

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL INC
Form 10-K
February 21, 2013

United States
Securities and Exchange Commission
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

(MARK ONE)

- ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012
OR
 TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number 001-31921
Compass Minerals International, Inc.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or
organization)

36-3972986
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

9900 West 109th Street, Suite 100
Overland Park, Kansas
(Address of principal executive offices)

66210
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:
(913) 344-9200
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share	New York Stock Exchange
Preferred Stock Purchase Rights	New York Stock Exchange

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

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

Edgar Filing: COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL INC - Form 10-K

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

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

Yes No

As of June 29, 2012, the aggregate market value of the registrant's common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was \$2,525,585,337, based on the closing sale price of \$76.28 per share, as reported on the New York Stock Exchange.

The number of shares outstanding of the registrant's \$0.01 par value common stock at February 18, 2013 was 33,275,622 shares.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Document

Parts into which Incorporated

Portions of the Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held May 8, 2013 (Proxy Statement)

Part III, Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I		Page No.
Item 1.	<u>Business</u>	3
Item 1A.	<u>Risk Factors</u>	14
Item 1B.	<u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	24
Item 2.	<u>Properties</u>	24
Item 3.	<u>Legal Proceedings</u>	24
Item 4.	<u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	24
PART II		
Item 5.	<u>Market for the Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	26
Item 6.	<u>Selected Financial Data</u>	27
Item 7.	<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	28
Item 7A.	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	40
Item 8.	<u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	42
Item 9.	<u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	73
Item 9A.	<u>Controls and Procedures</u>	73
Item 9B.	<u>Other Information</u>	73
PART III		
Item 10.	<u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	74
Item 11.	<u>Executive Compensation</u>	74
Item 12.	<u>Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	74
Item 13.	<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	74
Item 14.	<u>Principal Accounting Fees and Services</u>	74
PART IV		
Item 15.	<u>Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules</u>	75
<u>SIGNATURES</u>		81

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

PART I

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This annual report on Form 10-K (the “report”) contains forward-looking statements. These statements relate to future events or our future financial performance and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements, expressed or implied, by these forward-looking statements. These risks and other factors include, among other things, those listed under Item 1A, “Risk Factors,” and elsewhere in this report. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as “may,” “might,” “will,” “should,” “could,” “expects,” “intends,” “plans,” “anticipates,” “believes,” “estimates,” “predicts,” “potential,” “continue” or these terms or other comparable terminology. These statements are only predictions. Actual events or results may differ materially. In evaluating these statements, you should specifically consider various factors, including the risks outlined under Item 1A, “Risk Factors.” These factors may cause our actual results to differ materially from any forward-looking statement.

Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. We undertake no duty to update any of the forward-looking statements after the date of this report. Factors that could cause actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, the following:

- domestic and international general business and economic conditions;
 - uninsured risks;
 - hazards of mining, including acts of nature;
- governmental policies affecting the highway maintenance programs, consumer and industrial industry or agricultural industry in localities where we or our customers operate;
 - weather conditions;
 - the impact of competitive products;
 - pressure on prices realized by us for our products;
- constraints on supplies of raw materials used in manufacturing certain of our products, or the price or lack of availability of transportation services;
 - our ability to attract and retain skilled personnel or avoid a disruption in our workforce;
 - capacity constraints limiting the production of certain products;
 - difficulties or delays in the development, production, testing and marketing of products;

- difficulties or delays in receiving and renewing required governmental and regulatory approvals;
 - the impact of new technology on the demand for our products;
- market acceptance issues, including the failure of products to generate anticipated sales levels;
- the effects of and changes in trade, monetary, environmental and fiscal policies, laws and regulations;
 - the impact of indebtedness and interest rates;
 - foreign exchange rates and fluctuations in those rates;
- the costs and effects of legal proceedings, including environmental and administrative proceedings involving us;
- agricultural economics, customer expectations about future potash market prices and customer application rates;

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

- credit and capital markets, including the risk of customer and counterparty defaults and declining credit availability;
 - changes in tax laws or estimates;
 - cyber security issues; and
- other risk factors included in this Form 10-K and reported from time to time in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). See “Where You Can Find More Information.”

MARKET AND INDUSTRY DATA AND FORECASTS

This report includes market share and industry data and forecasts that we obtained from publicly available information and industry publications, surveys, market research, internal company surveys, and consultant surveys. Industry publications and surveys, consultant surveys and forecasts generally state that the information contained therein has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but there can be no assurance as to the accuracy and completeness of such information. We have not independently verified any of the data from third-party sources nor have we ascertained the underlying economic assumptions relied upon therein. Similarly, internal company surveys, industry forecasts and market research, which we believe to be reliable based upon management’s knowledge of the industry, have not been verified by any independent sources. Except where otherwise noted, references to North America include only the continental United States and Canada, references to the United Kingdom (“U.K.”) include only England, Scotland and Wales, and statements as to our position relative to our competitors or as to market share refer to the most recent available data. Statements concerning (a) North American consumer and industrial salt and highway deicing salt are generally based on historical sales volumes, (b) U.K. highway deicing salt sales are generally based on historical production capacity and (c) sulfate of potash are generally based on historical sales volumes. Except where otherwise noted, all references to tons refer to “short tons” and all amounts are in United States (“U.S.”) dollars. One short ton equals 2,000 pounds.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC’s website at <http://www.sec.gov>. Please note that the SEC’s website is included in this report as an active textual reference only. The information contained on the SEC’s website is not incorporated by reference into this report and should not be considered a part of this report.

You may also request a copy of any of our filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning:

Investor Relations
Compass Minerals International, Inc.
9900 West 109th Street, Suite 100
Overland Park, Kansas 66210

For general inquiries concerning the Company please call (913) 344-9200.

Alternatively, copies of these documents are also available free of charge on our website, www.compassminerals.com.

The information on our website is not part of this report and is not incorporated by reference into this report.

