CORN PRODUCTS INTERNATIONAL INC Form 10-K February 27, 2012 Table of Contents

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011

or

o 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 1-13397

CORN PRODUCTS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

22-3514823 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

5 Westbrook Corporate Center, Westchester, Illinois (Address of Principal Executive Offices)

60154 (Zip Code)

Registrant s telephone number, including area code (708) 551-2600

Securities registered pursuant to Sec	ction 12(b) of the Act:		
Comn	Title of Each Class non Stock, \$.01 par value per share	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered New York Stock Exchange	
Securities registered pursuant to Sec	ction 12(g) of the Act:		
		NONE	
Indicate by check mark if the Regis	trant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as	defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes x No o	
Indicate by check mark if the Regis	trant is not required to file reports pursua	ant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes o No x	
Note Checking the box above wil under those Sections.	l not relieve any registrant required to fil	e reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act from their obligations	
		ired to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for	
•	ule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of t	and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the	e
		5 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of porated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10	
Indicate by check mark whether the definitions of large accelerated file		a accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a small reporting company. See rting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one)	

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

Smaller reporting company o

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes o No x
The aggregate market value of the Registrant s voting stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant (based upon the per share closing price of \$55.28 on June 30 (2011, and, for the purpose of this calculation only, the assumption that all of the Registrant s directors and executive officers are affiliates) was approximately \$4,178,000,000.
The number of shares outstanding of the Registrant's Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share, as of February 23, 2012, was 76,199,000.
Documents Incorporated by Reference:
Information required by Part III (Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14) of this document is incorporated by reference to certain portions of the Registrant s definitive Prox Statement (the Proxy Statement) to be distributed in connection with its 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission within 120 days after December 31, 2011.

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PART I.
ITEM 1. BUSINESS
The Company
Corn Products International, Inc. was incorporated as a Delaware corporation in 1997 and its common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Corn Products International, Inc., together with its subsidiaries, manufactures and sells a number of starch and sweetener ingredients to a wide variety of packaged foods, beverage, brewing and industrial customers around the world.
For purposes of this report, unless the context otherwise requires, all references herein to the Company, Corn Products, we, us, and our shall mean Corn Products International, Inc. and its subsidiaries.
On February 14, 2012, the Company announced that it intends to change its name to Ingredion Incorporated pending shareholder approval at the annual meeting on May 15, 2012. The name better reflects the Company s position as a leading supplier of starch and sweetener ingredients to a range of industries, including packaged food, beverage, brewing and industrial customers.
On October 1, 2010, the Company acquired National Starch, a global developer and manufacturer of specialty modified starches from Akzo Nobel N.V., headquartered in the Netherlands. National Starch is a recognized innovator in food ingredients. Its technologies are supported by a research and development infrastructure and protected by more than 800 patents and patents pending, which drive development of advanced specialty starches for the next generation of food products.
Corn Products supplies a broad range of customers in many diverse industries around the world, including the food, beverage, brewing, pharmaceutical, paper and corrugated products, textile and personal care industries, as well as the global animal feed and corn oil markets.
Our product line includes starches and sweeteners, animal feed products and edible corn oils. Our starch-based products include both industrial and food-grade starches. Our sweetener products include glucose corn syrups, high maltose corn syrups, high fructose corn syrup (HFCS), caramel color, dextrose, polyols, maltodextrins and glucose and corn syrup solids.
Our products are derived primarily from the processing of corn and other starch-based materials, such as tapioca, potato and rice.

Our manufacturing process is based on a capital-intensive, two-step process that involves the wet milling and processing of starch-based materials, primarily corn. During the front-end process, corn is steeped in a water-based solution and separated into starch and co-products such as animal feed and corn oil. The starch is then either dried for sale or further processed to make sweeteners, starches and other ingredients that serve the particular needs of various industries.

We believe our approach to production and service, which focuses on local management and production improvements of our worldwide operations, provides us with a unique understanding of the cultures and product requirements in each of the geographic markets in which we operate, bringing added value to our customers through innovative solutions.

Our consolidated net sales were \$6.22 billion in 2011. Approximately 54 percent of our 2011 net sales were provided from our North American operations. Our South American operations provided 25 percent of net sales, while our Asia Pacific and EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) operations contributed approximately 12 percent and 9 percent, respectively.

Products

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Sweetener Products. Our sweetener products represented approximately 43 percent, 52 percent and 56 percent of our net sales for 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively.

<u>Glucose Corn Syrups</u>: Corn syrups are fundamental ingredients widely used in food products, such as baked goods, snack foods, beverages, canned fruits, condiments, candy and other sweets, dairy products, ice cream, jams and jellies, prepared mixes and table syrups.

<u>High Maltose Corn Syrup</u>: This special type of glucose syrup is primarily used as a fermentable sugar in brewing beers. High maltose corn syrups are also used in the production of confections, canning and some other food processing applications.

<u>High Fructose Corn Syrup</u>: High fructose corn syrup is used in a variety of consumer products including soft drinks, fruit-flavored beverages, baked goods, dairy products, confections and other food and beverage products.

<u>Dextrose</u>: Dextrose has a wide range of applications in the food and confection industries, in solutions for intravenous and other pharmaceutical applications, and numerous industrial applications like wallboard, biodegradable surface agents and moisture control agents.

<u>Polyols</u>: These products are sugar-free, reduced calorie sweeteners primarily derived from starch or sugar for the food, beverage, confectionery, industrial, personal and oral care, and nutritional supplement markets.

<u>Maltodextrins and Glucose and Corn Syrup Solids</u>: These products have a multitude of food applications, including formulations where liquid corn syrups cannot be used. Maltodextrins are resistant to browning, provide excellent solubility, have a low hydroscopicity (do not retain moisture), and are ideal for their carrier/bulking properties. Corn syrup solids have a bland flavor, remain clear in solution, are easy to handle and provide bulking properties.

