expires by its terms on March 1, 2027. At December 31, 2018, approximately 83% of the total shares of common stock was held in the voting trust. The participation of shareholders in the voting trust is voluntary at the time the voting trust is created, but is irrevocable during its term. Shareholders who elect not to participate in the voting trust hold their common stock as shareholders of record. Shareholders may elect to participate in the voting trust at any time during the term of the voting trust.

No holder of our common stock or voting trust interests representing our common stock ("common stock", "common shares", or "shares") may sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any shares without first offering us the option to purchase those shares at the price at which they were issued. We also have the option to purchase at the issue price the common shares of any shareholder who ceases to be an employee for any reason other than death or "retirement" (as defined in our amended restated certificate of incorporation), and on the first anniversary of any holder's death. In the past, we have always exercised these purchase options and we expect to continue to do so in the foreseeable future. However, we can make no assurance that we will continue to exercise our purchase option in the future. All outstanding shares have been issued at \$20.00 per share.

During 2018, eligible employees and qualified retirees subscribed for 958,439 shares totaling \$19.2 million. Subscribers elected to make payments under one of the following options: (i) all shares subscribed for on or before January 4, 2019; or (ii) all shares subscribed for in installments paid through payroll deductions (or in certain cases where a subscriber is no longer on our payroll, through direct monthly payments) over an eleven-month period.

Common shares were delivered to subscribers as of January 4, 2019, in the case of shares paid for prior to January 4, 2019. Shares will be issued and delivered to subscribers on a quarterly basis, as of the tenth day of March, June, September, and December, to the extent full payments for shares are made in the case of subscriptions under the installment method.

Shown below is a summary of shares purchased and retired by the Company during the three years ended December 31:

| | Shares of Common Stock | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| | Purchased | Retired |
| 2018 | 786,754 | 752,825 |
| 2017 | 684,347 | 678,958 |
| 2016 | 563,590 | 610,626 |

We also have authorized 10,000,000 shares of Delegated Authority Preferred Stock (“preferred stock”), par value one cent (\$0.01). The preferred stock may be issued in one or more series, with the designations, relative rights, preferences, and limitations of shares of each such series being fixed by a resolution of our Board of Directors. There were no shares of preferred stock outstanding at December 31, 2018 and 2017.

On December 13, 2018, our Board of Directors declared a 10% common stock dividend. Each shareholder was entitled to one share of common stock for every ten shares held as of December 17, 2018. The stock was issued on February 1, 2019. On December 13, 2017, our Board of Directors declared a 10% common stock dividend. Each shareholder was entitled to one share of common stock for every ten shares held as of December 18, 2017. The stock was issued on February 2, 2018. On December 8, 2016, our Board of Directors, declared a 5% common stock dividend. Each shareholder was entitled to one share of common stock for every twenty shares held as of December 19, 2016. The stock was issued on February 3, 2017.

10. NET INCOME PER SHARE OF COMMON STOCK

The computation of net income per share of common stock is based on the average number of common shares outstanding during each year, adjusted in all periods presented for the declaration of a 10% stock dividend declared in 2018, a 10% stock dividend declared in 2017, and a 5% stock dividend declared in 2016. The average number of shares used in computing net income per share of common stock at December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016 was 21,435,906 shares, 21,303,753 shares, and 21,037,002 shares, respectively.

11. DEBT

| | December 31, | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| Long-term Debt | | |
| Capital leases, various maturities, with a weighted average interest rate of 6.16% | \$ 13.4 | \$ 9.1 |
| Less current portion | (3.4) | (2.1) |
| Long-term Debt | \$ 10.0 | \$ 7.0 |

Long-term Debt matures as follows:

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| 2019 | \$ 3.4 |
| 2020 | 3.4 |
| 2021 | 1.8 |
| 2022 | 1.3 |
| 2023 | 1.0 |
| After 2023 | 2.5 |
| | \$ 13.4 |

The carrying amount of our outstanding long-term, fixed-rate debt exceeded its fair value by \$1.5 million and \$0.7 million at December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. The fair value of the long-term, fixed-rate debt is estimated by calculating future cash flows at interpolated Treasury yields with similar maturities, plus an estimate of our credit risk spread. The fair value of our variable-rate short- and long-term debt approximates its carrying value at December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

Revolving Credit Facility

At December 31, 2017, we, along with Graybar Canada Limited, our Canadian operating subsidiary (“Graybar Canada”), had an unsecured, five-year, \$550.0 million revolving credit agreement maturing in June 2019 with Bank of America, N.A. and the other lenders named therein (the "Credit Agreement"), which included a combined letter of credit sub-facility of up to \$50.0 million, a U.S. swing line loan facility of up to \$50.0 million, and a Canadian swing line loan facility of up to \$20.0 million. The Credit Agreement included a \$100.0 million sublimit (in U.S. or Canadian dollars) for borrowings by Graybar Canada and contained an accordion feature, which allowed us to request increases to the aggregate borrowing commitments of up to \$300.0 million.

On August 10, 2018, we, along with Graybar Canada, amended and extended the Credit Agreement (the “Amended Credit Agreement”), to, among other things, increase the availability to \$750.0 million, which includes a combined letter of credit sub-facility of up to \$25.0 million, a U.S. swing-line loan facility of up to \$75.0 million, and a Canadian swing-line loan facility of up to \$20.0 million, pursuant to the terms and conditions of a Third Amendment to Credit Agreement, by and among Graybar, as parent borrower, Graybar Canada Limited, as a borrower, the lenders party thereto, Bank of America, N.A. as Domestic Administrative Agent, Domestic Swing Line Lender and Domestic L/C Issuer and Bank of America, N.A., acting through its Canada Branch, as Canadian Administrative Agent, Canadian Swing Line Lender and Canadian L/C Issuer. The Amended Credit Agreement includes a \$100.0 million sublimit (in U.S. or Canadian dollars) for borrowings by Graybar Canada. The Amended Credit Agreement contains an accordion feature, which allows us to request increases in the aggregate borrowing commitments of up to \$375.0 million.

Interest on our borrowings under the Amended Credit Agreement will be based on, at the borrower’s election, either (A) in the case of Graybar as borrower (i) the base rate (as defined in the agreement) plus a margin ranging from 0.00% to 0.60%, or (ii) LIBOR plus a margin ranging from 1.00% to 1.60% or (B) in the case of Graybar Canada as borrower (i) the base rate (as defined in the agreement) plus a margin ranging from 0.00% to 0.60% or (ii) CDOR plus a margin ranging from 1.00% to 1.60%, in either case, as determined by the pricing grid set forth in the Amended Credit Agreement, subject to adjustment based upon the consolidated leverage ratio. In connection with such a borrowing, the applicable borrower will also select the term of the loan, up to six months, or automatically renew with the consent of the lenders. Swing line loans, which are daily loans, will bear interest at a rate based on, at the borrower’s election, either (i) the base rate or (ii) the daily floating Eurodollar rate (or CDOR, in the case of Graybar Canada). In addition to interest payments, there are certain fees and obligations associated with borrowings, swing-line loans, letters of credit and other administrative matters.

