

GENERAL MILLS INC  
Form 10-K  
July 03, 2013  
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
FORM 10-K

x ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED May 26, 2013

.. TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number: 001-01185

**GENERAL MILLS, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	41-0274440 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)
Number One General Mills Boulevard Minneapolis, Minnesota (Address of principal executive offices)	55426 (Zip Code)
(763) 764-7600	

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$.10 par value	New York Stock Exchange

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

## Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

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 and posted on its corporate website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T 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 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, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

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

Smaller reporting company

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

Aggregate market value of Common Stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant, based on the closing price of \$40.77 per share as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on November 23, 2012 (the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter): \$26,330.2 million.

Number of shares of Common Stock outstanding as of June 14, 2013: 640,860,417 (excluding 113,752,911 shares held in the treasury).

### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the registrant's Proxy Statement for its 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders are incorporated by reference into Part III.

---

**Table of Contents**

## Table of Contents

	<b>Page</b>
<b><u>Part I</u></b>	
Item 1 <u>Business</u>	3
Item 1A <u>Risk Factors</u>	9
Item 1B <u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	14
Item 2 <u>Properties</u>	14
Item 3 <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	15
Item 4 <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	15
<b><u>Part II</u></b>	
Item 5 <u>Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	15
Item 6 <u>Selected Financial Data</u>	16
Item 7 <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	17
Item 7A <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	46
Item 8 <u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	48
Item 9 <u>Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	98
Item 9A <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	99
Item 9B <u>Other Information</u>	99
<b><u>Part III</u></b>	
Item 10 <u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	99
Item 11 <u>Executive Compensation</u>	100
Item 12 <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	100
Item 13 <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	101
Item 14 <u>Principal Accounting Fees and Services</u>	101
<b><u>Part IV</u></b>	
Item 15 <u>Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules</u>	101
<u>Signatures</u>	105



---

**Table of Contents**

**PART I**

**ITEM 1 Business  
COMPANY OVERVIEW**

General Mills, Inc. is a leading global manufacturer and marketer of branded consumer foods sold through retail stores. We are also a leading supplier of branded and unbranded food products to the foodservice and commercial baking industries. We manufacture our products in 16 countries and market them in more than 100 countries. Our joint ventures manufacture and market products in more than 130 countries and republics worldwide.

General Mills, Inc. was incorporated in Delaware in 1928. The terms General Mills, Company, registrant, we, us, and our mean General Mills, Inc. and all subsidiaries included in the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report unless the context indicates otherwise.

Certain terms used throughout this report are defined in a glossary in Item 8 of this report.

**PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS**

Our product categories in the United States include ready-to-eat cereals, refrigerated yogurt, ready-to-serve soup, dry dinners, shelf stable and frozen vegetables, refrigerated and frozen dough products, dessert and baking mixes, frozen pizza and pizza snacks, grain, fruit and savory snacks, and a wide variety of organic products including granola bars, cereal, and soup.

In Canada, our product categories include ready-to-eat cereals, shelf stable and frozen vegetables, dry dinners, refrigerated and frozen dough products, dessert and baking mixes, frozen pizza snacks, refrigerated yogurt, and grain and fruit snacks.

In markets outside of the United States and Canada, our product categories include super-premium ice cream and frozen desserts, refrigerated yogurt, snacks, shelf stable and frozen vegetables, refrigerated and frozen dough products, and dry dinners. In addition, we sell ready-to-eat cereals through our Cereal Partners Worldwide (CPW) joint venture.

For net sales contributed by each class of similar products, see Note 16 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report.

**TRADEMARKS AND PATENTS**

Our products are marketed under trademarks and service marks that are owned by or licensed to us. The most significant trademarks and service marks used in our businesses are set forth in *italics* in this report. Some of the important trademarks used in our global operations include:

**Ready-to-eat cereals**

*Cheerios, Wheaties, Lucky Charms, Total, Trix, Golden Grahams, Chex, Kix, Fiber One, Reese's Puffs, Cocoa Puffs, Cookie Crisp, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Clusters, Oatmeal Crisp, and Basic 4*

**Refrigerated yogurt**

*Yoplait, Trix, Delights, Go-GURT, Fiber One, Whips!, Mountain High, Libert , YOP, Perle de Lait, Petits Filous, and Panier.*

**Refrigerated and frozen dough products**

*Pillsbury, the Pillsbury Doughboy character, Grands!, Golden Layers, Big Deluxe, Toaster Strudel, Toaster Scrambles, Simply, Immaculate Baking Company, and Jus-Rol*

## **Table of Contents**

### **Dinners**

*Betty Crocker, Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, Chicken Helper, Old El Paso, Suddenly Salad, Betty Crocker Complete Meals, Wanchai Ferry, Diablitos, Parampara, Yoki, Latina, Pasta Master, V.Pearl, and La Salteña*

### **Ready-to-serve soup**

*Progresso and Kitano*

### **Frozen pizza**

*Totino's, Jeni's, and Party Pizza*

### **Shelf stable and frozen vegetable products**

*Green Giant, Potato Buds, Valley Selections, Simply Steam, and Valley Fresh Steamers*

### **Grain, fruit, and savory snacks**

*Nature Valley, Fiber One, Betty Crocker, Fruit Roll-Ups, Fruit By The Foot, Gushers, Chex Mix, Gardetto's, Bugles, Food Should Taste Good, Larabar, Yokitos, Pizza Rolls, Pizza Pops, and Pillsbury Pizza Minis*

### **Dessert and baking mixes**

*Betty Crocker, SuperMoist, Warm Delights, Bisquick, and Gold Medal*

### **Ice cream and frozen desserts**

*Häagen-Dazs, Secret Sensations, Cream Crisp, and Dolce*

### **Organic products**

*Cascadian Farm and Muir Glen*

### **Soy beverages**

*Mais Vita*

Trademarks are vital to our businesses. To protect our ownership and rights, we register our trademarks with the Patent and Trademark Office in the United States, and we file similar registrations in foreign jurisdictions. Trademark registrations in the United States are generally for a term of 10 years, renewable every 10 years as long as the trademark is used in the regular course of business.

Some of our products are marketed under or in combination with trademarks that have been licensed from others, including:

*Dora the Explorer, Disney Cars, Disney Princesses, and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles for yogurt;*  
*Dora the Explorer and Reese's Puffs for cereal;*  
*Hershey's chocolate for a variety of products;*  
*Weight Watchers as an endorsement for yogurt, soup, and frozen vegetable products;*  
*Macaroni Grill for frozen dinners;*  
*Sunkist for baking products and fruit snacks;*  
*Cinnabon for refrigerated dough, frozen pastries, and baking products;*

## Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

*Bailey's* for super-premium ice cream; and a variety of brands and characters for fruit snacks, including *Mott's*, *Ocean Spray*, *Scooby Doo*, *Batman*, *Tom and Jerry*, *Hello Kitty*, *Thomas the Tank Engine*, *My Little Pony*, *Transformers*, and various Warner Bros. and Nickelodeon characters.

## **Table of Contents**

We license all of our cereal trademarks to CPW, our joint venture with Nestlé S.A. (Nestlé). Nestlé similarly licenses certain of its trademarks to CPW, including the *Nestlé* and *Uncle Tobys* trademarks. We own the *Häagen-Dazs* trademark and have the right to use the trademark outside of the United States and Canada. Nestlé has an exclusive royalty-free license to use the *Häagen-Dazs* trademark in the United States and Canada on ice cream and other frozen dessert products. We also license this trademark to our Häagen-Dazs Japan, Inc. (HDJ) joint venture. The J. M. Smucker Company holds an exclusive royalty-free license to use the *Pillsbury* brand and the *Pillsbury Doughboy* character in the dessert mix and baking mix categories in the United States and under limited circumstances in Canada and Mexico. We also license our *Green Giant* trademark to a third party for use in connection with its sale of fresh produce in the United States. We use the *Yoplait* and related trademarks under license from an entity in which we own a 50 percent interest and we further license these trademarks to franchisees.

Given our focus on developing and marketing innovative, proprietary products, we consider the collective rights under our various patents, which expire from time to time, a valuable asset, but we do not believe that our businesses are materially dependent upon any single patent or group of related patents.

## **RAW MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES**

The principal raw materials that we use are grains (wheat, oats, and corn), sugar, dairy products, vegetables, fruits, meats, vegetable oils, and other agricultural products. We also use substantial quantities of carton board, corrugated, plastic and metal packaging materials, operating supplies, and energy. Most of these inputs for our domestic and Canadian operations are purchased from suppliers in the United States. In our international operations, inputs that are not locally available in adequate supply may be imported from other countries. The cost of these inputs may fluctuate widely due to external conditions such as weather, product scarcity, limited sources of supply, commodity market fluctuations, currency fluctuations, and changes in governmental agricultural and energy policies and regulations. We have some long-term fixed price contracts, but the majority of our inputs are purchased on the open market. We believe that we will be able to obtain an adequate supply of needed inputs. Occasionally and where possible, we make advance purchases of items significant to our business in order to ensure continuity of operations. Our objective is to procure materials meeting both our quality standards and our production needs at price levels that allow a targeted profit margin. Since these inputs generally represent the largest variable cost in manufacturing our products, to the extent possible, we often manage the risk associated with adverse price movements for some inputs using a variety of risk management strategies. We also have a grain merchandising operation that provides us efficient access to, and more informed knowledge of, various commodity markets, principally wheat and oats. This operation holds physical inventories that are carried at fair market value and uses derivatives to manage its net inventory position and minimize its market exposures.

## **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

Our principal research and development facilities are located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Our research and development resources are focused on new product development, product improvement, process design and improvement, packaging, and exploratory research in new business and technology areas. Research and development expenditures were \$238 million in fiscal 2013, \$245 million in fiscal 2012, and \$235 million in fiscal 2011.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT SEGMENTS**

We review the financial results of our business under three operating segments: U.S. Retail; International; and Bakeries and Foodservice. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (MD&A) in Item 7 of this report for a description of our segments. For financial information by segment and geographic area, see Note 16 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report.



## **Table of Contents**

### **JOINT VENTURES**

In addition to our consolidated operations, we participate in two joint ventures. We have a 50 percent equity interest in CPW, which manufactures and markets ready-to-eat cereal products in more than 130 countries and republics outside the United States and Canada. CPW also markets cereal bars in several European countries and manufactures private label cereals for customers in the United Kingdom. We also have a 50 percent equity interest in HDJ, which manufactures, distributes, and markets *Häagen-Dazs* ice cream products and frozen novelties.

### **CUSTOMERS**

Our primary customers are grocery stores, mass merchandisers, membership stores, natural food chains, drug, dollar and discount chains, commercial and noncommercial foodservice distributors and operators, restaurants, and convenience stores. We generally sell to these customers through our direct sales force. We use broker and distribution arrangements for certain products or to serve certain types of customers.

During fiscal 2013, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and its affiliates (Wal-Mart) accounted for 21 percent of our consolidated net sales and 31 percent of our net sales in the U.S. Retail segment. No other customer accounted for 10 percent or more of our consolidated net sales. Wal-Mart also represented 6 percent of our net sales in the International segment and 7 percent of our net sales in the Bakeries and Foodservice segment. As of May 26, 2013, Wal-Mart accounted for 28 percent of our U.S. Retail receivables, 5 percent of our International receivables, and 7 percent of our Bakeries and Foodservice receivables. The five largest customers in our U.S. Retail segment accounted for 54 percent of its fiscal 2013 net sales, the five largest customers in our International segment accounted for 24 percent of its fiscal 2013 net sales, and the five largest customers in our Bakeries and Foodservice segment accounted for 41 percent of its fiscal 2013 net sales.

For further information on our customer credit and product return practices please refer to Note 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report.

### **COMPETITION**

The consumer foods industry is highly competitive, with numerous manufacturers of varying sizes in the United States and throughout the world. The food categories in which we participate are also very competitive. Our principal competitors in these categories all have substantial financial, marketing, and other resources. Competition in our product categories is based on product innovation, product quality, price, brand recognition and loyalty, effectiveness of marketing, promotional activity, and the ability to identify and satisfy consumer preferences. Our principal strategies for competing in each of our segments include effective customer relationships, superior product quality, innovative advertising, product promotion, product innovation, an efficient supply chain, and price. In most product categories, we compete not only with other widely advertised, branded products, but also with generic and private label products that are generally sold at lower prices. Internationally, we compete with both multi-national and local manufacturers, and each country includes a unique group of competitors.

### **SEASONALITY**

In general, demand for our products is evenly balanced throughout the year. However, within our U.S. Retail segment demand for refrigerated dough, frozen baked goods, and baking products is stronger in the fourth calendar quarter. Demand for *Progresso* soup and *Green Giant* canned and frozen vegetables is higher during the fall and winter months. Internationally, demand for *Häagen-Dazs* ice cream is higher during the summer months and demand for baking mix and dough products increases during winter months. Due to the offsetting impact of these demand trends, as well as the different seasons in the northern and southern hemispheres, our International segment net sales are generally evenly balanced throughout the year.

### **BACKLOG**

Orders are generally filled within a few days of receipt and are subject to cancellation at any time prior to shipment. The backlog of any unfilled orders as of May 26, 2013, was not material.

## **Table of Contents**

### **WORKING CAPITAL**

A description of our working capital is included in the Liquidity section of MD&A in Item 7 of this report. Our product return practices are described in Note 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report.

### **EMPLOYEES**

As of May 26, 2013, we had approximately 41,000 full- and part-time employees.

### **FOOD QUALITY AND SAFETY REGULATION**

The manufacture and sale of consumer food products is highly regulated. In the United States, our activities are subject to regulation by various federal government agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Agriculture, Federal Trade Commission, Department of Commerce, and Environmental Protection Agency, as well as various state and local agencies. Our business is also regulated by similar agencies outside of the United States.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

As of May 26, 2013, we were involved with three active cleanup sites associated with the alleged or threatened release of hazardous substances or wastes located in: Saugnet, Illinois; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Moonachie, New Jersey. These matters involve several different actions, including administrative proceedings commenced by regulatory agencies and demand letters by regulatory agencies and private parties.

We recognize that our potential exposure with respect to any of these sites may be joint and several, but have concluded that our probable aggregate exposure is not material to our consolidated financial position or cash flows from operations. This conclusion is based upon, among other things: our payments and accruals with respect to each site; the number, ranking and financial strength of other potentially responsible parties; the status of the proceedings, including various settlement agreements, consent decrees, or court orders; allocations of volumetric waste contributions and allocations of relative responsibility among potentially responsible parties developed by regulatory agencies and by private parties; remediation cost estimates prepared by governmental authorities or private technical consultants; and our historical experience in negotiating and settling disputes with respect to similar sites.

Our operations are subject to the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, and all similar state, local, and foreign environmental laws and regulations applicable to the jurisdictions in which we operate.

Based on current facts and circumstances, we believe that neither the results of our environmental proceedings nor our compliance in general with environmental laws or regulations will have a material adverse effect upon our capital expenditures, earnings, or competitive position.

### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The section below provides information regarding our executive officers as of July 3, 2013:

*Y. Marc Belton*, age 54, is Executive Vice President, Global Strategy, Growth and Marketing Innovation. Mr. Belton joined General Mills in 1983 and has held various positions, including President of Snacks from 1994 to 1997, New Ventures from 1997 to 1999, and Big G cereals from 1999 to 2002. He had oversight responsibility for Yoplait, General Mills Canada, and New Business Development from 2002 to 2005, and has had oversight responsibility for Growth and Marketing Innovation since 2005 and Global Strategy since September 2010. Mr. Belton was elected a Vice President of General Mills in 1991, a Senior Vice President in 1994, and an Executive Vice President in 2006. He is a director of U.S. Bancorp.

**Table of Contents**

**John R. Church**, age 47, is Executive Vice President, Supply Chain. Mr. Church joined General Mills in 1988 as a Product Developer in the Big G cereals division and held various positions before becoming Vice President, Engineering in 2003. In 2005, his role was expanded to include development of the company's strategy for the global sourcing of raw materials and manufacturing capabilities. He was named Vice President, Supply Chain Operations in 2007, Senior Vice President, Supply Chain in 2008, and to his present position in July 2013.

**Michael L. Davis**, age 57, is Senior Vice President, Global Human Resources. Mr. Davis joined General Mills in 1996 as Vice President, Compensation and Benefits, after spending 15 years in consulting with Towers Perrin. In 2002, his role was expanded to include staffing activities, and in 2005, he became Vice President, Human Resources for the U.S. Retail and Corporate groups. He was named to his current position in 2008.

**Peter C. Erickson**, age 52, is Executive Vice President, Innovation, Technology and Quality. Mr. Erickson joined General Mills in 1994 as part of the Colombo yogurt acquisition. He has held various positions in Research & Development and became Vice President, Innovation, Technology and Quality in 2003 and Senior Vice President, Innovation, Technology and Quality in 2006. He was named to his present position in July 2013.

**Ian R. Friendly**, age 52, is Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, U.S. Retail. Mr. Friendly joined General Mills in 1983 and held various positions before becoming Vice President of CPW in 1994, President of Yoplait in 1998, Senior Vice President of General Mills in 2000, and President of the Big G cereals division in 2002. In 2004, he was named Chief Executive Officer of CPW. Mr. Friendly was named to his present position in 2006. He is a director of The Valspar Corporation.

**Donal L. Mulligan**, age 52, is Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Mulligan joined General Mills in 2001 from The Pillsbury Company. He served as Vice President, Financial Operations for our International division until 2004, when he was named Vice President, Financial Operations for Operations and Technology. Mr. Mulligan was appointed Treasurer of General Mills in 2006, Senior Vice President, Financial Operations in July 2007, and was elected to his present position in August 2007. From 1987 to 1998, he held several international positions at PepsiCo, Inc. and YUM! Brands, Inc. Mr. Mulligan is a director of Tennant Company.

**Kimberly A. Nelson**, age 50, is Senior Vice President, External Relations, and President of the General Mills Foundation. Ms. Nelson joined General Mills in 1988 and has held marketing leadership roles in the Big G, Snacks and Meals divisions. She was elected Vice President, President, Snacks in 2004, Senior Vice President, President, Snacks in 2008, and Senior Vice President, External Relations in September 2010. She was named President of the General Mills Foundation in May 2011.

**Shawn P. O Grady**, age 49, is Senior Vice President, President, Sales & Channel Development. Mr. O Grady joined General Mills in 1990 and held several marketing roles in the Snacks, Meals and Big G cereal divisions. He was promoted to Vice President in 1998 and held marketing positions in the Betty Crocker and Pillsbury USA divisions. In 2004, he moved into Consumer Foods Sales, becoming Vice President, President, U.S. Retail Sales in 2007, and Senior Vice President, President, Consumer Foods Sales Division in May 2010. He was promoted to his current position in June 2012.

**Christopher D. O Leary**, age 53, is Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, International. Mr. O Leary joined General Mills in 1997 as Vice President, Corporate Growth. He was elected a Senior Vice President in 1999 and President of the Meals division in 2001. Mr. O Leary was named to his present position in 2006. Prior to joining General Mills, he spent 17 years at PepsiCo, Inc., last serving as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hostess Frito-Lay business in Canada. Mr. O Leary is a director of Telephone and Data Systems, Inc.

**Roderick A. Palmore**, age 61, is Executive Vice President, General Counsel, Chief Compliance and Risk Management Officer, and Secretary. Mr. Palmore joined General Mills in this position in 2008 from the Sara Lee Corporation, a consumer foods and products company. He spent 12 years at Sara Lee, last serving as Executive Vice President and General Counsel since 2004. Mr. Palmore is a director of CBOE Holdings, Inc. and The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company.

---

## **Table of Contents**

**Kendall J. Powell**, age 59, is Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of General Mills. Mr. Powell joined General Mills in 1979 and served in a variety of positions before becoming a Vice President in 1990. He became President of Yoplait in 1996, President of the Big G cereal division in 1997, and Senior Vice President of General Mills in 1998. From 1999 to 2004, he served as Chief Executive Officer of CPW. He returned from CPW in 2004 and was elected Executive Vice President. Mr. Powell was elected President and Chief Operating Officer of General Mills with overall global operating responsibility for the company in 2006, Chief Executive Officer in 2007, and Chairman of the Board in 2008. He is a director of Medtronic, Inc.

**Jerald A. Young**, age 56, is Vice President, Controller. Mr. Young joined General Mills in 1992 and held several finance roles within the Pillsbury division before he was appointed Vice President of Finance for the Bakeries and Foodservice Division in 2000. Mr. Young was subsequently appointed Vice President Internal Audit in 2005 and Vice President, Supply Chain in 2008. He was named to his present position in August 2011.

## **WEBSITE ACCESS**

Our website is [www.generalmills.com](http://www.generalmills.com). We make available, free of charge in the Investors portion of this website, annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (1934 Act) as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Reports of beneficial ownership filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the 1934 Act are also available on our website.

## **ITEM 1A Risk Factors**

Our business is subject to various risks and uncertainties. Any of the risks described below could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

### **The food categories in which we participate are very competitive, and if we are not able to compete effectively, our results of operations could be adversely affected.**

The food categories in which we participate are very competitive. Our principal competitors in these categories all have substantial financial, marketing, and other resources. In most product categories, we compete not only with other widely advertised branded products, but also with generic and private label products that are generally sold at lower prices. Competition in our product categories is based on product innovation, product quality, price, brand recognition and loyalty, effectiveness of marketing, promotional activity, and the ability to identify and satisfy consumer preferences. If our large competitors were to seek an advantage through pricing or promotional changes, we could choose to do the same, which could adversely affect our margins and profitability. If we did not do the same, our revenues and market share could be adversely affected. Our market share and revenue growth could also be adversely impacted if we are not successful in introducing innovative products in response to changing consumer demands or by new product introductions of our competitors. If we are unable to build and sustain brand equity by offering recognizably superior product quality, we may be unable to maintain premium pricing over generic and private label products.

### **We may be unable to maintain our profit margins in the face of a consolidating retail environment.**

During fiscal 2013, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and its affiliates (Wal-Mart) accounted for 21 percent of our consolidated net sales and 31 percent of our net sales in the U.S. Retail segment. No other customer accounted for 10 percent or more of our consolidated net sales. Wal-Mart also represented 6 percent of our net sales in the International segment and 7 percent of our net sales in the Bakeries and Foodservice segment. The five largest customers in our U.S. Retail segment accounted for 54 percent of its net sales for fiscal 2013, the five largest customers in our International segment accounted for 24 percent of its net sales for fiscal 2013, and the five largest customers in our Bakeries and Foodservice segment accounted for 41 percent of its net sales for fiscal 2013. The loss of any large customer for an extended length of time could adversely affect our sales and profits. In addition, large retail customers may seek to use their position to improve their profitability through improved efficiency, lower pricing, increased reliance on their own brand name products, increased emphasis on generic and other economy brands, and increased promotional programs. If we are unable to use our scale, marketing expertise, product innovation, knowledge of consumers' needs, and category leadership positions to respond to these demands, our profitability or volume growth could be negatively impacted.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Price changes for the commodities we depend on for raw materials, packaging, and energy may adversely affect our profitability.**

The principal raw materials that we use are commodities that experience price volatility caused by external conditions such as weather, product scarcity, limited sources of supply, commodity market fluctuations, currency fluctuations, and changes in governmental agricultural and energy policies and regulations. Commodity price changes may result in unexpected increases in raw material, packaging, and energy costs. If we are unable to increase productivity to offset these increased costs or increase our prices, we may experience reduced margins and profitability. We do not fully hedge against changes in commodity prices, and the risk management procedures that we do use may not always work as we intend.

### **Volatility in the market value of derivatives we use to manage exposures to fluctuations in commodity prices will cause volatility in our gross margins and net earnings.**

We utilize derivatives to manage price risk for some of our principal ingredient and energy costs, including grains (oats, wheat, and corn), oils (principally soybean), non-fat dry milk, natural gas, and diesel fuel. Changes in the values of these derivatives are recorded in earnings currently, resulting in volatility in both gross margin and net earnings. These gains and losses are reported in cost of sales in our Consolidated Statements of Earnings and in unallocated corporate items in our segment operating results until we utilize the underlying input in our manufacturing process, at which time the gains and losses are reclassified to segment operating profit. We also record our grain inventories at fair value. We may experience volatile earnings as a result of these accounting treatments.

### **If we are not efficient in our production, our profitability could suffer as a result of the highly competitive environment in which we operate.**

Our future success and earnings growth depend in part on our ability to be efficient in the production and manufacture of our products in highly competitive markets. Gaining additional efficiencies may become more difficult over time. Our failure to reduce costs through productivity gains or by eliminating redundant costs resulting from acquisitions could adversely affect our profitability and weaken our competitive position. Many productivity initiatives involve complex reorganization of manufacturing facilities and production lines. Such manufacturing realignment may result in the interruption of production, which may negatively impact product volume and margins.

### **Disruption of our supply chain could adversely affect our business.**

Our ability to make, move, and sell products is critical to our success. Damage or disruption to raw material supplies or our manufacturing or distribution capabilities due to weather, including any potential effects of climate change, natural disaster, fire, terrorism, pandemic, strikes, import restrictions, or other factors could impair our ability to manufacture or sell our products. Failure to take adequate steps to mitigate the likelihood or potential impact of such events, or to effectively manage such events if they occur, particularly when a product is sourced from a single supplier or location, could adversely affect our business and results of operations, as well as require additional resources to restore our supply chain.

### **Concerns with the safety and quality of food products could cause consumers to avoid certain food products or ingredients.**

We could be adversely affected if consumers in our principal markets lose confidence in the safety and quality of certain food products or ingredients. Adverse publicity about these types of concerns, whether or not valid, may discourage consumers from buying our products or cause production and delivery disruptions.

## **Table of Contents**

### **If our food products become adulterated, misbranded, or mislabeled, we might need to recall those items and may experience product liability claims if consumers are injured.**

We may need to recall some of our products if they become adulterated, misbranded, or mislabeled. A widespread product recall could result in significant losses due to the costs of a recall, the destruction of product inventory, and lost sales due to the unavailability of product for a period of time. We could also suffer losses from a significant product liability judgment against us. A significant product recall or product liability case could also result in adverse publicity, damage to our reputation, and a loss of consumer confidence in our food products, which could have an adverse effect on our business results and the value of our brands.

### **We may be unable to anticipate changes in consumer preferences and trends, which may result in decreased demand for our products.**

Our success depends in part on our ability to anticipate the tastes and eating habits of consumers and to offer products that appeal to their preferences. Consumer preferences change from time to time and can be affected by a number of different trends. Our failure to anticipate, identify or react to these changes and trends, or to introduce new and improved products on a timely basis, could result in reduced demand for our products, which would in turn cause our revenues and profitability to suffer. Similarly, demand for our products could be affected by consumer concerns regarding the health effects of ingredients such as sodium, trans fats, sugar, processed wheat, or other product ingredients or attributes.

### **We may be unable to grow our market share or add products that are in faster growing and more profitable categories.**

The food industry's growth potential is constrained by population growth. Our success depends in part on our ability to grow our business faster than populations are growing in the markets that we serve. One way to achieve that growth is to enhance our portfolio by adding innovative new products in faster growing and more profitable categories. Our future results will also depend on our ability to increase market share in our existing product categories. If we do not succeed in developing innovative products for new and existing categories, our growth may slow, which could adversely affect our profitability.

### **Economic downturns could limit consumer demand for our products.**

The willingness of consumers to purchase our products depends in part on local economic conditions. In periods of economic uncertainty, consumers may purchase more generic, private label, and other economy brands and may forego certain purchases altogether. In those circumstances, we could experience a reduction in sales of higher margin products or a shift in our product mix to lower margin offerings. In addition, as a result of economic conditions or competitive actions, we may be unable to raise our prices sufficiently to protect margins. Consumers may also reduce the amount of food that they consume away from home at customers that purchase products from our Bakeries and Foodservice segment. Any of these events could have an adverse effect on our results of operations.

### **Our international operations are subject to political and economic risks.**

In fiscal 2013, 29 percent of our consolidated net sales were generated outside of the United States. We are accordingly subject to a number of risks relating to doing business internationally, any of which could significantly harm our business. These risks include:

- political and economic instability;
- exchange controls and currency exchange rates;
- nationalization of operations;
- compliance with anti-corruption regulations;
- foreign tax treaties and policies; and
- restriction on the transfer of funds to and from foreign countries, including potentially negative tax consequences.

Our financial performance on a U.S. dollar denominated basis is subject to fluctuations in currency exchange rates. These fluctuations could cause material variations in our results of operations. Our principal exposures are to the Australian dollar, Brazilian real, British pound sterling, Canadian dollar, Chinese renminbi, euro, Japanese yen, Mexican peso, and Swiss franc. From time to time, we enter into agreements that are intended to reduce the effects of our exposure to currency fluctuations, but these agreements may not be effective in significantly reducing our exposure.



## **Table of Contents**

### **New regulations or regulatory-based claims could adversely affect our business.**

Food production and marketing are highly regulated by a variety of federal, state, local, and foreign agencies. Changes in laws or regulations that impose additional regulatory requirements on us, including regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, could increase our cost of doing business or restrict our actions, causing our results of operations to be adversely affected. In addition, we advertise our products and could be the target of claims relating to alleged false or deceptive advertising under federal, state, and foreign laws and regulations. We may also be subject to new laws or regulations restricting our right to advertise our products, including proposals to limit advertising to children.

### **We have a substantial amount of indebtedness, which could limit financing and other options and in some cases adversely affect our ability to pay dividends.**

As of May 26, 2013, we had total debt, redeemable interests, and noncontrolling interests of \$9.4 billion. The agreements under which we have issued indebtedness do not prevent us from incurring additional unsecured indebtedness in the future. Our level of indebtedness may limit our:

ability to obtain additional financing for working capital, capital expenditures, or general corporate purposes, particularly if the ratings assigned to our debt securities by rating organizations were revised downward; and flexibility to adjust to changing business and market conditions and may make us more vulnerable to a downturn in general economic conditions.

There are various financial covenants and other restrictions in our debt instruments and noncontrolling interests. If we fail to comply with any of these requirements, the related indebtedness (and other unrelated indebtedness) could become due and payable prior to its stated maturity and our ability to obtain additional or alternative financing may also be adversely affected.

Our ability to make scheduled payments on or to refinance our debt and other obligations will depend on our operating and financial performance, which in turn is subject to prevailing economic conditions and to financial, business, and other factors beyond our control.

### **Global capital and credit market issues could negatively affect our liquidity, increase our costs of borrowing, and disrupt the operations of our suppliers and customers.**

We depend on stable, liquid, and well-functioning capital and credit markets to fund our operations. Although we believe that our operating cash flows, financial assets, access to capital and credit markets, and revolving-credit agreements will permit us to meet our financing needs for the foreseeable future, there can be no assurance that future volatility or disruption in the capital and credit markets will not impair our liquidity or increase our costs of borrowing. Our business could also be negatively impacted if our suppliers or customers experience disruptions resulting from tighter capital and credit markets or a slowdown in the general economy.

### **Volatility in the securities markets, interest rates, and other factors or changes in our employee base could substantially increase our defined benefit pension, other postretirement, and postemployment benefit costs.**

We sponsor a number of defined benefit plans for employees in the United States, Canada, and various foreign locations, including defined benefit pension, retiree health and welfare, severance, directors' life, and other postemployment plans. Our major defined benefit pension plans are funded with trust assets invested in a globally diversified portfolio of securities and other investments. Changes in interest rates, mortality rates, health care costs, early retirement rates, investment returns, and the market value of plan assets can affect the funded status of our defined benefit plans and cause volatility in the net periodic benefit cost and future funding requirements of the plans. A significant increase in our obligations or future funding requirements could have a negative impact on our results of operations and cash flows from operations.



---

**Table of Contents**

**Our business operations could be disrupted if our information technology systems fail to perform adequately.**

The efficient operation of our business depends on our information technology systems. We rely on our information technology systems to effectively manage our business data, communications, supply chain, order entry and fulfillment, and other business processes. The failure of our information technology systems to perform as we anticipate could disrupt our business and could result in transaction errors, processing inefficiencies, and the loss of sales and customers, causing our business and results of operations to suffer. In addition, our information technology systems may be vulnerable to damage or interruption from circumstances beyond our control, including fire, natural disasters, systems failures, security breaches, and viruses. Any such damage or interruption could have a material adverse effect on our business.

**If other potentially responsible parties (PRPs) are unable to contribute to remediation costs at certain contaminated sites, our costs for remediation could be material.**

We are subject to various federal, state, local, and foreign environmental and health and safety laws and regulations. Under certain of these laws, namely the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and its state counterparts, liability for investigation and remediation of hazardous substance contamination at currently or formerly owned or operated facilities or at third-party waste disposal sites is joint and several. We currently are involved in active remediation efforts at certain sites where we have been named a PRP. If other PRPs at these sites are unable to contribute to remediation costs, we could be held responsible for their portion of the remediation costs, and those costs could be material. We cannot assure that our costs in relation to these environmental matters or compliance with environmental laws in general will not exceed our established liabilities or otherwise have an adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

**A change in the assumptions regarding the future performance of our businesses or a different weighted-average cost of capital used to value our reporting units or our indefinite-lived intangible assets could negatively affect our consolidated results of operations and net worth.**

Goodwill for each of our reporting units is tested for impairment annually and whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that impairment may have occurred. We compare the carrying value of the net assets of a reporting unit, including goodwill, to the fair value of the unit. If the fair value of the net assets of the reporting unit is less than the net assets including goodwill, impairment has occurred. Our estimates of fair value are determined based on a discounted cash flow model. Growth rates for sales and profits are determined using inputs from our annual long-range planning process. We also make estimates of discount rates, perpetuity growth assumptions, market comparables, and other factors. While we currently believe that our goodwill is not impaired, different assumptions regarding the future performance of our businesses could result in significant impairment losses.

We evaluate the useful lives of our intangible assets, primarily intangible assets associated with the *Pillsbury*, *Totino's*, *Progreso*, *Green Giant*, *Yoplait*, *Old El Paso*, *Yoki*, and *Häagen-Dazs* brands, to determine if they are finite or indefinite-lived. Reaching a determination on useful life requires significant judgments and assumptions regarding the future effects of obsolescence, demand, competition, other economic factors (such as the stability of the industry, known technological advances, legislative action that results in an uncertain or changing regulatory environment, and expected changes in distribution channels), the level of required maintenance expenditures, and the expected lives of other related groups of assets.

Our indefinite-lived intangible assets are also tested for impairment annually and whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying value may not be recoverable. Our estimate of the fair value of the brands is based on a discounted cash flow model using inputs including projected revenues from our annual long-range plan, assumed royalty rates which could be payable if we did not own the brands, and a discount rate.

As of May 26, 2013, we had \$13.1 billion of goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets. While we currently believe that the fair value of each intangible exceeds its carrying value and that those intangibles so classified will contribute indefinitely to our cash flows, different assumptions regarding future performance of our businesses or a different weighted-average cost of capital could result in significant impairment losses and amortization expense.