Starch Products. Our starch products represented approximately 36 percent, 28 percent and 23 percent of our net sales for 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Starches are an important component in a wide range of processed foods, where they are used for adhesions, clouding, dusting, expansion, fat replacement, freshness, gelling, glazing, mouth feel, stabilization and texture. Cornstarch is sold to constarch packers for sale to consumers. Starches are also used in paper production to create a smooth surface for printed communications and to improve strength in recycled papers. Specialty starches are used for enhanced drainage, fiber retention, oil and grease resistance, improved printability and biochemical oxygen demand control. In the corrugating industry, starches and specialty starches are used to produce high quality adhesives for the production of shipping containers, display board and other corrugated applications. The textile industry has successfully used starches and specialty starches to provide size and finishes for manufactured products. Industrial starches are used in the production of construction materials, textiles, adhesives, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, as well as in mining, water filtration and oil and gas drilling. Specialty starches are used for biomaterial applications including biodegradable plastics, fabric softeners and detergents, hair and skin care applications, dusting powders for surgical gloves and in the production of glass fiber and insulation.

Co-Products and others. Co-products and others accounted for 21 percent, 20 percent and 21 percent of our net sales for 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Refined corn oil (from germ) is sold to packers of cooking oil and to producers of margarine, salad dressings, shortening, mayonnaise and other foods. Corn gluten feed is sold as animal feed. Corn gluten meal is sold as high protein feed for chickens, pet food and aquaculture.

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Geographic Scope and Operations

We are principally engaged in the production of starches and sweeteners for a wide range of industries, and we manage our business on a geographic regional basis. Our operations are classified into four reportable business segments based on the geographic organization of our business: North America, South America, Asia Pacific and EMEA. In 2011, approximately 54 percent of our net sales were derived from operations in North America, while net sales from operations in South America represented 25 percent. Our Asia Pacific and EMEA operations represented approximately 12 percent and 9 percent of our net sales, respectively. See Note 14 of the notes to the consolidated financial statements entitled Segment Information for additional financial information with respect to our reportable business segments.

In general, demand for our products is balanced throughout the year. However, demand for sweeteners in South America is greater in the first and fourth quarters (its summer season) while demand for sweeteners in North America is greater in the second and third quarters. Due to the offsetting impact of these demand trends, we do not experience material seasonal fluctuations in our business.

Our North America segment consists of operations in the US, Canada and Mexico. The region s facilities include 13 plants producing a range of both sweeteners and starches. Our plant in Bedford Park, Illinois is a major supplier of starch and dextrose products for our US and export customers. Our plants in Winston-Salem, North Carolina and Stockton, California enjoy strong market shares in their local areas, as do our Canadian plants in Cardinal, London and Port Colborne, Ontario. Our Winston-Salem, Stockton, Port Colborne and London plants primarily produce high fructose corn syrup. Plants in Indianapolis; North Kansas City, Missouri; and Charleston, South Carolina manufacture specialty starches for North American and European customers. We also have a plant in Mapleton, Illinois which produces a wide range of polyols, including liquid and crystalline sorbitol. We are the largest producer of corn-based starches and sweeteners in Mexico, with plants in Guadalajara, Mexico City and San Juan del Rio.

We are the largest manufacturer of corn-based starches and sweeteners in South America, with strong market shares in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru. Our South America segment includes 11 plants that produce regular, modified, waxy and tapioca starches, high fructose and high maltose corn syrups and corn syrup solids, dextrins and maltodextrins, dextrose, specialty starches, caramel color, sorbitol and vegetable adhesives.

Our Asia/Pacific segment manufactures corn- and tapioca-based products in South Korea, Thailand, Australia and China. The region s facilities include 8 plants that produce modified, specialty, regular, waxy and tapioca starches, dextrins, glucose, dextrose, high fructose corn syrups and caramel color.

Our EMEA segment includes 5 plants that produce modified and specialty starches, glucose and dextrose in England, Germany, South Africa, Pakistan and Kenya.

In addition to the operations in which we engage directly, we have strategic alliances through technical license agreements with companies in South Africa and Venezuela. As a group, our strategic alliance partners produce high fructose, glucose and high maltose syrups (both corn and tapioca), regular, modified, waxy and tapioca starches, dextrose and dextrins, maltodextrins and caramel color. These products have leading positions in many of their target markets.

Competition

The starch and sweetener industry is highly competitive. Many of our products are viewed as basic commodity ingredients that compete with virtually identical products and derivatives manufactured by other companies in the industry. The US is a highly competitive market where there are other corn refiners, several of which are divisions of larger enterprises. Some of these competitors, unlike us, have vertically integrated their corn refining and other operations. Competitors include ADM Corn Processing Division (ADM) (a division of Archer-Daniels-Midland Company), Cargill, Inc., Tate & Lyle Ingredients Americas, Inc., and several others. Our operations in Mexico and Canada face competition from US imports and local producers including ALMEX, a Mexican joint venture between ADM and Tate & Lyle Ingredients Americas, Inc. In South America, Cargill has corn-refining operations in Brazil and

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Argentina. Many smaller local corn and tapioca refiners also operate in many of our markets. Competition within our markets is largely based on price, quality and product availability.

Several of our products also compete with products made from raw materials other than corn. High fructose corn syrup and monohydrate dextrose compete principally with cane and beet sugar products. Co-products such as corn oil and gluten meal compete with products of the corn dry milling industry and with soybean oil, soybean meal and other products. Fluctuations in prices of these competing products may affect prices of, and profits derived from, our products.

Customers

We supply a broad range of customers in over 60 industries. Approximately 31 percent of our 2011 net sales were to companies engaged in the processed foods industry and approximately 14 percent of our 2011 net sales were to companies engaged in the soft drink industry. Additionally, sales to the animal feed market, the paper and corrugating industry, and the brewing industry represented approximately 12 percent, 10 percent and 9 percent of our 2011 net sales, respectively.