Unless the context requires otherwise, references in this annual report to the “Company,” “Compass Minerals,” “CMP,” “we,” “us” and “our” refer to Compass Minerals International, Inc. (“CMI,” the parent holding company) and its consolidated subsidiaries collectively.

ITEM 1.BUSINESS

COMPANY OVERVIEW

Based in the Kansas City metropolitan area, Compass Minerals is a leading producer of minerals, including salt, sulfate of potash specialty fertilizer (“SOP”) and magnesium chloride. As of December 31, 2012, we operated 12 production and packaging facilities, including the largest rock salt mine in the world in Goderich, Ontario, Canada, and the largest rock salt mine in the U.K. in Winsford, Cheshire. Our solar evaporation facility located in Ogden, Utah, is both the largest SOP production site and the largest solar salt production site in North America. We provide highway deicing salt to customers in North America and the U.K. and specialty fertilizer to growers and fertilizer distributors worldwide. We also produce and market consumer deicing and water conditioning products, ingredients used in consumer and commercial food preparation, and other mineral-based products for consumer, agricultural and industrial applications. In the U.K., we operate a records management business utilizing excavated areas of our Winsford salt mine with two other locations in London, England.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

SALT SEGMENT

Salt is indispensable and enormously versatile with thousands of reported uses. In addition, there are no known cost-effective alternatives for most high-volume uses. As a result, our cash flows from salt have not been materially impacted by shifting economic cycles. We are among the lowest-cost salt producers in our markets because our salt deposits are high-grade quality and among the most extensive in the world, and because we utilize effective mining techniques and efficient production processes.

Through our salt segment, we mine, produce, process, distribute and market sodium chloride and magnesium chloride in North America and sodium chloride in the U.K. Our salt segment products include rock salt, mechanically evaporated and solar evaporated salt, and liquid and flake magnesium chloride. We also purchase potassium chloride and calcium chloride to sell as finished products or to blend with sodium chloride to produce specialty products. Sodium chloride (either as a single mineral or in combination with other chlorides) represents the vast majority of the products we produce and sell. Accordingly, we refer to these products collectively as “salt,” unless otherwise noted.

Salt is used in a wide variety of applications, including as a deicer for highway, consumer and professional use (rock salt and specialty deicers, which include pure or blended magnesium chloride, potassium chloride and calcium chloride salts with sodium chloride), an ingredient in the production of chemicals, for water treatment, human and animal nutrition, and a variety of other consumer and industrial uses. Consumer and industrial uses include application as a flavor enhancer and preservative in food, a nutrient and trace mineral delivery vehicle in animal feeds, an essential component in both industrial and residential water softeners and as an additive to aid in the disinfection of spas and swimming pools.

The demand for salt has historically remained relatively stable during periods of rising prices and during a variety of economic cycles due to its relatively low cost with a diverse number of end uses. However, demand for deicing products is affected by the number and intensity of winter precipitation events in our service territories. On average, over the last three years, approximately 65% of our deicing product sales occurred during the months of November through March when winter weather was most severe. See Note 14 of the Company’s Consolidated Financial Statements for salt segment financial information.

Salt Industry Overview

The salt industry is characterized by a long history of modest growth and steady price increases across various types of products, after factoring in the impact of mild and severe winter weather. Salt is one of the most common and widely consumed minerals in the world due to its low relative cost and its utility in a variety of applications, including highway deicing, food processing, water conditioning, industrial chemical processing and nutritional supplements for livestock. We estimate that the consumption of highway deicing rock salt in North America is approximately 33 million tons per year based on average winter weather, while the consumer and industrial market totals approximately 10 million tons per year. In the U.K., we estimate that the size of the highway deicing market is approximately 2 million tons per year with such estimates based upon average winter weather. According to the latest available data from the U.S. Geological Survey (“USGS”), during the thirty-year period ending 2011, the production of salt used in highway deicing and for consumer and industrial products in the U.S. has increased at an historical average of approximately 1% - 2% per year.

Salt prices vary according to purity and end use and its pricing differences reflect, among other things, variations in refining and packaging processes. According to the latest USGS data, during the thirty-year period ending 2011, prices for salt used in highway deicing and consumer and industrial products in the U.S. have increased at an historical average of approximately 3% per year. Due to salt’s relatively low production cost, transportation and handling costs tend to be a significant component of the total delivered cost making logistics management and customer service key competitive factors in the industry. The high relative cost associated with transportation tends to favor the supply of

salt by producers located nearest to the customers.

Processing Methods

Our current production capacity, including salt and other minerals purchased under contracts, is approximately 17.0 million tons of salt per year. Mining, other production activities and packaging are currently conducted at 12 of our facilities. Additionally, finished product is purchased under contracts from suppliers at four facilities. The three processing methods we use to produce salt are described below.

Underground Rock Salt Mining - We use a drill and blast mining technique at our North American underground rock salt mines. At our Winsford, U.K., facility, we primarily use continuous mining equipment. In addition, we expect to begin using continuous mining equipment at our Goderich, Ontario facility in 2013. Mining machinery moves salt from the salt face to conveyor belts, which transport the salt to the mill center where it is crushed and screened. Salt is then hoisted to the surface where it is loaded onto shipping vessels, railcars or trucks. The primary power sources for each of our rock salt mines are electricity and diesel fuel. Rock salt is sold in our highway deicing product line and for numerous applications in our consumer and industrial product lines. Underground rock salt mining represents approximately 86% of our current annual salt production capacity. See Item 1A, "Risk Factors – Our operations are dependent on our rights and ability to mine our property and having renewed or received the required permits and approvals from third parties and governmental authorities."

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Mechanical Evaporation - Mechanical evaporation involves obtaining salt brine from underground salt deposits through a series of brine wells and subjecting that salt-saturated brine to vacuum pressure and heat to precipitate and crystallize salt. The primary power sources are natural gas and electricity. The resulting product has both a high purity and uniform physical shape. Mechanically evaporated salt is primarily sold through our consumer and industrial salt product lines and represents approximately 5% of our current annual salt production capacity.