**Table of Contents****Our failure to successfully integrate acquisitions into our existing operations could adversely affect our financial results.**

From time to time, we evaluate potential acquisitions or joint ventures that would further our strategic objectives. Our success depends, in part, upon our ability to integrate acquired and existing operations. If we are unable to successfully integrate acquisitions, our financial results could suffer. Additional potential risks associated with acquisitions include additional debt leverage, the loss of key employees and customers of the acquired business, the assumption of unknown liabilities, the inherent risk associated with entering a geographic area or line of business in which we have no or limited prior experience, failure to achieve anticipated synergies, and the impairment of goodwill or other acquisition-related intangible assets.

**ITEM 1B Unresolved Staff Comments**

None.

**ITEM 2 Properties**

We own our principal executive offices and main research facilities, which are located in the Minneapolis, Minnesota metropolitan area. We operate numerous manufacturing facilities and maintain many sales and administrative offices, warehouses, and distribution centers in the United States. Other facilities are operated in Canada and elsewhere around the world.

As of May 26, 2013, we operated 65 facilities for the production of a wide variety of food products. Of these facilities, 30 are located in the United States (2 of which are leased), 9 in the Asia/Pacific region (4 of which are leased), 5 in Canada (3 of which are leased), 8 in Europe (2 of which are leased), 12 in Latin America and Mexico (1 of which is leased), and 1 in South Africa. The following is a list of the locations of our principal production facilities, which primarily support the segment noted:

**U.S. Retail**

Carson, California	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	Vineland, New Jersey
Lodi, California	Methuen, Massachusetts	Albuquerque, New Mexico
Covington, Georgia	Irapuato, Mexico	Buffalo, New York
Belvidere, Illinois	Reed City, Michigan	Cincinnati, Ohio
Geneva, Illinois	Fridley, Minnesota	Wellston, Ohio
West Chicago, Illinois	Hannibal, Missouri	Murfreesboro, Tennessee
New Albany, Indiana	Kansas City, Missouri	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Carlisle, Iowa	Great Falls, Montana	

**International**

Buenos Aires, Argentina	Guangzhou, China	Le Mans, France
Mt. Waverly, Australia	Nanjing, China	Monetean, France
Rooty Hill, Australia	Sanhe, China	Vienne, France
Nova Prata, Brazil	Shanghai, China	San Adrian, Spain
Pouso Alegre, Brazil	Arras, France	Berwick, United Kingdom
Downsview, Canada	Labatut, France	Cagua, Venezuela
St. Hyacinthe, Canada		

**Bakeries and Foodservice**

Chanhassen, Minnesota	Joplin, Missouri	Martel, Ohio
-----------------------	------------------	--------------

**Table of Contents**

We operate numerous grain elevators in the United States in support of our domestic manufacturing activities. We also utilize approximately 11 million square feet of warehouse and distribution space, nearly all of which is leased, that primarily supports our U.S. Retail segment. We own and lease a number of dedicated sales and administrative offices in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere around the world, totaling approximately 3 million square feet. We have additional warehouse, distribution, and office space in our plant locations.

As part of our Häagen-Dazs business in our International segment, we operate 331 (all leased) and franchise 358 branded ice cream parlors in various countries around the world, all outside of the United States and Canada.

**ITEM 3 Legal Proceedings**

We are the subject of various pending or threatened legal actions in the ordinary course of our business. All such matters are subject to many uncertainties and outcomes that are not predictable with assurance. In our opinion, there were no claims or litigation pending as of May 26, 2013, that were reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position or results of operations. See the information contained under the section entitled "Environmental Matters" in Item 1 of this report for a discussion of environmental matters in which we are involved.

**ITEM 4 Mine Safety Disclosures**

None.

**PART II****ITEM 5 Market for Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol GIS. On June 14, 2013, there were approximately 33,000 record holders of our common stock. Information regarding the market prices for our common stock and dividend payments for the two most recent fiscal years is set forth in Note 18 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report.

The following table sets forth information with respect to shares of our common stock that we purchased during the fiscal quarter ended May 26, 2013:

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased (a)	Average Price Paid Per Share	Total Number of	Maximum Number of
			Shares Purchased as Part of a Publicly Announced Program (b)	Shares that may yet be Purchased Under the Program (b)
February 25, 2013-				
March 31, 2013	2,028	\$46.39	2,028	54,558,074
April 1, 2013-				
April 28, 2013	31	48.68	31	54,558,043
April 29, 2013-				
May 26, 2013	5,496,293	49.13	5,496,293	49,061,750
Total	5,498,352	\$49.13	5,498,352	49,061,750

(a)

## Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

The total number of shares purchased includes: (i) 5.5 million shares of common stock purchased under the terms of an accelerated share repurchase agreement (see Note 10 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report); and (ii) shares of common stock withheld for the payment of withholding taxes upon the distribution of deferred option units.

- (b) On June 28, 2010, our Board of Directors approved and we announced an authorization for the repurchase of up to 100,000,000 shares of our common stock. Purchases can be made in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions, including the use of call options and other derivative instruments, Rule 10b5-1 trading plans, and accelerated repurchase programs. The Board did not specify an expiration date for the authorization.

**Table of Contents****ITEM 6 Selected Financial Data**

The following table sets forth selected financial data for each of the fiscal years in the five-year period ended May 26, 2013:

In Millions, Except Per Share Data, Percentages and Ratios	Fiscal Year				
	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009 (a)
<b>Operating data:</b>					
Net sales	\$ 17,774.1	\$ 16,657.9	\$ 14,880.2	\$ 14,635.6	\$ 14,555.8
Gross margin (b)	6,423.9	6,044.7	5,953.5	5,800.2	5,174.9
Selling, general, and administrative expenses	3,552.3	3,380.7	3,192.0	3,162.7	2,893.2
Segment operating profit (c)	3,197.7	3,011.6	2,945.6	2,840.5	2,624.2
After-tax earnings from joint ventures	98.8	88.2	96.4	101.7	91.9
Net earnings attributable to General Mills	1,855.2	1,567.3	1,798.3	1,530.5	1,304.4
Depreciation and amortization	588.0	541.5	472.6	457.1	453.6
Advertising and media expense	895.0	913.7	843.7	908.5	732.1
Research and development expense	237.9	245.4	235.0	218.3	208.2
Average shares outstanding:					
Basic	648.6	648.1	642.7	659.6	663.7
Diluted	665.6	666.7	664.8	683.3	687.1
Earnings per share:					
Basic	\$ 2.86	\$ 2.42	\$ 2.80	\$ 2.32	\$ 1.96
Diluted	\$ 2.79	\$ 2.35	\$ 2.70	\$ 2.24	\$ 1.90
Diluted, excluding certain items affecting comparability (c)	\$ 2.69	\$ 2.56	\$ 2.48	\$ 2.30	\$ 1.99
<b>Operating ratios:</b>					
Gross margin as a percentage of net sales	36.1%	36.3%	40.0%	39.6%	35.6%
Selling, general, and administrative expenses as a percentage of net sales	20.0%	20.3%	21.5%	21.6%	19.9%
Segment operating profit as a percentage of net sales (c)	18.0%	18.1%	19.8%	19.4%	18.0%
Effective income tax rate	29.2%	32.1%	29.7%	35.0%	37.1%
Return on average total capital (b) (c)	11.9%	12.7%	13.8%	13.8%	12.3%
<b>Balance sheet data:</b>					
Land, buildings, and equipment	\$ 3,878.1	\$ 3,652.7	\$ 3,345.9	\$ 3,127.7	\$ 3,034.9
Total assets	22,658.0	21,096.8	18,674.5	17,678.9	17,874.8
Long-term debt, excluding current portion	5,926.1	6,161.9	5,542.5	5,268.5	5,754.8
Total debt (b)	7,969.1	7,429.6	6,885.1	6,425.9	7,075.5
Redeemable interest	967.5	847.8			
Noncontrolling interests	456.3	461.0	246.7	245.1	244.2
Stockholders' equity	6,672.2	6,421.7	6,365.5	5,402.9	5,172.3
<b>Cash flow data:</b>					
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 2,926.0	\$ 2,407.2	\$ 1,531.1	\$ 2,185.1	\$ 1,836.7
Capital expenditures	613.9	675.9	648.8	649.9	562.6
Net cash used by investing activities	1,515.4	1,870.8	715.1	721.2	288.9
Net cash used by financing activities	1,140.2	666.6	940.9	1,507.7	1,413.0
Fixed charge coverage ratio	7.62	6.26	7.03	6.42	5.33
Operating cash flow to debt ratio (b)	36.7%	32.4%	22.2%	34.0%	26.0%
<b>Share data:</b>					
Low stock price	\$ 37.55	\$ 34.95	\$ 33.57	\$ 25.59	\$ 23.61
High stock price	50.93	41.05	39.95	36.96	35.08
Closing stock price	48.98	39.08	39.29	35.62	25.59
Cash dividends per common share	1.32	1.22	1.12	0.96	0.86

(a) Fiscal 2009 was a 53-week year; all other fiscal years were 52 weeks.

(b) See Glossary in Item 8 of this report for definition.

(c) See MD&A in Item 7 of this report for our discussion of this measure not defined by generally accepted accounting principles.



---

**Table of Contents**

**ITEM 7 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**  
**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW**

We are a global consumer foods company. We develop distinctive value-added food products and market them under unique brand names. We work continuously to improve our established products and to create new products that meet consumers' evolving needs and preferences. In addition, we build the equity of our brands over time with strong consumer-directed marketing and innovative new products and effective merchandising. We believe our brand-building strategy is the key to winning and sustaining leading share positions in markets around the globe.

Our fundamental business goal is to generate superior returns for our stockholders over the long term. We believe that increases in net sales, segment operating profit, earnings per share (EPS), and return on average total capital are the key measures of financial performance for our business.

Our specific growth objectives are to consistently deliver:

low single-digit annual growth in net sales;

mid single-digit annual growth in total segment operating profit;

high single-digit annual growth in diluted EPS excluding certain items affecting comparability; and

improvement in return on average total capital.

We believe that this financial performance, coupled with an attractive dividend yield, should result in long-term value creation for stockholders. We return a substantial amount of cash to stockholders through share repurchases and dividends.

In fiscal 2013 we maintained focus on our core strategies of brand building investment, international expansion, customer partnerships, product innovation and holistic margin management (HMM) initiatives, and we continued to invest for future growth. For the fiscal year ended May 26, 2013, our net sales grew 7 percent and total segment operating profit grew 6 percent. Our return on average total capital declined by 80 basis points primarily due to the acquisitions of Yoplait S.A.S., Yoplait Marques S.A.S., and Yoki Alimentos S.A. (Yoki). Diluted EPS grew 19 percent and diluted EPS excluding certain items affecting comparability increased 5 percent (See the Non-GAAP Measures section below for a description of our discussion of total segment operating profit, diluted EPS excluding certain items affecting comparability and return on average total capital, which are not defined by generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP)). Net cash provided by operations totaled \$2.9 billion in fiscal 2013, enabling us to partially fund the acquisition of Yoki and to increase our annual dividend payments per share by 8 percent from fiscal 2012. We also made significant capital investments totaling \$614 million in fiscal 2013 and repurchased \$1.0 billion of shares of common stock.

We achieved the following related to our key operating objectives for fiscal 2013:

We increased our worldwide sales base and strengthened our portfolio by making key strategic acquisitions that expanded our participation in fast-growing food categories and emerging markets, and grew net sales by 7 percent.

We sustained a high level of new product activity, and executed effective marketing and merchandising actions in support of our leading brands and global platforms around the world.

We achieved a 6 percent increase in total segment operating profit driven by our ongoing HMM program, the effect of our restructuring plan announced in May 2012, volume growth from existing businesses, and contributions from new businesses.





---

## Table of Contents

Our strong cash flows allowed us to fund the acquisition of new businesses in fiscal 2013 and also repurchase sufficient shares of company stock to more than offset stock option exercises during the year.

Details of our financial results are provided in the Fiscal 2013 Consolidated Results of Operations section below.

In fiscal 2014, we expect to generate growth consistent with our long term model:

We have a strong line-up of consumer marketing, merchandising, and innovation planned to support our leading brands. We will continue to build our global platforms in markets around the world, accelerating our efforts in rapidly growing emerging markets.

We are targeting low single-digit growth in net sales driven by volume growth, with incremental contributions from new businesses added in fiscal 2013.

We are targeting mid single-digit growth in total segment operating profit in fiscal 2014 including incremental contributions from new businesses. We expect our HMM discipline of cost savings and mix management to more than offset expected input cost inflation.

We are targeting high single-digit growth in diluted EPS excluding certain items affecting comparability.

We expect to deliver increased cash returns to shareholders in fiscal 2014, including a 15 percent dividend increase and share repurchases that are expected to result in a 2 percent net reduction in shares outstanding.

Our businesses generate strong levels of cash flows and we will use some of this cash to reinvest in our business. Our fiscal 2014 plans call for approximately \$700 million of expenditures for capital projects.

Certain terms used throughout this report are defined in a glossary in Item 8 of this report.

## **FISCAL 2013 CONSOLIDATED RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Our consolidated results for fiscal 2013 include operating activity from the acquisitions of Yoki in Brazil, Yoplait Ireland, Food Should Taste Good in the United States, Parampara Foods in India, Immaculate Baking Company in the United States, and the assumption of the Canadian Yoplait franchise license (Yoplait Canada). Also included in the first quarter of fiscal 2013 are two additional months of results from the acquisition of Yoplait S.A.S. Collectively, these items are referred to as new businesses.

Fiscal 2013 net sales grew 7 percent to \$17,774 million. In fiscal 2013, **net earnings attributable to General Mills** was \$1,855 million, up 18 percent from \$1,567 million in fiscal 2012, and we reported **diluted EPS** of \$2.79 in fiscal 2013, up 19 percent from \$2.35 in fiscal 2012. Fiscal 2013 results include the effects from various discrete tax items, restructuring charges related to our fiscal 2012 productivity and cost savings plan, integration costs resulting from the acquisition of Yoki, and gains from the mark-to-market valuation of certain commodity positions and grain inventories. Fiscal 2012 results include losses from the mark-to-market valuation of certain commodity positions and grain inventories, restructuring charges related to our 2012 productivity and cost savings plan, and integration costs resulting from the acquisitions of Yoplait S.A.S. and Yoplait Marques S.A.S. Diluted EPS excluding these items affecting comparability totaled \$2.69 in fiscal 2013, up 5 percent from \$2.56 in fiscal 2012 (see the Non-GAAP Measures section below for a description of our use of this measure and our discussion of the items affecting comparability).

**Table of Contents**

The components of net sales growth are shown in the following table:

**Components of Net Sales Growth**

	<b>Fiscal 2013</b>
	<b>vs. 2012</b>
Contributions from volume growth (a)	<b>9 pts</b>
Net price realization and mix	<b>(1) pt</b>
Foreign currency exchange	<b>(1) pt</b>
Net sales growth	<b>7 pts</b>

(a) Measured in tons based on the stated weight of our product shipments.

**Net sales** grew 7 percent in fiscal 2013, including 6 percentage points of growth contributed by new businesses, primarily Yoki, Yoplait S.A.S., and Yoplait Canada. Excluding the impact of new businesses, net sales grew 2 percent, partially offset by 1 percentage point of unfavorable foreign currency exchange. Contributions from volume growth increased net sales by 9 percentage points, including 8 percentage points of contribution from volume growth due to new businesses. Unfavorable net price realization and mix decreased net sales growth by 1 percentage point and unfavorable foreign currency exchange decreased net sales growth by 1 percentage point.

**Cost of sales** increased \$737 million in fiscal 2013 to \$11,350 million. Higher volume drove a \$982 million increase in cost of sales. We also recorded a \$17 million non-recurring expense related to the assumption of the Canadian Yoplait franchise license in fiscal 2013. These increases were partially offset by a \$154 million decrease in cost of sales attributable to product mix. In fiscal 2013, we recorded a \$4 million net decrease in cost of sales related to mark-to-market valuation of certain commodity positions and grain inventories as described in Note 7 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report, compared to a net increase of \$104 million in fiscal 2012.

**Gross margin** grew 6 percent in fiscal 2013 versus fiscal 2012. Gross margin as a percent of net sales of 36 percent was relatively flat compared to fiscal 2012.

**Selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expenses** were up \$172 million in fiscal 2013 versus fiscal 2012. The increase in SG&A expenses was primarily driven by the addition of new businesses and an increase in pension expense. In addition, we recorded a \$25 million foreign exchange loss resulting from the remeasurement of assets and liabilities of our Venezuelan subsidiary following the devaluation of the bolivar in fiscal 2013. Excluding these items, SG&A expenses decreased compared to last year, including a 2 percent decrease in advertising and media expense compared to fiscal 2012. SG&A expenses as a percent of net sales were flat compared to fiscal 2012.

**Restructuring, impairment, and other exit costs** totaled \$20 million in fiscal 2013 as follows:

**Expense, in Millions**

Charges associated with restructuring actions previously announced	<b>\$ 19.8</b>
Total	<b>\$ 19.8</b>

In fiscal 2013, we recorded a \$19 million restructuring charge related to a productivity and cost savings plan approved in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2012, consisting of \$11 million of employee severance expense and other exit costs of \$8 million. All of our operating segments were affected by these actions including \$16 million related to our International segment, \$2 million related to our U.S. Retail segment, and \$1 million related to our Bakeries and Foodservice segment. These restructuring actions are expected to be completed by the end of fiscal 2014. In addition, we recorded \$1 million of charges associated with other previously announced restructuring actions. In fiscal 2013, we paid \$80 million in cash related to restructuring actions.

**Interest, net** for fiscal 2013 totaled \$317 million, \$35 million lower than fiscal 2012. The average interest rate decreased 60 basis points, including the effect of the mix of debt, generating a \$43 million decrease in net interest. Average interest bearing instruments increased \$167 million, primarily from an increase in incremental borrowing to fund the acquisition of Yoki, generating an \$8 million increase in net interest.



**Table of Contents**

Our consolidated **effective tax rate** for fiscal 2013 was 29.2 percent compared to 32.1 percent in fiscal 2012. The 2.9 percentage point decrease was primarily related to the restructuring of our General Mills Cereals, LLC (GMC) subsidiary during the first quarter of fiscal 2013 which resulted in a \$63 million decrease to deferred income tax liabilities related to the tax basis of the investment in GMC and certain distributed assets, with a corresponding discrete non-cash reduction to income taxes. During fiscal 2013, we also recorded a \$34 million discrete decrease in income tax expense and an increase in our deferred tax assets related to certain actions taken to restore part of the tax benefits associated with Medicare Part D subsidies which had previously been reduced in fiscal 2010 with the enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. Our fiscal 2013 tax expense also includes a \$12 million charge associated with the liquidation of a corporate investment.

**After-tax earnings from joint ventures** for fiscal 2013 increased to \$99 million compared to \$88 million in fiscal 2012 primarily due to higher tax rates in fiscal 2012 as a result of discrete tax items and higher operating profit offset by unfavorable foreign currency exchange in fiscal 2013.

The change in net sales for each joint venture is set forth in the following table:

***Joint Venture Change in Net Sales***

	<b>Fiscal 2013</b>
	<b>vs. 2012</b>
CPW	<b>(1) %</b>
HDJ	<b>(2)</b>
Joint Ventures	<b>(1) %</b>

In fiscal 2013, CPW net sales declined by 1 percentage point as 2 percentage points of net sales growth from favorable net price realization and mix were offset by 3 percentage points of net sales decline from unfavorable foreign currency exchange. Contribution from volume growth was flat compared to fiscal 2012. In fiscal 2013, net sales for HDJ decreased 2 percentage points from fiscal 2012 as 6 percentage points of net sales growth from volume contribution was offset by 7 percentage points of net sales decline from unfavorable foreign currency exchange and 1 percentage point of net sales decline attributable to unfavorable net price realization and mix.

**Average diluted shares outstanding** decreased by 1 million in fiscal 2013 from fiscal 2012, due primarily to the repurchase of 24 million shares, including 6 million purchased under an accelerated share repurchase (ASR) agreement.

**FISCAL 2013 CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET ANALYSIS**

**Cash and cash equivalents** increased \$270 million from fiscal 2012, as discussed in the Liquidity section below.

**Receivables** increased \$123 million from fiscal 2012 primarily as a result of the acquisition of Yoki.

**Inventories** increased \$67 million from fiscal 2012 primarily as a result of the acquisition of Yoki.

**Prepaid expenses and other current assets** increased \$80 million from fiscal 2012, mainly due to an increase in other receivables related to the liquidation of a corporate investment.

**Land, buildings, and equipment** increased \$225 million from fiscal 2012, as \$614 million of capital expenditures and \$216 million of additions from acquired businesses were partially offset by depreciation expense of \$552 million.

**Goodwill and other intangible assets** increased \$750 million from fiscal 2012. We recorded \$407 million of goodwill and \$311 million of other intangible assets related to acquisitions in fiscal 2013.

**Table of Contents**

**Other assets** decreased \$22 million from fiscal 2012, primarily related to the liquidation of a corporate investment.

**Accounts payable** increased \$274 million from fiscal 2012, primarily due to the acquisition of Yoki and the extension of payment terms.

**Long-term debt**, including **current portion**, and **notes payable** increased \$540 million from fiscal 2012 primarily due to \$1.0 billion of debt issuances, partially offset by \$587 million of debt and commercial paper repayments.

The current and noncurrent portions of net **deferred income taxes liability** increased \$149 million from fiscal 2012 primarily as a result of contributions to our pension plan in fiscal 2013.

**Other current liabilities** increased \$401 million from fiscal 2012, primarily driven by increases in dividend accruals and trade and consumer accruals.

**Other liabilities** decreased \$237 million from fiscal 2012, primarily driven by a decrease in pension, postemployment, and postretirement liabilities.

**Redeemable interest** increased \$120 million from fiscal 2012, primarily due to a \$104 million increase in the redemption value of the redeemable interest.

**Retained earnings** increased \$744 million from fiscal 2012, reflecting fiscal 2013 net earnings of \$1,855 million less dividends paid of \$868 million and dividends declared of \$243 million. **Treasury stock** increased \$510 million from fiscal 2012, due to \$1,015 million of share repurchases, including \$270 million related to an ASR agreement, partially offset by \$505 million related to stock-based compensation plans. **Additional paid in capital** decreased \$142 million from fiscal 2012, including \$30 million related to an ASR agreement. **Accumulated other comprehensive loss (AOCI)** decreased by \$158 million after-tax from fiscal 2012, primarily driven by pension and postemployment activity of \$144 million.

**Noncontrolling interests** decreased \$5 million in fiscal 2013.

**FISCAL 2012 CONSOLIDATED RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

Fiscal 2012 net sales grew 12 percent to \$16,658 million. In fiscal 2012, **net earnings attributable to General Mills** was \$1,567 million, down 13 percent from \$1,798 million in fiscal 2011, and we reported **diluted EPS** of \$2.35 in fiscal 2012, down 13 percent from \$2.70 in fiscal 2011. Fiscal 2012 results include losses from the mark-to-market valuation of certain commodity positions and grain inventories versus fiscal 2011 which included gains. Fiscal 2012 results also include restructuring charges reflecting employee severance expense and the write-off of certain long-lived assets related to our 2012 productivity and cost savings plan and integration costs resulting from the acquisitions of Yoplait S.A.S. and Yoplait Marques S.A.S. Fiscal 2011 results include the net benefit from the resolution of uncertain tax matters. Diluted EPS excluding these items affecting comparability was \$2.56 in fiscal 2012, up 3 percent from \$2.48 in fiscal 2011 (see the Non-GAAP Measures section below for our use of this measure and our discussion of the items affecting comparability).

The components of net sales growth are shown in the following table:

***Components of Net Sales Growth***

	Fiscal 2012
	vs. 2011
Contributions from volume growth (a)	9 pts
Net price realization and mix	3 pts
Foreign currency exchange	Flat
Net sales growth	12 pts

(a) Measured in tons based on the stated weight of our product shipments.



**Table of Contents**

**Net sales** grew 12 percent in fiscal 2012, due to 9 percentage points of contribution from volume growth, including 12 percentage points of volume growth contributed by the acquisition of Yoplait S.A.S. Net price realization and mix contributed 3 percentage points of net sales growth. Foreign currency exchange was flat compared to fiscal 2011.

**Cost of sales** increased \$1,686 million in fiscal 2012 to \$10,613 million. This increase was driven by an \$877 million increase attributable to higher volume and a \$610 million increase attributable to higher input costs and product mix. We recorded a \$104 million net increase in cost of sales related to mark-to-market valuation of certain commodity positions and grain inventories as described in Note 7 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report, compared to a net decrease of \$95 million in fiscal 2011.

**Gross margin** grew 2 percent in fiscal 2012 versus fiscal 2011. Gross margin as a percent of net sales decreased by 370 basis points from fiscal 2011 to fiscal 2012. This decrease was primarily driven by higher input costs and losses from mark-to-market valuation of certain commodity positions and grain inventories in fiscal 2012 versus gains in fiscal 2011.

**Selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expenses** were up \$189 million in fiscal 2012 versus fiscal 2011. SG&A expenses as a percent of net sales in fiscal 2012 decreased by 1 percentage point compared to fiscal 2011. The increase in SG&A expenses was primarily driven by the acquisition of Yoplait S.A.S. and an 8 percent increase in advertising and media expense.

There were no divestitures in fiscal 2012. In fiscal 2011, we recorded a **net divestiture gain** of \$17 million consisting of a gain of \$14 million related to the sale of a foodservice frozen baked goods product line in our International segment and a gain of \$3 million related to the sale of a pie shell product line in our Bakeries and Foodservice segment.

**Restructuring, impairment, and other exit costs** totaled \$102 million in fiscal 2012 as follows:

**Expense, in Millions**

Productivity and cost savings plan	\$100.6
Charges associated with restructuring actions previously announced	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$101.6</b>

In fiscal 2012, we approved a major productivity and cost savings plan designed to improve organizational effectiveness and focus on key growth strategies. The plan included organizational changes to strengthen business alignment, and actions to accelerate administrative efficiencies across all of our operating segments and support functions. In connection with this initiative, we eliminated approximately 850 positions globally and recorded a \$101 million restructuring charge, consisting of \$88 million of employee severance expense and a non-cash charge of \$13 million related to the write-off of certain long-lived assets in our U.S. Retail segment. All of our operating segments and support functions were affected by these actions including \$70 million related to our U.S. Retail segment, \$12 million related to our Bakeries and Foodservice segment, \$10 million related to our International segment, and \$9 million related to our administrative functions. These restructuring actions are expected to be completed by the end of fiscal 2014. In fiscal 2012, we paid \$4 million in cash related to restructuring actions taken in fiscal 2012 and previous years.

**Interest, net** for fiscal 2012 totaled \$352 million, \$6 million higher than fiscal 2011. Average interest bearing instruments increased \$792 million in fiscal 2012, primarily due to the acquisitions of Yoplait S.A.S. and Yoplait Marques S.A.S., generating a \$46 million increase in net interest. The average interest rate decreased 55 basis points, including the effect of the mix of debt, generating a \$40 million decrease in net interest.

Our consolidated **effective tax rate** for fiscal 2012 was 32.1 percent compared to 29.7 percent in fiscal 2011. The 2.4 percentage point increase was primarily due to a \$100 million reduction to tax expense recorded in fiscal 2011 related to a settlement with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) concerning corporate income tax adjustments for fiscal years 2002 to 2008.

**Table of Contents**

**After-tax earnings from joint ventures** for fiscal 2012 decreased to \$88 million compared to \$96 million in fiscal 2011 primarily due to higher effective tax rates as a result of discrete tax items in fiscal 2012.

The change in net sales for each joint venture is set forth in the following table:

**Joint Venture Change in Net Sales**

	Fiscal 2012 vs. 2011
CPW	4 %
HDJ	11
Joint Ventures	5 %

In fiscal 2012, CPW net sales grew by 4 percent due to 3 percentage points attributable to net price realization and mix, and a 2 percentage point increase from volume, partially offset by a 1 percentage point decrease from unfavorable foreign currency exchange. In fiscal 2012, net sales for HDJ increased 11 percent from fiscal 2011 due to 7 percentage points of favorable foreign currency exchange, 3 percentage points due to an increase in volume, and 1 percentage point attributable to net price realization and mix.

**Average diluted shares outstanding** increased by 2 million in fiscal 2012 from fiscal 2011, due primarily to the issuance of common stock from stock option exercises, partially offset by share repurchases.

**RESULTS OF SEGMENT OPERATIONS**

Our businesses are organized into three operating segments: U.S. Retail; International; and Bakeries and Foodservice.

Beginning with the first quarter of fiscal 2013, we realigned certain divisions within our U.S. Retail operating segment and certain geographic regions within our International operating segment. We revised the amounts previously reported in the net sales percentage change by division within our U.S. Retail segment and geographic regions within our International segment. These realignments had no effect on previously reported consolidated net sales, operating segments net sales, operating profit, segment operating profit, net earnings attributable to General Mills, or earnings per share.

In the U.S. Retail segment, Big G, Snacks, Yoplait, and Small Planet Foods were unchanged. Baking Products combines our baking aisle and refrigerated dough products. Frozen Foods includes our frozen products, as well as *Green Giant* canned vegetables. Meals includes dinner mixes, side dishes, Mexican products, and *Progresso* soups. In the International segment, Canada was unchanged. The Australia and New Zealand businesses were realigned with our Europe region. The Turkey, North Africa, South Africa, and Middle East businesses were realigned with our Asia/Pacific region.



**Table of Contents**

The following tables provide the dollar amount and percentage of net sales and operating profit from each segment for fiscal years 2013, 2012, and 2011:

In Millions	2013		Fiscal Year 2012		2011	
	Dollars	Percent of Total	Dollars	Percent of Total	Dollars	Percent of Total
<b><u>Net Sales</u></b>						
U.S. Retail	\$ 10,614.9	60%	\$ 10,480.2	63%	\$ 10,163.9	69%
International	5,200.2	29	4,194.3	25	2,875.5	19
Bakeries and Foodservice	1,959.0	11	1,983.4	12	1,840.8	12
Total	\$ 17,774.1	100%	\$ 16,657.9	100%	\$ 14,880.2	100%
<b><u>Segment Operating Profit</u></b>						
U.S. Retail	\$ 2,392.9	75%	\$ 2,295.3	76%	\$ 2,347.9	80%
International	490.2	15	429.6	14	291.4	10
Bakeries and Foodservice	314.6	10	286.7	10	306.3	10
Total	\$ 3,197.7	100%	\$ 3,011.6	100%	\$ 2,945.6	100%

Segment operating profit excludes unallocated corporate items, gain on divestitures, and restructuring, impairment, and other exit costs because these items affecting operating profit are centrally managed at the corporate level and are excluded from the measure of segment profitability reviewed by our executive management.

***U.S. RETAIL SEGMENT***

Our U.S. Retail segment reflects business with a wide variety of grocery stores, mass merchandisers, membership stores, natural food chains, and drug, dollar and discount chains operating throughout the United States. Our product categories in this business segment include ready-to-eat cereals, refrigerated yogurt, ready-to-serve soup, dry dinners, shelf stable and frozen vegetables, refrigerated and frozen dough products, dessert and baking mixes, frozen pizza and pizza snacks, grain, fruit and savory snacks, and a wide variety of organic products including granola bars, cereal, and soup.

In fiscal 2013, net sales for our U.S. Retail segment were \$10.6 billion, up 1 percent from fiscal 2012 due to contributions from volume growth. Net price realization and mix was flat compared to fiscal 2012.

In fiscal 2012, net sales for this segment totaled \$10.5 billion, up 3 percent from fiscal 2011. Net price realization and mix contributed 9 percentage points of growth, partially offset by a 6 percentage point decrease due to lower pound volume.

***Components of U.S. Retail Net Sales Growth***

	Fiscal 2013	Fiscal 2012
	vs. 2012	vs. 2011
Contributions from volume growth (a)	1 pt	(6)pts
Net price realization and mix	Flat	9 pts
Net sales growth	1 pt	3 pts

(a) Measured in tons based on the stated weight of our product shipments.

**Table of Contents**

Net sales for our U.S. retail divisions are shown in the tables below:

**U.S. Retail Net Sales by Division**

	Fiscal Year		
	2013	2012	2011
Big G	\$ 2,340.8	\$ 2,387.9	\$ 2,293.6
Baking Products	1,845.7	1,792.8	1,736.0
Snacks	1,717.2	1,578.6	1,378.3
Frozen Foods	1,549.6	1,601.0	1,596.8
Meals	1,481.0	1,452.8	1,431.5
Yoplait	1,352.6	1,418.5	1,499.0
Small Planet Foods and other	328.0	248.6	228.7
Total	\$ 10,614.9	\$ 10,480.2	\$ 10,163.9

**U.S. Retail Net Sales Percentage Change by Division**

	Fiscal 2013	Fiscal 2012
	vs. 2012	vs. 2011
Big G	(2)%	4%
Baking Products	3	3
Snacks	9	15
Frozen Foods	(3)	Flat
Meals	2	2
Yoplait	(5)	(5)
Small Planet Foods	35	19
Total	1%	3%

The 1 percentage point increase in the fiscal 2013 U.S. Retail segment net sales was driven by the Snacks, Small Planet Foods, Baking Products, and Meals divisions, partially offset by declines in the Yoplait, Frozen Foods, and Big G divisions.

The 3 percentage point increase in the fiscal 2012 U.S. Retail segment net sales was driven by the Snacks, Big G, Baking Products, Small Planet Foods, and Meals divisions, partially offset by declines in the Yoplait division. Frozen Foods net sales were flat compared to fiscal 2011.

Segment operating profit of \$2.4 billion in fiscal 2013 improved \$98 million, or 4 percent, from fiscal 2012. The increase was primarily driven by a 5 percent reduction in advertising and media expense, favorable net price realization and mix, and higher volume, partially offset by an increase in input costs.

Segment operating profit of \$2.3 billion in fiscal 2012 declined \$53 million, or 2 percent, from fiscal 2011. The decrease was primarily driven by higher input costs, lower volume, and a 5 percent increase in advertising and media expense.

**INTERNATIONAL SEGMENT**

Our International segment consists of retail and foodservice businesses outside of the United States. In Canada, our product categories include ready-to-eat cereals, shelf stable and frozen vegetables, dry dinners, refrigerated and frozen dough products, dessert and baking mixes, frozen pizza snacks, refrigerated yogurt, and grain and fruit snacks. In markets outside North America, our product categories include super-premium ice cream and frozen desserts, refrigerated yogurt, snacks, shelf stable and frozen vegetables, refrigerated and frozen dough products, and dry dinners. Our International segment also includes products manufactured in the United States for export, mainly to Caribbean and Latin American markets, as well as products we manufacture for sale to our international joint ventures. Revenues from export activities and franchise fees are reported in the region or country where the end customer is located.



**Table of Contents**

As part of a long-term plan to conform the fiscal year ends of all our operations, we have changed the reporting period of certain countries within our International segment from an April fiscal year end to a May fiscal year end to match our fiscal calendar. Accordingly, in the year of change, our results include 13 months of results from the affected operations compared to 12 months in previous fiscal years. In fiscal 2013, we changed the reporting period for our operations in Europe and Australia. The impact of these changes was not material to the fiscal 2013 International segment results of operations.