Raw Materials

Corn is the primary basic raw material we use to produce starches and sweeteners. The supply of corn in the United States has been, and is anticipated to continue to be, adequate for our domestic needs. The price of corn, which is determined by reference to prices on the Chicago Board of Trade, fluctuates as a result of various factors including: farmer planting decisions, climate, and government policies (including those related to the production of ethanol), livestock feeding, shortages or surpluses of world grain supplies, and domestic and foreign government policies and trade agreements. The Company also uses tapioca, potato, rice and sugar as a raw material.

Corn is also grown in other areas of the world, including Canada, Mexico, Europe, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, China, Pakistan and Kenya. Our affiliates outside the United States utilize both local supplies of corn and corn imported from other geographic areas, including the United States. The supply of corn for these affiliates is also generally expected to be adequate for our needs. Corn prices for our non-US affiliates generally fluctuate as a result of the same factors that affect US corn prices.

Due to the competitive nature of our industry and the availability of substitute products not produced from corn, such as sugar from cane or beets, end product prices may not necessarily fluctuate in a manner that correlates to raw material costs of corn.

We follow a policy of hedging our exposure to commodity fluctuations with commodities futures contracts for certain of our North American corn purchases. Our firm-priced business is hedged. Other business may or may not be hedged at any given time based on management s judgment as to the need to fix the costs of our raw materials to protect our profitability. See Item 7A, Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk, in the section entitled Commodity Costs for additional information.

Research and Development

With the acquisition of National Starch, the Company has obtained a global research and development capability concentrated in Bridgewater, New Jersey. Activities at Bridgewater include plant science and physical, chemical and biochemical modifications to food formulation, as well as development of non-food applications such as starch-based biopolymers. In addition, Corn Products has product application technology centers that direct our product development teams worldwide to create product application solutions to better serve the ingredient needs of our customers. Product development activity is focused on developing product applications for identified customer and market needs. Through this approach, we have developed value-added products for use by customers in various industries. We usually collaborate with customers to develop the desired product application either in the customers facilities, our technical service laboratories or on a contract basis. These efforts are supported by our marketing, product technology and

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technology support staff. Research and development expense for 2011 was approximately \$29 million.

Sales and Distribution

Our salaried sales personnel, who are generally dedicated to customers in a geographic region, sell our products directly to manufacturers and distributors. In addition, we have a staff that provides technical support to our sales personnel on an industry basis. We generally contract with trucking companies to deliver our bulk products to customer destinations. In North America, we generally use trucks to ship to nearby customers. For those customers located considerable distances from our plants, we use either rail or a combination of railcars and trucks to deliver our products. We generally lease railcars for terms of five to fifteen years.

Patents, Trademarks and Technical License Agreements

We own a number of patents, including approximately 800 patents and patents pending through the acquisition of National Starch which relate to a variety of products and processes, and a number of established trademarks under which we market our products. We also have the right to use other patents and trademarks pursuant to patent and trademark licenses. We do not believe that any individual patent or trademark is material to our business. There is no currently pending challenge to the use or registration of any of our significant patents or trademarks that would have a material adverse impact on the Company or its results of operations if decided against us.

We are a party to technical license agreements with third parties in South Africa and Venezuela whereby we provide technical, management and business advice on the operations of corn refining businesses and receive royalties in return. These arrangements provide us with product penetration in these countries, as well as experience and relationships that could facilitate future expansion. The duration of the agreements range from one to three years, and these agreements can be extended by mutual agreement. These relationships have been in place for many years. We receive approximately \$2 million of annual income for services provided under these agreements.

Employees

As of December 31, 2011 we had approximately 11,100 employees, of which approximately 1,900 were located in the United States. Approximately 37 percent of US and 48 percent of our non-US employees are unionized. In addition, the Company has approximately 800 temporary employees.

Government Regulation and Environmental Matters

As a manufacturer and maker of food items and items for use in the pharmaceutical industry, our operations and the use of many of our products are subject to various US, state, foreign and local statutes and regulations, including the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and the

Occupational Safety and Health Act. We and many of our products are also subject to regulation by various government agencies, including the United States Food and Drug Administration. Among other things, applicable regulations prescribe requirements and establish standards for product quality, purity and labeling. Failure to comply with one or more regulatory requirements can result in a variety of sanctions, including monetary fines. No such fines of a material nature were imposed on us in 2011. We may also be required to comply with US, state, foreign and local laws regulating food handling and storage. We believe these laws and regulations have not negatively affected our competitive position.

Our operations are also subject to various US, state, foreign and local laws and regulations with respect to environmental matters, including air and water quality and underground fuel storage tanks, and other regulations intended to protect public health and the environment. The Company operates industrial boilers that fire natural gas, coal, or biofuels to operate its manufacturing facilities and are its primary source of greenhouse gas emissions. Based on current laws and regulations and the enforcement and interpretations thereof, we do not expect that the costs of future environmental compliance will be a material expense, although there can be no assurance that we will remain in

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compliance or that the costs of remaining in compliance will not have a material adverse effect on our future financial condition and results of operations.

During 2011 we spent approximately \$3 million for environmental control and wastewater treatment equipment to be incorporated into existing facilities and in planned construction projects. We currently anticipate that we will spend approximately \$9 million for environmental facilities and programs in 2012 and a similar amount in 2013.

Other

Our Internet address is www.cornproducts.com. We make available, free of charge through our Internet website, our annual report 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, as amended. These reports are made available as soon as reasonably practicable after they are electronically filed with or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Our corporate governance guidelines, Board committee charters and code of ethics are posted on our website, the address of which is www.cornproducts.com, and each is available in print to any shareholder upon request in writing to Corn Products International, Inc., 5 Westbrook Corporate Center, Westchester, Illinois 60154 Attention: Corporate Secretary. The contents of our website are not incorporated by reference into this report.