Solar Evaporation – Solar evaporation is used in areas of the world where high-salinity brine is available and where weather conditions provide for a high natural evaporation rate. The brine is pumped into a series of large open ponds where sun and wind evaporate the water and crystallize the salt, which is then mechanically harvested and processed through washing, drying and screening. We produce solar salt at the Great Salt Lake in Utah, and sell it through both our consumer and industrial and our highway deicing product lines. Solar evaporation represents approximately 9% of our current annual salt production capacity.

We also produce magnesium chloride through the solar evaporation process. We precipitate sodium chloride and potassium-rich salts from the brine, leaving a concentrated magnesium chloride brine solution. This resulting concentrated brine becomes the raw material used to produce several magnesium chloride products, which are sold through both of our consumer and industrial and highway deicing product lines, as well as our specialty fertilizer segment.

Operations and Facilities

United States - Our Cote Blanche, Louisiana rock salt mine serves highway deicing customers through a series of depots located along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers (and their major tributaries) and chemical and agricultural customers in the Southern and Midwestern U.S. Our solar evaporation facility located in Ogden, Utah, is the largest solar salt production site in North America. This facility principally serves the Midwestern and Western U.S. consumer and industrial markets, provides salt for highway deicing and chemical applications, and produces magnesium chloride, which is used in deicing, dust control and unpaved road surface stabilization applications. The production capacity for solar-evaporated salt at our Ogden facility is currently only limited by demand. Our Central and Midwestern U.S. consumer and industrial customer base is primarily served by our mechanical evaporation plant in Lyons, Kansas. Additionally, we serve areas with evaporated salt purchased from other suppliers' facilities. We also operate three salt packaging facilities in Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin, which principally serve consumer deicing and water conditioning customers in the Central, Midwestern and parts of the Northeastern U.S.

Canada - We produce finished salt products at four locations in Canada. Our Goderich, Ontario, rock salt mine serves the highway deicing markets and the consumer and industrial markets in Canada and the Great Lakes region of the U.S., principally through a series of depots located around the Great Lakes and through packaging facilities. Mechanically evaporated salt used for our consumer and industrial product lines is produced at three facilities strategically located throughout Canada: Amherst, Nova Scotia in Eastern Canada; Goderich, Ontario, in Central Canada; and Unity, Saskatchewan, in Western Canada.

United Kingdom - Our U.K. highway deicing customer base is served by the Winsford rock salt mine in Northwest England, near Manchester.

The following table shows the annual production capacity and type of salt produced at each of our owned or leased production locations as of December 31, 2012:

Location	Annual Production Capacity	Product Type
----------	----------------------------------	--------------

(tons)

North America		
Goderich, Ontario Mine	9,000,000 (a)	Rock Salt
Cote Blanche, Louisiana Mine	3,400,000	Rock Salt
Ogden, Utah:		
Salt (b)	1,500,000	Solar Salt
Magnesium Chloride (c)	750,000	Magnesium Chloride
Lyons, Kansas Plant	450,000	Evaporated Salt
Unity, Saskatchewan Plant	160,000	Evaporated Salt
Goderich, Ontario Plant	130,000	Evaporated Salt
Amherst, Nova Scotia Plant	130,000	Evaporated Salt
United Kingdom		
Winsford, Cheshire Mine	1,500,000	Rock Salt

(a) In 2011, we completed an upgrade of our hoisting infrastructure which would allow the mine to achieve approximately 9.0 million tons annually. We would need to invest in some additional mining equipment to sustain annual production significantly greater than the previously disclosed 7.5 million ton capacity.

(b) Solar salts deposited annually substantially exceed the amount converted into finished products. The amount presented here represents an approximate average amount produced based on recent market demand.

(c) The magnesium chloride amount includes both brine and flake.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Salt production, including magnesium chloride, at these facilities totaled an aggregate of 10.8 million tons, 13.2 million tons and 11.0 million tons for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Variations in production volumes are typically attributable to variations in the winter season weather ending in March of each year, which impacts the demand during the winter for highway and consumer deicing products.

In August 2011, a tornado struck our salt mine and our salt mechanical evaporation plant, both located in Goderich, Ontario. There was no damage to the underground operations at the mine. However, some of the mine's surface structures and the evaporation plant incurred significant damage which temporarily ceased production at both facilities. We resumed production and shipping activities, on a reduced basis, at the Goderich mine in early September 2011 and regained full hoisting capability in April 2012. However, the mine still requires some repairs and reconstruction to fully restore the damaged surface structures and long-lived operating assets. The evaporation plant resumed limited activities in late September 2011 and reached full capacity by the end of the first quarter of 2012.

Salt is found throughout the world and, where it is commercially produced, it is typically deposited in extremely large quantities. Our production facilities have access to vast mineral deposits. In most of our production locations we estimate the recoverable salt reserves to last at least several more decades at current production rates and capacities. Our rights to extract those minerals may be contractually limited by either geographic boundaries or time. We believe that we will be able to continue to extend these agreements, as we have in the past, at commercially reasonable terms without incurring substantial costs or material modifications to the existing lease terms and conditions, thereby allowing us to extract the additional salt necessary to fully develop our existing mineral rights.

Our underground mines in Canada (Goderich, Ontario), the U.S. (Cote Blanche, Louisiana) and the U.K. (Winsford, Cheshire) make up 86% of our salt producing capacity. See Item 1A, "Risk Factors – Our operations are dependent on our rights and ability to mine our property and having renewed or received the required permits and approvals from third parties and governmental authorities." Each of these mines is operated with modern mining equipment and utilizes subsurface improvements such as vertical shaft lift systems, milling and crushing facilities, maintenance and repair shops, and extensive raw materials handling systems. We believe our properties and our operating equipment are maintained in good working condition.

The mine site at Goderich, Ontario, is owned. We also maintain a mineral lease at Goderich with the provincial government, which grants us the right to mine salt. This lease expires in 2022 with our option to renew until 2043 after demonstrating to the lessor that the mine's useful life is greater than the lease's term. The Cote Blanche mine is operated under land and mineral leases with third-party landowners who grant us the right to mine salt. The leases expire in 2060. The mine site and salt reserves at the Winsford mine are owned.