Net sales for our International segment totaled \$5,200 million in fiscal 2013, up 24 percent from \$4,194 million in fiscal 2012. The growth in fiscal 2013 was driven by 21 percentage points from new businesses, primarily Yoki, Yoplait S.A.S., and Yoplait Canada. Excluding the impact of new businesses, net sales were up 3 percent. Volume contributed 34 percentage points of net sales growth, including 32 percentage points resulting from new businesses, partially offset by 6 percentage points of unfavorable net price realization and mix and 4 percentage points of unfavorable foreign currency exchange.

Net sales totaled \$4,194 million in fiscal 2012, up 46 percent from \$2,876 million in fiscal 2011. The growth in fiscal 2012 was driven by 36 percentage points contributed by the acquisition of Yoplait S.A.S. Volume contributed 65 percentage points of net sales growth, including 63 percentage points resulting from the acquisition of Yoplait S.A.S., and favorable foreign currency exchange contributed 1 percentage point of net sales growth. These gains were partially offset by a decrease of 20 percentage points due to unfavorable net price realization and mix resulting from the acquisition of Yoplait S.A.S.

**Components of International Net Sales Growth**

	<b>Fiscal 2013</b>	Fiscal 2012
	vs. 2012	vs. 2011
Contributions from volume growth (a)	<b>34 pts</b>	65 pts
Net price realization and mix	<b>(6)pts</b>	(20)pts
Foreign currency exchange	<b>(4)pts</b>	1 pt
Net sales growth	<b>24 pts</b>	46 pts

(a) Measured in tons based on the stated weight of our product shipments.

Net sales for our International segment by geographic region are shown in the following tables:

**International Net Sales by Geographic Region**

	<b>Fiscal Year</b>		
	<b>2013</b>	2012	2011
Europe (a)	<b>\$ 2,214.6</b>	\$ 1,988.5	\$ 1,079.2
Canada	<b>1,210.5</b>	990.9	769.9
Asia/Pacific	<b>899.1</b>	810.1	663.7
Latin America	<b>876.0</b>	404.8	362.7
Total	<b>\$ 5,200.2</b>	\$ 4,194.3	\$ 2,875.5

(a) Fiscal 2013 net sales for the Europe region include an additional month of results.

**Table of Contents****International Change in Net Sales by Geographic Region**

	Percentage Change in Net Sales as Reported		Percentage Change in Net Sales on Constant Currency Basis (a)	
	Fiscal 2013	Fiscal 2012	Fiscal 2013	Fiscal 2012
	vs. 2012	vs. 2011	vs. 2012	vs. 2011
Europe (b)	11 %	84 %	15 %	83 %
Canada	22	29	22	28
Asia/Pacific	11	22	11	20
Latin America	116	12	139	14
Total (b)	24 %	46 %	28 %	45 %

(a) See the Non-GAAP Measures section below for our use of this measure.

(b) Fiscal 2013 percentage change in net sales as reported for the Europe region includes 4 percentage points of growth due to an additional month of results. The impact to fiscal 2013 net sales growth for the International segment was not material.

The 24 percentage point increase in the International segment fiscal 2013 net sales was driven by growth across all regions. On a constant currency basis, International segment net sales grew 28 percent, with 139 percent growth in the Latin America region, 15 percent growth in the Europe region, 22 percent growth in the Canada region, and 11 percent growth in the Asia/Pacific region.

The 46 percentage point increase in the International segment fiscal 2012 net sales was driven by growth across all regions. On a constant currency basis, International segment net sales grew 45 percent, with 83 percent growth in the Europe region, 28 percent growth in the Canada region, 20 percent growth in the Asia/Pacific region, and 14 percent growth in the Latin America region.

Segment operating profit for fiscal 2013 grew 14 percent to \$490 million from \$430 million in fiscal 2012, primarily driven by volume growth, the Yoki acquisition, and a full year of activity from Yoplait S.A.S., partially offset by unfavorable foreign currency exchange.

During fiscal 2010, Venezuela became a highly inflationary economy. In February 2013, the Venezuelan government devalued the bolivar by resetting the official exchange rate. The effect of the devaluation in fiscal 2013 was a \$25 million foreign exchange loss in segment operating profit resulting from the remeasurement of assets and liabilities of our Venezuelan subsidiary. We continue to use the official exchange rate to remeasure the financial statements of our Venezuelan operations, as we expect to remit dividends through transactions at the official rate. We do not expect that the effects of the devaluation will have a material impact on our results in the future.

Segment operating profit for fiscal 2012 grew 47 percent to \$430 million, from \$291 million in fiscal 2011, primarily driven by the acquisition of Yoplait S.A.S., higher volume, and favorable foreign currency effects.

**BAKERIES AND FOODSERVICE SEGMENT**

In our Bakeries and Foodservice segment our product categories include ready-to-eat cereals, snacks, refrigerated yogurt, unbaked and fully baked frozen dough products, baking mixes, and flour. Many products we sell are branded to the consumer and nearly all are branded to our customers. We sell to distributors and operators in many customer channels including foodservice, convenience stores, vending, and supermarket bakeries. Substantially all of this segment's operations are located in the United States.

For fiscal 2013, net sales for our Bakeries and Foodservice segment decreased 1 percent to \$1,959 million due to lower pound volume. Net price realization and mix was flat compared to fiscal 2012 as gains from favorable product mix were offset by declines in commodity index priced items.



**Table of Contents**

For fiscal 2012, net sales for our Bakeries and Foodservice segment increased 8 percent to \$1,983 million. The increase in fiscal 2012 was driven by an increase in net price realization and mix of 7 percentage points and 1 percentage point contributed by volume growth.

**Components of Bakeries and Foodservice Net Sales Growth**

	Fiscal 2013	Fiscal 2012
	vs. 2012	vs. 2011
Contributions from volume growth (a)	<b>(1)pt</b>	1 pt
Net price realization and mix	<b>Flat</b>	7 pts
Foreign currency exchange	<b>NM</b>	NM
Net sales growth	<b>(1)pt</b>	8 pts

(a) Measured in tons based on the stated weight of our product shipments.

Net sales for our Bakeries and Foodservice segment are shown in the following table:

**Bakeries and Foodservice Net Sales**

	Fiscal Year		
	2013	2012	2011
Total	<b>\$ 1,959.0</b>	\$ 1,983.4	\$ 1,840.8

In fiscal 2013, segment operating profit was \$315 million, up 10 percent from \$287 million in fiscal 2012. The increase was primarily driven by favorable product mix, lower manufacturing and input costs, and reduced administrative costs.

In fiscal 2012, segment operating profit was \$287 million, down 6 percent from \$306 million in fiscal 2011. The decrease was primarily driven by lower grain merchandising earnings.

**UNALLOCATED CORPORATE ITEMS**

Unallocated corporate items include corporate overhead expenses, variances to planned domestic employee benefits and incentives, contributions to the General Mills Foundation, and other items that are not part of our measurement of segment operating performance. This includes gains and losses from mark-to-market valuation of certain commodity positions until passed back to our operating segments in accordance with our policy as discussed in Note 2 of the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report.

For fiscal 2013, unallocated corporate expense totaled \$326 million compared to \$348 million last year. In fiscal 2013 we recorded a \$4 million net decrease in expense related to mark-to-market valuation of certain commodity positions and grain inventories, compared to a \$104 million net increase in expense last year. Pension expense increased \$40 million in fiscal 2013 compared to fiscal 2012. In fiscal 2013, we also recorded \$12 million of integration costs related to the acquisition of Yoki.

Unallocated corporate expense totaled \$348 million in fiscal 2012 compared to \$184 million in fiscal 2011. In fiscal 2012, we recorded a \$104 million net increase in expense related to mark-to-market valuation of certain commodity positions and grain inventories, compared to a \$95 million net decrease in expense in fiscal 2011. In fiscal 2012, we also recorded \$11 million of integration costs related to the acquisitions of Yoplait S.A.S. and Yoplait Marques S.A.S. These increases in expense were partially offset by a decrease in compensation and benefit expense compared to fiscal 2011.

**IMPACT OF INFLATION**

We have experienced significant input cost volatility since fiscal 2006. Our gross margin performance in fiscal 2013 reflects the impact of 3 percent input cost inflation, primarily on commodities inputs. We expect the rate of inflation of commodities and energy costs to be consistent in

## Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

fiscal 2014. We attempt to minimize the effects of inflation through planning and operating practices. Our risk management practices are discussed in Item 7A of this report.



**Table of Contents**

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (collectively, the Act) was signed into law in March 2010. The Act codifies health care reforms with staggered effective dates from 2010 to 2018. Many provisions in the Act require the issuance of additional guidance from various government agencies. Because the Act does not take effect fully until future years, the Act did not have a material impact on our fiscal 2013, 2012, or 2011 results of operations. Given the complexity of the Act, the extended time period over which the reforms will be implemented, and the unknown impact of future regulatory guidance, the full impact of the Act on future periods will not be known until those regulations are adopted.

**LIQUIDITY**

The primary source of our liquidity is cash flow from operations. Over the most recent three-year period, our operations have generated \$6.9 billion in cash. A substantial portion of this operating cash flow has been returned to stockholders through share repurchases and dividends. We also use this source of liquidity to fund our capital expenditures and acquisitions. We typically use a combination of cash, notes payable, and long-term debt to finance acquisitions and major capital expansions.

As of May 26, 2013, we had \$714 million of cash and cash equivalents held in foreign jurisdictions which will be used to fund foreign operations and acquisitions. There is currently no need to repatriate these funds in order to meet domestic funding obligations or scheduled cash distributions. If we choose to repatriate cash held in foreign jurisdictions, we expect to do so only in a tax-neutral manner.

**Cash Flows from Operations**

<b>In Millions</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>		
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Net earnings, including earnings attributable to noncontrolling interests	<b>\$ 1,892.5</b>	\$ 1,589.1	\$ 1,803.5
Depreciation and amortization	<b>588.0</b>	541.5	472.6
After-tax earnings from joint ventures	<b>(98.8)</b>	(88.2)	(96.4)
Distributions of earnings from joint ventures	<b>115.7</b>	68.0	72.7
Stock-based compensation	<b>100.4</b>	108.3	105.3
Deferred income taxes	<b>81.8</b>	149.4	205.3
Tax benefit on exercised options	<b>(103.0)</b>	(63.1)	(106.2)
Pension and other postretirement benefit plan contributions	<b>(223.2)</b>	(222.2)	(220.8)
Pension and other postretirement benefit plan expense	<b>131.2</b>	77.8	73.6
Divestitures (gain)			(17.4)
Restructuring, impairment, and other exit costs	<b>(60.2)</b>	97.8	(1.3)
Changes in current assets and liabilities	<b>471.1</b>	243.8	(720.9)
Other, net	<b>30.5</b>	(95.0)	(38.9)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<b>\$ 2,926.0</b>	\$ 2,407.2	\$ 1,531.1

In fiscal 2013, our operations generated \$2.9 billion of cash compared to \$2.4 billion in fiscal 2012. The \$519 million increase is primarily due to a \$303 million increase in net earnings and \$227 million from changes in current assets and liabilities. Other current liabilities accounted for \$336 million of the increase in current assets and liabilities due to trade and tax accruals, and accounts payable accounted for \$252 million of the increase partly as the result of the extension of payment terms. These were partially offset by a \$214 million change in prepaid expenses and other current assets primarily due to changes in derivative receivables and changes in other receivables related to the liquidation of a corporate investment, and a \$126 million change in inventory largely driven by a lower level of inventory reduction activity compared to fiscal 2012. In both fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, we made a \$200 million voluntary contribution to our principal domestic pension plans. In addition, we paid \$80 million in cash related to restructuring actions in fiscal 2013.

**Table of Contents**

We strive to grow core working capital at or below our growth in net sales. For fiscal 2013, core working capital decreased 5 percent, compared to net sales growth of 7 percent, primarily due to an increase in accounts payable. In fiscal 2012, core working capital decreased 7 percent, compared to net sales growth of 12 percent, and in fiscal 2011, core working capital increased 16 percent, compared to net sales growth of 2 percent.

In fiscal 2012, our operations generated \$2.4 billion of cash compared to \$1.5 billion in fiscal 2011. The \$876 million increase primarily reflects changes in current assets and liabilities, including a \$384 million increase driven by inventory reduction efforts in fiscal 2012. Prepaid expenses and other current assets accounted for a \$245 million increase, primarily reflecting changes in foreign currency hedges and the fair value of open grain contracts. Other current liabilities accounted for a \$386 million increase, primarily reflecting changes in accrued income taxes as a result of audit settlements and court decisions in fiscal 2011 and changes in consumer marketing and related accruals. The favorable change in working capital was offset by a \$214 million decrease in net earnings. Additionally, fiscal 2012 included non-cash restructuring charges of \$101 million reflecting employee severance expense and the write-off of certain long-lived assets. In both fiscal 2012 and fiscal 2011, we made a \$200 million voluntary contribution to our principal domestic pension plans.

**Cash Flows from Investing Activities**

<b>In Millions</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>		
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Purchases of land, buildings, and equipment	\$ (613.9)	\$ (675.9)	\$ (648.8)
Acquisitions	(898.0)	(1,050.1)	(123.3)
Investments in affiliates, net	(40.4)	(22.2)	(1.8)
Proceeds from disposal of land, buildings, and equipment	24.2	2.2	4.1
Proceeds from divestiture of product lines			34.4
Exchangeable note	16.2	(131.6)	
Other, net	(3.5)	6.8	20.3
Net cash used by investing activities	\$ (1,515.4)	\$ (1,870.8)	\$ (715.1)

In fiscal 2013, cash used by investing activities decreased by \$355 million from fiscal 2012. In the second quarter of fiscal 2013, we acquired Yoki, a privately held food company headquartered in Sao Bernardo do Campo, Brazil, for an aggregate purchase price of \$940 million, comprised of \$820 million of cash, net of \$31 million of cash acquired, and \$120 million of non-cash consideration for debt assumed. We invested \$614 million in land, buildings, and equipment in fiscal 2013, \$62 million less than the same period last year. In addition, we received \$16 million in payments from Sodiaal International (Sodiaal) in fiscal 2013 against the \$132 million exchangeable note we purchased in fiscal 2012.

In fiscal 2012, cash used by investing activities increased by \$1.2 billion from fiscal 2011. The increased use of cash primarily reflected the acquisitions of Yoplait S.A.S. and Yoplait Marques S.A.S. in fiscal 2012 for an aggregate purchase price of \$1.2 billion, comprised of \$900 million of cash, net of \$30 million of cash acquired, and \$261 million of non-cash consideration for debt assumed. In addition, we purchased a zero coupon exchangeable note due in 2016 from Sodiaal with a notional amount of \$132 million. We invested \$676 million in land, buildings, and equipment in fiscal 2012.

We expect capital expenditures to be approximately \$700 million in fiscal 2014. These expenditures will support initiatives that are expected to: increase manufacturing capacity for Greek yogurt; fuel International growth and expansion; and continue HMM initiatives throughout our supply chain.

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

In Millions	Fiscal Year		
	2013	2012	2011
Change in notes payable	\$ (44.5)	\$ 227.9	\$ (742.6)
Issuance of long-term debt	1,001.1	1,390.5	1,200.0
Payment of long-term debt	(542.3)	(1,450.1)	(7.4)
Proceeds from common stock issued on exercised options	300.8	233.5	410.4
Tax benefit on exercised options	103.0	63.1	106.2
Purchases of common stock for treasury	(1,044.9)	(313.0)	(1,163.5)
Dividends paid	(867.6)	(800.1)	(729.4)
Distributions to noncontrolling and redeemable interest holders	(39.2)	(5.2)	(4.3)
Other, net	(6.6)	(13.2)	(10.3)
Net cash used by financing activities	\$ (1,140.2)	\$ (666.6)	\$ (940.9)

Net cash used by financing activities increased by \$474 million in fiscal 2013. In January 2013, we issued \$750 million aggregate principal amount of fixed rate notes. The issuance consisted of \$250 million 0.875 percent notes due January 29, 2016 and \$500 million 4.15 percent notes due February 15, 2043. Interest on the fixed-rate notes is payable semi-annually in arrears. The fixed rate notes due January 29, 2016 may be redeemed in whole, or in part, at our option at any time for a specified make whole amount. The fixed rate notes due February 15, 2043 may be redeemed in whole, or in part, at our option at any time prior to August 15, 2042 for a specified make whole amount and any time on or after that date at par. These notes are senior unsecured obligations that include a change of control repurchase provision. The net proceeds were used to reduce our commercial paper borrowings.

In January 2013, we issued \$250 million floating rate notes due January 29, 2016. The floating-rate notes bear interest equal to three-month LIBOR plus 30 basis points, subject to quarterly reset. Interest on the floating-rate notes is payable quarterly in arrears. The floating rate notes are not redeemable prior to maturity. These notes are senior unsecured obligations that include a change of control repurchase provision. The net proceeds were used to reduce our commercial paper borrowings.

In September 2012, we repaid \$521 million of 5.65 percent notes. In February 2012, we repaid \$1.0 billion of 6.0 percent notes. In November 2011, we issued \$1.0 billion aggregate principal amount of 3.15 percent notes due December 15, 2021. The net proceeds were used to repay a portion of our notes due February 2012, reduce our commercial paper borrowings, and for general corporate purposes. Interest on these notes is payable semi-annually in arrears. These notes may be redeemed at our option at any time prior to September 15, 2021 for a specified make whole amount and any time on or after that date at par. These notes are senior unsecured, unsubordinated obligations that include a change of control repurchase provision.

As part of our acquisition of Yoplait S.A.S. in fiscal 2012, we consolidated \$458 million of primarily euro-denominated Euribor-based floating-rate bank debt. In December 2011, we refinanced this debt with \$390 million of euro-denominated Euribor-based floating-rate bank debt due at various dates through December 15, 2014.

In May 2011, we issued \$300 million aggregate principal amount of 1.55 percent fixed-rate notes and \$400 million aggregate principal amount of floating-rate notes, both due May 16, 2014. The proceeds of these notes were used to repay a portion of our outstanding commercial paper. The floating-rate notes bear interest equal to three-month LIBOR plus 35 basis points, subject to quarterly reset. Interest on the floating-rate notes is payable quarterly in arrears. Interest on the fixed-rate notes is payable semi-annually in arrears. The fixed-rate notes may be redeemed at our option at any time for a specified make whole amount. These notes are senior unsecured, unsubordinated obligations that include a change of control repurchase provision.

In June 2010, we issued \$500 million aggregate principal amount of 5.4 percent notes due 2040. The proceeds of these notes were used to repay a portion of our outstanding commercial paper. Interest on these notes is payable semi-annually in arrears. These notes may be redeemed at our option at any time for a specified make whole amount. These notes are senior unsecured, unsubordinated obligations that include a change of control repurchase provision.

**Table of Contents**

During fiscal 2013, we had \$301 million in proceeds from common stock issued on exercised options compared to \$234 million in fiscal 2012, an increase of \$67 million. During fiscal 2011, we had \$410 million in proceeds from common stock issued on exercised options.

In June 2010, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to 100 million shares of our common stock. Purchases under the authorization can be made in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions, including the use of call options and other derivative instruments, Rule 10b5-1 trading plans, and accelerated repurchase programs. The authorization has no specified termination date. During fiscal 2013, we paid \$1,015 million to repurchase 24 million shares of our common stock, including 6 million shares with a fair value of \$270 million purchased as part of an ASR agreement. Under the terms of the ASR agreement, we also paid an additional \$30 million to the unrelated financial institution for shares which will be settled in the first quarter of fiscal 2014. During fiscal 2012, we repurchased 8 million shares of our common stock for an aggregate purchase price of \$313 million. During fiscal 2011, we repurchased 32 million shares of our common stock for an aggregate purchase price of \$1,164 million.

Dividends paid in fiscal 2013 totaled \$868 million, or \$1.32 per share, an 8 percent per share increase from fiscal 2012. Dividends paid in fiscal 2012 totaled \$800 million, or \$1.22 per share, a 9 percent per share increase from fiscal 2011 dividends of \$1.12 per share. On March 12, 2013, our Board of Directors approved a dividend increase, effective with the August 1, 2013 payment, to an annual rate of \$1.52 per share, a 15 percent increase from the rate paid in fiscal 2013.

**Selected Cash Flows from Joint Ventures**

Selected cash flows from our joint ventures are set forth in the following table:

<b>Inflow (Outflow), in Millions</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>		
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Advances to joint ventures, net	<b>\$ (36.7)</b>	<b>\$ (22.2)</b>	<b>\$ (1.8)</b>
Dividends received	<b>115.7</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>72.7</b>

**CAPITAL RESOURCES**

Total capital consisted of the following:

<b>In Millions</b>	<b>May 26,</b>	<b>May 27,</b>
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Notes payable	<b>\$ 599.7</b>	<b>\$ 526.5</b>
Current portion of long-term debt	<b>1,443.3</b>	<b>741.2</b>
Long-term debt	<b>5,926.1</b>	<b>6,161.9</b>
Total debt	<b>7,969.1</b>	<b>7,429.6</b>
Redeemable interest	<b>967.5</b>	<b>847.8</b>
Noncontrolling interests	<b>456.3</b>	<b>461.0</b>
Stockholders' equity	<b>6,672.2</b>	<b>6,421.7</b>
Total capital	<b>\$ 16,065.1</b>	<b>\$ 15,160.1</b>

**Table of Contents**

The following table details the fee-paid committed and uncommitted credit lines we had available as of May 26, 2013:

<b>In Billions</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Credit facility expiring:	
April 2015	\$1.0
April 2017	1.7
Total committed credit facilities	2.7
Uncommitted credit facilities	0.3
Total committed and uncommitted credit facilities	\$3.0

To ensure availability of funds, we maintain bank credit lines sufficient to cover our outstanding short-term borrowings. Commercial paper is a continuing source of short-term financing. We have commercial paper programs available to us in the United States and Europe. Our commercial paper borrowings are supported by \$2.7 billion of fee-paid committed credit lines, consisting of a \$1.0 billion facility expiring in April 2015 and a \$1.7 billion facility expiring in April 2017. We also have \$333 million in uncommitted credit lines that support our foreign operations. As of May 26, 2013, there were no amounts outstanding on the fee-paid committed credit lines and \$84 million was drawn on the uncommitted lines. The credit facilities contain several covenants, including a requirement to maintain a fixed charge coverage ratio of at least 2.5 times.

Certain of our long-term debt agreements, our credit facilities, and our noncontrolling interests contain restrictive covenants. As of May 26, 2013, we were in compliance with all of these covenants.

We have \$1,443 million of long-term debt maturing in the next 12 months that is classified as current. We believe that cash flows from operations, together with available short- and long-term debt financing, will be adequate to meet our liquidity and capital needs for at least the next 12 months.

As of May 26, 2013, our total debt, including the impact of derivative instruments designated as hedges, was 73 percent in fixed-rate and 27 percent in floating-rate instruments, compared to 71 percent in fixed-rate and 29 percent in floating-rate instruments on May 27, 2012. The change in the fixed-rate and floating-rate percentages was driven by the issuance of fixed rate bonds in January 2013.

Growth in return on average total capital is one of our key performance measures (see the **Non-GAAP Measures** section below for our discussion of this measure, which is not defined by GAAP). Return on average total capital decreased from 12.7 percent in fiscal 2012 to 11.9 percent in fiscal 2013 primarily reflecting the impact of acquisitions. We also believe that our fixed charge coverage ratio and the ratio of operating cash flow to debt are important measures of our financial strength. Our fixed charge coverage ratio in fiscal 2013 was 7.62 compared to 6.26 in fiscal 2012. The measure increased from fiscal 2012 as earnings before income taxes and after-tax earnings from joint ventures increased by \$324 million and fixed charges decreased by \$32 million, driven primarily by lower interest. Our operating cash flow to debt ratio increased 4.3 percentage points to 36.7 percent in fiscal 2013, driven by a higher rate of increase in cash flows from operations than in total debt.

During the first quarter of fiscal 2012, we acquired a 51 percent controlling interest in Yoplait S.A.S. and a 50 percent interest in Yoplait Marques S.A.S. Sodiaal holds the remaining interests in each of the entities. We consolidated both entities into our consolidated financial statements. At the date of the acquisition, we recorded the \$264 million fair value of Sodiaal's 50 percent interest in Yoplait Marques S.A.S. as a noncontrolling interest, and the \$904 million fair value of its 49 percent interest in Yoplait S.A.S. as a redeemable interest on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. These euro-denominated interests are reported in U.S. dollars on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. Sodiaal has the ability to put a limited portion of its redeemable interest to us at fair value once per year up to a maximum of 9 years. As of May 26, 2013, the redemption value of the redeemable interest was \$968 million which approximates its fair value.

---

**Table of Contents**

During the first quarter of fiscal 2013, in conjunction with the consent of the Class A investor, we restructured GMC through the distribution of its manufacturing assets, stock, inventory, cash and certain intellectual property to a wholly owned subsidiary. GMC retained the remaining intellectual property. Immediately following the restructuring, the Class A Interests of GMC were sold by the then current holder to another unrelated third-party investor.

The third-party holder of the GMC Class A Interests receives quarterly preferred distributions from available net income based on the application of a floating preferred return rate, currently equal to the sum of three-month LIBOR plus 110 basis points, to the holder's capital account balance established in the most recent mark-to-market valuation (currently \$252 million). The preferred return rate is adjusted every three years through a negotiated agreement with the Class A Interest holder or through a remarketing auction.

The holder of the Class A Interests may initiate a liquidation of GMC under certain circumstances, including, without limitation, the bankruptcy of GMC or its subsidiaries, GMC's failure to deliver the preferred distributions on the Class A Interests, GMC's failure to comply with portfolio requirements, breaches of certain covenants, lowering of our senior debt rating below either Baa3 by Moody's or BBB- by Standard & Poor's, and a failed attempt to remarket the Class A Interests. In the event of a liquidation of GMC, each member of GMC will receive the amount of its then current capital account balance. We may avoid liquidation by exercising our option to purchase the Class A Interests.

We may exercise our option to purchase the Class A Interests for consideration equal to the then current capital account value, plus any unpaid preferred return and the prescribed make-whole amount. If we purchase these interests, any change in the unrelated third-party investor's capital account from its original value will be charged directly to retained earnings and will increase or decrease the net earnings used to calculate EPS in that period.

**OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS AND CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS**

As of May 26, 2013, we have issued guarantees and comfort letters of \$356 million for the debt and other obligations of consolidated subsidiaries, and guarantees and comfort letters of \$259 million for the debt and other obligations of non-consolidated affiliates, mainly CPW. In addition, off-balance sheet arrangements are generally limited to the future payments under non-cancelable operating leases, which totaled \$438 million as of May 26, 2013.

As of May 26, 2013, we had invested in four variable interest entities (VIEs). None of our VIEs are material to our results of operations, financial condition, or liquidity as of and for the year ended May 26, 2013. We determined whether or not we were the primary beneficiary (PB) of each VIE using a qualitative assessment that considered the VIE's purpose and design, the involvement of each of the interest holders, and the risks and benefits of the VIE. We are the PB of three of the VIEs. We provided minimal financial or other support to our VIEs during fiscal 2013, and there are no arrangements related to VIEs that would require us to provide significant financial support in the future.

Our defined benefit plans in the United States are subject to the requirements of the Pension Protection Act (PPA). The PPA revised the basis and methodology for determining defined benefit plan minimum funding requirements as well as maximum contributions to and benefits paid from tax-qualified plans. The PPA may ultimately require us to make additional contributions to our domestic plans. We made \$200 million of voluntary contributions to our principal U.S. plans in each of fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012. We do not expect to be required to make any contributions in fiscal 2014. Actual fiscal 2014 contributions could exceed our current projections, and may be influenced by our decision to undertake discretionary funding of our benefit trusts or by changes in regulatory requirements. Additionally, our projections concerning timing of the PPA funding requirements are subject to change and may be influenced by factors such as general market conditions affecting trust asset performance, interest rates, and our future decisions regarding certain elective provisions of the PPA.

**Table of Contents**

The following table summarizes our future estimated cash payments under existing contractual obligations, including payments due by period:

<b>In Millions</b>	<b>Payments Due by Fiscal Year</b>				
	Total	2014	2015 -16	2017 -18	2019 and Thereafter
Long-term debt (a)	\$ 7,372.8	\$ 1,442.0	\$ 1,680.8	\$ 1,100.0	\$3,150.0
Accrued interest	91.2	91.2			
Operating leases (b)	437.7	93.4	135.1	94.7	114.5
Capital leases	4.2	1.8	2.2	0.2	
Purchase obligations (c)	2,582.3	2,215.8	167.6	107.0	91.9
Total contractual obligations	10,488.2	3,844.2	1,985.7	1,301.9	3,356.4
Other long-term obligations (d)	1,816.3				
Total long-term obligations	\$ 12,304.5	\$ 3,844.2	\$ 1,985.7	\$ 1,301.9	\$3,356.4

- (a) Amounts represent the expected cash payments of our long-term debt and do not include \$4 million for capital leases or \$7 million for net unamortized bond premiums and discounts and fair value adjustments.
- (b) Operating leases represents the minimum rental commitments under non-cancelable operating leases.
- (c) The majority of the purchase obligations represent commitments for raw material and packaging to be utilized in the normal course of business and for consumer marketing spending commitments that support our brands. For purposes of this table, arrangements are considered purchase obligations if a contract specifies all significant terms, including fixed or minimum quantities to be purchased, a pricing structure, and approximate timing of the transaction. Most arrangements are cancelable without a significant penalty and with short notice (usually 30 days). Any amounts reflected on the Consolidated Balance Sheets as accounts payable and accrued liabilities are excluded from the table above.
- (d) The fair value of our foreign exchange, equity, commodity, and grain derivative contracts with a payable position to the counterparty was \$36 million as of May 26, 2013, based on fair market values as of that date. Future changes in market values will impact the amount of cash ultimately paid or received to settle those instruments in the future. Other long-term obligations mainly consist of liabilities for accrued compensation and benefits, including the underfunded status of certain of our defined benefit pension, other postretirement, and postemployment plans, and miscellaneous liabilities. We expect to pay \$19 million of benefits from our unfunded postemployment benefit plans and \$14 million of deferred compensation in fiscal 2014. We are unable to reliably estimate the amount of these payments beyond fiscal 2014. As of May 26, 2013, our total liability for uncertain tax positions and accrued interest and penalties was \$266 million.

**SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES**

For a complete description of our significant accounting policies, see Note 2 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report. Our significant accounting estimates are those that have a meaningful impact on the reporting of our financial condition and results of operations. These estimates include our accounting for promotional expenditures, valuation of long-lived assets, intangible assets, redeemable interest, stock-based compensation, income taxes, and defined benefit pension, other postretirement and postemployment benefits.

**Promotional Expenditures**

Our promotional activities are conducted through our customers and directly or indirectly with end consumers. These activities include: payments to customers to perform merchandising activities on our behalf, such as advertising or in-store displays; discounts to our list prices to lower retail shelf prices; payments to gain distribution of new products; coupons, contests, and other incentives; and media and advertising expenditures. The media and advertising expenditures are generally recognized as expense when the advertisement airs. The cost of payments to customers and other consumer-related activities are recognized as the related revenue is recorded, which generally precedes the actual cash expenditure. The recognition of these costs requires estimation of customer participation and performance levels. These estimates are made based on the forecasted customer sales, the timing and forecasted costs of promotional activities, and other factors. Differences between estimated expenses and actual costs are normally insignificant and are recognized as a change in management estimate in a subsequent period. Our accrued trade, coupon, and consumer marketing liabilities were \$635 million as of May 26, 2013, and \$561 million as of

---

**Table of Contents**

May 27, 2012. Because our total promotional expenditures (including amounts classified as a reduction of revenues) are significant, if our estimates are inaccurate we would have to make adjustments in subsequent periods that could have a material effect on our results of operations.

***Valuation of Long-Lived Assets***

Long-lived assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset (or asset group) may not be recoverable. An impairment loss would be recognized when estimated undiscounted future cash flows from the operation and disposition of the asset group are less than the carrying amount of the asset group. Asset groups have identifiable cash flows independent of other asset groups. Measurement of an impairment loss would be based on the excess of the carrying amount of the asset or asset group over its fair value. Fair value is measured using discounted cash flows or independent appraisals, as appropriate.

***Intangible Assets***

Goodwill is not subject to amortization and is tested for impairment annually and whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that impairment may have occurred. Impairment testing is performed for each of our reporting units. We compare the carrying value of a reporting unit, including goodwill, to the fair value of the unit. Carrying value is based on the assets and liabilities associated with the operations of that reporting unit, which often requires allocation of shared or corporate items among reporting units. If the carrying amount of a reporting unit exceeds its fair value, we revalue all assets and liabilities of the reporting unit, excluding goodwill, to determine if the fair value of the net assets is greater than the net assets including goodwill. If the fair value of the net assets is less than the carrying amount of net assets including goodwill, impairment has occurred. Our estimates of fair value are determined based on a discounted cash flow model. Growth rates for sales and profits are determined using inputs from our annual long-range planning process. We also make estimates of discount rates, perpetuity growth assumptions, market comparables, and other factors. We performed our fiscal 2013 assessment as of November 26, 2012, and determined there was no impairment of goodwill for any of our reporting units as their related fair values were substantially in excess of their carrying values.

We evaluate the useful lives of our other intangible assets, mainly brands, to determine if they are finite or indefinite-lived. Reaching a determination on useful life requires significant judgments and assumptions regarding the future effects of obsolescence, demand, competition, other economic factors (such as the stability of the industry, known technological advances, legislative action that results in an uncertain or changing regulatory environment, and expected changes in distribution channels), the level of required maintenance expenditures, and the expected lives of other related groups of assets. Intangible assets that are deemed to have definite lives are amortized on a straight-line basis, over their useful lives, generally ranging from 4 to 30 years.

Our indefinite-lived intangible assets, mainly intangible assets primarily associated with the *Pillsbury*, *Totino's*, *Progresso*, *Green Giant*, *Yoplait*, *Old El Paso*, *Yoki*, and *Häagen-Dazs* brands, are also tested for impairment annually and whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying value may not be recoverable. We performed our fiscal 2013 assessment of our brand intangibles as of November 26, 2012. Our estimate of the fair value of the brands was based on a discounted cash flow model using inputs which included projected revenues from our annual long-range plan, assumed royalty rates that could be payable if we did not own the brands, and a discount rate. As of our assessment date, there was no impairment of any of our indefinite-lived intangible assets as their related fair values were substantially in excess of the carrying values.

As of May 26, 2013, we had \$13.1 billion of goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets. While we currently believe that the fair value of each intangible exceeds its carrying value and that those intangibles so classified will contribute indefinitely to our cash flows, materially different assumptions regarding future performance of our businesses or a different weighted-average cost of capital could result in significant impairment losses and amortization expense.

In addition, we assess our investments in our joint ventures if we have reason to believe an impairment may have occurred including, but not limited to, ongoing operating losses, projected decreases in earnings, increases in the weighted average cost of capital or significant business disruptions. The significant assumptions used to estimate fair value include revenue growth and profitability, royalty rates, capital spending, depreciation and taxes, foreign currency exchange rates and a discount rate. By their nature, these projections and assumptions are uncertain. If we were to determine the current fair value of our investment was less than the carrying value of the investment, then we would assess if the shortfall was of a temporary or permanent nature and write down the investment to its fair value if we concluded the impairment is other than temporary.