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Executive Officers of the Registrant

Set forth below are the names and ages of all of our executive officers, indicating their positions and offices with the Company and other business experience during the past five years. Our executive officers are elected annually by the Board to serve until the next annual election of officers and until their respective successors have been elected and have qualified unless removed by the Board.

Name	Age	Positions, Offices and Business Experience
Ilene S. Gordon	58	Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company since May 4, 2009. Ms. Gordon was President and Chief Executive Officer of Rio Tinto s Alcan Packaging, a multinational business unit engaged in flexible and specialty packaging, from October 2007 until she took office as Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. From December 2006 to October 2007, Ms. Gordon was a Senior Vice President of Alcan Inc. and President and Chief Executive Officer of Alcan Packaging. Alcan Packaging was acquired by Rio Tinto in October 2007. From 2004 until December 2006, Ms. Gordon served as President of Alcan Food Packaging Americas, a division of Alcan Inc. From 1999 until Alcan s December 2003 acquisition of Pechiney Group, Ms. Gordon was a Senior Vice President of Pechiney Group and President of Pechiney Plastic Packaging, Inc., a global flexible packaging business. Prior to joining Pechiney in June 1999, Ms. Gordon spent 17 years with Tenneco Inc., where she most recently served as Vice President and General Manager, heading up Tenneco s folding carton business. Ms. Gordon also serves as a director of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., an international insurance brokerage and risk management business, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, The Executives Club of Chicago, Economic Club of Chicago and The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She is also a trustee of The Conference Board. Ms. Gordon served as a director of United Stationers Inc., a wholesale distributor of business products and a provider of marketing and logistics services to resellers, from January 2000 until May 2009. She holds a Bachelor s degree in Mathematics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and a Master s degree in Management from MIT s Sloan School of Management.

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Cheryl K. Beebe	56	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since October 1, 2010. Ms. Beebe previously served as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from February 2004 to September 30, 2010, as Vice President, Finance from July 2002 to February 2004, as Vice President from 1999 to 2002 and as Treasurer from 1997 to February 2004. Prior to that, she served as Director of Finance and Planning worldwide for the Corn Refining Business of CPC International, Inc., now Unilever Bestfoods (CPC), from 1995 to 1997 and as Director of Financial Analysis and Planning for Corn Products North America from 1993. Ms. Beebe joined CPC in 1980 and served in various financial positions in CPC s US consumer food business, North American audit group and worldwide corporate treasury group. Ms. Beebe is a member of the Board of Directors of Packaging Corporation of America. She was a member of the Board of Trustees of Fairleigh Dickinson University from 2006 to 2009. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Rutgers University and a Masters of Business Administration degree from Fairleigh Dickenson University.
Julio dos Reis	56	Senior Vice President and President, South America Ingredient Solutions since October 1, 2010. Mr. dos Reis served as Vice President and President, South America Division from September 1, 2010 to September 30, 2010. Mr. dos Reis previously served as President and General Manager of the South America Division s Southern Cone from September 17, 2003 to August 31, 2010. Prior thereto, he joined CPC in February 1992 as Argentina s Corporate Internal Audit Manager, and held positions of increasing responsibility, including Supply Chain Manager and Chief Financial Officer. Prior to joining CPC, he served in a number of management roles for IBM Corporation. He began his career with Price Waterhouse in 1977. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina; a postgraduate degree in Negotiation from the Pontificia Universidad Catolica Argentina, and a certificate from the Advanced Executive Program from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.
Jack C. Fortnum	55	Executive Vice President and President, Global Beverage, Industrial and North America Sweetener Solutions since October 1, 2010. Mr. Fortnum

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previously served as Vice President since 1999 and President of the North America Division from May 2004 to September 30, 2010. Prior to that he served as President, US/Canadian Region from July 2003 to May 2004, and as President, US Business from February 2002 until July 2003. Prior to that, Mr. Fortnum served as Executive Vice President, US/Canadian Region from August 2001 until February 2002, as the Controller from 1997 to 2001, as the Vice President of Finance for Refineries de Maiz, CPC s Argentine subsidiary, from 1995 to 1997, as the Director of Finance and Planning for CPC s Latin America Corn Refining Division from 1993 to 1995, and as the Vice President and Comptroller of Canada Starch Operating Company Inc., the Canadian subsidiary of CPC, and as the Vice President of Finance of the Canadian Corn Refining Business from 1989. Mr. Fortnum is a member of the Board of Directors of Greenfield Ethanol, Inc. He holds a Bachelors degree in Economics from the University of Toronto and completed the Senior Business Administration Course offered by McGill University.

Diane J. Frisch

Senior Vice President, Human Resources since October 1, 2010. Ms. Frisch previously served as Vice President, Human Resources, from May 1, 2010 to September 30, 2010. Prior to that, Ms. Frisch served as Vice President of Human Resources and Communications for the Food Americas and Global Pharmaceutical Packaging businesses of Rio Tinto s Alcan Packaging, a multinational company engaged in flexible and specialty packaging, from January 2004 to March 30, 2010. Prior to being acquired by Alcan Packaging, Ms. Frisch served as Vice President of Human Resources for the flexible packaging business of Pechiney, S.A. an aluminum and packaging company with headquarters in Paris and Chicago, from January 2001 to January 2004. Previously, she served as Vice President of Human Resources for Culligan International Company; Vice President and Director of Human Resources for Alumax Mill Products, Inc., a division of Alumax Inc.; Director of Human Resources for U.S. Reduction Company; and Manager of Human Resources for American Can Company. Ms. Frisch holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY, and a Master of Science in Industrial Relations from the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