Our mines at Goderich, Cote Blanche and Winsford have been in operation for approximately 53, 47 and 167 years, respectively. At current average rates of production, we estimate that our remaining years of production for the recoverable minerals we presently own or lease to be 122, 72 and 22 years, respectively. Our mineral interests are amortized on an individual mine basis over estimated useful lives not to exceed 99 years using primarily the units-of-production method. Our estimates are based on, among other things, the results of reserve studies completed by a third-party geological engineering firm. The reserve estimates are primarily a function of the area and volume covered by the mining rights and estimates of our extraction rates based upon an expectation of operating the mines on a long-term basis. Established criteria for proven and probable reserves are primarily applicable to mining deposits of discontinuous metal, where both the presence of ore and its variable grade need to be precisely identified. However, the massive continuous nature of evaporative deposits, such as salt, requires proportionately less data for the same degree of confidence in mineral reserves, both in terms of quantity and quality. Reserve studies performed by a third-party engineering firm suggest that our salt reserves most closely resemble probable reserves and we have therefore classified our reserves as probable reserves.

In addition, we acquired the mining rights to approximately 100 million tons of salt reserves in the Chilean Atacama Desert in 2012. The project will require significant infrastructure development to establish extraction capabilities.

We package salt products at three additional Company-owned and operated facilities. The table below shows the packaging capacity at each of these facilities:

Location	Annual Packaging Capacity (tons)
Kenosha, Wisconsin	150,000
Chicago, Illinois	150,000
Duluth, Minnesota	100,000

We also have contracts to purchase finished salt and potassium mineral feedstock for SOP production from suppliers at four North American locations. All of these contracts have a minimum purchasing commitment, one of which we can cancel with one year's notice.

Products and Sales - We sell our salt products through our highway deicing product line (which includes liquid magnesium chloride and calcium chloride as well as rock salt treated with these minerals) and our consumer and industrial product line (which includes salt as well as products containing magnesium chloride, calcium chloride and potassium chloride ("KCl" or "MOP") in both pure form and blended with salt). Highway deicing, including salt sold to chemical customers, constituted approximately 43% of our gross sales in 2012. Our principal customers are states, provinces, counties, municipalities and road

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

maintenance contractors that purchase bulk deicing salt, both treated and untreated, for ice control on public roadways. Highway deicing salt in North America is sold primarily through an annual tendered bid contract process as well as through some longer-term contracts, with price, product quality and delivery capabilities as the primary competitive market factors. See Item 1A, “Risk Factors – Our business is subject to numerous laws and regulations with which we must comply in order to operate our business and obtain contracts with governmental entities.” Some sales also occur through negotiated sales contracts with third-party customers, particularly in the U.K. Since transportation costs are a relatively large portion of the cost to deliver products to customers in North America, the locations of the salt sources and distribution networks also play a significant role in the ability of suppliers to serve customers. We have an extensive network of approximately 95 depots for storage and distribution of highway deicing salt in North America. The majority of these depots are located on the Great Lakes and the Mississippi and Ohio River systems (and their major tributaries) where our Goderich, Ontario and Cote Blanche, Louisiana mines are located to serve those markets. Salt and liquid magnesium chloride from our Ogden, Utah facility are also used for highway deicing in the Western and upper Midwest regions of the U.S. Treated rock salt, which is typically rock salt treated with liquid magnesium chloride and other organic materials that enhance the performance of the salt, is sold throughout our markets.

We produce highway deicing salt in the U.K. at our mining facility at Winsford, Cheshire, the largest rock salt mine in the U.K. We believe our production capability and favorable logistics position enhance our ability to meet the U.K.’s winter demands. Due to our strong position, we are viewed as a key strategic supplier by the U.K.’s Highways Agency. As such, we help the Highways Agency develop standards for deicing products and services that are provided to them through their deicing application contractors. In the U.K., approximately 85% of our highway deicing business is on multi-year contracts.

Winter weather variability is the most significant factor affecting salt sales for deicing applications because mild winters reduce the need for salt used in ice and snow control. On average, over the last three years, approximately 65% of our deicing product sales occurred during the months of November through March when winter weather was most severe. Lower than expected sales during this period could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations. The vast majority of our North American deicing sales are made in Canada and the Midwestern U.S. where inclement weather during the winter months causes dangerous road conditions. In keeping with industry practice, we stockpile quantities of salt to meet estimated requirements for the next winter season. See Item 1A, “Risk Factors – The seasonal demand for our products and the variations in our operations from quarter to quarter due to weather conditions, including any effects from climate changes, may have an adverse effect on our results of operations and the price of our common stock” and Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Seasonality.”

Our principal chemical customers are producers of intermediate chemical products used in the production of vinyls and other chemicals, pulp and paper as well as water treatment and a variety of other industrial uses. Our customer locations typically do not have a captive source of salt brine. We typically have multi-year supply agreements, which are negotiated privately with our chemical customers. Price, service, product quality and security of supply are the major competitive market factors.

Sales of our consumer and industrial products accounted for approximately 32% of our 2012 gross sales. We are the third largest producer of consumer and industrial salt products in North America. This product line includes commercial and consumer applications, such as table salt, water conditioning, consumer and professional ice control, food processing, pool salt, agricultural applications and a variety of industrial applications. We believe that we are among the largest private-label producers of water conditioning and table salt products in North America. Our Sifto® brand encompasses a full line of salt products, which are well recognized in Canada.