The Amended Credit Agreement matures in August 2023. Borrowings of Graybar Canada may be in U.S. dollars or Canadian dollars. The obligations of Graybar Canada are secured by the guaranty of Graybar and any material domestic subsidiaries of Graybar (as defined). Under no circumstances will Graybar Canada use its borrowings to benefit Graybar or its operations, including without limitation to repay any of Graybar’s obligations under the facility.

The Amended Credit Agreement provides for a quarterly commitment fee ranging from 0.25% to 0.40% per annum, subject to adjustment based upon the consolidated leverage ratio for a fiscal quarter, and letter of credit fees ranging from 1.00% to 1.60% per annum payable quarterly, subject to such adjustment. Availability under the Amended Credit Agreement is subject to the accuracy of representations and warranties and absence of a default and, in the case of Canadian borrowings denominated in Canadian dollars, the absence of a material adverse change in the national or international financial markets that would make it impracticable to lend Canadian dollars.

The Amended Credit Agreement also provides for customary events of default, including a failure to pay principal, interest or fees when due, failure to comply with covenants, the fact that any representation or warranty made by any of the credit parties is materially incorrect, the occurrence of an event of default under certain other indebtedness by us and our subsidiaries, the commencement of certain insolvency or receivership events affecting any of the credit parties, certain actions under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA") and the occurrence of a change in control of any of the credit parties (subject to certain permitted transactions as described in the Amended Credit Agreement). Upon the occurrence of an event of default, the commitments of the lenders may be terminated and all outstanding obligations of the credit parties under the Amended Credit Agreement may be declared immediately due and payable.

The Amended Credit Agreement contains updated affirmative and negative covenants customary for credit facilities of this type, including limitations on us and our subsidiaries with respect to indebtedness (with specified, limited exceptions), liens, changes in the nature of our business, investments, mergers and acquisitions, issuance of equity securities, dispositions of assets and dissolution of certain subsidiaries, transactions with affiliates, restricted payments (subject to incurrence tests, with certain exceptions, including payments under senior notes), as well as securitizations, factoring transactions, and transactions with sanctioned parties or in violation of certain U.S. or Canadian anti-corruption laws. There are also maximum leverage ratio and

minimum interest coverage ratio financial covenants to which we will be subject to during the term of the Amended Credit Agreement. We were in compliance with all these covenants under the applicable credit agreement as of December 31, 2018 and 2017.

Short-term borrowings of \$235.0 million and \$169.6 million outstanding at December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively, were drawn under the applicable credit agreement.

Short-term borrowings outstanding during the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 ranged from a minimum of \$140.0 million and \$112.3 million to a maximum of \$261.0 million and \$229.8 million, respectively. The average daily amount of borrowings outstanding under the applicable credit agreements during 2018 and 2017 amounted to approximately \$202.0 million and \$166.0 million at weighted-average interest rates of 3.05% and 2.16%, respectively. The weighted-average interest rate for amounts outstanding at December 31, 2018 was 3.57%.

At December 31, 2018, we had available unused committed lines of credit under the applicable credit agreement amounting to \$515.0 million, compared to \$380.4 million at December 31, 2017.

Interest expense, net was \$6.9 million, \$4.2 million, and \$3.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively.

Private Placement Shelf Agreements

We have an uncommitted \$100.0 million private placement shelf agreement with PGIM, Inc. (the "Prudential Shelf Agreement") which expires in August 2020. We also have an uncommitted \$100.0 million private placement shelf agreement (the "MetLife Shelf Agreement") with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and MetLife Investment Advisors, LLC and each other affiliate of MetLife that becomes a party to the agreement (collectively, "MetLife"). On August 10, 2018, we amended each of these uncommitted private placement shelf agreements to conform to the above-discussed specified changes in the Amended Credit Agreement. We also extended the notes issuance period under the MetLife Shelf Agreement from September 2019 to August 10, 2021.

We remain obligated under a most favored lender clause which is designed to ensure that any notes in the future under the Prudential Shelf Agreement and MetLife Shelf Agreement will continue to be of equal ranking with indebtedness under our Credit Agreement.

No notes have been issued under either the Prudential Shelf Agreement or the MetLife Shelf Agreement as of December 31, 2018 and 2017.

Each amended shelf agreement contains updated representations and warranties of the Company and the applicable lender, customary events of default and affirmative and negative covenants, customary for agreements of this type. These covenants are substantially similar to those contained in the Amended Credit Agreement, subject to a number of important exceptions and qualifications set forth in the applicable shelf agreement. All outstanding obligations of Graybar under one or both of these agreements may be declared immediately due and payable upon the occurrence of an event of default.

We were in compliance with all covenants under the shelf agreements as of December 31, 2018 and 2017.

Letters of Credit

We had total letters of credit of \$5.6 million and \$5.4 million outstanding, of which none were issued under the applicable credit agreement at December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. The letters of credit are issued primarily to support certain workers' compensation insurance policies.

12. PENSION AND OTHER POSTRETIREMENT BENEFITS

We have a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan (the "Pension Plan") covering substantially all employees first hired prior to July 1, 2015 after the completion of one year of service and 1,000 hours of service. The Pension Plan provides retirement benefits based on an employee's average earnings and years of service. These employees become 100% vested after three years of service, regardless of age. A supplemental benefit plan provides nonqualified pension benefits for compensation in excess of the IRS compensation limits applicable to the Pension Plan and eligible compensation deferred by a participant.

Our funding policy is to make contributions to the Pension Plan, provided that the total annual contributions will not be less than ERISA and the Pension Protection Act of 2006 minimums or greater than the maximum tax-deductible amount, to review the contribution and funding strategy on a regular basis, and to allow discretionary contributions to be made by us from time to time. The assets of the Pension Plan are invested primarily in fixed income investments and equity securities. We pay nonqualified pension benefits when they are due according to the terms of the supplemental benefit plan.

We provide certain postretirement healthcare and life insurance benefits to retired employees. Substantially all of our employees hired or rehired prior to 2014 may become eligible for postretirement medical benefits if they reach the age and service requirements of the retiree medical plan and retire on a pension (except a deferred pension) under the Pension Plan. Medical benefits are self-insured and claims are administered through a third party administrator. The cost of coverage is determined based on the annual projected plan costs. The participant's premium or cost is determined based on Company guidelines. Postretirement life insurance benefits are insured through an insurance company. We fund postretirement benefits as incurred, and accordingly, there were no assets held in the postretirement benefits plan at December 31, 2018 and 2017.