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Kimberly A. Hunter	50	Corporate Treasurer since February 2004. Ms. Hunter previously served as Director of Corporate Treasury from September 2001 to February 2004. Prior to that, she served as Managing Director, Investment Grade Securities at Bank One Corporation, a financial institution, from 1997 to 2000 and as Vice President, Capital Markets of Bank One from 1992 to 1997. Ms. Hunter holds Bachelors degrees in Government and Economics from Harvard University and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Chicago.
Mary Ann Hynes	64	Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer since October 1, 2010. Ms. Hynes previously served as Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary from March 2006 to September 30, 2010 and, additionally, Chief Compliance Officer since January 2008. Prior to that, Ms. Hynes was Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Chief Legal Officer for IMC Global Inc., a producer and distributor of crop nutrients and animal feed ingredients, from July 1999 to October 2004, and a consultant to The Mosaic Company, also a producer and distributor of crop nutrients and animal feed ingredients, from October 2004 to October 2005. The Mosaic Company acquired IMC Global Inc. in October 2004. Ms. Hynes is a member of the Board of Trustees of The John Marshall Law School and a director of the Dr. Scholl Foundation. She holds a Bachelors of Political Science and Mathematics from Loyola University, Juris Doctor and Master of Laws Taxation degrees from The John Marshall Law School and an Executive Masters of Business Administration degree from the Lake Forest Graduate School of Business in Chicago.
Robin A. Kornmeyer	63	Vice President since September 2002 and Controller since January 2002. Mr. Kornmeyer previously served as Corporate Controller at Foster Wheeler Ltd., a worldwide engineering and construction company, from 2000 to 2002. He holds a Bachelors degree in Economics and Business Administration from Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pennsylvania.

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John F. Saucier	58	Senior Vice President, Corporate Strategy and Global Business Development since October 1, 2010. Mr. Saucier previously served as Vice President and President Asia/Africa Division and Global Business Development from November 2007 to September 30, 2010. Mr. Saucier previously served as Vice President, Global Business and Product Development, Sales and Marketing from April 2006 to November 2007. Prior to that, Mr. Saucier was President, Integrated Nylon Division of Solutia Inc., a specialty chemical manufacturer from May 2004 to March 2005, and Vice President of Solutia and General Manager of its Integrated Nylon Division from September 2001 to May 2004. Solutia Inc. and 14 of its US subsidiaries filed voluntary petitions under the bankruptcy laws in December 2003. Mr. Saucier holds Bachelors and Masters degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Missouri and a Masters degree in Business Administration from Washington University in St. Louis.
James P. Zallie	50	Executive Vice President and President, Global Ingredient Solutions since October 1, 2010. Mr. Zallie previously served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Starch business from January 2007 to September 30, 2010. Mr. Zallie worked for National Starch for more than 27 years in various positions of increasing responsibility, first in technical, then marketing and then international business management positions. He holds Master s degrees in Food Science and Business Administration from Rutgers University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Food Science from Pennsylvania State University.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

Our business and assets are subject to varying degrees of risk and uncertainty. The following are factors that we believe could cause our actual results to differ materially from expected and historical results. Additional risks that are currently unknown to us may also impair our business or adversely affect our financial condition or results of operations. In addition, forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws that are contained in this Form 10-K or in our other filings or statements may be subject to the risks described below as well as other risks and uncertainties. Please read the cautionary notice regarding forward-looking statements in Item 7 below.

Current economic conditions may adversely impact demand for our products, reduce access to credit and cause our customers and others with which we do business to suffer financial hardship, all of which could adversely impact our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

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Economic conditions are weak in the US, the European Union and many other countries and regions in which we do business, and may remain challenging for the foreseeable future. General business and economic conditions that could affect us include short-term and long-term interest rates, unemployment, inflation, fluctuations in debt markets and the strength of the US economy, the European Union economy and the local economies in which we operate. While currently these conditions have not impaired our ability to access credit markets and finance our operations, there can be no assurance that there will not be a further deterioration in the financial markets.

There could be a number of other effects from these economic developments on our business, including reduced consumer demand for products; insolvency of our customers, resulting in increased provisions for credit losses; decreased customer demand, including order delays or cancellations and counterparty failures negatively impacting our operations.

In connection with our defined benefit pension plans, adverse changes in investment returns earned on pension assets and discount rates used to calculate pension and related liabilities or changes in required pension funding levels may have an unfavorable impact on future pension expense and cash flow.

In addition, the currently weak worldwide economic conditions and market instability make it difficult for us, our customers and our suppliers to accurately forecast future product demand trends, which could cause us to produce excess products that can increase our inventory carrying costs. Alternatively, this forecasting difficulty could cause a shortage of products that could result in an inability to satisfy demand for our products.

We operate a multinational business subject to the economic, political and other risks inherent in operating in foreign countries and with foreign currencies.

We have operated in foreign countries and with foreign currencies for many years. Our results are subject to foreign currency exchange fluctuations. Our operations are subject to political, economic and other risks. There has been and continues to be significant political uncertainty in some countries in which we operate. Economic changes, terrorist activity and political unrest may result in business interruption or decreased demand for our products. Protectionist trade measures and import and export licensing requirements could also adversely affect our results of operations. Our success will depend in part on our ability to manage continued global political and/or economic uncertainty.

We primarily sell world commodities. Historically, local prices have adjusted relatively quickly to offset the effect of local currency devaluations, but there can be no assurance that this will continue to be the case. We may hedge transactions that are denominated in a currency other than the currency of the operating unit entering into the underlying transaction. We are subject to the risks normally attendant to such hedging activities.

Raw material and energy price fluctuations, and supply interruptions and shortages could adversely affect our results of operations.