Our consumer and industrial sales are driven by products using both private label and Company brands, broad product lines and strong customer relationships. Our consumer and industrial product line is distributed through many channels including, but not limited to, retail, agricultural, industrial, janitorial/sanitation and resellers. The consumer and industrial product line is channeled from our plants and third-party warehouses to our customers using a

combination of direct sales personnel, contract personnel and a network of brokers or manufacturers' representatives. The table below shows our shipments of salt products:

(thousands of tons)	2012		Year ended December 31, 2011		2010	
	Tons	%	Tons	%	Tons	%
Highway Deicing	7,530	78	10,235	82	10,008	81
Consumer and Industrial	2,095	22	2,285	18	2,357	19
Total	9,625	100	12,520	100	12,365	100

Competition – We face strong competition in each of the markets in which we operate. In North America, other large, nationally recognized companies compete against our salt products. In addition, there are also several smaller regional producers of salt. There are several importers of salt into North America, but these mostly impact the East Coast and West Coast of the U.S. where we have minimal market presence. Two competitors serve the highway deicing salt market in the U.K.: one in Northern England and one in Northern Ireland. There are typically not significant imports of highway deicing salt into the U.K. See Item 1A, “Risk Factors – Competition in our markets and governmental policies and regulations could limit our ability to attract and retain customers, force us to continuously make capital investments, alter supply levels and put pressure on the prices we can charge for our products. Additionally, with regard to our specialty fertilizer product, economic conditions in the

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

agriculture sector, and supply and demand imbalances for competing potash products can also impact the price of or demand for our products.”

SPECIALTY FERTILIZER SEGMENT

Fertilizers serve a significant role in efficient crop production around the world. Potassium is a vital nutrient for virtually all crops, it assists in regulating plants’ growth and improves durability. There are two major forms of potassium-based fertilizer, SOP and MOP. SOP is primarily used as a specialty fertilizer, providing essential potassium to increase the yield and quality of certain crops, which tend to be high-value or chloride-sensitive, such as vegetables, fruits, potatoes, nuts, tobacco and turf grass. High-value or chloride-sensitive crop yields and/or quality are generally lower when MOP is used as a potassium nutrient, rather than SOP. We are the leading SOP producer and marketer in North America and we also market SOP products internationally. We offer several grades of SOP products, which are designed to serve the special needs of our customers. Our SOP plant in Ogden, Utah is the largest in North America and one of only three SOP solar brine evaporation operations in the world. Our SOP plant in Wynyard, Saskatchewan is Canada’s leading producer of SOP. In 2012, the specialty fertilizer segment accounted for approximately 24% of our gross sales. See Note 14 of the Company’s Consolidated Financial Statements for segment financial information.

Our domestic sales of SOP are concentrated in the Western and Southeastern U.S. where the crops and soil conditions favor the use of low-chloride potassium nutrients, such as SOP. Consequently, weather patterns and field conditions in these locations can impact specialty fertilizer sales volumes. Additionally, the demand for and market price of SOP is affected by the broader potash market. The potash market is influenced by many factors such as world grain and food supply, changes in consumer diets, general levels of economic activity, government food programs, and governmental agriculture and energy policies in the U.S. and around the world. Economic factors may impact the amount or type of crop grown in certain locations, or the type of fertilizer product used.

Potash Industry Overview

The average annual worldwide consumption of all potash fertilizers is approximately 63 million tons. MOP is the most common source of potassium and accounts for approximately 85% of all potash consumed in fertilizer production. SOP represents approximately 10% of all potash consumption. The remainder is supplied in the forms of potassium magnesium sulfate, potassium nitrate and, to a lesser extent, potassium thiosulfate and monopotassium phosphate. All of these products contain varying concentrations of potassium expressed as potassium oxide and different combinations of co-nutrients.

MOP is the most widely used potassium source for most crops and is typically a less expensive form of potash fertilizer than SOP. SOP is generally priced at a premium to MOP. Market conditions affecting MOP tend to influence SOP. SOP (which contains the equivalent of approximately 50% potassium oxide) is utilized by growers for many high-value crops, especially where there are needs or a desire for fertilizers with low chloride content or when the grower seeks a higher yield or quality for their crops. The use of SOP has been proven to improve the yield and/or quality of many high-value crops such as citrus fruits, grapes, almonds, some vegetables, potatoes, tobacco and turfgrass, including turf for golf courses.

Worldwide consumption of potash has increased in response to growing populations and reduced arable land per capita requiring improved crop yield efficiencies. In addition, increases in energy prices over time, as well as certain government policies, improved the economics of ethanol and bio-diesel production or increased their use, which utilize agricultural products as feedstock. To combat these factors, we believe some growers have refined application techniques to reduce inefficiencies. Demand for these products decreased in 2009, as the broader agricultural industry dealt with a global economic slowdown, reduced credit availability and the reluctance of fertilizer customers to purchase potash at historically high prices experienced in 2008. In 2010, we experienced a rebound in potash demand

and demand has remained relatively stable through 2012. MOP market pricing declined throughout 2009 from prices experienced at the end of 2008. However, market prices for potash stabilized during 2010 and increased through 2011 to levels which are well above historical levels though below the historic-high prices seen at the end of 2008. In 2012, market prices have stabilized at similar levels as those experienced in 2011. The factors above have similarly influenced SOP market pricing, which has historically been sold at prices above MOP market pricing, and the resulting average price of our SOP has fluctuated dramatically in recent years. We expect SOP pricing to retain a premium to MOP although as MOP pricing increases, the amount and percentage of the premium tends to decrease. Approximately 74% of our annual SOP sales volumes in 2012 were made to domestic customers, which include retail fertilizer dealers and distributors of agricultural products as well as professional turf care products. These dealers and distributors combine or blend SOP with other fertilizers and minerals to produce fertilizer blends tailored to individual requirements. See Item 1A, "Risk Factors – Competition in our markets and governmental policies and regulations could limit our ability to attract and retain customers, force us to continuously make capital investments, alter supply levels and put pressure on the prices we can charge for our products. Additionally, with regard to our specialty fertilizer product, economic conditions in the agriculture sector, and supply and demand imbalances for competing potash products can also impact the price of and demand for our products."