**Table of Contents****Redeemable Interest**

On July 1, 2011, we acquired a 51 percent controlling interest in Yoplait S.A.S., a consolidated entity. Sodiaal holds the remaining 49 percent interest in Yoplait S.A.S. Sodiaal has the ability to put a limited portion of its redeemable interest to us at fair value once per year up to a maximum of 9 years. This put option requires us to classify Sodiaal's interest as a redeemable interest outside of equity on our Consolidated Balance Sheets for as long as the put is exercisable by Sodiaal. When the put is no longer exercisable, the redeemable interest will be reclassified to noncontrolling interests on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. We adjust the value of the redeemable interest through additional paid-in capital on our Consolidated Balance Sheets quarterly to the redeemable interest's redemption value, which approximates its fair value. During the third quarter of fiscal 2013, we adjusted the redeemable interest's redemption value based on a discounted cash flow model. The significant assumptions used to estimate the redemption value include projected revenue growth and profitability from our long range plan, capital spending, depreciation and taxes, foreign currency rates, and a discount rate.

**Stock-based Compensation**

The valuation of stock options is a significant accounting estimate that requires us to use judgments and assumptions that are likely to have a material impact on our financial statements. Annually, we make predictive assumptions regarding future stock price volatility, employee exercise behavior, dividend yield, and the forfeiture rate.

We estimate our future stock price volatility using the historical volatility over the expected term of the option, excluding time periods of volatility we believe a marketplace participant would exclude in estimating our stock price volatility. We also have considered, but did not use, implied volatility in our estimate, because trading activity in options on our stock, especially those with tenors of greater than 6 months, is insufficient to provide a reliable measure of expected volatility. If all other assumptions are held constant, a one percentage point increase in our fiscal 2013 volatility assumption would increase the grant-date fair value of our fiscal 2013 option awards by 9 percent.

Our expected term represents the period of time that options granted are expected to be outstanding based on historical data to estimate option exercises and employee terminations within the valuation model. Separate groups of employees have similar historical exercise behavior and therefore were aggregated into a single pool for valuation purposes. The weighted-average expected term for all employee groups is presented in the table below. An increase in the expected term by 1 year, leaving all other assumptions constant, would increase the grant date fair value by 22 percent.

The risk-free interest rate for periods during the expected term of the options is based on the U.S. Treasury zero-coupon yield curve in effect at the time of grant.

The estimated fair values of stock options granted and the assumptions used for the Black-Scholes option-pricing model were as follows:

	<b>Fiscal Year</b>		
	<b>2013</b>	2012	2011
Estimated fair values of stock options granted	<b>\$3.65</b>	\$5.88	\$4.12
Assumptions:			
Risk-free interest rate	<b>1.6 %</b>	2.9 %	2.9 %
Expected term	<b>9.0 years</b>	8.5 years	8.5 years
Expected volatility	<b>17.3 %</b>	17.6 %	18.5 %
Dividend yield	<b>3.5 %</b>	3.3 %	3.0 %

To the extent that actual outcomes differ from our assumptions, we are not required to true up grant-date fair value-based expense to final intrinsic values. However, these differences can impact the classification of cash tax benefits realized upon exercise of stock options, as explained in the following two paragraphs. Furthermore, historical data has a significant bearing on our forward-looking assumptions. Significant variances between actual and predicted experience could lead to prospective revisions in our assumptions, which could then significantly impact the year-over-year comparability of stock-based compensation expense.

---

**Table of Contents**

Any corporate income tax benefit realized upon exercise or vesting of an award in excess of that previously recognized in earnings (referred to as a windfall tax benefit) is presented in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows as a financing cash flow. The actual impact on future years financing cash flows will depend, in part, on the volume of employee stock option exercises during a particular year and the relationship between the exercise-date market value of the underlying stock and the original grant-date fair value previously determined for financial reporting purposes.

Realized windfall tax benefits are credited to additional paid-in capital within the Consolidated Balance Sheets. Realized shortfall tax benefits (amounts which are less than that previously recognized in earnings) are first offset against the cumulative balance of windfall tax benefits, if any, and then charged directly to income tax expense, potentially resulting in volatility in our consolidated effective income tax rate. We calculated a cumulative amount of windfall tax benefits for the purpose of accounting for future shortfall tax benefits and currently have sufficient cumulative windfall tax benefits to absorb projected arising shortfalls, such that we do not currently expect future earnings to be affected by this provision. However, as employee stock option exercise behavior is not within our control, it is possible that materially different reported results could occur if different assumptions or conditions were to prevail.

***Income Taxes***

We apply a more-likely-than-not threshold to the recognition and derecognition of uncertain tax positions. Accordingly, we recognize the amount of tax benefit that has a greater than 50 percent likelihood of being ultimately realized upon settlement. Future changes in judgment related to the expected ultimate resolution of uncertain tax positions will affect earnings in the quarter of such change.

We are subject to federal income taxes in the United States as well as various state, local, and foreign jurisdictions. A number of years may elapse before an uncertain tax position is audited and finally resolved. While it is often difficult to predict the final outcome or the timing of resolution of any particular uncertain tax position, we believe that our liabilities for income taxes reflect the most likely outcome. We adjust these liabilities, as well as the related interest, in light of changing facts and circumstances. Settlement of any particular position would usually require the use of cash.

The number of years with open tax audits varies depending on the tax jurisdiction. Our major taxing jurisdictions include the United States (federal and state) and Canada. Various tax examinations by United States state taxing authorities could be conducted for any open tax year, which vary by jurisdiction, but are generally from 3 to 5 years.

The IRS initiated its audit of our fiscal 2011 and fiscal 2012 tax years during fiscal 2013. Currently, several state examinations are in progress.

During fiscal 2013, the IRS concluded its field examination of our 2009 and 2010 tax years. The IRS has proposed adjustments related to the timing for deducting accrued bonus expenses. We believe our position is supported by substantial technical authority and have filed an appeal with the IRS Appeals Division. The audit closure and related proposed adjustments did not have a material impact on our current year results of operations or financial position. If we are unsuccessful in defending our position with respect to accrued bonuses, we will incur a one-time cash tax payment of approximately \$80 million. As of May 26, 2013, we have effectively settled all issues with the IRS for fiscal years 2008 and prior.

Also during fiscal 2013, the California Court of Appeal issued an adverse decision concerning our state income tax apportionment calculations. We had previously recorded a \$12 million increase in our total liabilities for uncertain tax positions in fiscal 2011 following an unfavorable decision by the Superior Court of the State of California related to this matter. We expect to pay a majority of the tax due related to this issue in fiscal 2014.

The Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) reviewed our Canadian income tax returns for fiscal years 2003 to 2005 and raised assessments for these years to which we have objected. During fiscal 2013, the issue related to our 2003 fiscal year was resolved with no adjustment. The issue for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 is currently under review by

---

## **Table of Contents**

the U.S. and Canadian competent authority divisions. The CRA initiated its audit of our fiscal years 2008 through 2011 during fiscal year 2013. The CRA audit for fiscal 2008 was closed with no significant adjustments. The audit for fiscal years 2009 through 2011 is ongoing.

We do not anticipate that any United States or Canadian tax adjustments will have a significant impact on our financial position or results of operations.

As of May 26, 2013, our total liability for uncertain tax positions and accrued interest and penalties was \$266 million. We expect to pay approximately \$12 million related to uncertain tax positions and accrued interest in the next 12 months. We are not able to reasonably estimate the timing of future cash flows beyond 12 months due to uncertainties in the timing of tax audit outcomes.

### ***Defined Benefit Pension, Other Postretirement and Postemployment Benefit Plans***

#### **Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

We have defined benefit pension plans covering most employees in the United States, Canada, France, and the United Kingdom. Benefits for salaried employees are based on length of service and final average compensation. Benefits for hourly employees include various monthly amounts for each year of credited service. Our funding policy is consistent with the requirements of applicable laws. We made \$200 million of voluntary contributions to our principal U.S. plans in each of fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012. We do not expect to be required to make any contributions in fiscal 2014. Our principal domestic retirement plan covering salaried employees has a provision that any excess pension assets would be allocated to active participants if the plan is terminated within five years of a change in control. In fiscal 2012, we announced changes to our U.S. defined benefit pension plans. All new salaried employees hired on or after June 1, 2013 are eligible for a new retirement program that does not include a defined benefit pension plan. Current salaried employees remain in the existing defined benefit pension plan with adjustments to benefits.

#### **Other Postretirement Benefit Plans**

We also sponsor plans that provide health care benefits to the majority of our retirees in the United States, Canada, and Brazil. The United States salaried health care benefit plan is contributory, with retiree contributions based on years of service. We make decisions to fund related trusts for certain employees and retirees on an annual basis. We did not make voluntary contributions to these plans in fiscal 2013. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (collectively, the Act), was signed into law in March 2010. We continue to evaluate the effect of the Act, including its potential impact on the future cost of our benefit plans.

#### **Postemployment Benefit Plans**

Under certain circumstances, we also provide accruable benefits to former or inactive employees in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and members of our Board of Directors, including severance and certain other benefits payable upon death. We recognize an obligation for any of these benefits that vest or accumulate with service. Postemployment benefits that do not vest or accumulate with service (such as severance based solely on annual pay rather than years of service) are charged to expense when incurred. Our postemployment benefit plans are unfunded.

We recognize benefits provided during retirement or following employment over the plan participants' active working life. Accordingly, we make various assumptions to predict and measure costs and obligations many years prior to the settlement of our obligations. Assumptions that require significant management judgment and have a material impact on the measurement of our net periodic benefit expense or income and accumulated benefit obligations include the long-term rates of return on plan assets, the interest rates used to discount the obligations for our benefit plans, and the health care cost trend rates.

#### **Expected Rate of Return on Plan Assets**

Our expected rate of return on plan assets is determined by our asset allocation, our historical long-term investment performance, our estimate of future long-term returns by asset class (using input from our actuaries, investment services, and investment managers), and long-term inflation assumptions. We review this assumption annually for each plan, however, our annual investment performance for one particular year does not, by itself, significantly influence our evaluation.

**Table of Contents**

The investment objective for our defined benefit pension and other postretirement benefit plans is to secure the benefit obligations to participants at a reasonable cost to us. Our goal is to optimize the long-term return on plan assets at a moderate level of risk. The defined benefit pension plan and other postretirement benefit plan portfolios are broadly diversified across asset classes. Within asset classes, the portfolios are further diversified across investment styles and investment organizations. For the defined benefit pension plans, the long-term investment policy allocation is: 25 percent to equities in the United States; 15 percent to international equities; 10 percent to private equities; 35 percent to fixed income; and 15 percent to real assets (real estate, energy, and timber). For other postretirement benefit plans, the long-term investment policy allocations are: 30 percent to equities in the United States; 20 percent to international equities; 10 percent to private equities; 30 percent to fixed income; and 10 percent to real assets (real estate, energy, and timber). The actual allocations to these asset classes may vary tactically around the long-term policy allocations based on relative market valuations.

Our historical investment returns (compound annual growth rates) for our United States defined benefit pension and other postretirement plan assets were 16.5 percent, 4.5 percent, 9.5 percent, 7.9 percent, and 9.5 percent for the 1, 5, 10, 15, and 20 year periods ended May 26, 2013.

On a weighted-average basis, the expected rate of return for all defined benefit plans was 8.53 percent for fiscal 2013, 9.52 percent for fiscal 2012, and 9.53 percent for fiscal 2011. During fiscal 2012, we lowered our weighted-average expected rate of return on plan assets for our principal defined benefit pension and other postretirement plans in the United States to 8.6 percent due to generally lower expectations for long-term rates of return across our asset classes due to the recent global economic slowdown and our expectation of an extended time frame for recovery.

Lowering the expected long-term rate of return on assets by 100 basis points would increase our net pension and postretirement expense by \$56 million for fiscal 2014. A market-related valuation basis is used to reduce year-to-year expense volatility. The market-related valuation recognizes certain investment gains or losses over a five-year period from the year in which they occur. Investment gains or losses for this purpose are the difference between the expected return calculated using the market-related value of assets and the actual return based on the market-related value of assets. Our outside actuaries perform these calculations as part of our determination of annual expense or income.

**Discount Rates**

Our discount rate assumptions are determined annually as of the last day of our fiscal year for our defined benefit pension, other postretirement, and postemployment benefit plan obligations. We also use the same discount rates to determine defined benefit pension, other postretirement, and postemployment benefit plan income and expense for the following fiscal year. We work with our outside actuaries to determine the timing and amount of expected future cash outflows to plan participants and, using the Aa Above Median corporate bond yield, to develop a forward interest rate curve, including a margin to that index based on our credit risk. This forward interest rate curve is applied to our expected future cash outflows to determine our discount rate assumptions.

Our weighted-average discount rates were as follows:

	<b>Defined Benefit</b>	<b>Other Postretirement</b>	<b>Postemployment</b>
	<b>Pension Plans</b>	<b>Benefit Plans</b>	<b>Benefit Plans</b>
Obligations as of May 26, 2013, and fiscal 2014 expense	4.54%	4.50%	3.70%
Obligations as of May 27, 2012, and fiscal 2013 expense	4.85%	4.70%	3.86%
Fiscal 2012 expense	5.45%	5.35%	4.77%

Lowering the discount rates by 100 basis points would increase our net defined benefit pension, other postretirement, and postemployment benefit plan expense for fiscal 2014 by approximately \$89 million. All obligation-related experience gains and losses are amortized using a straight-line method over the average remaining service period of active plan participants.

**Table of Contents****Health Care Cost Trend Rates**

We review our health care cost trend rates annually. Our review is based on data we collect about our health care claims experience and information provided by our actuaries. This information includes recent plan experience, plan design, overall industry experience and projections, and assumptions used by other similar organizations. Our initial health care cost trend rate is adjusted as necessary to remain consistent with this review, recent experiences, and short-term expectations. Our initial health care cost trend rate assumption is 8.0 percent for all retirees at the end of fiscal 2013. Rates are graded down annually until the ultimate trend rate of 5.2 percent is reached in 2019 for all retirees. The trend rates are applicable for calculations only if the retirees' benefits increase as a result of health care inflation. The ultimate trend rate is adjusted annually, as necessary, to approximate the current economic view on the rate of long-term inflation plus an appropriate health care cost premium. Assumed trend rates for health care costs have an important effect on the amounts reported for the other postretirement benefit plans.

A one percentage point change in the health care cost trend rate would have the following effects:

	<b>One Percentage Point Increase</b>	<b>One Percentage Point Decrease</b>
<b>In Millions</b>		
Effect on the aggregate of the service and interest cost components in fiscal 2014	\$ 5.2	\$ (4.4)
Effect on the other postretirement accumulated benefit obligation as of May 26, 2013	93.8	(82.9)

Any arising health care claims cost-related experience gain or loss is recognized in the calculation of expected future claims. Once recognized, experience gains and losses are amortized using a straight-line method over 15 years, resulting in at least the minimum amortization required being recorded.

**Financial Statement Impact**

In fiscal 2013, we recorded net defined benefit pension, other postretirement, and postemployment benefit plan expense of \$159 million compared to \$106 million of expense in fiscal 2012 and \$95 million of expense in fiscal 2011. As of May 26, 2013, we had cumulative unrecognized actuarial net losses of \$1.6 billion on our defined benefit pension plans and \$176 million on our postretirement and postemployment benefit plans, mainly as the result of liability increases from lower interest rates, partially offset by recent increases in the values of plan assets. These unrecognized actuarial net losses will result in increases in our future pension expense and increases in postretirement expense since they currently exceed the corridors defined by GAAP.

We use the 2013 IRS Static Mortality Table projected forward to our plans' measurement dates to calculate the year-end defined benefit pension, other postretirement, and postemployment benefit obligations and annual expense.

Actual future net defined benefit pension, other postretirement, and postemployment benefit plan income or expense will depend on investment performance, changes in future discount rates, changes in health care cost trend rates, and other factors related to the populations participating in these plans.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (collectively, the Act), was signed into law in March 2010. The Act codifies health care reforms with staggered effective dates from 2010 to 2018 with many provisions in the Act requiring the issuance of additional guidance from various government agencies. Estimates of the future impacts of several of the Act's provisions are incorporated into our postretirement benefit liability. Given the complexity of the Act, the extended time period over which the reforms will be implemented, and the unknown impact of future regulatory guidance, further financial impacts to our postretirement benefit liability and related future expense may occur.

**Table of Contents**

**RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

In December 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued new accounting disclosure requirements about the nature and exposure of offsetting arrangements related to financial and derivative instruments. The requirements are effective for fiscal years beginning after January 1, 2013, which for us is the first quarter of fiscal 2014. The requirements will not impact our results of operations or financial position.

In February 2013, the FASB issued new disclosure requirements for items reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income (AOCI). The requirements do not change the existing accounting and reporting for net income or other comprehensive income (OCI). The requirements are effective for annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2012, and interim periods within those annual periods, which for us is the first quarter of fiscal 2014. The requirements will not impact our results of operations or financial position.

**NON-GAAP MEASURES**

We have included in this report measures of financial performance that are not defined by GAAP. Management and the Board of Directors believe that these measures provide useful information to investors, and include these measures in other communications to investors.

For each of these non-GAAP financial measures, we are providing below a reconciliation of the differences between the non-GAAP measure and the most directly comparable GAAP measure, an explanation of why our management or the Board of Directors believes the non-GAAP measure provides useful information to investors, and any additional purposes for which our management or Board of Directors uses the non-GAAP measure. These non-GAAP measures should be viewed in addition to, and not in lieu of, the comparable GAAP measure.

***Total Segment Operating Profit***

This measure is used in reporting to our executive management and as a component of the Board of Director's measurement of our performance for incentive compensation purposes. Management and the Board of Directors believe that this measure provides useful information to investors because it is the profitability measure we use to evaluate segment performance. A reconciliation of this measure to operating profit, the relevant GAAP measure, is included in Note 16 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this report.

***Diluted EPS Excluding Certain Items Affecting Comparability***

This measure is used in reporting to our executive management and as a component of the Board of Director's measurement of our performance for incentive compensation purposes. Management and the Board of Directors believe that this measure provides useful information to investors because it is the profitability measure we use to evaluate earnings performance on a comparable year-over-year basis. The adjustments are either items resulting from infrequently occurring events or items that, in management's judgment, significantly affect the year-over-year assessment of operating results.

**Table of Contents**

The reconciliation of diluted EPS excluding certain items affecting comparability to diluted EPS, the relevant GAAP measure, follows:

<b>Per Share Data</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>				
	<b>2013</b>	2012	2011	2010	2009
Diluted earnings per share, as reported	<b>\$ 2.79</b>	\$ 2.35	\$ 2.70	\$ 2.24	\$ 1.90
Mark-to-market effects (a)		0.10	(0.09)	0.01	0.11
Divestitures gain, net (b)					(0.06)
Gain from insurance settlement (c)					(0.04)
Tax items (d)	<b>(0.13)</b>		(0.13)	0.05	0.08
Acquisition integration costs (e)	<b>0.01</b>	0.01			
Restructuring costs (f)	<b>0.02</b>	0.10			
Diluted earnings per share, excluding certain items affecting comparability	<b>\$ 2.69</b>	\$ 2.56	\$ 2.48	\$ 2.30	\$ 1.99

- (a) See Note 7 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Part II, Item 8 of this report.
- (b) Net gain on divestitures of certain product lines.
- (c) Gain on settlement with insurance carrier covering the loss of a manufacturing facility in Argentina.
- (d) The fiscal 2013 tax items consist of a reduction to income taxes related to the restructuring of our GMC subsidiary and an increase to income taxes related to the liquidation of a corporate investment. Additionally, fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2010 include changes in deferred taxes associated with the Medicare Part D subsidies related to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. The fiscal 2011 and fiscal 2009 tax items represent the effects of court decisions and audit settlements on uncertain tax matters.
- (e) Integration costs resulting from the acquisitions of Yoki in fiscal 2013 and Yoplait S.A.S. and Yoplait Marques S.A.S. in fiscal 2012.
- (f) See Note 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Part II, Item 8 of this report.

***Return on Average Total Capital***

This measure is used in reporting to our executive management and as a component of the Board of Director's measurement of our performance for incentive compensation purposes. Management and the Board of Directors believe that this measure provides useful information to investors because it is important for assessing the utilization of capital and it eliminates certain items which affect year-to-year comparability.

**Table of Contents**

In Millions	Fiscal Year					
	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Net earnings, including earnings attributable to redeemable and noncontrolling interests	\$ 1,892.5	\$ 1,589.1	\$ 1,803.5	\$ 1,535.0	\$ 1,313.7	
Interest, net, after-tax	201.2	238.9	243.5	261.1	240.8	
Earnings before interest, after-tax	2,093.7	1,828.0	2,047.0	1,796.1	1,554.5	
Mark-to-market effects	(2.8)	65.6	(60.0)	4.5	74.9	
Tax items	(85.4)		(88.9)	35.0	52.6	
Restructuring costs	15.9	64.3				
Acquisition integration costs	8.8	9.7				
Divestitures gain, net					(38.0)	
Gain from insurance settlement					(26.9)	
Earnings before interest, after-tax for return on capital calculation	\$ 2,030.2	\$ 1,967.6	\$ 1,898.1	\$ 1,835.6	\$ 1,617.1	
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 1,443.3	\$ 741.2	\$ 1,031.3	\$ 107.3	\$ 508.5	\$ 442.0
Notes payable	599.7	526.5	311.3	1,050.1	812.2	2,208.8
Long-term debt	5,926.1	6,161.9	5,542.5	5,268.5	5,754.8	4,348.7
Total debt	7,969.1	7,429.6	6,885.1	6,425.9	7,075.5	6,999.5
Redeemable interest	967.5	847.8				
Noncontrolling interests	456.3	461.0	246.7	245.1	244.2	246.6
Stockholders' equity	6,672.2	6,421.7	6,365.5	5,402.9	5,172.3	6,212.2
Total capital	16,065.1	15,160.1	13,497.3	12,073.9	12,492.0	13,458.3
Accumulated other comprehensive (income) loss	1,585.3	1,743.7	1,010.8	1,486.9	877.8	(173.1)
After-tax earnings adjustments (a)	(234.4)	(170.9)	(310.5)	(161.6)	(201.1)	(263.7)
Adjusted total capital	\$ 17,416.0	\$ 16,732.9	\$ 14,197.6	\$ 13,399.2	\$ 13,168.7	\$ 13,021.5
Adjusted average total capital	\$ 17,074.5	\$ 15,465.3	\$ 13,798.4	\$ 13,283.9	\$ 13,095.1	
Return on average total capital	11.9%	12.7%	13.8%	13.8%	12.3%	

(a) Sum of current year and previous year after-tax adjustments.

***Net Sales Growth Rates for Our International Segment Excluding the Impact of Changes in Foreign Currency Exchange***

Management and the Board of Directors believe that this measure of our International segment and region net sales provides useful information to investors because it provides transparency to the underlying performance in markets outside the United States by excluding the effect that foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations have on year-to-year comparability given volatility in foreign exchange markets.

To present this information, current period results for entities reporting in currencies other than United States dollars are translated into United States dollars at the average exchange rates in effect during the corresponding period of the prior fiscal year, rather than the actual average exchange rates in effect during the current fiscal year. Therefore, the foreign currency impact is equal to current year results in local currencies multiplied by the change in the average foreign currency exchange rate between the current fiscal period and the corresponding period of the prior fiscal year.



**Table of Contents**

	Percentage Change in Net Sales as Reported	Fiscal 2013			
		Impact of Foreign Currency Exchange	Percentage Change in Net Sales on Constant Currency Basis		
Europe	11%	(4)pts	15%		
Canada	22		22		
Asia/Pacific	11		11		
Latin America	116	(23)	139		
<b>Total International</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>(4)pts</b>	<b>28%</b>		

	Percentage Change in Net Sales as Reported	Fiscal 2012			
		Impact of Foreign Currency Exchange	Percentage Change in Net Sales on Constant Currency Basis		
Europe	84%	1pt	83%		
Canada	29	1	28		
Asia/Pacific	22	2	20		
Latin America	12	(2)	14		
<b>Total International</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>1pt</b>	<b>45%</b>		

**CAUTIONARY STATEMENT RELEVANT TO FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF SAFE HARBOR PROVISIONS OF THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995**

This report contains or incorporates by reference forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that are based on our current expectations and assumptions. We also may make written or oral forward-looking statements, including statements contained in our filings with the SEC and in our reports to stockholders.

The words or phrases will likely result, are expected to, will continue, is anticipated, estimate, plan, project, or similar expressions identify forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from historical results and those currently anticipated or projected. We wish to caution you not to place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements.

In connection with the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, we are identifying important factors that could affect our financial performance and could cause our actual results in future periods to differ materially from any current opinions or statements.

Our future results could be affected by a variety of factors, such as: competitive dynamics in the consumer foods industry and the markets for our products, including new product introductions, advertising activities, pricing actions, and promotional activities of our competitors; economic conditions, including changes in inflation rates, interest rates, tax rates, or the availability of capital; product development and innovation; consumer acceptance of new products and product improvements; consumer reaction to pricing actions and changes in promotion levels; acquisitions or dispositions of businesses or assets; changes in capital structure; changes in laws and regulations, including labeling and advertising regulations; impairments in the carrying value of goodwill, other intangible assets, or other long-lived assets, or changes in the useful lives of other intangible assets; changes in accounting standards and the impact of significant accounting estimates; product quality and safety

## Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

issues, including recalls and product liability; changes in consumer demand for our products; effectiveness of advertising, marketing, and promotional programs; changes in consumer behavior, trends, and preferences, including weight loss trends; consumer perception of health-related issues, including obesity; consolidation in the retail environment; changes in

---

**Table of Contents**

purchasing and inventory levels of significant customers; fluctuations in the cost and availability of supply chain resources, including raw materials, packaging, and energy; disruptions or inefficiencies in the supply chain; volatility in the market value of derivatives used to manage price risk for certain commodities; benefit plan expenses due to changes in plan asset values and discount rates used to determine plan liabilities; failure or breach of our information technology systems; foreign economic conditions, including currency rate fluctuations; and political unrest in foreign markets and economic uncertainty due to terrorism or war.

You should also consider the risk factors that we identify in Item 1A of this report, which could also affect our future results.

We undertake no obligation to publicly revise any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of those statements or to reflect the occurrence of anticipated or unanticipated events.

**ITEM 7A Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk**

We are exposed to market risk stemming from changes in interest and foreign exchange rates and commodity and equity prices. Changes in these factors could cause fluctuations in our earnings and cash flows. In the normal course of business, we actively manage our exposure to these market risks by entering into various hedging transactions, authorized under established policies that place clear controls on these activities. The counterparties in these transactions are generally highly rated institutions. We establish credit limits for each counterparty. Our hedging transactions include but are not limited to a variety of derivative financial instruments.

**INTEREST RATE RISK**

We are exposed to interest rate volatility with regard to future issuances of fixed-rate debt, and existing and future issuances of floating-rate debt. Primary exposures include U.S. Treasury rates, LIBOR, Euribor, and commercial paper rates in the United States and Europe. We use interest rate swaps, forward-starting interest rate swaps, and treasury locks to hedge our exposure to interest rate changes, to reduce the volatility of our financing costs, and to achieve a desired proportion of fixed versus floating-rate debt, based on current and projected market conditions. Generally under these swaps, we agree with a counterparty to exchange the difference between fixed-rate and floating-rate interest amounts based on an agreed upon notional principal amount.

As of May 26, 2013, we had interest rate swaps with \$550 million of aggregate notional principal amount outstanding, all of which converts fixed-rate notes to floating-rate notes. In advance of a planned debt refinancing, we had \$250 million net notional amount of treasury locks as of May 26, 2013.

**FOREIGN EXCHANGE RISK**

Foreign currency fluctuations affect our net investments in foreign subsidiaries and foreign currency cash flows related to third party purchases, intercompany loans, product shipments, and foreign-denominated commercial paper. We are also exposed to the translation of foreign currency earnings to the U.S. dollar. Our principal exposures are to the Australian dollar, Brazilian real, British pound sterling, Canadian dollar, Chinese renminbi, euro, Japanese yen, Mexican peso, and Swiss franc. We mainly use foreign currency forward contracts to selectively hedge our foreign currency cash flow exposures. We also generally swap our foreign-denominated commercial paper borrowings and nonfunctional currency intercompany loans back to U.S. dollars or the functional currency of the entity with foreign exchange exposure; the gains or losses on these derivatives offset the foreign currency revaluation gains or losses recorded in earnings on the associated borrowings. We generally do not hedge more than 18 months forward.

We also have many net investments in foreign subsidiaries that are denominated in euros. We previously hedged a portion of these net investments by issuing euro-denominated commercial paper and foreign exchange forward contracts. As of May 26, 2013, we had deferred net foreign currency transaction losses of \$96 million in AOCI associated with hedging activity.

**Table of Contents****COMMODITY PRICE RISK**

Many commodities we use in the production and distribution of our products are exposed to market price risks. We utilize derivatives to manage price risk for our principal ingredients and energy costs, including grains (oats, wheat, and corn), oils (principally soybean), non-fat dry milk, natural gas, and diesel fuel. Our primary objective when entering into these derivative contracts is to achieve certainty with regard to the future price of commodities purchased for use in our supply chain. We manage our exposures through a combination of purchase orders, long-term contracts with suppliers, exchange-traded futures and options, and over-the-counter options and swaps. We offset our exposures based on current and projected market conditions and generally seek to acquire the inputs at as close to our planned cost as possible.

As of May 26, 2013, the net notional value of commodity derivatives was \$526 million, of which \$297 million related to agricultural inputs and \$229 million related to energy inputs. These contracts relate to inputs that generally will be utilized within the next 12 months.

**EQUITY INSTRUMENTS**

Equity price movements affect our compensation expense as certain investments made by our employees in our deferred compensation plan are revalued. We use equity swaps to manage this risk. As of May 26, 2013, the net notional amount of our equity swaps was \$57 million.

**VALUE AT RISK**

The estimates in the table below are intended to measure the maximum potential fair value we could lose in one day from adverse changes in market interest rates, foreign exchange rates, commodity prices, and equity prices under normal market conditions. A Monte Carlo value-at-risk (VAR) methodology was used to quantify the market risk for our exposures. The models assumed normal market conditions and used a 95 percent confidence level.

The VAR calculation used historical interest rates, foreign exchange rates, and commodity and equity prices from the past year to estimate the potential volatility and correlation of these rates in the future. The market data were drawn from the RiskMetrics data set. The calculations are not intended to represent actual losses in fair value that we expect to incur. Further, since the hedging instrument (the derivative) inversely correlates with the underlying exposure, we would expect that any loss or gain in the fair value of our derivatives would be generally offset by an increase or decrease in the fair value of the underlying exposure. The positions included in the calculations were: debt; investments; interest rate swaps; foreign exchange forwards; commodity swaps, futures and options; and equity instruments. The calculations do not include the underlying foreign exchange and commodities or equity-related positions that are offset by these market-risk-sensitive instruments.

The table below presents the estimated maximum potential VAR arising from a one-day loss in fair value for our interest rate, foreign currency, commodity, and equity market-risk-sensitive instruments outstanding as of May 26, 2013, and May 27, 2012, and the average fair value impact during the year ended May 26, 2013.

In Millions	Fair Value Impact		
	Average		
	May 26,	during	May 27,
	2013	fiscal 2013	2012
Interest rate instruments	\$21.5	\$25.0	\$29.4
Foreign currency instruments	3.5	4.6	7.1
Commodity instruments	5.4	4.3	3.8
Equity instruments	0.7	0.7	1.1

**Table of Contents**

**ITEM 8 Financial Statements and Supplementary Data  
REPORT OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

The management of General Mills, Inc. is responsible for the fairness and accuracy of the consolidated financial statements. The statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles that are generally accepted in the United States, using management's best estimates and judgments where appropriate. The financial information throughout this Annual Report on Form 10-K is consistent with our consolidated financial statements.

Management has established a system of internal controls that provides reasonable assurance that assets are adequately safeguarded and transactions are recorded accurately in all material respects, in accordance with management's authorization. We maintain a strong audit program that independently evaluates the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls. Our internal controls provide for appropriate separation of duties and responsibilities, and there are documented policies regarding use of our assets and proper financial reporting. These formally stated and regularly communicated policies demand highly ethical conduct from all employees.

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors meets regularly with management, internal auditors, and our independent registered public accounting firm to review internal control, auditing, and financial reporting matters. The independent registered public accounting firm, internal auditors, and employees have full and free access to the Audit Committee at any time.

The Audit Committee reviewed and approved the Company's annual financial statements. The Audit Committee recommended, and the Board of Directors approved, that the consolidated financial statements be included in the Annual Report. The Audit Committee also appointed KPMG LLP to serve as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal 2014, subject to ratification by the stockholders at the annual meeting.

/s/ K. J. Powell

K. J. Powell  
Chairman of the Board  
and Chief Executive Officer  
July 3, 2013

/s/ D. L. Mulligan

D. L. Mulligan  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

---

**Table of Contents**

**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Board of Directors and Stockholders

General Mills, Inc.:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of General Mills, Inc. and subsidiaries as of May 26, 2013 and May 27, 2012, and the related consolidated statements of earnings, comprehensive income, total equity and redeemable interest, and cash flows for each of the fiscal years in the three-year period ended May 26, 2013. In connection with our audits of the consolidated financial statements, we have audited the accompanying financial statement schedule. We also have audited General Mills, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of May 26, 2013, based on criteria established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (1992)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). General Mills, Inc.'s management is responsible for these consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule and an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audits of the consolidated financial statements included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

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

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of General Mills, Inc. and subsidiaries as of May 26, 2013 and May 27, 2012, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the fiscal years in the three-year period ended May 26, 2013, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Also in our opinion, the accompanying financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein. Also in our opinion, General Mills, Inc. maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of May 26, 2013, based on criteria established in *Internal Control – Integrated Framework (1992)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Minneapolis, Minnesota

July 3, 2013



**Table of Contents****Consolidated Statements of Earnings**

## GENERAL MILLS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

(In Millions, Except per Share Data)

	2013	Fiscal Year 2012	2011
Net sales	<b>\$ 17,774.1</b>	\$ 16,657.9	\$ 14,880.2
Cost of sales	<b>11,350.2</b>	10,613.2	8,926.7
Selling, general, and administrative expenses	<b>3,552.3</b>	3,380.7	3,192.0
Divestitures (gain)			(17.4)
Restructuring, impairment, and other exit costs	<b>19.8</b>	101.6	4.4
Operating profit	<b>2,851.8</b>	2,562.4	2,774.5
Interest, net	<b>316.9</b>	351.9	346.3
Earnings before income taxes and after-tax earnings from joint ventures	<b>2,534.9</b>	2,210.5	2,428.2
Income taxes	<b>741.2</b>	709.6	721.1
After-tax earnings from joint ventures	<b>98.8</b>	88.2	96.4
Net earnings, including earnings attributable to redeemable and noncontrolling interests	<b>1,892.5</b>	1,589.1	1,803.5
Net earnings attributable to redeemable and noncontrolling interests	<b>37.3</b>	21.8	5.2
Net earnings attributable to General Mills	<b>\$ 1,855.2</b>	\$ 1,567.3	\$ 1,798.3
Earnings per share - basic	<b>\$ 2.86</b>	\$ 2.42	\$ 2.80
Earnings per share - diluted	<b>\$ 2.79</b>	\$ 2.35	\$ 2.70
Dividends per share	<b>\$ 1.32</b>	\$ 1.22	\$ 1.12

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.