Our finished products are made primarily from corn. Purchased corn accounts for between 40 percent and 65 percent of finished product costs. Some of our products are based upon specific varieties of corn that are produced in significantly less volumes than yellow dent corn. Energy

costs represent approximately 10 percent of our finished product costs. We use energy primarily to create steam in our production process and to dry product. We consume coal, natural gas, electricity, wood and fuel oil to generate energy. The market prices for these commodities may vary considerably depending on supply and demand, world economies and other factors. We purchase these commodities based on our anticipated usage and future outlook for these costs. We cannot assure that we will be able to purchase these commodities at prices that we can adequately pass on to customers to sustain or increase profitability. We have recently experienced issues with respect to energy in our Pakistan operations.

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In North America, we sell a large portion of our finished products at firm prices established in supply contracts typically lasting for periods of up to one year. In order to minimize the effect of volatility in the cost of corn related to these firm-priced supply contracts, we enter into corn futures contracts, or take other hedging positions in the corn futures market. We are unable to hedge price risk related to co-product sales. These derivative contracts typically mature within one year. At expiration, we settle the derivative contracts at a net amount equal to the difference between the then-current price of corn and the futures contract price. These hedging instruments are subject to fluctuations in value; however, changes in the value of the underlying exposures we are hedging generally offset such fluctuations. The fluctuations in the fair value of these hedging instruments may affect the cash flow of the Company. We fund any unrealized losses or receive cash for any unrealized gains on a daily basis. While the corn futures contracts or hedging positions are intended to minimize the effect of volatility of corn costs on operating profits, the hedging activity can result in losses, some of which may be material. Outside of North America, sales of finished products under long-term, firm-priced supply contracts are not material. We also use derivative financial instruments to hedge portions of our natural gas costs, primarily in our North American operations.

Due to market volatility, we cannot assure that we can adequately pass potential increases in the cost of corn on to customers through product price increases or purchase quantities of corn at prices sufficient to sustain or increase our profitability.

Our corn purchasing costs, which include the price of the corn plus delivery cost, account for 40 percent to 65 percent of our product costs. The price and availability of corn is influenced by economic and industry conditions, including supply and demand factors such as crop disease and severe weather conditions such as drought, floods or frost that are difficult to anticipate and which we cannot control. There is also a demand for corn in the US to produce ethanol which has been significantly impacted by US governmental policies designed to encourage the production of ethanol. In addition, government programs supporting sugar prices indirectly impact the price of corn sweeteners, especially high fructose corn syrup.

Our profitability may be affected by other factors beyond our control.

Our operating income and ability to increase profitability depend to a large extent upon our ability to price finished products at a level that will cover manufacturing and raw material costs and provide an acceptable profit margin. Our ability to maintain appropriate price levels is determined by a number of factors largely beyond our control, such as aggregate industry supply and market demand, which may vary from time to time, and the economic conditions of the geographic regions where we conduct our operations.

We operate in a highly competitive environment and it may be difficult to preserve operating margins and maintain market share.

We operate in a highly competitive environment. Many of our products compete with virtually identical or similar products manufactured by other companies in the starch and sweetener industry. In the United States, there are competitors, several of which are divisions of larger enterprises that have greater financial resources than we do. Some of these competitors, unlike us, have vertically integrated their corn refining and other operations. Many of our products also compete with products made from raw materials other than corn. Fluctuation in prices of these competing products may affect prices of, and profits derived from, our products. Competition in markets in which we compete is largely based on price, quality and product availability.

Changes in consumer preferences and perceptions may lessen the demand for our products, which could reduce our sales and profitability and harm our business.

Food products are often affected by changes in consumer tastes, national, regional and local economic conditions and demographic trends. For instance, changes in prevailing health or dietary preferences causing consumers to avoid food products containing sweetener products, including high fructose corn syrup, in favor of foods that are perceived as being more healthy, could reduce our sales and profitability, and such a reduction could be material.

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Increasing concern among consumers, public health professionals and government agencies about the potential health concerns associated with obesity and inactive lifestyles represent a significant challenge to some of our customers, including those engaged in the soft drink industry.

The uncertainty of acceptance of products developed through biotechnology could affect our profitability.

The commercial success of agricultural products developed through biotechnology, including genetically modified corn, depends in part on public acceptance of their development, cultivation, distribution and consumption. Public attitudes can be influenced by claims that genetically modified products are unsafe for consumption or that they pose unknown risks to the environment even if such claims are not based on scientific studies. These public attitudes can influence regulatory and legislative decisions about biotechnology even where they are approved. The sale of the Company s products which may contain genetically modified corn could be delayed or impaired because of adverse public perception regarding the safety of the Company s products and the potential effects of these products on animals, human health and the environment.

Our profitability could be negatively impacted if we fail to maintain satisfactory labor relations.

Approximately 37 percent of our US and 48 percent of our non-US employees are members of unions. Strikes, lockouts or other work stoppages or slow downs involving our unionized employees could have a material adverse effect on us.

Our reliance on certain industries for a significant portion of our sales could have a material adverse affect on our business.

Approximately 31 percent of our 2011 sales were made to companies engaged in the processed foods industry and approximately 14 percent were made to companies in the soft drink industry. Additionally, sales to the animal feed market, the paper and corrugating industry, and the brewing industry represented approximately 12 percent, 10 percent and 9 percent of our 2011 net sales, respectively. If our processed foods customers, soft drink customers, brewing industry customers, paper and corrugating customers or animal feed customers were to substantially decrease their purchases, our business might be materially adversely affected.

An outbreak of a life threatening communicable disease could negatively impact our business.

If the economies of any countries where we sell or manufacture products are affected by an outbreak of a life threatening communicable diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) or the Avian Flu, it could result in decreased sales and unfavorably impact our business.

Government policies and regulations in general, and specifically affecting agriculture-related businesses, could adversely affect our operating results.