Operations and Facilities

We produce SOP at two facilities, both located in North America: at the Great Salt Lake, near Ogden, Utah and at a site in Wynyard, Saskatchewan. Our Ogden facility is the largest SOP producer in North America. The facility operates more than 40,000 acres of solar evaporation ponds to produce salt, including magnesium chloride, and SOP from the naturally occurring brine of the Great Salt Lake. The facility operates on land that is both owned and leased under renewable leases from the state

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

of Utah. We believe that our property and operating equipment are maintained in good working condition. After the completion of an initial expansion phase during the first half of 2013, this facility is expected to have the capability to produce approximately 350,000 tons of solar-pond-based SOP, approximately 750,000 tons of magnesium chloride and 1.5 million tons of salt annually. These recoverable minerals exist in vast quantities in the Great Salt Lake. We believe the recoverable minerals exceed 100 years of reserves at current production rates and capacities and are so vast that quantities will not be significantly impacted by our production. Our rights to extract these minerals are contractually limited although we believe we will be able to extend our lease agreements, as we have in the past, at commercially reasonable terms, without incurring substantial costs or incurring material modifications to the existing lease terms and conditions. We hold numerous governmental, environmental, mining and other permits, water rights and approvals authorizing operations at each of our facilities.

Initially, we draw mineral-rich lake water, or brine, from the Great Salt Lake into our solar evaporation ponds. The brine moves through a series of solar evaporation ponds over a two to three-year production cycle. As the water evaporates and the mineral concentration increases, some of those minerals naturally precipitate out of the brine and are deposited on the floors of the solar evaporation ponds. We monitor the changing mineral composition during evaporation and manage the deposition of specific compounds by either pumping or allowing the brine to flow by gravity to the next pond in the series, where this process continues. In our ponds, the salt (sodium chloride) minerals are the first to precipitate. Eventually, potassium compounds drop from the brine, leaving a floor of potassium-enriched salts. The remaining brine, now almost exclusively magnesium compounds, flows to holding ponds before it is processed into magnesium chloride products for sale. The evaporation process is dependent upon sufficient lake brine levels and hot, arid summer weather conditions. The potassium-bearing salts are mechanically harvested out of the solar evaporation ponds and refined to high purity SOP in our production facility.

We can use KCl as a raw material feedstock to supplement our solar harvest. In 2010, we suspended purchases of KCl used to supplement our SOP production from solar ponds due to several factors, including increasing KCl input costs, inventory levels and the expected additional solar pond-based production capacity gained from our SOP production capacity expansion projects. In 2012, we purchased and consumed higher-cost potassium mineral feedstock for SOP production due to the poor 2011 solar evaporation season.

In 2007 we began a multi-phased plan to strengthen our low-cost, solar-pond-based SOP production through upgrades to our processing plant and expansion of our solar evaporation ponds. The initial phase included some modification to our existing solar evaporation ponds and increases in the extraction yield and processing capacity of our SOP plant. These improvements are expected to increase annual solar-pond-based SOP production capacity to approximately 350,000 tons during the first half of 2013.

In 2010, we began a multi-year plan to use patent-pending technology to increase the yield of our SOP harvest by sealing the walls of our existing ponds to significantly reduce brine migration through these walls. This technology is expected to increase the efficiency and capacity of our solar ponds incrementally over a three to four-year period beginning with the 2012 solar season harvest. Should we decide to expand our processing plant in the future to process the incremental solar harvest material, the project should be capable of adding an estimated 220,000 tons to our solar pond-based SOP production capacity. The expected total cost is currently being evaluated with engineering studies.

In addition, we are currently seeking to expand our solar-evaporation-pond acreage at the Great Salt Lake, which requires both leases and permits from governmental authorities. The permitting process is lengthy and complicated. We have held permits and leases to operate on approximately 48,000 acres for many years. We are currently seeking to acquire permits to operate on an additional 48,000 acres on which we have leases and for an additional 38,000 acres for which we have applied for leases. Certain organizations have challenged the process for granting leases for this expansion project. The final scope of this phase of any expansion will be determined following the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' comprehensive permitting process and our detailed engineering analysis. We do not expect to begin construction on any portion of the additional, undeveloped lands during the next year. There can be no assurance that we will be granted the necessary permits for all or any portion of these undeveloped lands nor, if

received, that the lands will be developed to produce marketable product. See Item 1A, “Risk Factors – Our operations are dependent on our rights and ability to mine our property and having renewed or received the required permits and approvals from third parties and governmental authorities.” If we are unable to obtain all or a portion of the required permits, the previously capitalized costs associated with the project would be evaluated for impairment. As of December 31, 2012, total capital expenditures related to this project were \$5.9 million.

In January 2011, we acquired Big Quill Resources, Inc., Canada’s leading SOP producer, which added approximately 40,000 tons to our SOP capacity. The facility is located on the south shore of Big Quill Lake near Wynyard, Saskatchewan, Canada. We combine sulfate with sourced potassium chloride to create high-purity SOP through ion exchange and glaserite processes. The glaserite process is a chemical reaction of anhydrous sodium sulfate and KCl. The ion exchange process uses naturally occurring sulfate-rich brine from Big Quill Lake and KCl. This product is high-purity and is often used in specialty, non-agricultural applications.

Products and Sales - Our domestic sales of SOP are concentrated in the Western and Southeastern U.S. where the crops and soil conditions favor the use of SOP as a source of potassium nutrients. International SOP sales volumes in 2012 were 26% of our annual SOP sales. See Note 14 to our Consolidated Financial Statements. We have an experienced global sales group focusing on the specialty aspects and benefits of SOP as a source of potassium nutrients.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

The table below shows our domestic and foreign shipments of SOP:

(thousands of tons)	Year Ended December 31,					
	2012		2011		2010	
	Tons	%	Tons	%	Tons	%
U.S.	272	74	241	70	228	63
Foreign(a)	95	26	103	30	134	37
Total	367	100	344	100	362	100

(a) Foreign sales include product sold to foreign customers at U.S. ports.