**Table of Contents****Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income**

## GENERAL MILLS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

(In Millions)

	2013	Fiscal Year 2012	2011
Net earnings, including earnings attributable to redeemable and noncontrolling interests	<b>\$ 1,892.5</b>	\$ 1,589.1	\$ 1,803.5
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax:			
Foreign currency translation	<b>0.8</b>	(420.1)	359.0
Net actuarial gain (loss)	<b>45.0</b>	(504.6)	61.1
Other fair value changes:			
Securities	<b>0.8</b>	(0.2)	(3.6)
Hedge derivatives	<b>24.6</b>	(53.4)	(25.4)
Reclassification to earnings:			
Hedge derivatives	<b>12.2</b>	11.5	18.5
Amortization of losses and prior service costs	<b>98.8</b>	81.7	67.2
Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax	<b>182.2</b>	(885.1)	476.8
Total comprehensive income	<b>2,074.7</b>	704.0	2,280.3
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to redeemable and noncontrolling interests	<b>61.1</b>	(130.4)	5.9
Comprehensive income attributable to General Mills	<b>\$ 2,013.6</b>	\$ 834.4	\$ 2,274.4

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents****Consolidated Balance Sheets**

## GENERAL MILLS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

(In Millions, Except Par Value)

	May 26, 2013	May 27, 2012
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 741.4	\$ 471.2
Receivables	1,446.4	1,323.6
Inventories	1,545.5	1,478.8
Deferred income taxes	128.0	59.7
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	437.6	358.1
Total current assets	4,298.9	3,691.4
Land, buildings, and equipment	3,878.1	3,652.7
Goodwill	8,622.2	8,182.5
Other intangible assets	5,015.1	4,704.9
Other assets	843.7	865.3
Total assets	\$ 22,658.0	\$ 21,096.8
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,423.2	\$ 1,148.9
Current portion of long-term debt	1,443.3	741.2
Notes payable	599.7	526.5
Other current liabilities	1,827.7	1,426.6
Total current liabilities	5,293.9	3,843.2
Long-term debt	5,926.1	6,161.9
Deferred income taxes	1,389.1	1,171.4
Other liabilities	1,952.9	2,189.8
Total liabilities	14,562.0	13,366.3
Redeemable interest	967.5	847.8
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, 754.6 shares issued, \$0.10 par value	75.5	75.5
Additional paid-in capital	1,166.6	1,308.4
Retained earnings	10,702.6	9,958.5
Common stock in treasury, at cost, shares of 113.8 and 106.1	(3,687.2)	(3,177.0)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(1,585.3)	(1,743.7)
Total stockholders' equity	6,672.2	6,421.7

Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

Noncontrolling interests	<b>456.3</b>	461.0
Total equity	<b>7,128.5</b>	6,882.7
Total liabilities and equity	<b>\$ 22,658.0</b>	\$ 21,096.8

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents****Consolidated Statements of Total Equity and Redeemable Interest**

## GENERAL MILLS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

(In Millions, Except per Share Data)

	<b>Issued</b>			<b>Treasury</b>		<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)</b>	<b>Non-controlling Interests</b>	<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>Redeemable Interest</b>
	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Par Amount</b>	<b>Additional Paid-In Capital</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Amount</b>					
<b>Balance as of May 30, 2010</b>	754.6	75.5	1,307.1	(98.1)	(2,615.2)	8,122.4	(1,486.9)	245.1	5,648.0	
Total comprehensive income						1,798.3	476.1	5.9	2,280.3	
Cash dividends declared (\$1.12 per share)						(729.4)			(729.4)	
Shares purchased				(31.8)	(1,163.5)				(1,163.5)	
Stock compensation plans (includes income tax benefits of \$106.2)			(22.2)	20.1	568.4				546.2	
Unearned compensation related to restricted stock unit awards			(70.4)						(70.4)	
Earned compensation			105.3						105.3	
Distributions to noncontrolling interest holders								(4.3)	(4.3)	
<b>Balance as of May 29, 2011</b>	754.6	75.5	1,319.8	(109.8)	(3,210.3)	9,191.3	(1,010.8)	246.7	6,612.2	
Total comprehensive income (loss)						1,567.3	(732.9)	(44.3)	790.1	(86.1)
Cash dividends declared (\$1.22 per share)						(800.1)			(800.1)	
Shares purchased				(8.3)	(313.0)				(313.0)	
Stock compensation plans (includes income tax benefits of \$63.1)			3.2	12.0	346.3				349.5	
Unearned compensation related to restricted stock unit awards			(93.4)						(93.4)	
Earned compensation			108.3						108.3	
Addition of redeemable and noncontrolling interest from acquisitions								263.8	263.8	904.4
Increase in redemption value of redeemable interest			(29.5)						(29.5)	29.5
Distributions to noncontrolling interest holders								(5.2)	(5.2)	
<b>Balance as of May 27, 2012</b>	754.6	\$75.5	\$1,308.4	(106.1)	\$(3,177.0)	\$ 9,958.5	\$(1,743.7)	\$461.0	\$ 6,882.7	\$847.8
Total comprehensive income						1,855.2	158.4	18.3	2,031.9	42.8
Cash dividends declared (\$1.70 per share)						(1,111.1)			(1,111.1)	
Shares purchased			(30.0)	(24.2)	(1,014.9)				(1,044.9)	
Stock compensation plans (includes income tax benefits of \$103.0)			(38.6)	16.5	504.7				466.1	
Unearned compensation related to restricted stock unit awards			(80.5)						(80.5)	
Earned compensation			100.4						100.4	
			(93.1)						(93.1)	93.1

Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

Increase in redemption value of redeemable interest										
Distributions to redeemable and noncontrolling interest holders								(23.0)	(23.0)	(16.2)
<b>Balance as of May 26, 2013</b>	<b>754.6</b>	<b>\$75.5</b>	<b>\$1,166.6</b>	<b>(113.8)</b>	<b>\$(3,687.2)</b>	<b>\$10,702.6</b>	<b>\$(1,585.3)</b>	<b>\$456.3</b>	<b>\$ 7,128.5</b>	<b>\$967.5</b>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents****Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**

## GENERAL MILLS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

(In Millions)

	2013	Fiscal Year 2012	2011
<b>Cash Flows - Operating Activities</b>			
Net earnings, including earnings attributable to redeemable and noncontrolling interests	<b>\$ 1,892.5</b>	\$ 1,589.1	\$ 1,803.5
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	<b>588.0</b>	541.5	472.6
After-tax earnings from joint ventures	<b>(98.8)</b>	(88.2)	(96.4)
Distributions of earnings from joint ventures	<b>115.7</b>	68.0	72.7
Stock-based compensation	<b>100.4</b>	108.3	105.3
Deferred income taxes	<b>81.8</b>	149.4	205.3
Tax benefit on exercised options	<b>(103.0)</b>	(63.1)	(106.2)
Pension and other postretirement benefit plan contributions	<b>(223.2)</b>	(222.2)	(220.8)
Pension and other postretirement benefit plan costs	<b>131.2</b>	77.8	73.6
Divestitures (gain)			(17.4)
Restructuring, impairment, and other exit costs	<b>(60.2)</b>	97.8	(1.3)
Changes in current assets and liabilities, excluding the effects of acquisitions	<b>471.1</b>	243.8	(720.9)
Other, net	<b>30.5</b>	(95.0)	(38.9)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>2,926.0</b>	2,407.2	1,531.1
<b>Cash Flows - Investing Activities</b>			
Purchases of land, buildings, and equipment	<b>(613.9)</b>	(675.9)	(648.8)
Acquisitions, net of cash acquired	<b>(898.0)</b>	(1,050.1)	(123.3)
Investments in affiliates, net	<b>(40.4)</b>	(22.2)	(1.8)
Proceeds from disposal of land, buildings, and equipment	<b>24.2</b>	2.2	4.1
Proceeds from divestiture of product lines			34.4
Exchangeable note	<b>16.2</b>	(131.6)	
Other, net	<b>(3.5)</b>	6.8	20.3
<b>Net cash used by investing activities</b>	<b>(1,515.4)</b>	(1,870.8)	(715.1)
<b>Cash Flows - Financing Activities</b>			
Change in notes payable	<b>(44.5)</b>	227.9	(742.6)
Issuance of long-term debt	<b>1,001.1</b>	1,390.5	1,200.0
Payment of long-term debt	<b>(542.3)</b>	(1,450.1)	(7.4)
Proceeds from common stock issued on exercised options	<b>300.8</b>	233.5	410.4
Tax benefit on exercised options	<b>103.0</b>	63.1	106.2
Purchases of common stock for treasury	<b>(1,044.9)</b>	(313.0)	(1,163.5)
Dividends paid	<b>(867.6)</b>	(800.1)	(729.4)
Distributions to noncontrolling and redeemable interest holders	<b>(39.2)</b>	(5.2)	(4.3)
Other, net	<b>(6.6)</b>	(13.2)	(10.3)

Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

Net cash used by financing activities	(1,140.2)	(666.6)	(940.9)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	(0.2)	(18.2)	71.3
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	270.2	(148.4)	(53.6)
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of year	471.2	619.6	673.2
Cash and cash equivalents - end of year	\$ 741.4	\$ 471.2	\$ 619.6
Cash Flow from Changes in Current Assets and Liabilities, excluding the effects of acquisitions:			
Receivables	\$ (44.6)	\$ (24.2)	\$ (69.8)
Inventories	18.7	144.5	(240.0)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(64.3)	149.4	(96.0)
Accounts payable	263.6	12.1	109.0
Other current liabilities	297.7	(38.0)	(424.1)
Changes in current assets and liabilities	\$ 471.1	\$ 243.8	\$ (720.9)

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents**

**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**GENERAL MILLS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**NOTE 1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND RECLASSIFICATIONS**

***Basis of Presentation***

Our Consolidated Financial Statements include the accounts of General Mills, Inc. and all subsidiaries in which we have a controlling financial interest. Intercompany transactions and accounts, including any noncontrolling and redeemable interests share of those transactions, are eliminated in consolidation.

Our fiscal year ends on the last Sunday in May. Fiscal years 2013, 2012 and 2011 each consisted of 52 weeks.

***Change in Reporting Period***

As part of a long-term plan to conform the fiscal year ends of all our operations, we have changed the reporting period of certain countries within our International segment from an April fiscal year end to a May fiscal year end to match our fiscal calendar. Accordingly, in the year of change, our results include 13 months of results from the affected operations compared to 12 months in previous fiscal years. We changed the reporting period for our operations in Europe and Australia in fiscal 2013, and we changed the reporting period for our operations in China in fiscal 2012. The impact of these changes was not material to our consolidated results of operations and, therefore, we did not restate prior period financial statements for comparability. Our Yoplait S.A.S., Yoplait Marques S.A.S., Yoki Alimentos S.A. (Yoki), and India businesses remain on an April fiscal year end.

Certain reclassifications to our previously reported financial information have been made to conform to the current period presentation.

**NOTE 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

***Cash and Cash Equivalents***

We consider all investments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

***Inventories***

All inventories in the United States other than grain are valued at the lower of cost, using the last-in, first-out (LIFO) method, or market. Grain inventories and all related cash contracts and derivatives are valued at market with all net changes in value recorded in earnings currently.

Inventories outside of the United States are generally valued at the lower of cost, using the first-in, first-out (FIFO) method, or market.

Shipping costs associated with the distribution of finished product to our customers are recorded as cost of sales, and are recognized when the related finished product is shipped to and accepted by the customer.

***Land, Buildings, Equipment, and Depreciation***

Land is recorded at historical cost. Buildings and equipment, including capitalized interest and internal engineering costs, are recorded at cost and depreciated over estimated useful lives, primarily using the straight-line method. Ordinary maintenance and repairs are charged to cost of sales. Buildings are usually depreciated over 40 to 50 years, and equipment, furniture, and software are usually depreciated over 3 to 10 years. Fully depreciated assets are retained in buildings and equipment until disposal. When an item is sold or retired, the accounts are relieved of its cost and related accumulated depreciation and the resulting gains and losses, if any, are recognized in earnings. As of May 26, 2013, assets held for sale were insignificant.

Long-lived assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset (or asset group) may not be recoverable. An impairment loss would be recognized when estimated undiscounted future cash flows from the operation and disposition of the asset group are less than the carrying amount of the asset group. Asset groups have identifiable cash flows and



## Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

are largely independent of other asset groups. Measurement of an impairment loss would be based on the excess of the carrying amount of the asset group over its fair value. Fair value is measured using a discounted cash flow model or independent appraisals, as appropriate.

---

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets***

Goodwill is not subject to amortization and is tested for impairment annually and whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that impairment may have occurred. Impairment testing is performed for each of our reporting units. We compare the carrying value of a reporting unit, including goodwill, to the fair value of the unit. Carrying value is based on the assets and liabilities associated with the operations of that reporting unit, which often requires allocation of shared or corporate items among reporting units. If the carrying amount of a reporting unit exceeds its fair value, we revalue all assets and liabilities of the reporting unit, excluding goodwill, to determine if the fair value of the net assets is greater than the net assets including goodwill. If the fair value of the net assets is less than the carrying amount of net assets including goodwill, impairment has occurred. Our estimates of fair value are determined based on a discounted cash flow model. Growth rates for sales and profits are determined using inputs from our annual long-range planning process. We also make estimates of discount rates, perpetuity growth assumptions, market comparables, and other factors. We performed our fiscal 2013 assessment as of November 26, 2012, and determined there was no impairment of goodwill for any of our reporting units as their related fair values were substantially in excess of their carrying values.

We evaluate the useful lives of our other intangible assets, mainly brands, to determine if they are finite or indefinite-lived. Reaching a determination on useful life requires significant judgments and assumptions regarding the future effects of obsolescence, demand, competition, other economic factors (such as the stability of the industry, known technological advances, legislative action that results in an uncertain or changing regulatory environment, and expected changes in distribution channels), the level of required maintenance expenditures, and the expected lives of other related groups of assets. Intangible assets that are deemed to have definite lives are amortized on a straight-line basis, over their useful lives, generally ranging from 4 to 30 years.

Our indefinite-lived intangible assets, mainly intangible assets primarily associated with the *Pillsbury*, *Totino's*, *Progresso*, *Green Giant*, *Yoplait*, *Old El Paso*, *Yoki*, and *Häagen-Dazs* brands, are also tested for impairment annually and whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying value may not be recoverable. We performed our fiscal 2013 assessment of our brand intangibles as of November 26, 2012. Our estimate of the fair value of the brands was based on a discounted cash flow model using inputs which included projected revenues from our annual long-range plan, assumed royalty rates that could be payable if we did not own the brands, and a discount rate. As of our assessment date, there was no impairment of any of our indefinite-lived intangible assets as their related fair values were substantially in excess of the carrying values.

Our finite-lived intangible assets, primarily acquired franchise agreements and customer relationships, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. An impairment loss would be recognized when estimated undiscounted future cash flows from the operation and disposition of the asset are less than the carrying amount of the asset. Assets generally have identifiable cash flows and are largely independent of other assets. Measurement of an impairment loss would be based on the excess of the carrying amount of the asset over its fair value. Fair value is measured using a discounted cash flow model or other similar valuation model, as appropriate.

### ***Investments in Joint Ventures***

Our investments in companies over which we have the ability to exercise significant influence are stated at cost plus our share of undistributed earnings or losses. We receive royalty income from certain joint ventures, incur various expenses (primarily research and development), and record the tax impact of certain joint venture operations that are structured as partnerships. In addition, we make advances to our joint ventures in the form of loans or capital investments. We also sell certain raw materials, semi-finished goods, and finished goods to the joint ventures, generally at market prices.

In addition, we assess our investments in our joint ventures if we have reason to believe an impairment may have occurred including, but not limited to, ongoing operating losses, projected decreases in earnings, increases in the weighted average cost of capital or significant business disruptions. The significant assumptions used to estimate fair value include revenue growth and profitability, royalty rates, capital spending, depreciation and taxes, foreign

---

**Table of Contents**

currency exchange rates and a discount rate. By their nature, these projections and assumptions are uncertain. If we were to determine the current fair value of our investment was less than the carrying value of the investment, then we would assess if the shortfall was of a temporary or permanent nature and write down the investment to its fair value if we concluded the impairment is other than temporary.

***Redeemable Interest***

On July 1, 2011, we acquired a 51 percent controlling interest in Yoplait S.A.S., a consolidated entity. Sodiaal International (Sodiaal) holds the remaining 49 percent interest in Yoplait S.A.S. Sodiaal has the ability to put a limited portion of its redeemable interest to us at fair value once per year up to a maximum of 9 years. This put option requires us to classify Sodiaal's interest as a redeemable interest outside of equity on our Consolidated Balance Sheets for as long as the put is exercisable by Sodiaal. When the put is no longer exercisable, the redeemable interest will be reclassified to noncontrolling interests on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. We adjust the value of the redeemable interest through additional paid-in capital on our Consolidated Balance Sheets quarterly to the redeemable interest's redemption value, which approximates its fair value. During the third quarter of fiscal 2013, we adjusted the redeemable interest's redemption value based on a discounted cash flow model. The significant assumptions used to estimate the redemption value include projected revenue growth and profitability from our long range plan, capital spending, depreciation and taxes, foreign currency rates, and a discount rate.

***Variable Interest Entities***

As of May 26, 2013, we had invested in four variable interest entities (VIEs). None of our VIEs are material to our results of operations, financial condition, or liquidity as of and for the year ended May 26, 2013. We determined whether or not we were the primary beneficiary (PB) of each VIE using a qualitative assessment that considered the VIE's purpose and design, the involvement of each of the interest holders, and the risks and benefits of the VIE. We are the PB of three of the VIEs. We provided minimal financial or other support to our VIEs during fiscal 2013, and there are no arrangements related to VIEs that would require us to provide significant financial support in the future.

***Revenue Recognition***

We recognize sales revenue when the shipment is accepted by our customer. Sales include shipping and handling charges billed to the customer and are reported net of consumer coupon redemption, trade promotion and other costs, including estimated allowances for returns, unsalable product, and prompt pay discounts. Sales, use, value-added, and other excise taxes are not recognized in revenue. Coupons are recorded when distributed, based on estimated redemption rates. Trade promotions are recorded based on estimated participation and performance levels for offered programs at the time of sale. We generally do not allow a right of return. However, on a limited case-by-case basis with prior approval, we may allow customers to return product. In limited circumstances, product returned in saleable condition is resold to other customers or outlets. Receivables from customers generally do not bear interest. Terms and collection patterns vary around the world and by channel. The allowance for doubtful accounts represents our estimate of probable non-payments and credit losses in our existing receivables, as determined based on a review of past due balances and other specific account data. Account balances are written off against the allowance when we deem the amount is uncollectible.

***Environmental***

Environmental costs relating to existing conditions caused by past operations that do not contribute to current or future revenues are expensed. Liabilities for anticipated remediation costs are recorded on an undiscounted basis when they are probable and reasonably estimable, generally no later than the completion of feasibility studies or our commitment to a plan of action.

***Advertising Production Costs***

We expense the production costs of advertising the first time that the advertising takes place.

***Research and Development***

All expenditures for research and development (R&D) are charged against earnings in the year incurred. R&D includes expenditures for new product and manufacturing process innovation, and the annual expenditures are comprised primarily of internal salaries, wages, consulting, and other supplies attributable to time spent on R&D activities. Other costs include depreciation and maintenance of research facilities, including assets at facilities that are engaged in pilot plant activities.



---

**Table of Contents*****Foreign Currency Translation***

For all significant foreign operations, the functional currency is the local currency. Assets and liabilities of these operations are translated at the period-end exchange rates. Income statement accounts are translated using the average exchange rates prevailing during the year. Translation adjustments are reflected within accumulated other comprehensive loss (AOCI) in stockholders' equity. Gains and losses from foreign currency transactions are included in net earnings for the period, except for gains and losses on investments in subsidiaries for which settlement is not planned for the foreseeable future and foreign exchange gains and losses on instruments designated as net investment hedges. These gains and losses are recorded in AOCI.

***Derivative Instruments***

All derivatives are recognized on the Consolidated Balance Sheets at fair value based on quoted market prices or our estimate of their fair value, and are recorded in either current or noncurrent assets or liabilities based on their maturity. Changes in the fair values of derivatives are recorded in net earnings or other comprehensive income, based on whether the instrument is designated and effective as a hedge transaction and, if so, the type of hedge transaction. Gains or losses on derivative instruments reported in AOCI are reclassified to earnings in the period the hedged item affects earnings. If the underlying hedged transaction ceases to exist, any associated amounts reported in AOCI are reclassified to earnings at that time. Any ineffectiveness is recognized in earnings in the current period.

***Stock-based Compensation***

We generally measure compensation expense for grants of restricted stock units using the value of a share of our stock on the date of grant. We estimate the value of stock option grants using a Black-Scholes valuation model. Stock compensation is recognized straight line over the vesting period. Our stock compensation expense is recorded in selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expenses and cost of sales in the Consolidated Statements of Earnings and allocated to each reportable segment in our segment results.

Certain equity-based compensation plans contain provisions that accelerate vesting of awards upon retirement, termination or death of eligible employees and directors. We consider a stock-based award to be vested when the employee's retention of the award is no longer contingent on providing subsequent service. Accordingly, the related compensation cost is recognized immediately for awards granted to retirement-eligible individuals or over the period from the grant date to the date retirement eligibility is achieved, if less than the stated vesting period.

We report the benefits of tax deductions in excess of recognized compensation cost as a financing cash flow, thereby reducing net operating cash flows and increasing net financing cash flows.

***Defined Benefit Pension, Other Postretirement, and Postemployment Benefit Plans***

We sponsor several domestic and foreign defined benefit plans to provide pension, health care, and other welfare benefits to retired employees. Under certain circumstances, we also provide accruable benefits to former or inactive employees in the United States and Canada and members of our Board of Directors, including severance and certain other benefits payable upon death. We recognize an obligation for any of these benefits that vest or accumulate with service. Postemployment benefits that do not vest or accumulate with service (such as severance based solely on annual pay rather than years of service) are charged to expense when incurred. Our postemployment benefit plans are unfunded.

We recognize the underfunded or overfunded status of a defined benefit postretirement plan as an asset or liability and recognize changes in the funded status in the year in which the changes occur through AOCI.

***Use of Estimates***

Preparing our Consolidated Financial Statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. These estimates include our accounting for promotional expenditures, valuation of long-lived assets, intangible assets, redeemable interest, stock-based compensation, income taxes, and defined benefit pension, post-retirement and post-employment benefits. Actual results could differ from our estimates.

---

**Table of Contents**

***Other New Accounting Standards***

In fiscal 2013, we adopted new accounting guidance for the presentation of other comprehensive income (OCI). This guidance requires entities to present net income and OCI in either a single continuous statement or in separate consecutive statements. The guidance does not change the components of net income or OCI, when OCI should be reclassified to net income, or the earnings per share (EPS) calculation. This guidance did not have an impact on our results of operations or financial position.

In fiscal 2013, we adopted new accounting guidance intended to simplify indefinite-lived intangible asset impairment testing. Entities are allowed to perform a qualitative assessment of indefinite-lived intangible asset impairment to determine whether a quantitative assessment is necessary. We adopted this guidance for our annual indefinite-lived intangible asset impairment test for fiscal 2013, which was conducted as of the first day of the third quarter. The adoption of this guidance did not have an impact on our results of operations or financial position.

In fiscal 2012, we adopted new accounting guidance for fair value measurements providing common fair value measurement and disclosure requirements. The adoption of the guidance did not have an impact on our results of operations or financial condition.

In fiscal 2012, we adopted new accounting guidance on employer's disclosures about participation in multiemployer benefit plans. The adoption of the guidance did not have an impact on our results of operations or financial condition.

In fiscal 2012, we adopted new accounting guidance intended to simplify goodwill impairment testing. Entities are allowed to perform a qualitative assessment of goodwill impairment to determine whether a quantitative assessment is necessary. We adopted this guidance for our annual goodwill impairment test for fiscal 2012. The adoption of this guidance did not have an impact on our results of operations or financial position.

In fiscal 2011, we adopted new accounting guidance on the consolidation model for VIEs. The guidance requires companies to qualitatively assess the determination of the primary beneficiary of a VIE based on whether the company (1) has the power to direct matters that most significantly impact the VIE's economic performance, and (2) has the obligation to absorb losses or the right to receive benefits of the VIE that could potentially be significant to the VIE. The adoption of the guidance did not have an impact on our results of operations or financial condition.

**NOTE 3. ACQUISITIONS**

On August 1, 2012, we acquired Yoki, a privately held food company headquartered in Sao Bernardo do Campo, Brazil, for an aggregate purchase price of \$939.8 million, including \$88.8 million of non-cash consideration for net debt assumed. Yoki operates in several food categories, including snacks, convenient meals, basic foods, and seasonings. We consolidated Yoki into our Consolidated Balance Sheets and recorded goodwill of \$363.0 million. Indefinite lived intangible assets acquired include brands of \$253.0 million. Finite lived intangible assets acquired primarily include customer relationships of \$17.5 million. The pro forma effects of this acquisition were not material.

During the first quarter of fiscal 2012, we acquired a 51 percent controlling interest in Yoplait S.A.S. and a 50 percent interest in Yoplait Marques S.A.S. from PAI Partners and Sodiaal for an aggregate purchase price of \$1.2 billion, including \$261.3 million of non-cash consideration for debt assumed. We consolidated both entities into our Consolidated Balance Sheets and recorded goodwill of \$1.5 billion. Indefinite lived intangible assets acquired primarily include brands of \$476.0 million. Finite lived intangible assets acquired primarily include franchise agreements of \$440.2 million and customer relationships of \$107.3 million. In addition, we purchased a zero coupon exchangeable note due in 2016 from Sodiaal with a notional amount of \$131.6 million and a fair value of \$110.9 million. As of May 26, 2013, \$16.2 million of the exchangeable note has been repaid. The pro forma effects of this acquisition were not material.

**Table of Contents****NOTE 4. RESTRUCTURING, IMPAIRMENT, AND OTHER EXIT COSTS**

We view our restructuring activities as actions that help us meet our long-term growth targets. Activities we undertake must meet internal rate of return and net present value targets. Each restructuring action normally takes one to two years to complete. At completion (or as each major stage is completed in the case of multi-year programs), the project begins to deliver cash savings and/or reduced depreciation. These activities result in various restructuring costs, including asset write-offs, exit charges including severance, contract termination fees, and decommissioning and other costs. Depreciation associated with restructured assets, as used in the context of our disclosures regarding restructuring activity, refers to the increase in depreciation expense caused by shortening the useful life or updating the salvage value of depreciable fixed assets to coincide with the end of production under an approved restructuring plan. Any impairment of the asset is recognized immediately in the period the plan is approved.

In fiscal 2013, we recorded restructuring, impairment, and other exit costs pursuant to approved plans as follows:

**Expense, in Millions**

Charges associated with restructuring actions previously announced	<b>\$ 19.8</b>
Total	<b>\$ 19.8</b>

In fiscal 2013, we recorded an \$18.6 million restructuring charge related to a productivity and cost savings plan approved in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2012, consisting of \$10.6 million of employee severance expense and other exit costs of \$8.0 million. All of our operating segments were affected by these actions including \$15.9 million related to our International segment, \$1.8 million related to our U.S. Retail segment, and \$0.9 million related to our Bakeries and Foodservice segment. These restructuring actions are expected to be completed by the end of fiscal 2014. In addition, we recorded \$1.2 million of charges associated with other previously announced restructuring actions. In fiscal 2013, we paid \$79.9 million in cash related to restructuring actions.

In fiscal 2012, we recorded restructuring, impairment, and other exit costs pursuant to approved plans as follows:

**Expense, in Millions**

Productivity and cost savings plan	\$ 100.6
Charges associated with restructuring actions previously announced	1.0
Total	<b>\$ 101.6</b>

In fiscal 2012, we recorded a \$100.6 million restructuring charge related to a productivity and cost savings plan approved in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2012. The plan was designed to improve organizational effectiveness and focus on key growth strategies, and included organizational changes to strengthen business alignment and actions to accelerate administrative efficiencies across all of our operating segments and support functions. In connection with this initiative, we eliminated approximately 850 positions globally. The restructuring charge consisted of \$87.6 million of employee severance expense and a non-cash charge of \$13.0 million related to the write-off of certain long-lived assets in our U.S. Retail segment. All of our operating segments and support functions were affected by these actions including \$69.9 million related to our U.S. Retail segment, \$12.2 million related to our Bakeries and Foodservice segment, \$9.5 million related to our International segment, and \$9.0 million related to our administrative functions. In fiscal 2012, we paid \$3.8 million in cash related to restructuring actions taken in fiscal 2012 and previous years.

In fiscal 2011, we recorded restructuring, impairment, and other exit costs pursuant to approved plans as follows:

**Expense, in Millions**

Discontinuation of fruit-flavored snack product line	\$ 1.7
Charges associated with restructuring actions previously announced	2.7
Total	<b>\$ 4.4</b>





**Table of Contents**

The roll forward of our restructuring and other exit cost reserves, included in other current liabilities, is as follows:

In Millions	Severance	Termination	Other	
			Contract	Exit
			Costs	Total
Reserve balance as of May 30, 2010	\$ 2.6	\$ 8.1	\$ 0.1	\$ 10.8
2011 charges, including foreign currency translation				
Utilized in 2011	(0.9)	(2.6)	(0.1)	(3.6)
Reserve balance as of May 29, 2011	1.7	5.5		7.2
2012 charges, including foreign currency translation	82.4			82.4
Utilized in 2012	(1.0)	(2.8)	0.1	(3.7)
Reserve balance as of May 27, 2012	83.1	2.7	0.1	85.9
2013 charges, including foreign currency translation	10.6			10.6
Utilized in 2013	(74.2)	(2.7)	(0.1)	(77.0)
<b>Reserve balance as of May 26, 2013</b>	<b>\$ 19.5</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 19.5</b>

The charges recognized in the roll forward of our reserves for restructuring and other exit costs do not include items charged directly to expense (e.g., asset impairment charges, the gain or loss on the sale of restructured assets, and the write-off of spare parts) and other periodic exit costs recognized as incurred, as those items are not reflected in our restructuring and other exit cost reserves on our Consolidated Balance Sheets.

**NOTE 5. INVESTMENTS IN JOINT VENTURES**

We have a 50 percent equity interest in Cereal Partners Worldwide (CPW), which manufactures and markets ready-to-eat cereal products in more than 130 countries and republics outside the United States and Canada. CPW also markets cereal bars in several European countries and manufactures private label cereals for customers in the United Kingdom. We have guaranteed a portion of CPW's debt and its pension obligation in the United Kingdom.

We also have a 50 percent equity interest in Häagen-Dazs Japan, Inc. (HDJ). This joint venture manufactures, distributes, and markets Häagen-Dazs ice cream products and frozen novelties.

Results from our CPW and HDJ joint ventures are reported for the 12 months ended March 31.

Joint venture related balance sheet activity follows:

In Millions	May 26,	May 27,
	2013	2012
Cumulative investments	\$478.5	\$529.0
Goodwill and other intangibles	537.2	522.1
Aggregate advances	291.5	268.1

Joint venture earnings and cash flow activity follows:

In Millions	Fiscal Year		
	2013	2012	2011
Sales to joint ventures	\$12.3	\$ 10.4	\$ 10.2

Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

Net advances	<b>36.7</b>	22.2	1.8
Dividends received	<b>115.7</b>	68.0	72.7

**Table of Contents**

Summary combined financial information for the joint ventures on a 100 percent basis follows:

<b>In Millions</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>		
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Net sales:			
CPW	\$ 2,132.2	\$ 2,152.6	\$ 2,067.2
HDJ	420.5	428.9	385.0
Total net sales	2,552.7	2,581.5	2,452.2
Gross margin	1,057.3	1,084.1	1,073.6
Earnings before income taxes	260.3	250.3	233.4
Earnings after income taxes	201.6	189.0	164.2

<b>In Millions</b>	<b>May 26,</b>	<b>May 27,</b>
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Current assets	\$ 976.7	\$ 934.8
Noncurrent assets	1,088.2	1,078.0
Current liabilities	1,717.4	1,671.0
Noncurrent liabilities	115.1	91.0

**NOTE 6. GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS**

The components of goodwill and other intangible assets are as follows:

<b>In Millions</b>	<b>May 26,</b>	<b>May 27,</b>
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Goodwill	\$ 8,622.2	\$ 8,182.5
Other intangible assets:		
Intangible assets not subject to amortization:		
Brands and other indefinite-lived intangibles	4,499.5	4,217.1
Intangible assets subject to amortization:		
Franchise agreements, customer relationships,		
and other finite-lived intangibles	602.6	544.7
Less accumulated amortization	(87.0)	(56.9)
Intangible assets subject to amortization	515.6	487.8
Other intangible assets	5,015.1	4,704.9
Total	\$ 13,637.3	\$ 12,887.4

Based on the carrying value of finite-lived intangible assets as of May 26, 2013, amortization expense for each of the next five fiscal years is estimated to be approximately \$30 million.

**Table of Contents**

The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill for fiscal 2011, 2012, and 2013 are as follows:

<b>In Millions</b>	<b>U.S. Retail</b>	<b>International</b>	<b>Bakeries and Foodservice</b>	<b>Joint Ventures</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance as of May 30, 2010	\$5,098.3	\$ 122.0	\$923.0	\$449.5	\$6,592.8
Acquisitions	44.6	26.9			71.5
Divestitures		(0.5)	(1.9)		(2.4)
Other activity, primarily foreign currency translation		14.2		74.7	88.9
Balance as of May 29, 2011	5,142.9	162.6	921.1	524.2	6,750.8
Acquisitions	670.3	946.4			1,616.7
Other activity, primarily foreign currency translation		(119.1)		(65.9)	(185.0)
Balance as of May 27, 2012	5,813.2	989.9	921.1	458.3	8,182.5
Acquisitions	28.2	378.8			407.0
Other activity, primarily foreign currency translation		18.3		14.4	32.7
<b>Balance as of May 26, 2013</b>	<b>\$5,841.4</b>	<b>\$1,387.0</b>	<b>\$921.1</b>	<b>\$472.7</b>	<b>\$8,622.2</b>

The changes in the carrying amount of other intangible assets for fiscal 2011, 2012, and 2013 are as follows:

<b>In Millions</b>	<b>U.S. Retail</b>	<b>International</b>	<b>Joint Ventures</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance as of May 30, 2010	\$3,206.6	\$ 445.3	\$63.1	\$3,715.0
Acquisitions	39.3	6.0		45.3
Other activity, primarily foreign currency translation	(3.4)	46.6	9.8	53.0
Balance as of May 29, 2011	3,242.5	497.9	72.9	3,813.3
Acquisitions	58.2	1,050.3		1,108.5
Other activity, primarily foreign currency translation	(3.7)	(204.1)	(9.1)	(216.9)
Balance as of May 27, 2012	3,297.0	1,344.1	63.8	4,704.9
Acquisitions	20.0	290.7		310.7
Other activity, primarily foreign currency translation	(4.6)	3.4	0.7	(0.5)
<b>Balance as of May 26, 2013</b>	<b>\$3,312.4</b>	<b>\$1,638.2</b>	<b>\$64.5</b>	<b>\$5,015.1</b>

**Table of Contents****NOTE 7. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES, AND FAIR VALUES****FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

The carrying values of cash and cash equivalents, receivables, accounts payable, other current liabilities, and notes payable approximate fair value. Marketable securities are carried at fair value. As of May 26, 2013, and May 27, 2012, a comparison of cost and market values of our marketable debt and equity securities is as follows:

In Millions	Cost		Market Value		Gross Gains		Gross Losses	
	Fiscal Year 2013	2012	Fiscal Year 2013	2012	Fiscal Year 2013	2012	Fiscal Year 2013	2012
Available for sale:								
Debt securities	\$134.0	\$52.2	\$134.1	\$52.3	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$	\$
Equity securities	1.8	1.8	6.4	5.3	4.6	3.5		
Total	\$135.8	\$54.0	\$140.5	\$57.6	\$4.7	\$3.6	\$	\$

Earnings include less than \$1 million of realized gains from sales of available-for-sale marketable securities. Gains and losses are determined by specific identification. Classification of marketable securities as current or noncurrent is dependent upon our intended holding period, the security's maturity date, or both. The aggregate unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale securities, net of tax effects, are classified in AOCI within stockholders' equity.