The following table sets forth information regarding the funded status of our pension and other postretirement benefits as of December 31, 2018 and 2017:

| | <u>Pension Benefits</u> | | <u>Postretirement Benefits</u> | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 | 2017 |
| Change in Benefit Obligation: | | | | |
| Benefit obligation at beginning of period | \$ 756.3 | \$ 669.8 | \$ 76.8 | \$ 76.6 |
| Service cost | 28.6 | 26.4 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| Interest cost | 27.3 | 27.8 | 2.6 | 2.9 |
| Actuarial loss (gain) | (57.7) | 85.6 | (5.2) | (0.1) |
| Benefits paid from plan assets | (42.5) | (50.1) | — | — |
| Benefits paid from Company assets | (1.6) | (1.6) | (5.6) | (6.4) |
| Plan participants' contributions | — | — | 1.6 | 1.5 |
| Administrative expenses paid | (1.6) | (1.6) | — | — |
| Benefit Obligation at End of Period | 708.8 | 756.3 | 72.5 | 76.8 |
| Change in Plan Assets: | | | | |
| Fair value of plan assets at beginning of period | 585.4 | 507.3 | — | — |
| Actual return on plan assets | (33.0) | 69.8 | — | — |
| Employer contributions ⁽¹⁾ | 81.6 | 61.6 | 4.0 | 4.9 |
| Plan participants' contributions | — | — | 1.6 | 1.5 |
| Benefits paid ⁽¹⁾ | (44.1) | (51.7) | (5.6) | (6.4) |
| Administrative expenses paid | (1.6) | (1.6) | — | — |
| Fair Value of Plan Assets at End of Period | 588.3 | 585.4 | — | — |
| Unfunded Status | \$ 120.5 | \$ 170.9 | \$ 72.5 | \$ 76.8 |

⁽¹⁾ Includes \$1.6 million paid from our assets for unfunded nonqualified pension benefits in both fiscal years 2018 and 2017.

The accumulated benefit obligation for our Pension Plan was \$636.3 million and \$670.1 million at December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

Amounts recognized in the consolidated balance sheet for the years ended December 31 consist of the following:

| | <u>Pension Benefits</u> | | <u>Postretirement Benefits</u> | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|---------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 | 2017 |
| Current accrued benefit cost | \$ 1.9 | \$ 1.7 | \$ 5.8 | \$ 6.1 |
| Non-current accrued benefit cost | 118.6 | 169.2 | 66.7 | 70.7 |
| Net amount recognized | \$ 120.5 | \$ 170.9 | \$ 72.5 | \$ 76.8 |

Current accrued benefit cost for both pension benefits and postretirement benefits is included in other current liabilities in the consolidated balance sheets. Non-current accrued benefit cost for pension benefits and postretirement benefits are included in pension liability and postretirement benefits liability, respectively, in the consolidated balance sheets.

Amounts recognized in accumulated other comprehensive loss for the years ended December 31, net of tax, consist of the following:

| | <u>Pension Benefits</u> | | <u>Postretirement Benefits</u> | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|---------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 | 2017 |
| Net actuarial loss | \$ 219.6 | \$ 192.5 | \$ 8.3 | \$ 10.5 |
| Prior service cost (gain) | — | 0.2 | — | (1.2) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | \$ 219.6 | \$ 192.7 | \$ 8.3 | \$ 9.3 |

Amounts estimated to be amortized from accumulated other comprehensive loss into net periodic benefit costs in 2019, net of tax, consist of the following:

| | <u>Pension Benefits</u> | | <u>Postretirement Benefits</u> | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------|--------------------------------|------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 | 2017 |
| Net actuarial loss | \$ | 14.7 | \$ | 0.3 |
| Prior service cost (gain) | | — | | — |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | \$ | 14.7 | \$ | 0.3 |

Weighted-average assumptions used to determine the actuarial present value of the pension and postretirement benefit obligations as of December 31 are:

| | <u>Pension Benefits</u> | | <u>Postretirement Benefits</u> | |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 | 2017 |
| Discount rate | 4.31% | 3.67% | 4.16% | 3.44% |
| Rate of compensation increase | 4.49% | 4.74% | — | — |
| Healthcare cost trend on covered charges | — | — | 5.0% | 5.5% / 5% |

A one percent increase or decrease in the assumed healthcare cost trend rate would not have had a material effect on the postretirement benefit obligations as of December 31, 2018 and 2017.

The net periodic benefit cost for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, and 2016 included the following components:

| | <u>Pension Benefits</u> | | | <u>Postretirement Benefits</u> | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------------|--------|--------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Service cost | \$ 28.6 | \$ 26.4 | \$ 25.3 | \$ 2.3 | \$ 2.3 | \$ 2.3 |
| Interest cost | 27.3 | 27.8 | 28.3 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (31.9) | (30.6) | (27.0) | — | — | — |
| Amortization of: | | | | | | |
| Net actuarial loss | 26.5 | 21.5 | 19.2 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.7 |
| Prior service cost (gain) | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | (2.0) | (2.2) | (2.2) |
| Net periodic benefit cost | \$ 50.8 | \$ 45.5 | \$ 46.2 | \$ 3.8 | \$ 3.8 | \$ 3.8 |

Weighted-average assumptions used to determine net periodic benefit cost for the years ended December 31 were:

| | <u>Pension Benefits</u> | | | <u>Postretirement Benefits</u> | | |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------|--------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
| Discount rate | 3.67% | 4.15% | 4.48% | 3.44% | 3.78% | 4.09% |
| Expected return on plan assets | 5.75% | 5.75% | 5.75% | — | — | — |
| Rate of compensation increase | 4.49% | 4.52% | 4.44% | — | — | — |
| Healthcare cost trend on covered charges | — | — | — | 5.5% / 5% | 6% / 5% | 6.5% / 5% |

The expected return on plan assets assumption for the Pension Plan is a long-term assumption and was determined after evaluating input from both the plan's actuary and pension fund investment advisors, consideration of macroeconomic conditions, historical rates of return on plan assets, and anticipated current and long-term rates of return on the various classes of assets in which the plan invests.

For measurement of the postretirement benefits net periodic cost, a 5.5% annual rate of increase in per capita cost of covered healthcare benefits was assumed for 2018. The rate was assumed to decline to 5.0% in 2019 and to remain at that level thereafter. A one percent increase or decrease in the assumed healthcare cost trend rate would not have had a material effect on 2018, 2017 and 2016 net periodic benefit cost.

We expect to fund \$1.7 million for non-qualified pension benefits during 2019. Required pension contributions under ERISA regulations are expected to be zero in 2019; however, additional contributions may be made at our discretion.