Our operating results could be affected by changes in trade, monetary and fiscal policies, laws and regulations, and other activities of United States and foreign governments, agencies, and similar organizations. These conditions include but are not limited to changes in a country s or region s economic or political conditions, trade regulations affecting production, pricing and marketing of products, local labor conditions and regulations, reduced protection of intellectual property rights, changes in the regulatory or legal environment, restrictions on currency exchange activities, currency exchange fluctuations, burdensome taxes and tariffs, and other trade barriers. International risks and uncertainties, including changing social and economic conditions as well as terrorism, political hostilities, and war, could limit our ability to transact business in these markets and could adversely affect our revenues and operating results.

Due to cross-border disputes, our operations could be adversely affected by actions taken by the governments of countries where we conduct business.

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The recognition of impairment charges on goodwill or long-lived assets could adversely impact our future financial position and results of operations.

In 2011, we recorded restructuring charges of \$10 million relating to our manufacturing optimization plan in North America. In 2010, we recorded a \$24 million write-off for impairment and restructuring charges for the closure of our Chilean manufacturing plant. In 2009, we recorded a write-off of \$119 million of goodwill pertaining to our operation in South Korea. See Note 4 of the notes to the consolidated financial statements included in this Form 10-K for additional information regarding these write-offs.

We perform an annual impairment assessment for goodwill and, as necessary, for long-lived assets. If the results of such assessments were to show that the fair value of our property, plant and equipment or goodwill were less than the carrying values, we could be required to recognize a charge for impairment of goodwill and/or long-lived assets and the amount of the impairment charge could be material. Our annual impairment assessment as of October 1, 2011 did not result in any additional impairment charges for the year.

Even though it was determined that there was no additional long-lived asset impairment as of October 1, 2011, the future occurrence of a potential indicator of impairment, such as a significant adverse change in the business climate that would require a change in our assumptions or strategic decisions made in response to economic or competitive conditions, could require us to perform an assessment prior to the next required assessment date of October 1, 2012.

Changes in our tax rates or exposure to additional income tax liabilities could impact our profitability.

We are subject to income taxes in the United States and in various other foreign jurisdictions. Our effective tax rates could be adversely affected by changes in the mix of earnings by jurisdiction, changes in tax laws or tax rates, changes in the valuation of deferred tax assets and liabilities, and material adjustments from tax audits.

In particular, the carrying value of deferred tax assets, which are predominantly in the US, is dependent upon our ability to generate future taxable income in the US. In addition, the amount of income taxes we pay is subject to ongoing audits in various jurisdictions and a material assessment by a governing tax authority could affect our profitability.

Operating difficulties at our manufacturing plants could adversely affect our operating results.

Producing starches and sweeteners through corn refining is a capital intensive industry. We have 37 plants and have preventive maintenance and de-bottlenecking programs designed to maintain and improve grind capacity and facility reliability. If we encounter operating difficulties at a plant for an extended period of time or start up problems with any capital improvement projects, we may not be able to meet a portion of sales order commitments and could incur significantly higher operating expenses, both of which could adversely affect our operating results. We also use boilers to generate steam required in our manufacturing processes. An event that impaired the operation of a boiler for an extended period of time could have a significant adverse effect on the operations of any plant where such event occurred.

We may not have access to the funds required for future growth and expansion.

We may need additional funds for working capital to grow and expand our operations. We expect to fund our capital expenditures from operating cash flow to the extent we are able to do so. If our operating cash flow is insufficient to fund our capital expenditures, we may either reduce our capital expenditures or utilize our general credit facilities. We may also seek to generate additional liquidity through the sale of debt or equity securities in private or public markets or through the sale of non-productive assets. We cannot provide any assurance that our cash flows from operations will be sufficient to fund anticipated capital expenditures or that we will be able to obtain additional funds from financial markets or from the sale of assets at terms favorable to us. If we are unable to generate sufficient cash flows or raise sufficient additional funds to cover our capital expenditures, we may not be able to achieve our desired operating efficiencies and expansion plans, which may adversely impact our competitiveness and, therefore, our results of operations.

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Increased interest rates could increase our borrowing costs.

From time to time we may issue securities to finance acquisitions, capital expenditures, working capital and for other general corporate purposes. An increase in interest rates in the general economy could result in an increase in our borrowing costs for these financings, as well as under any existing debt that bears interest at an unhedged floating rate.

We may not successfully identify and complete acquisitions or strategic alliances on favorable terms or achieve anticipated synergies relating to any acquisitions or alliances, and such acquisitions could result in unforeseen operating difficulties and expenditures and require significant management resources.

We regularly review potential acquisitions of complementary businesses, technologies, services or products, as well as potential strategic alliances. We may be unable to find suitable acquisition candidates or appropriate partners with which to form partnerships or strategic alliances. Even if we identify appropriate acquisition or alliance candidates, we may be unable to complete such acquisitions or alliances on favorable terms, if at all. In addition, the process of integrating an acquired business, including National Starch, technology, service or product into our existing business and operations may result in unforeseen operating difficulties and expenditures. Integration of an acquired company also may require significant management resources that otherwise would be available for ongoing development of our business. Moreover, we may not realize the anticipated benefits of any acquisition, including National Starch, or strategic alliance, and such transactions may not generate anticipated financial results. Future acquisitions could also require us to issue equity securities, incur debt, assume contingent liabilities or amortize expenses related to intangible assets, any of which could harm our business.

Our inability to contain costs could adversely affect our future profitability and growth.

Our future profitability and growth depends on our ability to contain operating costs and per-unit product costs and to maintain and/or implement effective cost control programs, while at the same time maintaining competitive pricing and superior quality products, customer service and support. Our ability to maintain a competitive cost structure depends on continued containment of manufacturing, delivery and administrative costs, as well as the implementation of cost-effective purchasing programs for raw materials, energy and related manufacturing requirements.

If we are unable to contain our operating costs and maintain the productivity and reliability of our production facilities, our profitability and growth could be adversely affected.

Volatility in the stock market, fluctuations in quarterly operating results and other factors could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.