Scheduled maturities of our marketable securities are as follows:

In Millions	Available for Sale Market	
	Cost	Value
Under 1 year (current)	\$130.2	\$130.2
From 1 to 3 years	2.2	2.3
From 4 to 7 years	1.6	1.6
Equity securities	1.8	6.4
Total	\$135.8	\$140.5

Marketable securities with a market value of \$2.3 million as of May 26, 2013, were pledged as collateral for derivative contracts.

The fair value and carrying amounts of long-term debt, including the current portion, were \$8,027.3 million and \$7,369.4 million, respectively, as of May 26, 2013. The fair value of long-term debt was estimated using market quotations and discounted cash flows based on our current incremental borrowing rates for similar types of instruments. Long-term debt is a Level 2 liability in the fair value hierarchy.

**RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

As a part of our ongoing operations, we are exposed to market risks such as changes in interest and foreign currency exchange rates and commodity and equity prices. To manage these risks, we may enter into various derivative transactions (e.g., futures, options, and swaps) pursuant to our established policies.

**COMMODITY PRICE RISK**

Many commodities we use in the production and distribution of our products are exposed to market price risks. We utilize derivatives to manage price risk for our principal ingredients and energy costs, including grains (oats, wheat, and corn), oils (principally soybean), non-fat dry milk,

## Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

natural gas, and diesel fuel. Our primary objective when entering into these derivative contracts is to achieve certainty with regard to the future price of commodities purchased for use in our supply chain. We manage our exposures through a combination of purchase orders, long-

**Table of Contents**

term contracts with suppliers, exchange-traded futures and options, and over-the-counter options and swaps. We offset our exposures based on current and projected market conditions and generally seek to acquire the inputs at as close to our planned cost as possible.

We use derivatives to manage our exposure to changes in commodity prices. We do not perform the assessments required to achieve hedge accounting for commodity derivative positions. Accordingly, the changes in the values of these derivatives are recorded currently in cost of sales in our Consolidated Statements of Earnings.

Although we do not meet the criteria for cash flow hedge accounting, we nonetheless believe that these instruments are effective in achieving our objective of providing certainty in the future price of commodities purchased for use in our supply chain. Accordingly, for purposes of measuring segment operating performance these gains and losses are reported in unallocated corporate items outside of segment operating results until such time that the exposure we are managing affects earnings. At that time we reclassify the gain or loss from unallocated corporate items to segment operating profit, allowing our operating segments to realize the economic effects of the derivative without experiencing any resulting mark-to-market volatility, which remains in unallocated corporate items.

Unallocated corporate items for fiscal 2013, fiscal 2012 and fiscal 2011 included:

In Millions	Fiscal Year		
	2013	2012	2011
Net gain (loss) on mark-to-market valuation of commodity positions	\$ (7.6)	\$ (122.5)	\$ 160.3
Net loss (gain) on commodity positions reclassified from unallocated corporate items to segment operating profit	13.7	35.7	(93.6)
Net mark-to-market revaluation of certain grain inventories	(1.7)	(17.4)	28.5
Net mark-to-market valuation of certain commodity positions recognized in unallocated corporate items	\$ 4.4	\$ (104.2)	\$ 95.2

As of May 26, 2013, the net notional value of commodity derivatives was \$526.3 million, of which \$297.4 million related to agricultural inputs and \$228.9 million related to energy inputs. These contracts relate to inputs that generally will be utilized within the next 12 months.

**INTEREST RATE RISK**

We are exposed to interest rate volatility with regard to future issuances of fixed-rate debt, and existing and future issuances of floating-rate debt. Primary exposures include U.S. Treasury rates, LIBOR, Euribor, and commercial paper rates in the United States and Europe. We use interest rate swaps, forward-starting interest rate swaps, and treasury locks to hedge our exposure to interest rate changes, to reduce the volatility of our financing costs, and to achieve a desired proportion of fixed versus floating-rate debt, based on current and projected market conditions. Generally under these swaps, we agree with a counterparty to exchange the difference between fixed-rate and floating-rate interest amounts based on an agreed upon notional principal amount.

**Floating Interest Rate Exposures** Floating-to-fixed interest rate swaps are accounted for as cash flow hedges, as are all hedges of forecasted issuances of debt. Effectiveness is assessed based on either the perfectly effective hypothetical derivative method or changes in the present value of interest payments on the underlying debt. Effective gains and losses deferred to AOCI are reclassified into earnings over the life of the associated debt. Ineffective gains and losses are recorded as net interest. The amount of hedge ineffectiveness was less than \$1 million in each of fiscal 2013, 2012, and 2011.

**Fixed Interest Rate Exposures** Fixed-to-floating interest rate swaps are accounted for as fair value hedges with effectiveness assessed based on changes in the fair value of the underlying debt and derivatives, using incremental borrowing rates currently available on loans with similar terms and maturities. Ineffective gains and losses on these derivatives and the underlying hedged items are recorded as net interest. The amount of hedge ineffectiveness was less than \$1 million in each of fiscal 2013, 2012, and 2011.

**Table of Contents**

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2013, in advance of a planned debt refinancing, we entered into \$250.0 million of treasury locks with an average fixed rate of 1.95 percent.

During the third quarter of fiscal 2013, we entered into swaps to convert \$250.0 million of 0.875 percent fixed-rate notes due January 29, 2016, to floating rates.

During the second quarter of fiscal 2013, in advance of a planned debt refinancing, we entered into \$200.0 million of treasury locks with an average fixed rate of 2.82 percent. All of these treasury locks were cash settled for \$11.8 million during the third quarter of fiscal 2013, coincident with the issuance of our \$500.0 million 30-year fixed-rate notes. As of May 26, 2013, an \$11.7 million pre-tax gain remained in AOCI, which will be reclassified to earnings over the term of the underlying debt.

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2011, first quarter of fiscal 2012, and second quarter of fiscal 2012, we entered into \$500.0 million, \$300.0 million, and \$200.0 million of forward starting swaps with average fixed rates of 3.9 percent, 2.7 percent, and 2.4 percent, respectively, in advance of a planned debt financing. All of these forward starting swaps were cash settled for \$100.4 million coincident with the issuance of our \$1.0 billion 10-year fixed rate notes in November 2011. As of May 26, 2013, an \$84.7 million pre-tax loss remained in AOCI, which will be reclassified to earnings over the term of the underlying debt.

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2011, we entered into swaps to convert \$300.0 million of 1.55 percent fixed-rate notes due May 16, 2014, to floating rates.

As of May 26, 2013, a \$15.1 million pre-tax loss on cash settled interest rate derivatives for our \$500.0 million 30-year fixed rate notes issued June 1, 2010 remained in AOCI, which will be reclassified to earnings over the term of the underlying debt.

As of May 26, 2013, an \$8.3 million pre-tax loss on cash settled interest rate swaps for our \$1.0 billion 10-year note issued January 24, 2007 remained in AOCI, which will be reclassified to earnings over the term of the underlying debt.

The following table summarizes the notional amounts and weighted-average interest rates of our interest rate derivatives. Average floating rates are based on rates as of the end of the reporting period.

	May 26, 2013	May 27, 2012
<b>In Millions</b>		
Pay-floating swaps notional amount	<b>\$550.0</b>	\$834.6
Average receive rate	<b>1.1%</b>	1.7%
Average pay rate	<b>0.4%</b>	0.3%
Treasury locks notional amount	<b>\$250.0</b>	\$

The interest rate derivative contracts mature at various dates from fiscal 2014 to 2016 as follows:

In Millions	Pay Floating	Treasury Locks
2014	\$300.0	\$250.0
2015		
2016	250.0	
Total	\$550.0	\$250.0

**FOREIGN EXCHANGE RISK**

Foreign currency fluctuations affect our net investments in foreign subsidiaries and foreign currency cash flows related to third party purchases, intercompany loans, product shipments, and foreign-denominated commercial paper. We are also exposed to the translation of foreign currency earnings to the U.S. dollar. Our principal exposures are to the Australian dollar, Brazilian real, British pound sterling, Canadian dollar, Chinese renminbi, euro, Japanese yen, Mexican peso, and Swiss franc. We mainly use foreign currency forward contracts to selectively hedge our





**Table of Contents**

foreign currency cash flow exposures. We also generally swap our foreign-denominated commercial paper borrowings and nonfunctional currency intercompany loans back to U.S. dollars or the functional currency of the entity with foreign exchange exposure; the gains or losses on these derivatives offset the foreign currency revaluation gains or losses recorded in earnings on the associated borrowings. We generally do not hedge more than 18 months forward.

As of May 26, 2013, the net notional value of foreign exchange derivatives was \$985.1 million. The amount of hedge ineffectiveness was less than \$1 million in each of fiscal 2013, 2012, and 2011.

We also have many net investments in foreign subsidiaries that are denominated in euros. We previously hedged a portion of these net investments by issuing euro-denominated commercial paper and foreign exchange forward contracts. As of May 26, 2013, we had deferred net foreign currency transaction losses of \$95.7 million in AOCI associated with hedging activity.

**EQUITY INSTRUMENTS**

Equity price movements affect our compensation expense as certain investments made by our employees in our deferred compensation plan are revalued. We use equity swaps to manage this risk. As of May 26, 2013, the net notional amount of our equity swaps was \$57.0 million. These swap contracts mature in fiscal 2014.

**FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION**

The fair values of our assets, liabilities, and derivative positions recorded at fair value and their respective levels in the fair value hierarchy as of May 26, 2013 and May 27, 2012, were as follows:

In Millions	May 26, 2013 Fair Values of Assets				May 26, 2013 Fair Values of Liabilities			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Derivatives designated as hedging instruments:								
Interest rate contracts (a) (b)	\$	\$ 10.3	\$	\$ 10.3	\$	\$	\$	\$
Foreign exchange contracts (c) (d)		15.7		15.7		(1.6)		(1.6)
Total		26.0		26.0		(1.6)		(1.6)
Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments:								
Foreign exchange contracts (c) (d)		6.7		6.7		(0.1)		(0.1)
Equity contracts (a) (e)						(0.2)		(0.2)
Commodity contracts (c) (e)	10.3	3.1		13.4		(3.9)		(3.9)
Grain contracts (c) (e)		7.5		7.5		(30.4)		(30.4)
Total	10.3	17.3		27.6		(34.6)		(34.6)
Other assets and liabilities reported at fair value:								
Marketable investments (a) (f)	6.4	134.1		140.5				
Total	6.4	134.1		140.5				
Total assets, liabilities, and derivative positions recorded at fair value	\$16.7	\$177.4	\$	\$ 194.1	\$	\$(36.2)	\$	\$(36.2)

(a) These contracts and investments are recorded as prepaid expenses and other current assets, other assets, other current liabilities or other liabilities, as appropriate, based on whether in a gain or loss position. Certain marketable investments are recorded as cash and cash equivalents.

(b) Based on LIBOR and swap rates.

(c) These contracts are recorded as prepaid expenses and other current assets or as other current liabilities, as appropriate, based on whether in a gain or loss position.

(d) Based on observable market transactions of spot currency rates and forward currency prices.

Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

- (e) Based on prices of futures exchanges and recently reported transactions in the marketplace.
- (f) Based on prices of common stock and bond matrix pricing.

**Table of Contents**

In Millions	May 27, 2012 Fair Values of Assets				May 27, 2012 Fair Values of Liabilities			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Derivatives designated as hedging instruments:								
Interest rate contracts (a) (b)	\$	\$ 5.7	\$	\$ 5.7	\$	\$	\$	\$
Foreign exchange contracts (c) (d)		11.5		11.5		(18.8)		(18.8)
Total		17.2		17.2		(18.8)		(18.8)
Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments:								
Interest rate contracts (a) (b)		0.5		0.5				
Foreign exchange contracts (c) (d)		6.6		6.6		(1.1)		(1.1)
Equity contracts (a) (e)						(0.1)		(0.1)
Commodity contracts (c) (e)	8.0	1.0		9.0		(15.1)		(15.1)
Grain contracts (c) (e)		8.3		8.3		(20.6)		(20.6)
Total	8.0	16.4		24.4		(36.9)		(36.9)
Other assets and liabilities reported at fair value:								
Marketable investments (a) (f)	5.3	52.3		57.6				
Total	5.3	52.3		57.6				
Total assets, liabilities, and derivative positions recorded at fair value	\$13.3	\$85.9	\$	\$99.2	\$	\$(55.7)	\$	\$(55.7)

- (a) These contracts and investments are recorded as prepaid expenses and other current assets, other assets, other current liabilities or other liabilities, as appropriate, based on whether in a gain or loss position. Certain marketable investments are recorded as cash and cash equivalents.
- (b) Based on LIBOR and swap rates.
- (c) These contracts are recorded as prepaid expenses and other current assets or as other current liabilities, as appropriate, based on whether in a gain or loss position.
- (d) Based on observable market transactions of spot currency rates and forward currency prices.
- (e) Based on prices of futures exchanges and recently reported transactions in the marketplace.
- (f) Based on prices of common stock and bond matrix pricing.

We did not significantly change our valuation techniques from prior periods.

**Table of Contents**

Information related to our cash flow hedges, fair value hedges, and other derivatives not designated as hedging instruments for the fiscal years ended May 26, 2013, and May 27, 2012, follows:

In Millions	Interest Rate Contracts		Foreign Exchange Contracts		Equity Contracts		Commodity Contracts		Total	
	Fiscal Year 2013	2012	Fiscal Year 2013	2012	Fiscal Year 2013	2012	Fiscal Year 2013	2012	Fiscal Year 2013	2012
Derivatives in Cash Flow Hedging Relationships:										
Amount of gain (loss) recognized in other comprehensive income (OCI) (a)	\$ 19.1	\$(78.6)	\$16.4	\$(7.3)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 35.5	\$(85.9)
Amount of loss reclassified from AOCI into earnings (a) (b)	(12.5)	(8.2)	(4.8)	(9.9)					(17.3)	(18.1)
Amount of gain (loss) recognized in earnings (c)		(0.5)	0.4	(0.3)					0.4	(0.8)
Derivatives in Fair Value Hedging Relationships:										
Amount of net gain (loss) recognized in earnings (d)	0.8	(0.8)							0.8	(0.8)
Derivatives Not Designated as Hedging Instruments:										
Amount of gain (loss) recognized in earnings (d)			11.6	(1.3)	12.0	(1.0)	(7.6)	(122.5)	16.0	(124.8)

- (a) Effective portion.
- (b) Loss reclassified from AOCI into earnings is reported in interest, net for interest rate swaps and in cost of sales and SG&A expenses for foreign exchange contracts.
- (c) Gain (loss) recognized in earnings is related to the ineffective portion of the hedging relationship, including SG&A expenses for foreign exchange contracts and interest, net for interest rate contracts. No amounts were reported as a result of being excluded from the assessment of hedge effectiveness.
- (d) Gain (loss) recognized in earnings is reported in interest, net for interest rate contracts, in cost of sales for commodity contracts, and in SG&A expenses for equity contracts and foreign exchange contracts.

**AMOUNTS RECORDED IN ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE LOSS**

Unrealized losses from interest rate cash flow hedges recorded in AOCI as of May 26, 2013, totaled \$53.5 million after tax. These deferred losses are primarily related to interest rate swaps that we entered into in contemplation of future borrowings and other financing requirements and that are being reclassified into net interest over the lives of the hedged forecasted transactions. Unrealized gains from foreign currency cash flow hedges recorded in AOCI as of May 26, 2013, were \$11.8 million after-tax. The net amount of pre-tax gains and losses in AOCI as of May 26, 2013, that we expect to be reclassified into net earnings within the next 12 months is \$3.5 million of income.

**CREDIT-RISK-RELATED CONTINGENT FEATURES**

Certain of our derivative instruments contain provisions that require us to maintain an investment grade credit rating on our debt from each of the major credit rating agencies. If our debt were to fall below investment grade, the counterparties to the derivative instruments could request full collateralization on derivative instruments in net liability positions. The aggregate fair value of all derivative instruments with credit-risk-related contingent features that were in a liability position on May 26, 2013, was \$3.9 million. We have posted no collateral under these contracts. If the credit-risk-related contingent features underlying these agreements had been triggered on May 26, 2013, we would have been required to post \$3.9 million of collateral to counterparties.

**Table of Contents****CONCENTRATIONS OF CREDIT AND COUNTERPARTY CREDIT RISK**

During fiscal 2013, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and its affiliates (Wal-Mart) accounted for 21 percent of our consolidated net sales and 31 percent of our net sales in the U.S. Retail segment. No other customer accounted for 10 percent or more of our consolidated net sales. Wal-Mart also represented 6 percent of our net sales in the International segment and 7 percent of our net sales in the Bakeries and Foodservice segment. As of May 26, 2013, Wal-Mart accounted for 28 percent of our U.S. Retail receivables, 5 percent of our International receivables, and 7 percent of our Bakeries and Foodservice receivables. The five largest customers in our U.S. Retail segment accounted for 54 percent of its fiscal 2013 net sales, the five largest customers in our International segment accounted for 24 percent of its fiscal 2013 net sales, and the five largest customers in our Bakeries and Foodservice segment accounted for 41 percent of its fiscal 2013 net sales.

We enter into interest rate, foreign exchange, and certain commodity and equity derivatives, primarily with a diversified group of highly rated counterparties. We continually monitor our positions and the credit ratings of the counterparties involved and, by policy, limit the amount of credit exposure to any one party. These transactions may expose us to potential losses due to the risk of nonperformance by these counterparties; however, we have not incurred a material loss. We also enter into commodity futures transactions through various regulated exchanges.

The amount of loss due to the credit risk of the counterparties, should the counterparties fail to perform according to the terms of the contracts, is \$30.9 million against which we do not hold collateral. Under the terms of master swap agreements, some of our transactions require collateral or other security to support financial instruments subject to threshold levels of exposure and counterparty credit risk. Collateral assets are either cash or U.S. Treasury instruments and are held in a trust account that we may access if the counterparty defaults.

We offer certain suppliers access to a third party service that allows them to view our scheduled payments online. The third party service also allows suppliers to finance advances on our scheduled payments at the sole discretion of the supplier and the third party. We have no economic interest in these financing arrangements and no direct relationship with the suppliers, the third party, or any financial institutions concerning this service. All of our accounts payable remain as obligations to our suppliers as stated in our supplier agreements. As of May 26, 2013, \$178.3 million of our total accounts payable is payable to suppliers who utilize this third party service.

**NOTE 8. DEBT***Notes Payable*

The components of notes payable and their respective weighted-average interest rates at the end of the periods were as follows:

	May 26, 2013		May 27, 2012	
	Notes	Weighted-Average	Notes	Weighted-Average
<b>In Millions</b>	<b>Payable</b>	<b>Interest Rate</b>	<b>Payable</b>	<b>Interest Rate</b>
U.S. commercial paper	\$515.5	0.2 %	\$412.0	0.2 %
Financial institutions	84.2	13.0	114.5	10.0
Total	\$599.7	2.0 %	\$526.5	2.4 %

To ensure availability of funds, we maintain bank credit lines sufficient to cover our outstanding short-term borrowings. Commercial paper is a continuing source of short-term financing. We have commercial paper programs available to us in the United States and Europe. In April 2012, we entered into fee-paid committed credit lines, consisting of a \$1.0 billion facility scheduled to expire in April 2015 and a \$1.7 billion facility scheduled to expire in April 2017. We also have \$332.8 million in uncommitted credit lines that support our foreign operations. As of May 26, 2013, there were no amounts outstanding on the fee-paid committed credit lines and \$84.2 million was drawn on the uncommitted lines. The credit facilities contain several covenants, including a requirement to maintain a fixed charge coverage ratio of at least 2.5 times. We were in compliance with all credit facility covenants as of May 26, 2013.

**Table of Contents**

***Long-Term Debt***

In January 2013, we issued \$750.0 million aggregate principal amount of fixed rate notes. The issuance consisted of \$250.0 million 0.875 percent notes due January 29, 2016 and \$500.0 million 4.15 percent notes due February 15, 2043. Interest on the fixed-rate notes is payable semi-annually in arrears. The fixed rate notes due January 29, 2016 may be redeemed in whole, or in part, at our option at any time for a specified make whole amount. The fixed rate notes due February 15, 2043 may be redeemed in whole, or in part, at our option at any time prior to August 15, 2042 for a specified make whole amount and any time on or after that date at par. These notes are senior unsecured obligations that include a change of control repurchase provision. The net proceeds were used to reduce our commercial paper borrowings.

In January 2013, we issued \$250.0 million floating rate notes due January 29, 2016. The floating-rate notes bear interest equal to three-month LIBOR plus 30 basis points, subject to quarterly reset. Interest on the floating-rate notes is payable quarterly in arrears. The floating rate notes are not redeemable prior to maturity. These notes are senior unsecured obligations that include a change of control repurchase provision. The net proceeds were used to reduce our commercial paper borrowings.

In September 2012, we repaid \$520.8 million of 5.65 percent notes. In February 2012, we repaid \$1.0 billion of 6.0 percent notes. In November 2011, we issued \$1.0 billion aggregate principal amount of 3.15 percent notes due December 15, 2021. The net proceeds were used to repay a portion of our notes due February 2012, reduce our commercial paper borrowings, and for general corporate purposes. Interest on these notes is payable semi-annually in arrears. These notes may be redeemed at our option at any time prior to September 15, 2021 for a specified make whole amount and any time on or after that date at par. These notes are senior unsecured, unsubordinated obligations that include a change of control repurchase provision.

As part of our acquisition of Yoplait S.A.S., we consolidated \$457.9 million of primarily euro-denominated Euribor-based floating-rate bank debt. In December 2011, we refinanced this debt with \$390.5 million of euro-denominated Euribor-based floating-rate bank debt due at various dates through December 15, 2014.

Certain of our long-term debt agreements contain restrictive covenants. As of May 26, 2013, we were in compliance with all of these covenants.

As of May 26, 2013, the \$87.1 million pre-tax loss recorded in AOCI associated with our previously designated interest rate swaps will be reclassified to net interest over the remaining lives of the hedged transactions. The amount expected to be reclassified from AOCI to net interest in fiscal 2014 is \$11.6 million pre-tax.

**Table of Contents**

A summary of our long-term debt is as follows:

	May 26,	May 27,
In Millions	2013	2012
5.65% notes due February 15, 2019	\$ 1,150.0	\$ 1,150.0
5.7% notes due February 15, 2017	1,000.0	1,000.0
3.15% notes due December 15, 2021	1,000.0	1,000.0
5.2% notes due March 17, 2015	750.0	750.0
5.25% notes due August 15, 2013	700.0	700.0
5.4% notes due June 15, 2040	500.0	500.0
4.15% notes due February 15, 2043	500.0	
Floating-rate notes due May 16, 2014	400.0	400.0
Euribor-based floating-rate note due December 15, 2014	368.6	375.5
1.55% notes due May 16, 2014	300.0	300.0
0.875% notes due January 29, 2016	250.0	
Floating-rate notes due January 29, 2016	250.0	
Medium-term notes, 0.1% to 6.4%, due fiscal 2014 or later	204.2	204.2
5.65% notes due September 10, 2012		520.8
Other, including capital leases	(3.4)	2.6
	7,369.4	6,903.1
Less amount due within one year	(1,443.3)	(741.2)
Total long-term debt	\$ 5,926.1	\$ 6,161.9

Principal payments due on long-term debt in the next five years based on stated contractual maturities, our intent to redeem, or put rights of certain note holders are \$1,443.3 million in fiscal 2014, \$1,181.9 million in fiscal 2015, \$500.5 million in fiscal 2016, \$1,000.0 million in fiscal 2017, and \$100.0 million in fiscal 2018.

**NOTE 9. REDEEMABLE AND NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS**

Our principal redeemable and noncontrolling interests relate to our Yoplait S.A.S., Yoplait Marques S.A.S., and General Mills Cereals, LLC (GMC) subsidiaries. In addition, we have seven foreign subsidiaries that have noncontrolling interests totaling \$8.0 million as of May 26, 2013.

We have a 51 percent controlling interest in Yoplait S.A.S. and a 50 percent interest in Yoplait Marques S.A.S. Sodiaal holds the remaining interests in each of the entities. On the acquisition date, we recorded the \$904.4 million fair value of Sodiaal's 49 percent euro-denominated interest in Yoplait S.A.S. as a redeemable interest on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. Sodiaal has the ability to put a limited portion of its redeemable interest to us once per year at fair value up to a maximum of 9 years. We adjust the value of the redeemable interest through additional paid-in capital on our Consolidated Balance Sheets quarterly to the redeemable interest's redemption value, which approximates its fair value. Yoplait S.A.S. pays dividends annually if it meets certain financial metrics set forth in its shareholders agreement. As of May 26, 2013, the redemption value of the euro-denominated redeemable interest was \$967.5 million.

On the acquisition date, we recorded the \$263.8 million fair value of Sodiaal's 50 percent euro-denominated interest in Yoplait Marques S.A.S. as a noncontrolling interest on our Consolidated Balance Sheets. Yoplait Marques S.A.S. earns a royalty stream through a licensing agreement with Yoplait S.A.S. for the rights to *Yoplait* and related trademarks. Yoplait Marques S.A.S. pays dividends annually based on its available cash as of its fiscal year end.

In addition, a subsidiary of Yoplait S.A.S. has entered into an exclusive milk supply agreement for its European operations with Sodiaal at market-determined prices through July 1, 2021. Net purchases totaled \$263.5 million for fiscal 2013 and \$235.7 million for fiscal 2012.



---

**Table of Contents**

During fiscal 2013, we paid \$32.5 million of dividends to Sodiaal under the terms of the Yoplait S.A.S. and Yoplait Marques S.A.S. shareholder agreements.

During the first quarter of fiscal 2013, in conjunction with the consent of the Class A investor, we restructured GMC through the distribution of its manufacturing assets, stock, inventory, cash and certain intellectual property to a wholly owned subsidiary. GMC retained the remaining intellectual property. Immediately following the restructuring, the Class A Interests of GMC were sold by the then current holder to another unrelated third-party investor.

The holder of the GMC Class A Interests receives quarterly preferred distributions from available net income based on the application of a floating preferred return rate, currently equal to the sum of three-month LIBOR plus 110 basis points, to the holder's capital account balance established in the most recent mark-to-market valuation (currently \$251.5 million). The preferred return rate is adjusted every three years through a negotiated agreement with the Class A Interest holder or through a remarketing auction.

For financial reporting purposes, the assets, liabilities, results of operations, and cash flows of our non-wholly owned subsidiaries are included in our Consolidated Financial Statements. The third-party investor's share of the net earnings of these subsidiaries is reflected in net earnings attributable to redeemable and noncontrolling interests in the Consolidated Statements of Earnings.

Our noncontrolling interests contain restrictive covenants. As of May 26, 2013, we were in compliance with all of these covenants.

**NOTE 10. STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY**

Cumulative preference stock of 5.0 million shares, without par value, is authorized but unissued.

On June 28, 2010, our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to 100 million shares of our common stock. Purchases under the authorization can be made in the open market or in privately negotiated transactions, including the use of call options and other derivative instruments, Rule 10b5-1 trading plans, and accelerated repurchase programs. The authorization has no specified termination date.

During fiscal 2013, we repurchased 24.2 million shares of common stock for an aggregate purchase price of \$1,014.9 million. During fiscal 2012, we repurchased 8.3 million shares of common stock for an aggregate purchase price of \$313.0 million. During fiscal 2011, we repurchased 31.8 million shares of common stock for an aggregate purchase price of \$1,163.5 million.

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2013, we entered into an accelerated share repurchase (ASR) agreement with an unrelated third party financial institution to repurchase an aggregate of \$300.0 million of our outstanding common stock. The total aggregate number of shares to be repurchased pursuant to this agreement will be determined based on the volume weighted average price of our common stock during the purchase period, less a fixed discount. Under the ASR agreement, we paid \$300.0 million to the financial institution and received 5.5 million shares of common stock with a fair value of \$270.0 million during the fourth quarter of 2013, which represents approximately 90 percent of the total shares expected to be repurchased under the agreement. We will settle the remaining shares upon the completion of the ASR agreement in the first quarter of fiscal 2014. We recorded this transaction as an increase in treasury stock of \$270.0 million, and recorded the remaining \$30.0 million as a decrease to additional paid in capital on our Consolidated Balance Sheets as of May 26, 2013. We will reclassify the \$30.0 million recorded in additional paid in capital to treasury stock at completion of the ASR. This forward contract is indexed to, and potentially settled in, our common stock. In accordance with the terms of the ASR agreement, we have the option to settle our delivery obligation, if any, under the forward contract in cash or shares and we may be required to settle in cash in very limited circumstances that are under our control or that require the delivery of cash to all shareholders. Furthermore, the contract specifies a maximum number of shares that we could be required to deliver to the counterparty, and we have sufficient authorized and unissued shares available to deliver the maximum share amount. Based on these circumstances, the forward contract meets the requirements to be classified as permanent equity. The forward contract is accounted for as an equity instrument and does not require hedge or derivative accounting treatment. As long as the forward contract continues to meet the requirements to be classified as

**Table of Contents**

permanent equity, we will not record future changes in its fair value. The forward contract continued to meet those requirements as of May 26, 2013, and we expect it will continue to meet those requirements through the settlement date in the first quarter of fiscal 2014.

The initial delivery of 5.5 million shares of our common stock reduced our outstanding shares used to determine our weighted average shares outstanding for purposes of calculating basic and diluted EPS for fiscal 2013. We have also evaluated the ASR agreement for the potential dilutive effects of any shares remaining to be received upon settlement and determined that the additional shares would be anti-dilutive and therefore were not included in our EPS calculation for fiscal 2013.

The following table provides details of total comprehensive income:

In Millions	Fiscal 2013				
	Pretax	General Mills Tax	Net	Noncontrolling Interests Net	Redeemable Interest Net
Net earnings, including earnings attributable to redeemable and noncontrolling interests			\$ 1,855.2	\$ 8.0	\$29.3
Other comprehensive income (loss):					
Foreign currency translation	\$ (19.8)	\$	\$ (19.8)	10.3	10.3
Net actuarial income	76.3	(31.3)	45.0		
Other fair value changes:					
Securities	1.2	(0.4)	0.8		
Hedge derivatives	33.5	(10.4)	23.1		1.5
Reclassification to earnings:					
Hedge derivatives (a)	15.0	(4.5)	10.5		1.7
Amortization of losses and prior service costs (b)	159.9	(61.1)	98.8		
Other comprehensive income	266.1	(107.7)	158.4	10.3	13.5
Total comprehensive income			\$ 2,013.6	\$18.3	\$42.8

- (a) Gain reclassified from AOCI into earnings is reported in interest, net for interest rate swaps and in cost of sales and SG&A expenses for foreign exchange contracts.
- (b) Loss reclassified from AOCI into earnings is reported in SG&A expense.

**Table of Contents**

In Millions	Fiscal 2012				
	Pretax	General Mills Tax	Net	Noncontrolling Interests Net	Redeemable Interest Net
Net earnings, including earnings attributable to redeemable and noncontrolling interests			\$ 1,567.3	\$ 6.8	\$ 15.0
Other comprehensive income (loss):					
Foreign currency translation	\$ (270.3)	\$	\$ (270.3)	(51.1)	(98.7)
Net actuarial loss	(813.1)	308.5	(504.6)		
Other fair value changes:					
Securities	(0.3)	0.1	(0.2)		
Hedge derivatives	(80.8)	31.2	(49.6)		(3.8)
Reclassification to earnings:					
Hedge derivatives (a)	16.3	(6.2)	10.1		1.4
Amortization of losses and prior service costs (b)	131.6	(49.9)	81.7		
Other comprehensive loss	(1,016.6)	283.7	(732.9)	(51.1)	(101.1)
Total comprehensive income (loss)			\$ 834.4	\$ (44.3)	\$ (86.1)

- (a) Gain reclassified from AOCI into earnings is reported in interest, net for interest rate swaps and in cost of sales and SG&A expenses for foreign exchange contracts.
- (b) Loss reclassified from AOCI into earnings is reported in SG&A expense.

In Millions	Fiscal 2011			
	Pretax	General Mills Tax	Net	Noncontrolling Interests Net
Net earnings, including earnings attributable to redeemable and noncontrolling interests			\$ 1,798.3	\$ 5.2
Other comprehensive income (loss):				
Foreign currency translation	\$ 358.3	\$	\$ 358.3	0.7
Net actuarial gain	93.5	(32.4)	61.1	
Other fair value changes:				
Securities	(5.8)	2.2	(3.6)	
Hedge derivatives	(39.8)	14.4	(25.4)	
Reclassification to earnings:				
Hedge derivatives (a)	29.8	(11.3)	18.5	
Amortization of losses and prior service costs (b)	108.7	(41.5)	67.2	
Other comprehensive income	544.7	(68.6)	476.1	0.7
Total comprehensive income			\$ 2,274.4	\$ 5.9

- (a) Gain reclassified from AOCI into earnings is reported in interest, net for interest rate swaps and in cost of sales and SG&A expenses for foreign exchange contracts.
- (b) Loss reclassified from AOCI into earnings is reported in SG&A expense.
- In fiscal 2013, 2012, and 2011, except for reclassifications to earnings, changes in other comprehensive income (loss) were primarily non-cash items.

**Table of Contents**

Accumulated other comprehensive loss balances, net of tax effects, were as follows:

	May 26,	May 27,
<b>In Millions</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Foreign currency translation adjustments	\$ 263.1	\$ 282.9
Unrealized gain (loss) from:		
Securities	2.6	1.8
Hedge derivatives	(41.7)	(75.3)
Pension, other postretirement, and postemployment benefits:		
Net actuarial loss	(1,801.5)	(1,945.9)
Prior service costs	(7.8)	(7.2)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	\$ (1,585.3)	\$ (1,743.7)

**NOTE 11. STOCK PLANS**

We use broad-based stock plans to help ensure that management's interests are aligned with those of our stockholders. As of May 26, 2013, a total of 35,492,790 shares were available for grant in the form of stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock units, and shares of unrestricted stock under the 2011 Stock Compensation Plan (2011 Plan) and the 2011 Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors. The 2011 Plan also provides for the issuance of cash-settled share-based units, stock appreciation rights, and performance awards. Stock-based awards now outstanding include some granted under the 1998 (employee), 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2009 stock plans and the Executive Incentive Plan (EIP), under which no further awards may be granted. The stock plans provide for accelerated vesting of awards upon retirement, termination, or death of eligible employees and directors.