Estimated future defined benefit pension and other postretirement benefit plan payments to plan participants for the years ending December 31 are as follows:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Pension Benefits</u> | <u>Postretirement Benefits</u> |
|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2019 | \$ 50.4 | \$ 5.9 |
| 2020 | 52.3 | 6.5 |
| 2021 | 51.0 | 7.1 |
| 2022 | 52.2 | 7.2 |
| 2023 | 53.9 | 7.2 |
| After 2023 | 280.7 | 34.0 |

The investment objective of our Pension Plan is to ensure that there are sufficient assets to fund regular pension benefits payable to employees over the long-term life of the plan. Our Pension Plan seeks to allocate plan assets in a manner that is closely duration-matched with the actuarial projected cash flow liabilities, consistent with prudent standards for preservation of capital, tolerance of investment risk, and maintenance of liquidity. Assets of the qualified pension plan are held by Comerica Bank (the "Trustee").

Our Pension Plan utilizes a liability-driven investment ("LDI") approach to help meet these objectives. The LDI strategy employs a structured fixed-income portfolio designed to reduce volatility in the plan's future funding requirements and funding status. This is accomplished by using a blend of long duration government, quasi-governmental and corporate fixed-income securities, as well as appropriate levels of equity and alternative investments designed to optimize the plan's liability hedge ratio. In practice, the value of an asset portfolio constructed primarily of fixed income securities is inversely correlated to changes in market interest rates, primarily offsetting changes in the value of the pension benefit obligation caused by changes in the interest rate used to discount plan liabilities.

Asset allocation information for the Pension Plan at December 31, 2018 and 2017 is as follows:

| Investment | 2018 Actual Allocation | 2018 Target Allocation Range | 2017 Actual Allocation | 2017 Target Allocation Range |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Equity securities-U.S. | 8% | 3-15% | 8% | 3-15% |
| Equity securities-International | 8% | 3-15% | 10% | 3-15% |
| Fixed income investments-U.S. | 71% | 35-75% | 70% | 35-75% |
| Fixed income investments-International | 3% | 3-10% | 3% | 3-10% |
| Absolute return | 5% | 5-15% | 4% | 5-15% |
| Real assets | 3% | 3-10% | 3% | 3-10% |
| Private equity | 2% | 0-3% | 1% | 0-3% |
| Short-term investments | —% | 0-3% | 1% | 0-3% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets held by the Pension Plan measured at fair value:

Equity securities - U.S.

Equity securities - U.S. consist of investments in U.S. corporate stocks and U.S. equity mutual funds. U.S. equity mutual funds include publicly traded mutual funds and a bank collective fund for ERISA plans. U.S. corporate stocks and U.S. equity mutual funds are primarily large-capitalization stocks (defined as companies with market capitalization of more than \$10 billion). U.S. corporate stocks and publicly traded mutual funds are valued at the closing price reported on the active public market in which the individual securities are traded and are classified as Level 1. The bank collective fund for ERISA plans is valued at the net asset value ("NAV") of units of the fund. The NAV, as provided by the Trustee, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the fund.

Equity securities - International

Equity securities - International consist of investments in international corporate stocks and publicly traded mutual funds and are both primarily investments within developed and emerging markets. Both are valued at the closing price reported on the active public market in which the individual securities are traded and are classified as Level 1.

Fixed income investments - U.S.

Fixed income investments - U.S. consist of U.S. corporate bonds, government and government agency bonds, as well as a publicly traded mutual fund and commingled funds, both of which invest in corporate and government debt securities within the U.S. U.S. corporate bonds, government and government agency bonds, and the publicly traded mutual fund are valued at the closing price reported on the active market in which they are traded and thus are classified as Level 1. The commingled funds are valued at the NAV of units of the fund. The NAV, as provided by the Trustee, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the fund.

Fixed income investments - International

Fixed income investments - International consist of international corporate bonds. International corporate bonds are valued at the closing price reported on the active market in which they are traded and thus are classified as Level 1.

Absolute return

Absolute return consists of investments in various hedge funds structured as fund-of-funds (defined as a single fund that invests in multiple funds). The hedge funds use various investment strategies in an attempt to generate non-correlated returns. A fund-of-funds is designed to help diversify and reduce the risk of the overall portfolio. The hedge funds are valued at the NAV of units of the fund. The NAV, as provided by the Trustee, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the fund. Audited financial statements are produced on an annual basis for the hedge funds.

Real assets

Real assets consists of a natural resource fund (oil, gas and forestry) and a real estate investment trust ("REIT"). The natural resource fund is owned by a limited partnership ("LP"). The LP is generally characterized as requiring a long-term commitment with limited liquidity. The value of the LP is not publicly available and thus, is classified as Level 3. The REIT is a commingled trust. The commingled trust is valued at the NAV of units of the trust. The NAV, as provided by the Trustee, is

used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the fund. Audited financial statements are produced on an annual basis for the LP and REIT.

Private equity

Private equity is an asset class that is generally characterized as requiring long-term commitments and where liquidity is typically limited. Private equity does not have an actively traded market with readily observable prices. The investments are LPs structured as fund-of-funds. The investments are diversified across typical private equity strategies including: buyouts, co-investments, secondary offerings, venture capital, and special situations. Valuations are developed using a variety of proprietary model methodologies. Valuations may be derived from publicly available sources as well as information obtained from each fund's general partner based upon public market conditions and returns. All private equity investments are classified as Level 3. Audited financial statements are produced on an annual basis for the private equity investments.

Short-term investments

Short-term investments consist of cash and cash equivalents in a short-term fund which is valued at the NAV of units of the fund. The NAV, as provided by the Trustee, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the fund.

The methods described above may produce fair value calculations that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while we believe our Pension Plan valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

There have been no changes in the methodologies for determining fair value at December 31, 2018 or 2017.