The market price for our common stock may be significantly affected by factors such as our announcement of new products or services or such announcements by our competitors; technological innovation by us, our competitors or other vendors; quarterly variations in our operating results or the operating results of our competitors; general conditions in our or our customers markets; and changes in the earnings estimates by

analysts or reported results that vary materially from such estimates. In addition, the stock market has experienced significant price fluctuations that have affected the market prices of equity securities of many companies that have been unrelated to the operating performance of any individual company.

No assurance can be given that we will continue to pay dividends.

The payment of dividends is at the discretion of our Board of Directors and will be subject to our financial results and the availability of surplus funds to pay dividends.

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ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

We operate, directly and through our consolidated subsidiaries, 37 manufacturing facilities, all of which are owned. In addition, we lease our corporate headquarters in Westchester, Illinois and our National Starch facility in Bridgewater, New Jersey. The following list details the locations of our manufacturing facilities within each of our four reportable business segments:

North America	South America	Asia Pacific	EMEA
Cardinal, Ontario, Canada	Baradero, Argentina	Lane Cove, Australia	Eldoret, Kenya
London, Ontario, Canada	Chacabuco, Argentina	Shanghai, China	Cornwala, Pakistan
Port Colborne, Ontario, Canada	Balsa Nova, Brazil	Shouguang, China	Faisalabad, Pakistan
San Juan del Rio, Queretaro, Mexico	Cabo, Brazil	Ichon, South Korea	Hamburg, Germany
Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico	Conchal, Brazil	Inchon, South Korea	Goole, United Kingdom
Mexico City, Edo, Mexico	Mogi-Guacu, Brazil	Ban Kao Dien, Thailand	_
Stockton, California, U.S.	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Kalasin, Thailand	
Bedford Park, Illinois, U.S.	Trombudo, Brazil	Sikhiu, Thailand	
Mapleton, Illinois, U.S.	Barranquilla, Colombia		
Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.	Cali, Colombia		
North Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.	Lima, Peru		
Winston-Salem, North Carolina, U.S.			
Charleston, South Carolina, U.S.			

We believe our manufacturing facilities are sufficient to meet our current production needs. We have preventive maintenance and de-bottlenecking programs designed to further improve grind capacity and facility reliability.

We have electricity co-generation facilities at all of our US and Canadian plants with the exception of Indianapolis, North Kansas City, Charleston and Mapleton, as well as at our plants in San Juan del Rio, Mexico; Baradero, Argentina; and Balsa Nova and Mogi-Guacu, Brazil, that provide electricity at a lower cost than is available from third parties. We generally own and operate these co-generation facilities, except for the facilities at our Stockton, California; Cardinal, Ontario; and Balsa Nova and Mogi-Guacu, Brazil locations, which are owned by, and operated pursuant to co-generation agreements with, third parties.

In recent years, we have made significant capital expenditures to update, expand and improve our facilities, spending \$263 million in 2011. We believe these capital expenditures will allow us to operate efficient facilities for the foreseeable future. We currently anticipate that capital expenditures for 2012 will approximate \$275 million to \$325 million.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

On April 22, 2011, Western Sugar and two other sugar companies filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California against the Corn Refiners Association (CRA) and certain of its member companies, including us, alleging false and/or misleading statements relating to high fructose corn syrup in violation of the Lanham Act and California s unfair competition law. The complaint seeks injunctive relief and unspecified damages.

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On October 21, 2011, the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California dismissed all Federal and state claims against us and the other members of the CRA, with leave for the plaintiffs to amend their complaint, and also dismissed all state law claims against the CRA. On February 6, 2012, the plaintiffs filed a response to the second motion to dismiss. We and the other member companies filed a reply to the plaintiffs response on February 27, 2012.

The state law claims against the CRA were dismissed pursuant to a California law known as the anti-SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) statute, which, according to the court sopinion, allows early dismissal of meritless first amendment cases aimed at chilling expression through costly, time-consuming litigation. The court held that the CRA s statements were protected speech made in a public forum in connection with an issue of public interest (high fructose corn syrup). Under the anti-SLAPP statute, the CRA is entitled to recover its attorney s fees and costs from the plaintiffs.

We are currently subject to various other claims and suits arising in the ordinary course of business, including certain environmental proceedings. We do not believe that the results of such legal proceedings, even if unfavorable to us, will be material to us. There can be no assurance, however, that such claims or suits or those arising in the future, whether taken individually or in the aggregate, will not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.

PART II

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

Shares of our common stock are traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) under the ticker symbol CPO. The number of holders of record of our common stock was 6,214 at January 31, 2011.

We have a history of paying quarterly dividends. The amount and timing of the dividend payment, if any, is based on a number of factors including estimated earnings, financial position and cash flow. The payment of a dividend is solely at the discretion of our Board of Directors. Future dividend payments will be subject to our financial results and the availability of surplus funds to pay dividends.

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The quarterly high and low sales prices for our common stock and cash dividends declared per common share for 2010 and 2011 are shown below.

	1st QTR	2nd QTR	3rd QTR	4th QTR
2011				
Market prices				
High	\$ 52.07	\$ 57.91	\$ 59.50	\$ 53.25
Low	44.51	50.30	38.87	36.65
Per share				
dividends	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.16	\$ 0.20
2010				
Market prices				
High	\$ 35.73	\$ 37.62	\$ 39.36	\$ 48.00
Low	26.23	30.25	28.70	37.12
Per share				
dividends	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.14	\$ 0.14

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities:

The following table summarizes information with respect to our purchases of our common stock during the fourth quarter of 2011.

(shares in thousands)	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of Shares that may yet be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs at end of period
Oct. 1 Oct. 31, 2011				3,685 shares
Nov. 1 Nov. 30, 2011				3,685 shares
Dec. 1 Dec. 31, 2011				