Competition - Approximately 62% of the world SOP capacity is located in East Asia, 26% in Western Europe, 4% in North America and the remaining 8% in various other countries. The world capacity of SOP totals about 11 million tons. Our major competition for SOP sales in North America includes imports from Germany, Chile and Belgium. In addition, there is also functional competition between SOP and other forms of potash crop nutrients. For exports into Asia, the Pacific Rim countries and Latin America, we compete on a global level with various other producers. See Item 1A, "Risk Factors – Competition in our markets and governmental policies and regulations could limit our ability to attract and retain customers, force us to continuously make capital investments, alter supply levels and put pressure on the prices we can charge for our products. Additionally, with regard to our specialty fertilizer product, economic conditions in the agriculture sector, and supply and demand imbalances for competing potash products can also impact the price of and demand for our products."

OTHER

DeepStore is our records management business in the U.K. that utilizes portions of previously excavated space in our salt mine in Winsford, Cheshire for secure underground document storage and utilizes two warehouse locations in London, England. Currently, DeepStore does not have a significant share of the document storage market, nor is it material in comparison to our salt and specialty fertilizer segments.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

We rely on a combination of patents, trademarks, copyright and trade secret protection, employee and third-party non-disclosure agreements, license arrangements and domain name registrations to protect our intellectual property. We sell many of our products under a number of registered trademarks that we believe are widely recognized in the industry. The following items are some of our registered trademarks pursuant to applicable intellectual property laws and are the property of our subsidiaries: "American Stockman®," "DeepStore®," "DustGuard®," "FreezGard®," "K-Life®," "Nature's Own®," "Organic K+®," "Pristiva®," "ProSoft®," "Safe Step®," "Sifto®," "Sure Soft®," "Thawrox®," "Tu" "Winter Storm®" and "Xtreme Performance®." No single patent, trademark or trade name is material to our business as a whole.

Any issued patents that cover our proprietary technology and any of our other intellectual property rights may not provide us with substantial protection or be commercially beneficial to us. The issuance of a patent is not conclusive as to its validity or its enforceability. Competitors may also be able to design around our patents. If we are unable to protect our patented technologies, our competitors could commercialize our technologies.

With respect to proprietary know-how, we rely on trade secret protection and confidentiality agreements. Monitoring the unauthorized use of our technology is difficult and the steps we have taken may not prevent unauthorized use of our technology. The disclosure or misappropriation of our intellectual property could harm our ability to protect our rights and our competitive position. See Item 1A, "Risk Factors – Our intellectual property may be misappropriated or subject to claims of infringement."

EMPLOYEES

As of December 31, 2012, we had 1,778 employees, of which 886 are employed in the U.S., 715 in Canada and 177 in the U.K. Approximately 30% of our U.S. workforce and approximately 50% of our global workforce is represented by labor unions. Of our nine material collective bargaining agreements, four will expire in 2013, three will expire in 2014 and two will expire in 2015. Although the terms of a new collective bargaining agreement have not been reached with the union at Cote Blanche, we continue to have the capability to operate the mine at full capacity. Approximately 10% of our workforce is employed in Europe where trade union membership is common. We consider our overall labor relations to be satisfactory. See Item 1A, “Risk Factors – If we cannot successfully negotiate new collective bargaining agreements, we may experience significant increases in the cost of labor or a disruption in our operations.”

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

PROPERTIES

We have leases for packaging and other facilities, which are not individually material to our business. The table below sets forth our principal properties:

Location	Use	Land and Related Surface Rights		Mineral Reserves	
		Owned/ Leased	Expiration of Lease	Owned/ Leased	Expiration of Lease
Cote Blanche, Louisiana	Rock salt production facility	Leased	2060	Leased	2060
Lyons, Kansas	Evaporated salt production facility	Owned	N/A	Owned	N/A
Ogden, Utah	SOP, solar salt and magnesium chloride production facility	Owned	N/A	Leased	(1)
Wynyard, Saskatchewan, Canada	SOP production facility	Owned(2)	N/A	Leased	N/A
Amherst, Nova Scotia, Canada	Evaporated salt production facility	Owned	N/A	Leased	2023(3)
Goderich, Ontario, Canada	Rock salt production facility	Owned	N/A	Leased	2022(3)
Goderich, Ontario, Canada	Evaporated salt production facility	Owned	N/A	Owned	N/A
Unity, Saskatchewan, Canada	Evaporated salt production facility	Owned	N/A	Leased	2016/2030(4)
Winsford, Cheshire, United Kingdom	Rock salt production facility; records management	Owned	N/A	Owned	N/A
London, United Kingdom	Records management	Leased	2025(5)	N/A	N/A
Overland Park, Kansas	Corporate headquarters	Leased	2020	N/A	N/A

(1) The Ogden lease renews on an annual basis.

(2) The Wynyard location also leases two parcels of land which will expire in 2016.

(3) Subject to our right of renewal through 2043.

(4) Consists of two leases expiring in 2016 and 2030 subject to our right of renewal through 2037 and 2051, respectively.

(5) Consists of two leases both expiring in 2025.

With respect to each facility at which we extract salt, brine or SOP, permits or licenses are obtained as needed in the normal course of business based on our mine plans and federal, state, provincial and local regulatory provisions regarding mine permitting and licensing. Based on our historical permitting experience, we expect to be able to continue to obtain necessary mining permits to support historical rates of production.

Our mineral leases have varying terms. Some will expire after a set term of years, while others continue indefinitely. Many of these leases provide for a royalty payment to the lessor based on a specific amount per ton of minerals extracted or as a percentage of revenue. In addition, we own a number of properties and are party to non-mining leases that permit us to perform activities that are ancillary to our mining operations, such as surface use leases for storage at depots and warehouse leases. We believe that all of our leases were entered into at market terms.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

The following map shows the locations of our principal mineral extraction, packaging and document storage operating facilities as of December 31, 2012:

ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS

We produce and distribute crop and animal nutrients, salt and deicing products. These activities subject us to an evolving set of international, federal, state, provincial and local environmental, health and safety (“EHS”) laws that regulate, or propose to regulate: (i) product content; (ii) use of products by both us and our customers; (iii) conduct of mining and production operations, including safety procedures followed by employees; (iv) management and handling of raw materials; (v) air and water quality impacts from our facilities; (vi) disposal, storage and management of hazardous and solid wastes; (vii) remediation of contamination at our facilities and third-party sites; and (viii) post-mining land reclamation. For new regulatory programs, it is difficult for us to ascertain future compliance obligations or estimate future costs until implementation of the regulations has been finalized and definitive regulatory interpretations have been adopted. We address regulatory requirements by making necessary modifications to our facilities and/or operating procedures.