The following tables set forth, by level within the fair value hierarchy, the Pension Plan assets measured at fair value as of December 31, 2018 and 2017:

| December 31, 2018 | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Investment | Investments Measured at NAV | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
| Equity securities - U.S. | \$ 10.7 | \$ 35.2 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 45.9 |
| Equity securities - International | — | 47.6 | — | — | 47.6 |
| Fixed income investments - U.S. | 309.9 | 108.9 | — | — | 418.8 |
| Fixed income investments - International | — | 16.0 | — | — | 16.0 |
| Absolute return | 30.7 | — | — | — | 30.7 |
| Real assets | 16.3 | — | — | 0.1 | 16.4 |
| Private equity | — | — | — | 10.3 | 10.3 |
| Short-term investments | 2.6 | — | — | — | 2.6 |
| Total | \$ 370.2 | \$ 207.7 | \$ — | \$ 10.4 | \$ 588.3 |

| December 31, 2017 | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Investment | Investments Measured at NAV | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
| Equity securities - U.S. | \$ 11.5 | \$ 35.0 | \$ — | \$ — | \$ 46.5 |
| Equity securities - International | — | 59.6 | — | — | 59.6 |
| Fixed income investments - U.S. | 296.2 | 114.4 | — | — | 410.6 |
| Fixed income investments - International | — | 17.2 | — | — | 17.2 |
| Absolute return | 24.4 | — | — | — | 24.4 |
| Real assets | 15.6 | — | — | 0.2 | 15.8 |
| Private equity | — | — | — | 7.5 | 7.5 |
| Short-term investments | 3.8 | — | — | — | 3.8 |
| Total | \$ 351.5 | \$ 226.2 | \$ — | \$ 7.7 | \$ 585.4 |

The tables below set forth a summary of changes in the fair value of the Pension Plan's Level 3 assets for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017:

| December 31, 2018 | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | Real Assets | Private Equity | Total |
| Balance, beginning of year | \$ 0.2 | \$ 7.5 | \$ 7.7 |
| Realized gains | — | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Unrealized gains (losses) | — | — | — |
| Purchases | — | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| Sales | (0.1) | (1.4) | (1.5) |
| Balance, end of year | \$ 0.1 | \$ 10.3 | \$ 10.4 |

| December 31, 2017 | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | Real Assets | Private Equity | Total |
| Balance, beginning of year | \$ 0.2 | \$ 1.9 | \$ 2.1 |
| Realized gains | — | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Unrealized losses | — | (0.1) | (0.1) |
| Purchases | — | 6.9 | 6.9 |
| Sales | — | (1.3) | (1.3) |
| Balance, end of year | \$ 0.2 | \$ 7.5 | \$ 7.7 |

13. PROFIT SHARING AND SAVINGS PLAN

We provide a defined contribution profit sharing and savings plan (the "Plan") covering substantially all of our eligible employees with an individual account for each participant. Employees may make voluntary before-tax and/or after-tax contributions to the saving portion of the Plan, ranging from 2% to 50% of pay, subject to limitations imposed by federal tax law, ERISA, and the Pension Protection Act of 2006. Substantially all employees hired or rehired after July 1, 2015 are eligible to receive a Company matching contribution beginning the first month after the completion of one year of service and 1,000 hours of service. The Company match is equal to 50% of an eligible employee's before-tax or Roth payroll contribution, up to 6% of pay, with a maximum match of 3%. The matching contribution expense recognized by us was \$1.8 million, \$0.9 million, and \$0.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

Annual contributions made by us to the profit-sharing portion of the Plan are determined by the Board of Directors at their discretion, are generally based on the profitability of the Company. Expense recognized by us under the profit-sharing portion of the Plan was \$67.4 million, \$43.2 million, and \$41.4 million for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

14. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Rental expense was \$29.4 million, \$27.3 million, and \$25.1 million in 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively. Future minimum rental payments required under operating leases that have either initial or remaining noncancelable lease terms in excess of one year as of December 31, 2018 are as follows:

| For the Years Ending December 31, | Minimum Rental Payments |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2019 | \$ 30.0 |
| 2020 | 21.9 |
| 2021 | 16.4 |
| 2022 | 12.3 |
| 2023 | 8.8 |
| After 2023 | 17.3 |

Graybar and our subsidiaries are subject to various claims, disputes, and administrative and legal matters incidental to our past and current business activities. As a result, contingencies arise resulting from an existing condition, situation, or set of circumstances involving an uncertainty as to the realization of a possible loss.

Estimated loss contingencies are accrued only if the loss is probable and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. With respect to a particular loss contingency, it may be probable that a loss has occurred but the estimate of the loss is a wide range. If we deem an amount within the range to be a better estimate than any other amount within the range, that amount will be accrued. However, if no amount within the range is a better estimate than any other amount, the minimum amount of the range is accrued. While we believe that none of these claims, disputes, administrative, and legal matters will have a material adverse effect on our financial position, these matters are uncertain and we cannot at this time determine whether the financial impact, if any, of these matters will be material to our results of operations in the period in which such matters are resolved or a better estimate becomes available.

15. ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE LOSS

The components of accumulated other comprehensive loss as of December 31 are as follows:

| | 2018 | 2017 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Currency translation | \$ (12.4) | \$ (4.6) |
| Pension liability | (219.6) | (192.7) |
| Postretirement benefits liability | (8.3) | (9.3) |
| Adoption of ASU 2018-02 | — | (43.5) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | \$ (240.3) | \$ (250.1) |

We elected to early adopt Accounting Standards Update 2018-02, "Income Statement - Reporting Comprehensive Income (Topic 220)" ("ASU 2018-02") for the annual period ended December 31, 2017. The applicable tax rate was adjusted in response to the enactment of the TCJA and the corresponding changes in the U.S. federal statutory tax rate resulted in a reclassification of \$43.5 million from accumulated other comprehensive loss to retained earnings as of December 31, 2017.

The following table represents amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017:

| | 2018 | | | 2017 | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| | Amortization of Pension and Other Postretirement Benefits Items | | | Amortization of Pension and Other Postretirement Benefits Items | | |
| | Actuarial Losses Recognized | Prior Service Costs Recognized | Total | Actuarial Losses Recognized | Prior Service Costs Recognized | Total |
| Affected Line in Consolidated Statement of Income: | | | | | | |
| Non-operating expenses | \$ 27.4 | \$ (1.7) | \$ 25.7 | \$ 22.3 | \$ (1.8) | \$ 20.5 |
| Tax (benefit) expense | (7.0) | 0.4 | (6.6) | (8.7) | 0.7 | (8.0) |
| Total reclassifications for the period, net of tax | \$ 20.4 | \$ (1.3) | \$ 19.1 | \$ 13.6 | \$ (1.1) | \$ 12.5 |

The following table represents the activity included in accumulated other comprehensive loss for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017:

| | 2018 | | | 2017 | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------|
| | Foreign Currency | Pension and Other Postretirement Benefits | Total | Foreign Currency | Pension and Other Postretirement Benefits | Total |
| Beginning balance January 1, | \$ (4.6) | \$ (245.5) | \$ (250.1) | \$ (10.3) | \$ (186.3) | \$ (196.6) |
| Other comprehensive (loss) income before reclassifications | (7.8) | — | (7.8) | 5.7 | — | 5.7 |
| Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss (net of tax \$(6.6) and \$(8.0)) | — | 19.1 | 19.1 | — | 12.5 | 12.5 |
| Actuarial loss, (net of tax \$0.5 and \$18.0) | — | (1.5) | (1.5) | — | (28.2) | (28.2) |
| Net current-period other comprehensive (loss) income | (7.8) | 17.6 | 9.8 | 5.7 | (15.7) | (10.0) |
| Adoption of ASU 2018-02 | — | — | — | — | (43.5) | (43.5) |
| Ending balance December 31, | \$ (12.4) | \$ (227.9) | \$ (240.3) | \$ (4.6) | \$ (245.5) | \$ (250.1) |

16. ACQUISITIONS

On July 1, 2016, we purchased Cape Electrical Supply LLC ("Cape Electric"), a regional distributor serving electrical contractors and large engineering construction firms, as well as industrial, institutional and utility customers, for approximately \$59.9 million in cash, net of cash acquired. The purchase price allocation resulted in \$16.4 million and \$23.6 million of tax deductible goodwill and other intangible assets, respectively.