**Stock Options**

The estimated fair values of stock options granted and the assumptions used for the Black-Scholes option-pricing model were as follows:

	<b>Fiscal Year</b>		
	2013	2012	2011
Estimated fair values of stock options granted	\$ 3.65	\$ 5.88	\$ 4.12
Assumptions:			
Risk-free interest rate	1.6%	2.9%	2.9%
Expected term	9.0 years	8.5 years	8.5 years
Expected volatility	17.3%	17.6%	18.5%
Dividend yield	3.5%	3.3%	3.0%

The valuation of stock options is a significant accounting estimate that requires us to use judgments and assumptions that are likely to have a material impact on our financial statements. Annually, we make predictive assumptions regarding future stock price volatility, employee exercise behavior, dividend yield, and the forfeiture rate.

We estimate the fair value of each option on the grant date using a Black-Scholes option-pricing model, which requires us to make predictive assumptions regarding future stock price volatility, employee exercise behavior, and dividend yield. We estimate our future stock price volatility using the historical volatility over the expected term of the option, excluding time periods of volatility we believe a marketplace participant would exclude in estimating our stock price volatility. We also have considered, but did not use, implied volatility in our estimate, because trading activity in options on our stock, especially those with tenors of greater than 6 months, is insufficient to provide a reliable measure of expected volatility.

Our expected term represents the period of time that options granted are expected to be outstanding based on historical data to estimate option exercises and employee terminations within the valuation model. Separate groups of employees have similar historical exercise behavior and therefore were aggregated into a single pool for valuation purposes. The weighted-average expected term for all employee groups is presented in

Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

the table above. The risk-free interest rate for periods during the expected term of the options is based on the U.S. Treasury zero-coupon yield curve in effect at the time of grant.

**Table of Contents**

Any corporate income tax benefit realized upon exercise or vesting of an award in excess of that previously recognized in earnings (referred to as a windfall tax benefit) is presented in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows as a financing cash flow.

Realized windfall tax benefits are credited to additional paid-in capital within the Consolidated Balance Sheets. Realized shortfall tax benefits (amounts which are less than that previously recognized in earnings) are first offset against the cumulative balance of windfall tax benefits, if any, and then charged directly to income tax expense, potentially resulting in volatility in our consolidated effective income tax rate. We calculated a cumulative memo balance of windfall tax benefits for the purpose of accounting for future shortfall tax benefits.

Options may be priced at 100 percent or more of the fair market value on the date of grant, and generally vest four years after the date of grant. Options generally expire within 10 years and one month after the date of grant.

Information on stock option activity follows:

	<b>Options Exercisable (Thousands)</b>	<b>Weighted- Average Exercise Price Per Share</b>	<b>Options Outstanding (Thousands)</b>	<b>Weighted- Average Exercise Price Per Share</b>
Balance as of May 30, 2010	47,726.6	22.89	81,104.6	25.17
Granted			5,234.3	37.38
Exercised			(18,665.4)	22.59
Forfeited or expired			(126.2)	31.26
Balance as of May 29, 2011	39,221.7	23.78	67,547.3	26.82
Granted			4,069.0	37.29
Exercised			(10,279.3)	24.12
Forfeited or expired			(394.3)	27.88
Balance as of May 27, 2012	39,564.9	25.27	60,942.7	27.96
Granted			3,407.7	38.15
Exercised			(16,534.6)	23.49
Forfeited or expired			(143.7)	34.06
<b>Balance as of May 26, 2013</b>	<b>29,290.3</b>	<b>\$27.69</b>	<b>47,672.1</b>	<b>\$30.22</b>

Stock-based compensation expense related to stock option awards was \$17.5 million in fiscal 2013, \$23.9 million in fiscal 2012, and \$26.8 million in fiscal 2011.

Net cash proceeds from the exercise of stock options less shares used for withholding taxes and the intrinsic value of options exercised were as follows:

<b>In Millions</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>		
	<b>2013</b>	2012	2011
Net cash proceeds	<b>\$ 300.8</b>	\$ 233.5	\$ 410.4
Intrinsic value of options exercised	<b>\$ 297.2</b>	\$ 156.7	\$ 275.6

**Table of Contents****Restricted Stock, Restricted Stock Units, and Cash-Settled Share-Based Units**

Stock and units settled in stock subject to a restricted period and a purchase price, if any (as determined by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors), may be granted to key employees under the 2011 Plan. Certain restricted stock and restricted stock unit awards require the employee to deposit personally owned shares (on a one-for-one basis) during the restricted period. Restricted stock and restricted stock units generally vest and become unrestricted four years after the date of grant. Participants are entitled to dividends on such awarded shares and units, but only receive those amounts if the shares or units vest. The sale or transfer of these shares and units is restricted during the vesting period. Participants holding restricted stock, but not restricted stock units, are entitled to vote on matters submitted to holders of common stock for a vote.

Information on restricted stock unit and cash-settled share-based units activity follows:

	Equity Classified			Liability Classified			Weighted-Average
	Share-Settled		Grant-Date Fair Value	Share-Settled		Cash-Settled Share-Based	
	Units (Thousands)	Grant-Date Fair Value		Units (Thousands)	Grant-Date Fair Value		
Non-vested as of May 27, 2012	8,551.8	\$33.79	397.1	\$32.68	3,991.5	\$31.58	
Granted	2,330.4	38.42	74.5	38.15			
Vested	(2,495.0)	32.05	(73.0)	31.68	(1,638.2)	31.64	
Forfeited or expired	(345.0)	36.00	(10.4)	35.60	(65.5)	32.31	
<b>Non-vested as of May 26, 2013</b>	<b>8,042.2</b>	<b>\$35.89</b>	<b>388.2</b>	<b>\$32.60</b>	<b>2,287.8</b>	<b>\$38.41</b>	

	Fiscal Year		
	2013	2012	2011
Number of units granted (thousands)	<b>2,404.9</b>	2,785.7	3,751.6
Weighted average price per unit	<b>\$38.41</b>	\$37.29	\$36.16

The total grant-date fair value of restricted stock unit awards that vested during fiscal 2013 was \$134.1 million, and \$106.0 million vested during fiscal 2012.

As of May 26, 2013, unrecognized compensation expense related to non-vested stock options and restricted stock units was \$125.4 million. This expense will be recognized over 17 months, on average.

Stock-based compensation expense related to restricted stock units and cash-settled share-based payment awards was \$128.9 million for fiscal 2013, \$124.3 million for fiscal 2012, and \$141.2 million for fiscal 2011.

**Table of Contents****NOTE 12. EARNINGS PER SHARE**

Basic and diluted EPS were calculated using the following:

In Millions, Except per Share Data	Fiscal Year		
	2013	2012	2011
Net earnings attributable to General Mills	\$ 1,855.2	\$ 1,567.3	\$ 1,798.3
Average number of common shares basic EPS	648.6	648.1	642.7
Incremental share effect from: (a)			
Stock options	12.0	13.9	16.6
Restricted stock, restricted stock units, and other	5.0	4.7	5.5
Average number of common shares diluted EPS	665.6	666.7	664.8
Earnings per share basic	\$ 2.86	\$ 2.42	\$ 2.80
Earnings per share diluted	\$ 2.79	\$ 2.35	\$ 2.70

- (a) Incremental shares from stock options and restricted stock units are computed by the treasury stock method. Stock options and restricted stock units excluded from our computation of diluted EPS because they were not dilutive were as follows:

In Millions	Fiscal Year		
	2013	2012	2011
Anti-dilutive stock options and restricted stock units	0.6	5.8	4.8

**NOTE 13. RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS****Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

We have defined benefit pension plans covering most employees in the United States, Canada, France, and the United Kingdom. Benefits for salaried employees are based on length of service and final average compensation. Benefits for hourly employees include various monthly amounts for each year of credited service. Our funding policy is consistent with the requirements of applicable laws. We made \$200.0 million of voluntary contributions to our principal U.S. plans in each of fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012. We do not expect to be required to make any contributions in fiscal 2014. Our principal domestic retirement plan covering salaried employees has a provision that any excess pension assets would be allocated to active participants if the plan is terminated within five years of a change in control. In fiscal 2012, we announced changes to our U.S. defined benefit pension plans. All new salaried employees hired on or after June 1, 2013 are eligible for a new retirement program that does not include a defined benefit pension plan. Current salaried employees remain in the existing defined benefit pension plan with adjustments to benefits.

**Other Postretirement Benefit Plans**

We also sponsor plans that provide health care benefits to the majority of our retirees in the United States, Canada, and Brazil. The United States salaried health care benefit plan is contributory, with retiree contributions based on years of service. We make decisions to fund related trusts for certain employees and retirees on an annual basis. We did not make voluntary contributions to these plans in fiscal 2013 or fiscal 2012.



**Table of Contents****Health Care Cost Trend Rates**

Assumed health care cost trends are as follows:

	<b>Fiscal Year</b>	
	<b>2013</b>	2012
Health care cost trend rate for next year	<b>8.0%</b>	8.5%
Rate to which the cost trend rate is assumed to decline (ultimate rate)	<b>5.2%</b>	5.2%
Year that the rate reaches the ultimate trend rate	<b>2019</b>	2019

We review our health care cost trend rates annually. Our review is based on data we collect about our health care claims experience and information provided by our actuaries. This information includes recent plan experience, plan design, overall industry experience and projections, and assumptions used by other similar organizations. Our initial health care cost trend rate is adjusted as necessary to remain consistent with this review, recent experiences, and short-term expectations. Our initial health care cost trend rate assumption is 8.0 percent for all retirees at the end of fiscal 2013. Rates are graded down annually until the ultimate trend rate of 5.2 percent is reached in 2019 for all retirees. The trend rates are applicable for calculations only if the retirees' benefits increase as a result of health care inflation. The ultimate trend rate is adjusted annually, as necessary, to approximate the current economic view on the rate of long-term inflation plus an appropriate health care cost premium. Assumed trend rates for health care costs have an important effect on the amounts reported for the other postretirement benefit plans.

A one percentage point change in the health care cost trend rate would have the following effects:

	<b>One</b>	<b>One</b>
	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
	<b>Point</b>	<b>Point</b>
<b>In Millions</b>	<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
Effect on the aggregate of the service and interest cost components in fiscal 2014	\$ 5.2	\$ (4.4)
Effect on the other postretirement accumulated benefit obligation as of May 26, 2013	93.8	(82.9)

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (collectively, the Act) was signed into law in March 2010. The Act codifies health care reforms with staggered effective dates from 2010 to 2018. Estimates of the future impacts of several of the Act's provisions are incorporated into our postretirement benefit liability.

**Postemployment Benefit Plans**

Under certain circumstances, we also provide accruable benefits to former or inactive employees in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and members of our Board of Directors, including severance and certain other benefits payable upon death. We recognize an obligation for any of these benefits that vest or accumulate with service. Postemployment benefits that do not vest or accumulate with service (such as severance based solely on annual pay rather than years of service) are charged to expense when incurred. Our postemployment benefit plans are unfunded.

We use our fiscal year end as the measurement date for our defined benefit pension and other postretirement benefit plans.

**Table of Contents**

Summarized financial information about defined benefit pension, other postretirement, and postemployment benefit plans is presented below:

In Millions	Defined Benefit Pension Plans		Other Postretirement Benefit Plans		Postemployment Benefit Plans	
	Fiscal Year		Fiscal Year		Fiscal Year	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
<b>Change in Plan Assets:</b>						
Fair value at beginning of year	\$ 4,353.9	\$ 4,264.0	\$ 358.8	\$ 353.8		
Actual return on assets	698.7	56.3	67.9	(4.8)		
Employer contributions	223.1	222.1	0.1	0.1		
Plan participant contributions	15.2	20.3	13.0	12.2		
Benefits payments	(222.6)	(203.3)	(2.9)	(2.5)		
Foreign currency	(2.2)	(5.5)				
Fair value at end of year	\$ 5,066.1	\$ 4,353.9	\$ 436.9	\$ 358.8		
<b>Change in Projected Benefit Obligation:</b>						
Benefit obligation at beginning of year	\$ 4,991.5	\$ 4,458.4	\$ 1,129.0	\$ 1,065.8	\$ 141.3	\$ 131.3
Service cost	124.4	114.3	21.6	18.0	7.8	7.5
Interest cost	237.3	237.9	52.1	55.6	4.4	4.8
Plan amendment	0.2	(13.4)			4.5	
Curtailed/other		(27.1)		0.1	11.4	11.9
Plan participant contributions	15.2	20.3	13.0	12.2		
Medicare Part D reimbursements			4.1	4.7		
Actuarial loss (gain)	237.5	405.7	(23.0)	28.4	(10.4)	5.5
Benefits payments	(222.8)	(203.5)	(58.9)	(55.5)	(13.6)	(19.6)
Foreign currency	(1.9)	(5.9)	(0.1)	(0.3)		(0.1)
Acquisitions		4.8	10.4			
Projected benefit obligation at end of year	\$ 5,381.4	\$ 4,991.5	\$ 1,148.2	\$ 1,129.0	\$ 145.4	\$ 141.3
Plan assets less than benefit obligation as of fiscal year end	\$ (315.3)	\$ (637.6)	\$ (711.3)	\$ (770.2)	\$ (145.4)	\$ (141.3)

The accumulated benefit obligation for all defined benefit pension plans was \$4,888.8 million as of May 26, 2013, and \$4,504.7 million as of May 27, 2012.

Amounts recognized in AOCI as of May 26, 2013, and May 27, 2012, are as follows:

In Millions	Defined Benefit Pension Plans		Other Postretirement Benefit Plans		Postemployment Benefit Plans		Total	
	Fiscal Year		Fiscal Year		Fiscal Year		Fiscal Year	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
Net actuarial loss	\$ (1,625.1)	\$ (1,714.1)	\$ (168.2)	\$ (215.0)	\$ (8.2)	\$ (16.8)	\$ (1,801.5)	\$ (1,945.9)
Prior service (costs) credits	(18.5)	(22.0)	16.6	19.0	(5.9)	(4.2)	(7.8)	(7.2)
Amounts recorded in accumulated other comprehensive loss	\$ (1,643.6)	\$ (1,736.1)	\$ (151.6)	\$ (196.0)	\$ (14.1)	\$ (21.0)	\$ (1,809.3)	\$ (1,953.1)



**Table of Contents**

Plans with accumulated benefit obligations in excess of plan assets are as follows:

In Millions	Defined Benefit Pension Plans Fiscal Year		Other Postretirement Benefit Plans Fiscal Year		Postemployment Benefit Plans Fiscal Year	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
	Projected benefit obligation	\$ 396.9	\$ 423.4	\$	\$	\$
Accumulated benefit obligation	346.6	361.5	1,132.9	1,129.0	145.4	141.3
Plan assets at fair value	9.5	53.0	436.9	358.8		

Components of net periodic benefit expense are as follows:

In Millions	Defined Benefit Pension Plans Fiscal Year			Other Postretirement Benefit Plans Fiscal Year			Postemployment Benefit Plans Fiscal Year		
	2013	2012	2011	2013	2012	2011	2013	2012	2011
	Service cost	\$ 124.4	\$ 114.3	\$ 101.4	\$ 21.6	\$ 18.0	\$ 18.7	\$ 7.8	\$ 7.5
Interest cost	237.3	237.9	230.9	52.1	55.6	60.1	4.4	4.8	5.1
Expected return on plan assets	(428.0)	(440.3)	(408.5)	(32.1)	(35.5)	(33.2)			
Amortization of losses	136.0	108.1	81.4	17.1	14.5	14.4	2.1	1.7	2.1
Amortization of prior service costs (credits)	6.2	8.6	9.0	(3.4)	(3.4)	(0.6)	1.9	2.1	2.4
Other adjustments							11.4	12.0	4.2
Net expense	\$ 75.9	\$ 28.6	\$ 14.2	\$ 55.3	\$ 49.2	\$ 59.4	\$ 27.6	\$ 28.1	\$ 21.8

We expect to recognize the following amounts in net periodic benefit expense in fiscal 2014:

In Millions	Defined Benefit Pension Plans		Other Postretirement Benefit Plans		Postemployment Benefit Plans	
	Fiscal Year		Fiscal Year		Fiscal Year	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
Amortization of losses	\$151.1		\$15.4		\$0.6	
Amortization of prior service costs (credits)	5.6		(3.4)		2.4	

**Assumptions**

Weighted-average assumptions used to determine fiscal year-end benefit obligations are as follows:

	Defined Benefit Pension Plans Fiscal Year		Other Postretirement Benefit Plans Fiscal Year		Postemployment Benefit Plans Fiscal Year	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
	Discount rate	4.54 %	4.85 %	4.50 %	4.70 %	3.70 %

Rate of salary increases	<b>4.44</b>	4.44	<b>4.44</b>	4.45
--------------------------	-------------	------	-------------	------

**Table of Contents**

Weighted-average assumptions used to determine fiscal year net periodic benefit expense are as follows:

	Defined Benefit Pension Plans			Other Postretirement Benefit Plans			Postemployment Benefit Plans		
	Fiscal Year			Fiscal Year			Fiscal Year		
	2013	2012	2011	2013	2012	2011	2013	2012	2011
Discount rate	4.85 %	5.45 %	5.85 %	4.70 %	5.35 %	5.80 %	3.86 %	4.77 %	5.12 %
Rate of salary increases	4.44	4.92	4.93				4.45	4.92	4.93
Expected long-term rate of return on plan assets	8.53	9.52	9.53	8.13	9.32	9.33			

**Discount Rates**

Our discount rate assumptions are determined annually as of the last day of our fiscal year for our defined benefit pension, other postretirement, and postemployment benefit plan obligations. We also use the same discount rates to determine defined benefit pension, other postretirement, and postemployment benefit plan income and expense for the following fiscal year. We work with our outside actuaries to determine the timing and amount of expected future cash outflows to plan participants and, using the Aa Above Median corporate bond yield, to develop a forward interest rate curve, including a margin to that index based on our credit risk. This forward interest rate curve is applied to our expected future cash outflows to determine our discount rate assumptions.

**Fair Value of Plan Assets**

The fair values of our pension and postretirement benefit plans assets and their respective levels in the fair value hierarchy at May 26, 2013 and May 27, 2012, by asset category were as follows:

In Millions	May 26, 2013				May 27, 2012			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total Assets	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total Assets
Fair value measurement of pension plan assets:								
Equity (a)	\$ 1,439.4	\$ 828.3	\$ 559.3	\$ 2,827.0	\$ 1,119.2	\$ 717.6	\$ 575.4	\$ 2,412.2
Fixed income (b)	476.6	801.0		1,277.6	506.1	647.2		1,153.3
Real asset investments (c)	131.1	169.1	430.4	730.6	135.0	88.9	361.2	585.1
Other investments (d)		60.9	0.3	61.2		49.6	0.3	49.9
Cash and accruals	169.7			169.7	153.4			153.4
Total fair value measurement of pension plan assets	\$ 2,216.8	\$ 1,859.3	\$ 990.0	\$ 5,066.1	\$ 1,913.7	\$ 1,503.3	\$ 936.9	\$ 4,353.9
Fair value measurement of postretirement benefit plan assets:								
Equity (a)	\$ 93.1	\$ 92.0	\$ 20.2	\$ 205.3	\$ 12.6	\$ 135.4	\$ 22.0	\$ 170.0
Fixed income (b)	17.2	50.3		67.5	15.7	39.1		54.8
Real asset investments (c)	1.8	7.1	14.5	23.4	4.3	5.7	8.4	18.4
Other investments (d)		130.9		130.9		104.9		104.9
Cash and accruals	9.8			9.8	10.7			10.7
Total fair value measurement of postretirement benefit plan assets	\$ 121.9	\$ 280.3	\$ 34.7	\$ 436.9	\$ 43.3	\$ 285.1	\$ 30.4	\$ 358.8

(a)

## Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

Primarily publicly traded common stock and private equity partnerships for purposes of total return and to maintain equity exposure consistent with policy allocations. Investments include: United States and international equity securities, mutual funds, and equity futures valued at closing prices from national exchanges; and commingled funds, privately held securities, and private equity partnerships valued at unit values or net asset values provided by the investment managers, which are based on the fair value of the underlying investments. Various methods are used to determine fair values and may include the cost of the investment, most recent financing, and expected cash flows. For some of these investments, realization of the estimated fair value is dependent upon transactions between willing sellers and buyers.

- (b) Primarily government and corporate debt securities for purposes of total return and managing fixed income exposure to policy allocations. Investments include: fixed income securities and bond futures generally valued at closing prices from national exchanges, fixed income pricing models, and independent financial analysts; and fixed income commingled funds valued at unit values provided by the investment managers, which are based on the fair value of the underlying investments.
- (c) Publicly traded common stock and limited partnerships in the energy and real estate sectors for purposes of total return. Investments include: energy and real estate securities generally valued at closing prices from national exchanges; and commingled funds, private securities, and limited partnerships valued at unit values or net asset values provided by the investment managers, which are generally based on the fair value of the underlying investments.
- (d) Global balanced fund of equity, fixed income, and real estate securities for purposes of meeting Canadian pension plan asset allocation policies, and insurance and annuity contracts to provide a stable stream of income for retirees and to fund postretirement medical benefits. Fair values are derived from unit values provided by the investment managers, which are generally based on the fair value of the underlying investments and contract fair values from the providers.

**Table of Contents**

The following table is a roll forward of the Level 3 investments of our pension and postretirement benefit plans assets during the years ended May 26, 2013 and May 27, 2012:

In Millions	Balance as of May 27, 2012	Net Transfers Out	Fiscal 2013 Net Purchases, Sales		Balance as of May 26, 2013
			Issuances, and Settlements	Net Gain	
Pension benefit plan assets:					
Equity	\$575.4	\$(0.1)	\$(61.0)	\$ 45.0	<b>\$559.3</b>
Fixed income					
Real asset investments	361.2		48.3	20.9	<b>430.4</b>
Other investments	0.3				<b>0.3</b>
Fair value activity of level 3 pension plan assets	\$936.9	\$(0.1)	\$(12.7)	\$ 65.9	<b>\$990.0</b>
Postretirement benefit plan assets:					
Equity	\$ 22.0	\$	\$ (2.3)	\$ 0.5	<b>\$ 20.2</b>
Fixed income					
Real asset investments	8.4		4.8	1.3	<b>14.5</b>
Fair value activity of level 3 postretirement benefit plan assets	\$ 30.4	\$	\$ 2.5	\$ 1.8	<b>\$ 34.7</b>



**Table of Contents**

In Millions	Balance as of May 29, 2011	Net Transfers Out	Fiscal 2012 Net Purchases, Sales		Balance as of May 27, 2012
			Issuances, and Settlements	Net Gain (Loss)	
<b>Pension benefit plan assets:</b>					
Equity	\$568.5	\$ (1.2)	\$(28.4)	\$36.5	\$575.4
Fixed income	0.2		(0.2)		
Real asset investments	356.9	(48.9)	32.8	20.4	361.2
Other investments	0.3				0.3
Fair value activity of level 3 pension plan assets	\$925.9	\$(50.1)	\$ 4.2	\$56.9	\$936.9
<b>Postretirement benefit plan assets:</b>					
Equity	\$ 26.3	\$	\$ (4.1)	\$(0.2)	\$ 22.0
Fixed income	0.2			(0.2)	
Real asset investments	13.6	(4.0)	(1.1)	(0.1)	8.4
Fair value activity of level 3 postretirement benefit plan assets	\$ 40.1	\$ (4.0)	\$ (5.2)	\$(0.5)	\$ 30.4

The net change in level 3 assets attributable to unrealized losses at May 26, 2013, was \$6.3 million for our pension plan assets, and \$0.9 million for our postretirement benefit plan assets.

**Expected Rate of Return on Plan Assets**

Our expected rate of return on plan assets is determined by our asset allocation, our historical long-term investment performance, our estimate of future long-term returns by asset class (using input from our actuaries, investment services, and investment managers), and long-term inflation assumptions. We review this assumption annually for each plan, however, our annual investment performance for one particular year does not, by itself, significantly influence our evaluation.

Weighted-average asset allocations for the past two fiscal years for our defined benefit pension and other postretirement benefit plans are as follows:

Asset category:	Defined Benefit Pension Plans Fiscal Year		Other Postretirement Benefit Plans Fiscal Year	
	2013	2012	2013	2012
United States equities	29.5%	28.7%	39.4%	38.4%
International equities	17.3	15.7	21.6	19.9
Private equities	11.2	13.3	4.7	6.2
Fixed income	27.5	28.6	28.9	30.3
Real assets	14.5	13.7	5.4	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The investment objective for our defined benefit pension and other postretirement benefit plans is to secure the benefit obligations to participants at a reasonable cost to us. Our goal is to optimize the long-term return on plan assets at a moderate level of risk. The defined benefit pension plan and other postretirement benefit plan portfolios are broadly diversified across asset classes. Within asset classes, the portfolios are further diversified across investment styles and investment organizations. For the defined benefit pension plans, the long-term investment policy allocation is: 25 percent to equities in the United States; 15 percent to international equities; 10 percent to



**Table of Contents**

private equities; 35 percent to fixed income; and 15 percent to real assets (real estate, energy, and timber). For other postretirement benefit plans, the long-term investment policy allocations are: 30 percent to equities in the United States; 20 percent to international equities; 10 percent to private equities; 30 percent to fixed income; and 10 percent to real assets (real estate, energy, and timber). The actual allocations to these asset classes may vary tactically around the long-term policy allocations based on relative market valuations.

**Contributions and Future Benefit Payments**

We do not expect to be required to make contributions to our defined benefit, other postretirement, and postemployment benefit plans in fiscal 2014. Actual fiscal 2014 contributions could exceed our current projections, as influenced by our decision to undertake discretionary funding of our benefit trusts and future changes in regulatory requirements. Estimated benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, are expected to be paid from fiscal 2014 to 2023 as follows:

In Millions	Defined	Other		
	Benefit	Postretirement	Medicare	Postemployment
	Pension	Benefit Plans	Subsidy	Benefit
	Plans	Gross Payments	Receipts	Plans
2014	\$ 236.3	\$ 56.8	\$ 4.7	\$18.8
2015	243.6	60.4	5.2	17.4
2016	251.6	62.4	5.6	16.3
2017	260.6	63.8	6.1	15.3
2018	270.1	66.7	6.5	14.7
2019-2023	1,512.3	371.3	28.5	66.4

**Defined Contribution Plans**

The General Mills Savings Plan is a defined contribution plan that covers domestic salaried, hourly, nonunion, and certain union employees. This plan is a 401(k) savings plan that includes a number of investment funds, including a Company stock fund and an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP). We sponsor another money purchase plan for certain domestic hourly employees with net assets of \$19.4 million as of May 26, 2013, and \$18.7 million as of May 27, 2012. We also sponsor defined contribution plans in many of our foreign locations. Our total recognized expense related to defined contribution plans was \$46.0 million in fiscal 2013, \$41.8 million in fiscal 2012, and \$41.8 million in fiscal 2011.

We matched a percentage of employee contributions to the General Mills Savings Plan. Effective April 1, 2010, the Company match is directed to investment options of the participant's choosing. Prior to April 1, 2010, the Company match was invested in Company stock in the ESOP. The number of shares of our common stock allocated to participants in the ESOP was 9.1 million as of May 26, 2013, and 10.6 million as of May 27, 2012. The ESOP's only assets are our common stock and temporary cash balances.

The Company stock fund and the ESOP held \$691.9 million and \$638.6 million of Company common stock as of May 26, 2013, and May 27, 2012.

**Table of Contents****NOTE 14. INCOME TAXES**

The components of earnings before income taxes and after-tax earnings from joint ventures and the corresponding income taxes thereon are as follows:

In Millions	Fiscal Year		
	2013	2012	2011
Earnings before income taxes and after-tax earnings from joint ventures:			
United States	\$ 2,051.2	\$ 1,816.5	\$ 2,144.8
Foreign	483.7	394.0	283.4
Total earnings before income taxes and after-tax earnings from joint ventures	\$ 2,534.9	\$ 2,210.5	\$ 2,428.2
Income taxes:			
Currently payable:			
Federal	\$ 493.4	\$ 399.1	\$ 370.0
State and local	39.5	52.0	76.9
Foreign	126.5	109.1	68.9
Total current	659.4	560.2	515.8
Deferred:			
Federal	68.8	167.9	178.9
State and local	19.2	(1.3)	30.8
Foreign	(6.2)	(17.2)	(4.4)
Total deferred	81.8	149.4	205.3
Total income taxes	\$ 741.2	\$ 709.6	\$ 721.1

The following table reconciles the United States statutory income tax rate with our effective income tax rate:

	Fiscal Year		
	2013	2012	2011
United States statutory rate	35.0%	35.0%	35.0%
State and local income taxes, net of federal tax benefits	1.3	1.4	2.7
Foreign rate differences	(0.6)	(2.0)	(2.0)
Deferred taxes for Medicare subsidies	(1.3)		
GMC subsidiary restructure	(2.5)		
Court decisions and audit settlements			(3.7)
Domestic manufacturing deduction	(2.1)	(1.8)	(1.6)
Other, net	(0.6)	(0.5)	(0.7)
Effective income tax rate	29.2%	32.1%	29.7%

**Table of Contents**

The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to deferred tax assets and liabilities are as follows:

<b>In Millions</b>	<b>May 26, 2013</b>	<b>May 27, 2012</b>
Accrued liabilities	<b>\$ 154.6</b>	\$ 86.9
Compensation and employee benefits	<b>619.2</b>	635.4
Unrealized hedge losses	<b>6.9</b>	26.4
Pension liability	<b>112.5</b>	240.1
Tax credit carryforwards	<b>78.0</b>	86.5
Stock, partnership, and miscellaneous investments	<b>461.1</b>	534.3
Capital losses	<b>13.6</b>	90.7
Net operating losses	<b>65.1</b>	130.6
Other	<b>138.8</b>	151.9
Gross deferred tax assets	<b>1,649.8</b>	1,982.8
Valuation allowance	<b>232.8</b>	384.4
Net deferred tax assets	<b>1,417.0</b>	1,598.4
Brands	<b>1,380.4</b>	1,292.8
Fixed assets	<b>537.4</b>	500.1
Intangible assets	<b>168.3</b>	289.1
Tax lease transactions	<b>55.1</b>	56.5
Inventories	<b>52.0</b>	55.9
Stock, partnership, and miscellaneous investments	<b>456.7</b>	468.2
Unrealized hedges	<b>28.2</b>	47.5
Other	<b>28.2</b>	47.5
Gross deferred tax liabilities	<b>2,678.1</b>	2,710.1
Net deferred tax liability	<b>\$ 1,261.1</b>	\$ 1,111.7

We have established a valuation allowance against certain of the categories of deferred tax assets described above as current evidence does not suggest we will realize sufficient taxable income of the appropriate character (e.g., ordinary income versus capital gain income) within the carryforward period to allow us to realize these deferred tax benefits.

Of the total valuation allowance of \$232.8 million, \$161.8 million relates to a deferred tax asset for losses recorded as part of the Pillsbury acquisition. Of the remaining valuation allowance, \$67.1 million relates to state net operating loss carryforwards and various foreign loss carryforwards. During fiscal 2013, we reversed deferred tax assets and related valuation allowances of \$85.6 million due to the expiration of certain capital loss carryovers. We have approximately \$72 million of U.S. foreign tax credit carryforwards for which no valuation allowance has been recorded. As of May 26, 2013, we believe it is more-likely-than-not that the remainder of our deferred tax assets are realizable.

The carryforward periods on our foreign loss carryforwards are as follows: \$33.4 million do not expire; \$4.6 million expire in fiscal 2014 and 2015; and \$21.6 million expire in fiscal 2016 and beyond.

We have not recognized a deferred tax liability for unremitted earnings of approximately \$2.7 billion from our foreign operations because our subsidiaries have invested or will invest the undistributed earnings indefinitely, or the earnings will be remitted in a tax-neutral transaction. It is not practicable for us to determine the amount of unrecognized deferred tax liabilities on these indefinitely reinvested earnings. Deferred taxes are recorded for earnings of our foreign operations when we determine that such earnings are no longer indefinitely reinvested.

## Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

In fiscal 2010, we recorded a non-cash income tax charge and decrease to our deferred tax assets of \$35.0 million related to a reduction of the tax deductibility of retiree health cost to the extent of any Medicare Part D subsidy received beginning in fiscal 2013 under the enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as

---

**Table of Contents**

amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. During fiscal 2013, we took certain actions to restore part of the tax benefits associated with Medicare Part D subsidies and recorded a \$33.7 million discrete decrease to income tax expense and an increase to our deferred tax assets.

During the first quarter of fiscal 2013, in conjunction with the consent of the Class A investor, we restructured GMC through the distribution of its manufacturing assets, stock, inventory, cash and certain intellectual property to a wholly owned subsidiary. GMC retained the remaining intellectual property. Immediately following this restructuring, the Class A Interests were sold by the then current holder to another unrelated third party investor. As a result of these transactions, we recorded a \$63.3 million decrease to deferred income tax liabilities related to the tax basis of the investment in GMC and certain distributed assets, with a corresponding discrete non-cash reduction to income taxes in fiscal 2013.

We are subject to federal income taxes in the United States as well as various state, local, and foreign jurisdictions. A number of years may elapse before an uncertain tax position is audited and finally resolved. While it is often difficult to predict the final outcome or the timing of resolution of any particular uncertain tax position, we believe that our liabilities for income taxes reflect the most likely outcome. We adjust these liabilities, as well as the related interest, in light of changing facts and circumstances. Settlement of any particular position would usually require the use of cash.

The number of years with open tax audits varies depending on the tax jurisdiction. Our major taxing jurisdictions include the United States (federal and state) and Canada. Various tax examinations by United States state taxing authorities could be conducted for any open tax year, which vary by jurisdiction, but are generally from 3 to 5 years.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) initiated its audit of our fiscal 2011 and fiscal 2012 tax years during fiscal 2013. Currently, several state examinations are in progress.

During fiscal 2013, the IRS concluded its field examination of our 2009 and 2010 tax years. The IRS has proposed adjustments related to the timing for deducting accrued bonus expenses. We believe our position is supported by substantial technical authority and have filed an appeal with the IRS Appeals Division (IRS Appeals). The audit closure and related proposed adjustments did not have a material impact on our current year results of operations or financial position. If we are unsuccessful in defending our position with respect to accrued bonuses, we will incur a one-time cash tax payment of approximately \$80 million. As of May 26, 2013, we have effectively settled all issues with the IRS for fiscal years 2008 and prior.

Also during fiscal 2013, the California Court of Appeal issued an adverse decision concerning our state income tax apportionment calculations. We had previously recorded an \$11.5 million increase in our total liabilities for uncertain tax positions in fiscal 2011 following an unfavorable decision by the Superior Court of the State of California related to this matter. We expect to pay a majority of the tax due related to this issue in fiscal 2014.