Since the date of acquisition, Cape Electric results are reflected in our consolidated financial statements. Pro forma results of this acquisition were not material; therefore, they are not presented.

17. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)

The following tables set forth selected quarterly financial data for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017:

| For the Quarter Ended | 2018 | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| | March 31, | June 30, | September 30, | December 31, |
| Net sales | \$ 1,637.7 | \$ 1,832.3 | \$ 1,870.3 | \$ 1,862.2 |
| Gross margin | \$ 311.4 | \$ 351.2 | \$ 353.4 | \$ 364.9 |
| Net income attributable to the Company | \$ 21.1 | \$ 44.5 | \$ 53.6 | \$ 24.1 |
| Net income attributable to the Company per share of common stock ^(A) | \$ 0.98 | \$ 2.07 | \$ 2.50 | \$ 1.14 |

^(A)All periods adjusted for a 10% stock dividend declared in December 2018. Prior to these adjustments, the average common shares outstanding for the first, second, third, and fourth quarters of 2018 were 19,544,758 shares, 19,500,916 shares, 19,465,072 shares, and 19,454,943 shares, respectively.

| For the Quarter Ended | 2017 | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| | March 31, | June 30, | September 30, | December 31, |
| Net sales | \$ 1,530.6 | \$ 1,712.9 | \$ 1,700.8 | \$ 1,686.9 |
| Gross margin | \$ 229.8 | \$ 332.9 | \$ 322.0 | \$ 316.6 |
| Net income (loss) attributable to the Company | \$ 17.7 | \$ 33.3 | \$ 29.4 | \$ (8.8) |
| Net income (loss) attributable to the Company per share of common stock ^(A) | \$ 0.83 | \$ 1.56 | \$ 1.38 | \$ (0.41) |

^(A)All periods adjusted for a 10% stock dividend declared in December 2018 and a 10% stock dividend declared in December 2017. Prior to these adjustments, the average common shares outstanding for the first, second, third, and fourth quarters of 2017 were 17,620,521 shares, 17,641,979 shares, 17,610,573 shares, and 17,565,590 shares, respectively.

Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure

None.

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports that we file and submit under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to Company management, including our Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

An evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2018 was performed under the supervision and with the participation of management. Based on that evaluation, our management, including the Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of December 31, 2018 to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports filed or submitted by us under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms.

Management of the Company, including its Principal Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, does not expect that our disclosure controls will prevent or detect all errors. A control system, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance that the control system's objective will be met. Because of the inherent limitations in all control systems, no evaluation of controls can provide absolute assurance that all control issues, if any, have been detected. These inherent limitations include the realities that disclosure requirements may be misinterpreted and judgments in decision-making may be inexact.

Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f). All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation.

Management of the Company conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013)*, issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (“COSO”) issued in May 2013. Based on that evaluation, management of the Company concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2018.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting that have occurred during our last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Item 9B. Other Information

None.

PART III

Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance

The information with respect to the directors of the Company who are nominees for election at the 2019 annual meeting of shareholders that is required to be included pursuant to this Item 10 will be included under the caption “Proposal 1: Nominees for Election as Directors” and “Information About the Board of Directors and Corporate Governance Matters” in the Company’s Definitive Information Statement relating to the 2019 Annual Meeting (the “Information Statement”) to be filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 14c-5 under the Exchange Act, and is incorporated herein by reference.

The information with respect to our audit committee and audit committee financial expert, and nominating committee required to be included pursuant to this Item 10 will be included under the caption “Information About the Board of Directors and Corporate Governance Matters” in our Information Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

We have adopted a code of ethics that applies to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer and principal accounting officer (collectively “Covered Officers”). This code of ethics is appended to our business conduct guidelines for all employees. The business conduct guidelines and specific code for Covered Officers may be accessed at: www.graybar.com/store/en/gb/cm/company/legal and is also available in print without charge upon written request addressed to the Secretary of the Company at our principal executive offices.

Item 11. Executive Compensation

The information with respect to executive compensation, our advisory compensation committee, and the compensation committee interlocks and insider participation required to be included pursuant to this Item 11 will be included under the captions “Information About the Board of Directors and Corporate Governance Matters” and “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” in the Information Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters

The information with respect to the security ownership of beneficial owners of more than 5% of the Common Stock and of directors and executive officers of the Company required to be included pursuant to this Item 12, will be included under the captions “Beneficial Ownership of More Than 5% of the Outstanding Common Stock” and “Beneficial Ownership of Management” in the Information Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence

At the date of this report, there are no reportable transactions, business relationships or indebtedness of the type required to be included pursuant to this Item 13 between the Company and any beneficial owner of more than 5% of the Common Stock, the directors or nominees for director of the Company, the executive officers of the Company or the members of the immediate families of such individuals. If there is any change in that regard prior to the filing of the Information Statement, such information will be included under the caption “Transactions with Related Persons” in the Information Statement and shall be incorporated herein by reference.

The information with respect to director independence and to corporate governance required to be included pursuant to this Item 13 will be included under the captions “Proposal 1: Nominees for Election as Directors” and “Information about the Board of Directors and Corporate Governance Matters” in the Information Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services

The information with respect to principal accounting fees and services required to be included pursuant to this Item 14 will be included under the caption “Relationship with Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm” in our Information Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules

(a) List of documents filed as part of this report:

1. Financial Statements

All Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company as set forth under Item 8 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

2. Financial Statement Schedule

None.

3. Exhibits

- 3.1 Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated June 8, 2017 (Commission File No. 000-00255) and incorporated herein by reference.
- 3.2 By-laws as amended through March 9, 2017, filed as Exhibit 3(ii) to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 9, 2017 (Commission File No. 000-00255) and incorporated herein by reference.
- 4.2 Voting Trust Agreement, dated as of March 3, 2017, a form of which is attached as Exhibit A to the Prospectus dated January 6, 2017, constituting a part of the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-1/A (Registration No. 333-214560), and incorporated herein by reference.
- 9 Voting Trust Agreement dated as of March 3, 2017, included at Exhibit 4.2 above.

The Company hereby agrees to furnish to the Commission upon request a copy of each instrument omitted pursuant to Item 601(b)(4)(iii)(A) of Regulation S-K.

- 10.1 Management Incentive Plan, filed as Exhibit 10(i) to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 (Commission File No. 000-00255) and incorporated herein by reference.*
- 10.2 Graybar Electric Company, Inc. Supplemental Benefit Plan, amended and restated, entered into between the Company and certain employees effective January 1, 2016, filed as Exhibit 10(ii) to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 (Commission File No. 000-00255) and incorporated herein by reference.*
- 10.3 Form of Deferral Agreement under Graybar Electric Company, Inc. Supplemental Benefit Plan*
- 10.5 Third Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated as of August 10, 2018, among the Company, as parent borrower, Graybar Canada Limited, as a borrower, the lenders party thereto, Bank of America, N.A., as Domestic Administrative Agent, Domestic Swing Line Lender and Domestic L/C Issuer and Bank of America, N.A., acting through its Canada Branch, as Canadian Administrative Agent, Canadian Swing Line Lender and Canadian L/C Issuer, filed as Exhibit 10.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2018 (Commission File No. 000-00225) and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.6 Private Shelf Agreement, dated September 22, 2014, between the Company and Prudential Investment Management, Inc., filed as Exhibit 10.7 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2014 (Commission File No. 000-00225) and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.7 Amendment No. 1 to Private Shelf Agreement, dated August 2, 2017, between the Company and PGIM, Inc. (formerly known as Prudential Investment Management, Inc.), filed as Exhibit 10 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2017 (Commission File No. 000-002255) and incorporated herein by reference.
- 10.8 Amendment No. 2 to Private Shelf Agreement, dated August 10, 2018, between the Company and PGIM, Inc., filed as Exhibit 10.2 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2018 (Commission File No. 000-00225) and incorporated herein by reference.

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10.9 | <u>Private Shelf Agreement, dated September 22, 2016, between the Company and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, MetLife Investment Advisors, LLC, and other MetLife affiliates, filed as Exhibit 10 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2016 (Commission File No. 000-00225) and incorporated herein by reference.</u> |
| 10.10 | <u>Amendment No. 1 to Private Shelf Agreement, dated August 10, 2018, among the Company and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, MetLife Investment Advisors, LLC and other MetLife affiliates, filed as Exhibit 10.3 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2018 (Commission File No. 000-00225) and incorporated herein by reference.</u> |
| 21 | <u>List of subsidiaries of the Company</u> |
| 31.1 | <u>Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 - Principal Executive Officer.</u> |
| 31.2 | <u>Certification Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 - Principal Financial Officer.</u> |
| 32.1 | <u>Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 – Principal Executive Officer.</u> |
| 32.2 | <u>Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 – Principal Financial Officer.</u> |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document |
| 101.PRE | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document |
| | * Compensation arrangement |

GRAYBAR ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC.

LIST OF SUBSIDIARIES

Graybar International, Inc., a Missouri corporation
Graybar Financial Services, Inc., a Missouri corporation
Graybar Electric Limited, a Nova Scotia corporation
Graybar Canada Limited, a Nova Scotia corporation
Graybar Services, Inc., an Illinois corporation
Distribution Associates, Inc., a Missouri corporation
Graybar Business Services, Inc., a Missouri corporation
Graybar Electric Canada Limited, a Nova Scotia corporation
Commonwealth Controls Corporation, a Missouri corporation
Graybar Newfoundland Limited, a Newfoundland and Labrador corporation
Graybar Energy Limited, an Ontario corporation
Advantage Industrial Automation, Inc., a Georgia corporation
GBE Sub, LLC, a Missouri limited liability company
Cape Electrical Supply Holdings LLC, a Delaware limited liability company
Cape Electrical Supply LLC, a Delaware limited liability company

CERTIFICATION

I, Kathleen M. Mazzarella, certify that:

- 1) I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Graybar Electric Company, Inc.;
- 2) Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
- 3) Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
- 4) The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
- 5) The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 13, 2019

/s/ KATHLEEN M. MAZZARELLA

Kathleen M. Mazzarella

President, Chief Executive Officer and Principal Executive Officer

CERTIFICATION

I, Randall R. Harwood, certify that:

- 1) I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Graybar Electric Company, Inc.;
- 2) Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
- 3) Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
- 4) The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
- 5) The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: March 13, 2019

/s/ RANDALL R. HARWOOD

Randall R. Harwood

Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and
Principal Financial Officer

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

I, Kathleen M. Mazzarella, President and Principal Executive Officer of Graybar Electric Company, Inc. (the “Company”), certify, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, that:

- (1) The Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Company for the annual period ended December 31, 2018 (the “Report”) fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

/s/ KATHLEEN M. MAZZARELLA

Kathleen M. Mazzarella

President, Chief Executive Officer and Principal Executive Officer

March 13, 2019

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

I, Randall R. Harwood, Senior Vice President and Principal Financial Officer of Graybar Electric Company, Inc. (the “Company”), certify, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, that:

- (1) The Annual Report on Form 10-K of the Company for the annual period ended December 31, 2018 (the “Report”) fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