During fiscal 2012, we reached a settlement with IRS Appeals concerning research and development tax credits claimed for fiscal years 2002 to 2008. This settlement did not have a material impact on our results of operations or financial position.

During fiscal 2011, we reached a settlement with IRS Appeals concerning certain corporate income tax adjustments for fiscal years 2002 to 2008. The adjustments primarily relate to the amount of capital loss, depreciation, and amortization we reported as a result of the sale of noncontrolling interests in our GMC subsidiary. As a result, we recorded a \$108.1 million reduction in our total liabilities for uncertain tax positions in fiscal 2011. We made payments totaling \$385.3 million in fiscal 2011 related to this settlement.

The Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) reviewed our Canadian income tax returns for fiscal years 2003 to 2005 and raised assessments for these years to which we have objected. During fiscal 2013, the issue related to our 2003 fiscal year was resolved with no adjustment. The issue for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 is currently under review by the U.S. and Canadian competent authority divisions. The CRA initiated its audit of our fiscal years 2008 through 2011 during fiscal year 2013. The CRA audit for fiscal 2008 was closed with no significant adjustments. The audit for fiscal years 2009 through 2011 is ongoing.

**Table of Contents**

We do not anticipate that any United States or Canadian tax adjustments will have a significant impact on our financial position or results of operations.

We apply a more-likely-than-not threshold to the recognition and derecognition of uncertain tax positions. Accordingly, we recognize the amount of tax benefit that has a greater than 50 percent likelihood of being ultimately realized upon settlement. Future changes in judgment related to the expected ultimate resolution of uncertain tax positions will affect earnings in the quarter of such change.

The following table sets forth changes in our total gross unrecognized tax benefit liabilities, excluding accrued interest, for fiscal 2013. Approximately \$92 million of this total represents the amount that, if recognized, would affect our effective income tax rate in future periods. This amount differs from the gross unrecognized tax benefits presented in the table because certain of the liabilities below would impact deferred taxes if recognized or are the result of stock compensation items impacting additional paid-in capital. We also would record a decrease in U.S. federal income taxes upon recognition of the state tax benefits included therein.

In Millions	Fiscal Year	
	2013	2012
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 231.3	\$ 226.2
Tax positions related to current year:		
Additions	38.5	23.8
Tax positions related to prior years:		
Additions	69.6	24.3
Reductions	(74.0)	(13.4)
Settlements	(39.0)	(6.6)
Lapses in statutes of limitations	(10.2)	(23.0)
Balance, end of year	\$ 216.2	\$ 231.3

As of May 26, 2013, we expect to pay approximately \$12 million of unrecognized tax benefit liabilities and accrued interest within the next 12 months. We are not able to reasonably estimate the timing of future cash flows beyond 12 months due to uncertainties in the timing of tax audit outcomes. The remaining amount of our unrecognized tax liability was classified in other liabilities.

We report accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefit liabilities in income tax expense. For fiscal 2013, we recognized a net benefit of \$3.0 million of tax-related net interest and penalties, and had \$53.1 million of accrued interest and penalties as of May 26, 2013. For fiscal 2012, we recognized \$0.2 million associated with tax-related interest and penalties, and had \$49.3 million of accrued interest and penalties as of May 27, 2012.

**NOTE 15. LEASES, OTHER COMMITMENTS, AND CONTINGENCIES**

An analysis of rent expense by type of property for operating leases follows:

In Millions	Fiscal Year		
	2013	2012	2011
Warehouse space	\$ 82.8	\$ 72.6	\$ 63.4
Equipment	33.5	34.8	32.1
Other	71.6	68.1	56.9
Total rent expense	\$ 187.9	\$ 175.5	\$ 152.4

Some operating leases require payment of property taxes, insurance, and maintenance costs in addition to the rent payments. Contingent and escalation rent in excess of minimum rent payments and sublease income netted in rent expense were insignificant.





**Table of Contents**

Noncancelable future lease commitments are:

	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Capital</b>
<b>In Millions</b>	<b>Leases</b>	<b>Leases</b>
2014	\$ 93.4	\$1.8
2015	74.0	1.5
2016	61.1	0.7
2017	45.1	0.2
2018	49.6	
After 2018	114.5	
<b>Total noncancelable future lease commitments</b>	<b>\$437.7</b>	<b>\$4.2</b>
Less: interest		(0.2)
<b>Present value of obligations under capital leases</b>		<b>\$4.0</b>

These future lease commitments will be partially offset by estimated future sublease receipts of approximately \$8.3 million. Depreciation on capital leases is recorded as depreciation expense in our results of operations.

As of May 26, 2013, we have issued guarantees and comfort letters of \$356.3 million for the debt and other obligations of consolidated subsidiaries, and guarantees and comfort letters of \$258.7 million for the debt and other obligations of non-consolidated affiliates, mainly CPW. In addition, off-balance sheet arrangements are generally limited to the future payments under non-cancelable operating leases, which totaled \$437.7 million as of May 26, 2013.

**Contingencies**

We are party to various pending or threatened legal actions in the ordinary course of our business. In our opinion, there were no claims or litigation pending as of May 26, 2013, that were reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position or results of operations.

**NOTE 16. BUSINESS SEGMENT AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

We operate in the consumer foods industry. We have three operating segments by type of customer and geographic region as follows: U.S. Retail, 59.7 percent of our fiscal 2013 consolidated net sales; International, 29.3 percent of our fiscal 2013 consolidated net sales; and Bakeries and Foodservice, 11.0 percent of our fiscal 2013 consolidated net sales.

Our U.S. Retail segment reflects business with a wide variety of grocery stores, mass merchandisers, membership stores, natural food chains, and drug, dollar and discount chains operating throughout the United States. Our product categories in this business segment include ready-to-eat cereals, refrigerated yogurt, ready-to-serve soup, dry dinners, shelf stable and frozen vegetables, refrigerated and frozen dough products, dessert and baking mixes, frozen pizza and pizza snacks, grain, fruit and savory snacks, and a wide variety of organic products including granola bars, cereal, and soup.

Our International segment consists of retail and foodservice businesses outside of the United States. In Canada, our product categories include ready-to-eat cereals, shelf stable and frozen vegetables, dry dinners, refrigerated and frozen dough products, dessert and baking mixes, frozen pizza snacks, refrigerated yogurt, and grain and fruit snacks. In markets outside North America, our product categories include super-premium ice cream and frozen desserts, refrigerated yogurt, snacks, shelf stable and frozen vegetables, refrigerated and frozen dough products, and dry dinners. Our International segment also includes products manufactured in the United States for export, mainly to Caribbean and Latin American markets, as well as products we manufacture for sale to our international joint ventures. Revenues from export activities and franchise fees are reported in the region or country where the end customer is located.



**Table of Contents**

In our Bakeries and Foodservice segment our product categories include ready-to-eat cereals, snacks, refrigerated yogurt, unbaked and fully baked frozen dough products, baking mixes, and flour. Many products we sell are branded to the consumer and nearly all are branded to our customers. We sell to distributors and operators in many customer channels including foodservice, convenience stores, vending, and supermarket bakeries. Substantially all of this segment's operations are located in the United States.

Operating profit for these segments excludes unallocated corporate items and restructuring, impairment, and other exit costs. Unallocated corporate items include corporate overhead expenses, variances to planned domestic employee benefits and incentives, contributions to the General Mills Foundation, and other items that are not part of our measurement of segment operating performance. These include gains and losses arising from the revaluation of certain grain inventories and gains and losses from mark-to-market valuation of certain commodity positions until passed back to our operating segments. These items affecting operating profit are centrally managed at the corporate level and are excluded from the measure of segment profitability reviewed by executive management. Under our supply chain organization, our manufacturing, warehouse, and distribution activities are substantially integrated across our operations in order to maximize efficiency and productivity. As a result, fixed assets and depreciation and amortization expenses are neither maintained nor available by operating segment.

Our operating segment results were as follows:

<b>In Millions</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>		
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Net sales:			
U.S. Retail	<b>\$ 10,614.9</b>	\$ 10,480.2	\$ 10,163.9
International	<b>5,200.2</b>	4,194.3	2,875.5
Bakeries and Foodservice	<b>1,959.0</b>	1,983.4	1,840.8
Total	<b>\$ 17,774.1</b>	\$ 16,657.9	\$ 14,880.2
Operating profit:			
U.S. Retail	<b>\$ 2,392.9</b>	\$ 2,295.3	\$ 2,347.9
International	<b>490.2</b>	429.6	291.4
Bakeries and Foodservice	<b>314.6</b>	286.7	306.3
Total segment operating profit	<b>3,197.7</b>	3,011.6	2,945.6
Unallocated corporate items	<b>326.1</b>	347.6	184.1
Divestitures (gain)			(17.4)
Restructuring, impairment, and other exit costs	<b>19.8</b>	101.6	4.4
Operating profit	<b>\$ 2,851.8</b>	\$ 2,562.4	\$ 2,774.5

**Table of Contents**

Net sales by class of similar products were as follows:

In Millions	Fiscal Year		
	2013	2012	2011
Net sales:			
Snacks	\$ 3,024.0	\$ 2,649.6	\$ 2,371.9
Yogurt	2,908.4	2,595.7	1,625.1
Cereal	2,889.2	2,935.2	2,812.6
Convenient meals	2,802.9	2,611.8	2,437.6
Baking mixes and ingredients	1,999.5	1,902.9	1,789.7
Dough	1,944.7	1,925.5	1,895.4
Vegetables	1,089.5	1,082.5	1,095.6
Super-premium ice cream	717.1	664.6	563.7
Other	398.8	290.1	288.6
Total	\$ 17,774.1	\$ 16,657.9	\$ 14,880.2

The following table provides financial information by geographic area:

In Millions	Fiscal Year		
	2013	2012	2011
Net sales:			
United States	\$ 12,573.1	\$ 12,462.1	\$ 11,987.8
Non-United States	5,201.0	4,195.8	2,892.4
Total	\$ 17,774.1	\$ 16,657.9	\$ 14,880.2

In Millions	May 26,	May 27,
	2013	2012
Cash and cash equivalents:		
United States	\$ 26.9	\$ 25.7
Non-United States	714.5	445.5
Total	\$741.4	\$471.2

In Millions	May 26,	May 27,
	2013	2012
Land, buildings, and equipment:		
United States	\$ 2,752.7	\$ 2,804.9
Non-United States	1,125.4	847.8
Total	\$ 3,878.1	\$ 3,652.7

**Table of Contents****NOTE 17. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

The components of certain Consolidated Balance Sheet accounts are as follows:

	May 26,	May 27,
In Millions	2013	2012
<b>Receivables:</b>		
From customers	\$ 1,466.3	\$ 1,345.3
Less allowance for doubtful accounts	(19.9)	(21.7)
Total	\$ 1,446.4	\$ 1,323.6

	May 26,	May 27,
In Millions	2013	2012
<b>Inventories:</b>		
Raw materials and packaging	\$ 403.0	\$ 334.4
Finished goods	1,228.7	1,211.8
Grain	135.6	155.3
Excess of FIFO over LIFO cost (a)	(221.8)	(222.7)
Total	\$ 1,545.5	\$ 1,478.8

- (a) Inventories of \$897.8 million as of May 26, 2013, and \$930.2 million as of May 27, 2012, were valued at LIFO. During fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012, LIFO inventory layers were reduced. Results of operations were not materially affected by these liquidations of LIFO inventory. The difference between replacement cost and the stated LIFO inventory value is not materially different from the reserve for the LIFO valuation method.

	May 26,	May 27,
In Millions	2013	2012
<b>Prepaid expenses and other current assets:</b>		
Other receivables	\$193.1	\$103.8
Prepaid expenses	168.6	178.3
Derivative receivables, primarily commodity-related	47.6	34.5
Grain contracts	7.5	8.3
Miscellaneous	20.8	33.2
Total	\$437.6	\$358.1

	May 26,	May 27,
In Millions	2013	2012
<b>Land, buildings, and equipment:</b>		
Land	\$ 101.2	\$ 75.9
Buildings	2,168.3	1,980.6
Buildings under capital lease	0.3	0.3
Equipment	5,731.1	5,257.2
Equipment under capital lease	9.0	9.0

Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

Capitalized software	427.9	419.1
Construction in progress	495.1	542.6
Total land, buildings, and equipment	8,932.9	8,284.7
Less accumulated depreciation	(5,054.8)	(4,632.0)
Total	\$ 3,878.1	\$ 3,652.7

**Table of Contents**

	May 26,	May 27,
<b>In Millions</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Other assets:		
Investments in and advances to joint ventures	\$478.5	\$529.0
Pension assets	131.8	42.7
Exchangeable note with related party	88.8	98.9
Life insurance	24.4	86.7
Miscellaneous	120.2	108.0
Total	\$843.7	\$865.3

	May 26,	May 27,
<b>In Millions</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Other current liabilities:		
Accrued trade and consumer promotions	\$ 635.3	\$ 560.7
Accrued payroll	417.3	367.4
Dividends payable	279.6	24.5
Accrued taxes	88.0	39.2
Accrued interest, including interest rate swaps	91.2	100.2
Grain contracts	30.0	20.6
Restructuring and other exit costs reserve	19.5	85.9
Derivative payable	4.1	26.1
Miscellaneous	262.7	202.0
Total	\$ 1,827.7	\$ 1,426.6

	May 26,	May 27,
<b>In Millions</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Other noncurrent liabilities:		
Accrued compensation and benefits, including obligations for underfunded other postretirement and postemployment benefit plans	\$ 1,560.2	\$ 1,853.1
Accrued taxes	277.1	230.9
Miscellaneous	115.6	105.8
Total	\$ 1,952.9	\$ 2,189.8

Certain Consolidated Statements of Earnings amounts are as follows:

<b>In Millions</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>		
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
Depreciation and amortization	\$ 588.0	\$ 541.5	\$ 472.6
Research and development expense	237.9	245.4	235.0
Advertising and media expense (including production and communication costs)	895.0	913.7	843.7



**Table of Contents**

The components of interest, net are as follows:

Expense (Income), in Millions	Fiscal Year		
	2013	2012	2011
Interest expense	\$ 333.8	\$ 370.7	\$ 360.9
Capitalized interest	(4.3)	(8.9)	(7.2)
Interest income	(12.6)	(9.9)	(7.4)
Interest, net	\$ 316.9	\$ 351.9	\$ 346.3

Certain Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows amounts are as follows:

In Millions	Fiscal Year		
	2013	2012	2011
Cash interest payments	\$ 293.0	\$ 344.3	\$ 333.1
Cash paid for income taxes	569.4	590.6	699.3

**NOTE 18. QUARTERLY DATA (UNAUDITED)**

Summarized quarterly data for fiscal 2013 and fiscal 2012 follows:

In Millions, Except Per Share Amounts	First Quarter Fiscal Year		Second Quarter Fiscal Year		Third Quarter Fiscal Year		Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year	
	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012
Net sales	\$ 4,051.0	\$ 3,847.6	\$ 4,881.8	\$ 4,623.8	\$ 4,430.6	\$ 4,120.1	\$ 4,410.7	\$ 4,066.4
Gross margin	1,628.3	1,446.5	1,742.3	1,594.7	1,522.7	1,507.4	1,530.6	1,496.1
Net earnings attributable to General Mills	548.9	405.6	541.6	444.8	398.4	391.5	366.3	325.4
EPS:								
Basic	\$ 0.84	\$ 0.63	\$ 0.84	\$ 0.69	\$ 0.61	\$ 0.61	\$ 0.57	\$ 0.49
Diluted	\$ 0.82	\$ 0.61	\$ 0.82	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.58	\$ 0.55	\$ 0.49
Dividends per share	\$ 0.330	\$ 0.305	\$ 0.330	\$ 0.305	\$ 0.330	\$ 0.305	\$ 0.330	\$ 0.305
Market price of common stock:								
High	\$ 39.13	\$ 39.77	\$ 40.77	\$ 39.92	\$ 45.67	\$ 41.05	\$ 50.93	\$ 39.69
Low	\$ 37.55	\$ 34.95	\$ 38.89	\$ 36.89	\$ 40.06	\$ 38.15	\$ 45.42	\$ 38.04

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2013, we finalized the purchase accounting for certain assets and liabilities related to the acquisition of Yoki. We recorded final adjustments that resulted in a \$3.6 million decrease in goodwill.

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2012, we finalized the purchase accounting for certain assets and liabilities related to the acquisitions of Yoplait S.A.S. and Yoplait Marques S.A.S. We recorded final adjustments that resulted in a \$38.7 million decrease in goodwill.

## **Table of Contents**

### **Glossary**

**AOCI.** Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss).

**Average total capital.** Notes payable, long-term debt including current portion, redeemable interest, noncontrolling interests, and stockholders equity excluding AOCI, and certain after-tax earnings adjustments are used to calculate return on average total capital. The average is calculated using the average of the beginning of fiscal year and end of fiscal year Consolidated Balance Sheet amounts for these line items.

**Core working capital.** Accounts receivable plus inventories less accounts payable, all as of the last day of our fiscal year.

**Depreciation associated with restructured assets.** The increase in depreciation expense caused by updating the salvage value and shortening the useful life of depreciable fixed assets to coincide with the end of production under an approved restructuring plan, but only if impairment is not present.

**Derivatives.** Financial instruments such as futures, swaps, options, and forward contracts that we use to manage our risk arising from changes in commodity prices, interest rates, foreign exchange rates, and stock prices.

**Fair value hierarchy.** For purposes of fair value measurement, we categorize assets and liabilities into one of three levels based on the assumptions (inputs) used in valuing the asset or liability. Level 1 provides the most reliable measure of fair value, while Level 3 generally requires significant management judgment. The three levels are defined as follows:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2: Observable inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets or quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in inactive markets.

Level 3: Unobservable inputs reflecting management's assumptions about the inputs used in pricing the asset or liability.

**Fixed charge coverage ratio.** The sum of earnings before income taxes and fixed charges (before tax), divided by the sum of the fixed charges (before tax) and interest.

**Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).** Guidelines, procedures, and practices that we are required to use in recording and reporting accounting information in our financial statements.

**Goodwill.** The difference between the purchase price of acquired companies plus the fair value of any noncontrolling and redeemable interests and the related fair values of net assets acquired.

**Gross margin.** Net sales less cost of sales.

**Hedge accounting.** Accounting for qualifying hedges that allows changes in a hedging instrument's fair value to offset corresponding changes in the hedged item in the same reporting period. Hedge accounting is permitted for certain hedging instruments and hedged items only if the hedging relationship is highly effective, and only prospectively from the date a hedging relationship is formally documented.

**Interest bearing instruments.** Notes payable, long-term debt, including current portion, cash and cash equivalents, and certain interest bearing investments classified within prepaid expenses and other current assets and other assets.

**LIBOR.** London Interbank Offered Rate.

**Mark-to-market.** The act of determining a value for financial instruments, commodity contracts, and related assets or liabilities based on the current market price for that item.



## **Table of Contents**

**Net mark-to-market valuation of certain commodity positions.** Realized and unrealized gains and losses on derivative contracts that will be allocated to segment operating profit when the exposure we are hedging affects earnings.

**Net price realization.** The impact of list and promoted price changes, net of trade and other price promotion costs.

**New businesses.** Our consolidated results for fiscal 2013 include operating activity from the acquisitions of Yoki Alimentos S.A. in Brazil (second quarter of fiscal 2013), Yoplait Ireland (first quarter of fiscal 2013), Food Should Taste Good in the United States (fourth quarter of fiscal 2012), Parampara Foods in India (first quarter of fiscal 2013), Immaculate Baking Company in the United States (third quarter of fiscal 2013), and the assumption of the Canadian Yoplait franchise license (second quarter of fiscal 2013). Also included in the first quarter of fiscal 2013 are two additional months of results from the acquisition of Yoplait S.A.S. (first quarter of fiscal 2012). Collectively, these items are referred to as new businesses in comparing our fiscal 2013 results to fiscal 2012.

**Noncontrolling interests.** Interests of subsidiaries held by third parties.

**Notional principal amount.** The principal amount on which fixed-rate or floating-rate interest payments are calculated.

**OCI.** Other comprehensive income (loss).

**Operating cash flow to debt ratio.** Net cash provided by operating activities, divided by the sum of notes payable and long-term debt, including current portion.

**Redeemable interest.** Interest of subsidiaries held by a third party that can be redeemed outside of our control and therefore cannot be classified as a noncontrolling interest in equity.

**Reporting unit.** An operating segment or a business one level below an operating segment.

**Return on average total capital.** Net earnings attributable to General Mills, excluding after-tax net interest, and adjusted for certain items affecting year-over-year comparability, divided by average total capital.

**Segment operating profit margin.** Segment operating profit divided by net sales for the segment.

**Supply chain input costs.** Costs incurred to produce and deliver product, including costs for ingredients and conversion, inventory management, logistics, and warehousing.

**Total debt.** Notes payable and long-term debt, including current portion.

**Transaction gains and losses.** The impact on our Consolidated Financial Statements of foreign exchange rate changes arising from specific transactions.

**Translation adjustments.** The impact of the conversion of our foreign affiliates' financial statements to U.S. dollars for the purpose of consolidating our financial statements.

**Variable interest entities (VIEs).** A legal structure that is used for business purposes that either (1) does not have equity investors that have voting rights and share in all the entity's profits and losses or (2) has equity investors that do not provide sufficient financial resources to support the entity's activities.

**Working capital.** Current assets and current liabilities, all as of the last day of our fiscal year.

## **ITEM 9 Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure**

None.



**Table of Contents**

**ITEM 9A Controls and Procedures**

We, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, have evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the 1934 Act). Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that, as of May 26, 2013, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in reports that we file or submit under the 1934 Act is (1) recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in applicable rules and forms, and (2) accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, in a manner that allows timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the 1934 Act) during our fiscal quarter ended May 26, 2013, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

**MANAGEMENT'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

The management of General Mills, Inc. is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the 1934 Act. The Company's internal control system was designed to provide reasonable assurance to our management and the Board of Directors regarding the preparation and fair presentation of published financial statements. Under the supervision and with the participation of management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we conducted an assessment of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of May 26, 2013. In making this assessment, management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (1992)*.

Based on our assessment using the criteria set forth by COSO in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework (1992)*, management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of May 26, 2013.

KPMG LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm, has issued a report on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ K. J. Powell

K. J. Powell  
Chairman of the Board and Chief  
Executive Officer  
July 3, 2013

/s/ D. L. Mulligan

D. L. Mulligan  
Executive Vice President and Chief  
Financial Officer

Our independent registered public accounting firm's attestation report on our internal control over financial reporting is included in the Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm in Item 8 of this report.

**ITEM 9B Other Information**

None.

**PART III**

**ITEM 10 Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance**

The information contained in the sections entitled Proposal Number 1 Election of Directors, Director Nominations, and Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance contained in our definitive Proxy Statement for our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is incorporated herein by reference.



**Table of Contents**

Information regarding our executive officers is set forth in Item 1 of this report.

The information regarding our Audit Committee, including the members of the Audit Committee and audit committee financial experts, set forth in the section entitled *Board Committees and Their Functions* contained in our definitive Proxy Statement for our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is incorporated herein by reference.

We have adopted a Code of Conduct applicable to all employees, including our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, and principal accounting officer. A copy of the Code of Conduct is available on our website at *www.generalmills.com*. We intend to post on our website any amendments to our Code of Conduct and any waivers from our Code of Conduct for principal officers.

**ITEM 11 Executive Compensation**

The information contained in the sections entitled *Executive Compensation*, *Director Compensation*, and *Compensation Risk Assessment* in our definitive Proxy Statement for our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 12 Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters**

The information contained in the section entitled *Ownership of General Mills Common Stock by Directors, Officers and Certain Beneficial Owners* in our definitive Proxy Statement for our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is incorporated herein by reference.

**EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION**

The following table provides certain information as of May 26, 2013 with respect to our equity compensation plans:

<b>Plan Category</b>	<b>Number of Securities to be Issued upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights</b>	<b>Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights</b>	<b>Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column (1))</b>
	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(2)(a)</b>	<b>(3)</b>
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	58,139,658(b)	\$30.22	35,492,790(d)
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders	195,182(c)	\$23.20	
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,334,840</b>	<b>\$30.22</b>	<b>35,492,790</b>

a) Weighted-average term of outstanding options is 5.03 years.

b) Includes 47,669,911 stock options, 8,416,230 restricted stock units, and 2,053,517 restricted stock units that have vested and been deferred. We granted these awards under the following active stockholder-approved plans: 2011 Stock Compensation Plan and 2011 Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors; and the following stockholder-approved plans that have been discontinued for stock awards: 2001 Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors; 2003 Stock Compensation Plan; 2005 Stock Compensation Plan; 2006 Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors; 2007 Stock Compensation Plan; 2009 Stock Compensation Plan; and Executive Incentive Plan. No future stock awards may be granted under any of the discontinued plans.



## Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

- c) Includes 2,200 stock options and 192,982 restricted stock units that have vested and been deferred. These awards include stock options granted to a broad group of employees in fiscal 2003 and 2004, and grants in lieu of salary increases and certain other compensation and benefits. We granted these awards under our 1998 Employee Stock Plan, which provided for the issuance of stock options, restricted stock and restricted stock units to attract and retain employees and to align their interests with those of stockholders. We discontinued the 1998 Employee Stock Plan in September 2003, and no future awards may be granted under that plan.
  
- d) Includes stock options, restricted stock, restricted stock units, shares of unrestricted stock, stock appreciation rights, and performance awards that we may award under our 2011 Stock Compensation Plan, which had 34,310,614 shares available for grant at May 26, 2013. Also includes stock options and restricted stock units that we may award under our 2011 Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors, which had 1,182,176 shares available for grant at May 26, 2013.

**Table of Contents**

**ITEM 13 Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence**

The information set forth in the sections entitled Board Independence and Certain Relationships and Related Transactions contained in our definitive Proxy Statement for our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 14 Principal Accounting Fees and Services**

The information contained in the section entitled Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm Fees in our definitive Proxy Statement for our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders is incorporated herein by reference.

**PART IV**

**ITEM 15 Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules**

**1. Financial Statements:**

The following financial statements are included in Item 8 of this report:

Consolidated Statements of Earnings for the fiscal years ended May 26, 2013, May 27, 2012, and May 29, 2011.

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the fiscal years ended May 26, 2013, May 27, 2012, and May 29, 2011.

Consolidated Balance Sheets as of May 26, 2013, and May 27, 2012.

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the fiscal years ended May 26, 2013, May 27, 2012, and May 29, 2011.

Consolidated Statements of Total Equity and Redeemable Interest for the fiscal years ended May 26, 2013, May 27, 2012, and May 29, 2011.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

Report of Management Responsibilities.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.

**2. Financial Statement Schedule:**

For the fiscal years ended May 26, 2013, May 27, 2012, and May 29, 2011:

II Valuation and Qualifying Accounts

**Table of Contents****3. Exhibits:**

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
3.1	Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2009).
3.2	By-laws of the Registrant (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 11, 2008).
4.1	Indenture, dated as of February 1, 1996, between the Registrant and U.S. Bank National Association (f/k/a First Trust of Illinois, National Association) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-3 filed February 6, 1996 (File no. 333-00745)).
4.2	First Supplemental Indenture, dated as of May 18, 2009, between the Registrant and U.S. Bank National Association (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2009).
10.1*	1998 Employee Stock Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended February 22, 2009).
10.2*	2001 Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended August 29, 2010).
10.3*	2003 Stock Compensation Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended August 29, 2010).
10.4*	2005 Stock Compensation Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended August 29, 2010).
10.5*	2006 Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended August 29, 2010).
10.6*	2007 Stock Compensation Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended August 29, 2010).
10.7*	2009 Stock Compensation Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended August 29, 2010).
10.8*	2011 Stock Compensation Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended November 27, 2011).
10.9*	2011 Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended November 27, 2011).
10.10*	Executive Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.8 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended August 29, 2010).
10.11*	Executive Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended November 28, 2010).
10.12*	Separation Pay and Benefits Program for Officers (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended February 22, 2009).
10.13*	Supplemental Savings Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended February 22, 2009).

**Table of Contents**

- 10.14\* Supplemental Retirement Plan (Grandfathered) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended February 22, 2009).
- 10.15\* 2005 Supplemental Retirement Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended February 22, 2009).
- 10.16\* Deferred Compensation Plan (Grandfathered) (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended February 22, 2009).
- 10.17\* 2005 Deferred Compensation Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended February 22, 2009).
- 10.18\* Executive Survivor Income Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 29, 2005).
- 10.19\* Aircraft Time Sharing Agreement, dated December 12, 2007, between General Mills Sales, Inc. and Kendall J. Powell (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed December 14, 2007).
- 10.20\* Supplemental Benefits Trust Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended November 27, 2011).
- 10.21\* Supplemental Benefits Trust Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended November 27, 2011).
- 10.22 Agreements, dated November 29, 1989, by and between the Registrant and Nestle S.A. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 28, 2000).
- 10.23 Protocol and Addendum No. 1 to Protocol of Cereal Partners Worldwide, dated November 21, 1989, between the Registrant and Nestle S.A. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 27, 2001).
- 10.24 Addendum No. 2 to the Protocol of Cereal Partners Worldwide, dated March 16, 1993, between the Registrant and Nestle S.A. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.18 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 30, 2004).
- 10.25 Addendum No. 3 to the Protocol of Cereal Partners Worldwide, effective as of March 15, 1993, between the Registrant and Nestle S.A. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 28, 2000).
- 10.26 + Addenda Nos. 4 and 5 to the Protocol of Cereal Partners Worldwide between the Registrant and Nestle S.A. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.26 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2009).
- 10.27 Addendum No. 10 to the Protocol of Cereal Partners Worldwide, dated January 1, 2010, among the Registrant, Nestle S.A. and CPW S.A. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended February 28, 2010).
- 10.28 + Addendum No. 11 to the Protocol of Cereal Partners Worldwide, dated July 17, 2012, among the Registrant, Nestle S.A., and CPW S.A. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended August 26, 2012).
- 10.29 Five-Year Credit Agreement, dated as of April 16, 2012, among the Registrant, the several financial institutions from time to time party to the agreement, and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed April 20, 2012).

---

**Table of Contents**

- 10.30 Three-Year Credit Agreement, dated as of April 16, 2012, among the Registrant, the several financial institutions from time to time party to the agreement, and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed April 20, 2012).
- 10.31 Amendment No. 1 to Five-Year Credit Agreement, dated as of May 18, 2012, among the Registrant, the several financial institutions from time to time party to the agreement, and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.31 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 27, 2012).
- 10.32 Amendment No. 1 to Three-Year Credit Agreement, dated as of May 18, 2012, among the Registrant, the several financial institutions from time to time party to the agreement, and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.32 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 27, 2012).
- 12.1 Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.
- 21.1 Subsidiaries of the Registrant.
- 23.1 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
- 31.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 101 The following materials from the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 26, 2013 formatted in eXtensible Business Reporting Language: (i) the Consolidated Balance Sheets; (ii) the Consolidated Statements of Earnings; (iii) the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income; (iv) the Consolidated Statements of Total Equity and Redeemable Interest; (v) the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows; (vi) the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements; and (vii) Schedule II Valuation of Qualifying Accounts.

\* Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement required to be filed as an exhibit pursuant to Item 15 of Form 10-K.

+ Confidential information has been omitted from the exhibit and filed separately with the SEC pursuant to Rule 24b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Pursuant to Item 601(b)(4)(iii) of Regulation S-K, copies of certain instruments defining the rights of holders of our long-term debt are not filed and, in lieu thereof, we agree to furnish copies to the SEC upon request.

**Table of Contents**

**Signatures**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

GENERAL MILLS, INC.

Dated: July 3, 2013

By: /s/ Roderick A. Palmore  
Name: Roderick A. Palmore  
Title: Executive Vice President,  
  
General Counsel and Secretary

105

**Table of Contents**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
/s/ Kendall J. Powell	Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer	July 3, 2013
Kendall J. Powell	and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	
/s/ Donal L. Mulligan	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial	July 3, 2013
Donal L. Mulligan	Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	
/s/ Jerald A. Young	Vice President, Controller	July 3, 2013
Jerald A. Young	(Principal Accounting Officer)	
/s/ Bradbury H. Anderson	Director	June 30, 2013
Bradbury H. Anderson		
/s/ R. Kerry Clark	Director	June 25, 2013
R. Kerry Clark		
/s/ Paul Danos	Director	June 25, 2013
Paul Danos		
/s/ William T. Esrey	Director	July 3, 2013
William T. Esrey		
/s/ Raymond V. Gilmartin	Director	July 3, 2013
Raymond V. Gilmartin		
/s/ Judith Richards Hope	Director	June 25, 2013
Judith Richards Hope		
/s/ Heidi G. Miller	Director	June 25, 2013
Heidi G. Miller		
/s/ Hilda Ochoa-Brillembourg	Director	July 3, 2013
Hilda Ochoa-Brillembourg		
/s/ Steve Odland	Director	July 3, 2013

Edgar Filing: GENERAL MILLS INC - Form 10-K

Steve Odland		
/s/ Michael D. Rose	Director	July 3, 2013
Michael D. Rose		
/s/ Robert L. Ryan	Director	July 3, 2013
Robert L. Ryan		
/s/ Dorothy A. Terrell	Director	June 25, 2013
Dorothy A. Terrell		



**Table of Contents****General Mills, Inc. and Subsidiaries****Schedule II - Valuation of Qualifying Accounts**

In Millions	2013	Fiscal Year 2012	2011
<b>Allowance for doubtful accounts:</b>			
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 21.7	\$ 16.3	\$ 15.8
Additions charged to expense	12.0	13.3	12.7
Bad debt write-offs	(8.2)	(12.9)	(12.1)
Other adjustments and reclassifications	(5.6)	5.0	(0.1)
Balance at end of year	\$ 19.9	\$ 21.7	\$ 16.3
<b>Valuation allowance for deferred tax assets:</b>			
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 384.4	\$404.5	\$392.0
Additions charged to expense	5.3	1.8	12.0
Adjustments due to acquisition, translation of amounts, and other	(156.9)	(21.9)	0.5
Balance at end of year	\$ 232.8	\$384.4	\$404.5
<b>Reserve for restructuring and other exit charges:</b>			
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 85.9	\$ 7.2	\$ 10.8
Additions charged to expense, including translation amounts	10.6	82.4	
Net amounts utilized for restructuring activities	(77.0)	(3.7)	(3.6)
Balance at end of year	\$ 19.5	\$ 85.9	\$ 7.2
<b>Reserve for LIFO valuation:</b>			
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 222.7	\$168.5	\$142.3
Increase (Decrease)	(0.9)	54.2	26.2
Balance at end of year	\$ 221.8	\$222.7	\$168.5

---

**Table of Contents****Exhibit Index**

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
12.1	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.
21.1	Subsidiaries of the Registrant.
23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.
31.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32.2	Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101	The following materials from the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 26, 2013 formatted in eXtensible Business Reporting Language: (i) the Consolidated Balance Sheets; (ii) the Consolidated Statements of Earnings; (iii) the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Earnings; (iv) the Consolidated Statements of Total Equity and Redeemable Interest; (v) the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows; (vi) the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements; and (vii) Schedule II Valuation of Qualifying Accounts.