/s/ RANDALL R. HARWOOD

Randall R. Harwood

Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Principal
Financial Officer

March 13, 2019

DISTRICT MANAGEMENT TEAM AS OF MARCH 1, 2019

ATLANTA DISTRICT

David A. Bender
District Vice President

J. Mark Adams
Director, Electrical Sales

John A. Wagner
Director, Electrical Sales

Kevin E. O'Leary
Director, Comm/Data Sales

Pete J. Saindon
Director, Operations

Nicolas S. Szalko
Director, Finance

Tiffany C. Carter
Director, Human Resources

BOSTON DISTRICT

Todd M. McDonough
District Vice President

Bryan A. Hayes
Director, Electrical and Industrial Sales

G. Randall Stark
Director, Operations

Paul E. Smith
Director, Finance

CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

Richard T. Birkett
District Vice President

Gail M. Del Rio
Director, Electrical Sales

Andrew C. Ipson
Director, Electrical Sales

William F. Seddon
Director, Comm/Data Sales

Bradley J. Lee
Director, Industrial Sales

David C. Turner
Director, Operations

Najam A. Chohan
Director, Finance

Linda Z. Bergstedt
Director, Human Resources

CHICAGO DISTRICT

Robert W. Levine
District Vice President

Matthew T. Stone
Director, Electrical Sales

Thomas C. Bleker
Director, Comm/Data Sales

Timothy G. Vandenberg
Director, Industrial Sales

Steven R. Bourbeau
Director, Finance

Kimberly V. Simon
Director, Human Resources

DALLAS DISTRICT

Gregory T. Hochheiser
District Vice President

Frank J. Slovacek
Director, Electrical and Industrial Sales

Mark W. Mason
Director, Electrical Sales

Debra W. Boudreaux
Director, Comm/Data Sales

Robert L. Fields
Director, Industrial Sales

M. Dwayne Roberts
Director, Operations

Darryl B. Bain
Director, Finance

Grady N. Norton
Director, Human Resources

MINNEAPOLIS DISTRICT

Ellen S. Rebne
District Vice President

Anthony L. Frantal
Director, Electrical and Industrial Sales

Bryan J. Hughes
Director, Comm/Data Sales

Dion Q. Bagaason
Director, Operations

John P. Kahne
Director, Finance

Jeffrey Steely
Director, Human Resources

NEW YORK DISTRICT

Richard H. Harvey
District Vice President

James Montemarano
Director, Electrical and Industrial Sales

Scott R. Kennedy
Director, Electrical Sales

Richard S. King
Director, Comm/Data Sales

Michael O. McCasland
Director, Operations

Kyle D. Koch
Director, Finance

Oziche L. Perrin
Director, Human Resources

PHOENIX DISTRICT

Jeffrey A. Wanner
District Vice President

Craig M. Mead
Director, Electrical Sales

Kathleen M. Roberts
Director, Comm/Data Sales

Stephen G. McElroy
Director, Industrial Sales

Brian J. Gauthier
Director, Operations

Kevin D. Cook
Director, Finance

Rita A. Sandoval
Director, Human Resources

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Scott B. Neubauer
District Vice President

Lawrence E. Smith
Director, Electrical Sales

Jason R. Berger
Director, Comm/Data Sales

J. Brett Felton
Director, Industrial Sales

Kurt S. Olson
Director, Operations

James M. Stoklosa
Director, Finance

Bryan C. Scott
Director, Human Resources

RICHMOND DISTRICT

Brian P. Delaney
District Vice President

Scott M. Pierce
Director, Electrical Sales

Tracy D. Barnett
Director, Comm/Data Sales

Harold T. Chassereau
Director, Industrial Sales

David K. Ange
Director, Operations

Roderick A. Morgan
Director, Finance

Johna R. Campbell
Director, Human Resources

SEATTLE DISTRICT

Stephen R. Cray
District Vice President

Steven D. Breeden
Director, Electrical and Industrial Sales

Derek W. Osborn
Director, Comm/Data Sales

Steven E. Horst
Director, Operations

Paul A. Hansen
Director, Finance

Melanie D. Hull
Director, Human Resources

ST. LOUIS DISTRICT

Danna N. Ellison
District Vice President

Timothy J. Schaeffer
Director, Electrical Sales

Michael J. Arceneaux
Director, Operations

Dale R. Jensen
Director, Finance

Lisa A. Kollar
Director, Human Resources

TAMPA DISTRICT

David L. Schwichtenberg
District Vice President

Tyler J. Maggs
Director, Electrical and Industrial Sales

Dale J. Thayer, Jr.
Director, Operations

Jerry W. Karch
Director, Finance

Joseph B. Donahue
Director, Human Resources

GRAYBAR CANADA

Brian D. Thomas
Executive VP and General Manager

Peter D. Horncastle
Senior VP, Sales and Marketing

Michael E. Williamson
VP, Comptroller and Secretary

Jason C. Taylor
VP, Atlantic Region

Joseph Caranci
VP, Central Region

Michael C. Ryan
Director, Comm/Data

Roberta Whalen
Senior Manager, Human Resources

ADVANTAGE INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION

Kenneth R. Entrekinn
CEO

George F. Smith III
President

CAPE ELECTRICAL SUPPLY

Kyle P. Thoma
President and CEO

William W. Pickens
Vice President, Operations

Ryan J. Weissmueller
Vice President, Finance

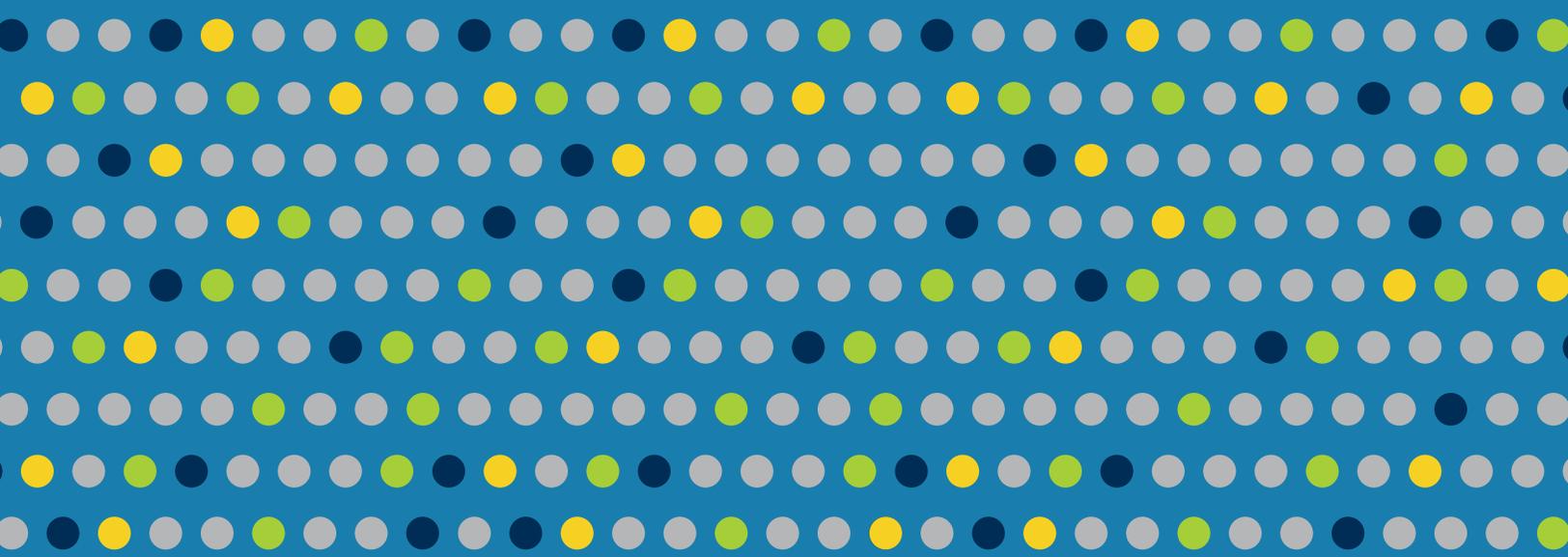
Craig W. Jeter
Vice President, CES Integration

Robby L. Ringstaff
Director, Supply Chain

Robert E. Burnham
Director, Finance and Control

Sandy J. Kassel
Director, Human Resources





Graybar Electric Company, Inc.
34 North Meramec Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

graybar.com