We have expended, and anticipate that we will continue to expend, financial and managerial resources to comply with EHS standards. We estimate that our 2013 EHS capital expenditures will total approximately \$11.9 million. We expect that our estimated expenditures in 2013 for reclamation activities will be approximately \$0.1 million. It is possible that greater than anticipated EHS capital expenditures or reclamation expenditures will be required in 2013 or in the future.

We maintain accounting accruals for certain contingent environmental liabilities and believe these accruals comply with generally accepted accounting principles. We record accruals for environmental investigatory and non-capital remediation costs when we believe it is probable that we will be responsible, in whole or in part, for environmental remediation activities and the expenditures for such activities are reasonably estimable. Based on current information, it is the opinion of management that our contingent liabilities arising from EHS matters, taking into account established accruals, will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. As of December 31, 2012, we had recorded environmental accruals of \$1.6 million.

Product Requirements and their Impact

International, federal, state and provincial standards (i) require registration of many of our products before such products can be sold; (ii) impose labeling requirements on those products; and (iii) require producers to manufacture the products to formulations set forth on the labels. Environmental, natural resource and public health agencies at all regulatory levels continue to evaluate alleged health and environmental impacts that might arise from the handling and use of products such as those we manufacture. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (the “EPA”), the State of California and The Fertilizer Institute have each completed independent assessments of potential risks posed by crop nutrient materials. These assessments concluded that, based on the available data, crop nutrient materials generally do not pose harm to human health. It is unclear whether any further evaluations may result in additional standards or regulatory requirements for the producing industries, including us, or for

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

our customers. It is the opinion of management that the potential impact of these standards on the market for our products or on the expenditures that may be necessary to meet new requirements will not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

In 2001, through the Priority Substance List Program, the Canadian government released an Assessment Report for road salts that found the use of road salts may cause adverse effects to the environment. This allowed the Minister of Environment to potentially regulate road salts under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. In lieu of any regulatory action, in 2004, Environment Canada published a Code of Practice to serve as voluntary guidelines for users of road salts. The Code of Practice requires large users of road salts across Canada to develop salt management plans. On a provincial level, in its 2006–2007 Annual Report, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario recommended, along with other items, the development of a comprehensive, mandatory, province-wide road salts management strategy. To date, the national Code of Practice and the provincial management strategy have been effective in eliminating or minimizing the potential adverse effects of road salts to the environment. We do not believe that these regulatory activities have had or will have a material direct effect on us, but further development of salt management plans and road salts management strategies could lead to changes in the application or amount of road salts used in Canada, particularly in Ontario. We are not aware of any similar regulatory considerations governing road salts in either the U.S. or the U.K, though we cannot guarantee that such considerations will not arise.

Operating Requirements and Impacts

We hold numerous environmental and mining permits, water rights and other permits or approvals authorizing operations at each of our facilities. Our operations are subject to permits for extraction of salt and brine, emissions of process materials to air and discharges to surface water, and injection of brine and wastewater to subsurface wells. Some of our proposed activities may require waste storage permits. A decision by a government agency to deny or delay issuing a new or renewed permit or approval, or to revoke or substantially modify an existing permit or approval, could have a material adverse effect on our ability to continue operations at the affected facility. In addition, changes to environmental and mining regulations or permit requirements could have a material adverse effect on our ability to continue operations at the affected facility. Expansion of our operations also is predicated upon securing the necessary environmental or other permits or approvals. See Item 1A, “Risk Factors – Environmental laws and regulation may subject us to significant liability and require us to incur additional costs in the future.”

We have also developed alternative mine uses. For example, we sold an excavated portion of our salt mine in the U.K. to a subsidiary of Veolia Environnement (“Veolia”), a business with operations in the waste management industry. That business is permitted by the jurisdictional environmental agency to dispose of certain stable types of hazardous waste in the area of the salt mine owned by them. We believe that the mine is stable and provides a secure disposal location separate from our mining and records management operations. However, we recognize that any temporary or permanent storage of hazardous waste may involve risks to the environment. Although we believe that we have taken these risks into account during our planning process, and Veolia is required by U.K. statute to maintain adequate security for any potential closure obligation, it is possible that material expenditures could be required in the future to further reduce this risk or to remediate any future contamination.

Remedial Activities

Remediation at Our Facilities - Many of our current and formerly owned facilities have been in operation for decades. Operations have historically involved the use and handling of regulated chemical substances, salt and by-products or process tailings by us and predecessor operators, which have resulted in soil, surface water and groundwater contamination.

At many of these facilities, spills or other releases of regulated substances have occurred previously and potentially could occur in the future, possibly requiring us to undertake or fund cleanup efforts under the U.S. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (“CERCLA”) or state, provincial or other federal laws in other jurisdictions governing cleanup or disposal of hazardous substances. In some instances, we have agreed,

pursuant to consent orders or agreements with the appropriate governmental agencies, to undertake investigations, which currently are in progress, to determine whether remedial action may be required to address such contamination. At other locations, we have entered into consent orders or agreements with appropriate governmental agencies to perform required remedial activities that will address identified site conditions. At still other locations, we have undertaken voluntary remediation, and have removed formerly used underground storage tanks. Expenditures for these known conditions currently are not expected, individually or in the aggregate, to be significant. However, material expenditures could be required in the future to remediate the contamination at these or at other current or former sites. In addition, in connection with the recapitalization through which Compass Minerals became a stand-alone entity, The Mosaic Company, a former owner of the Company, agreed to indemnify us against liabilities for certain known and unknown conditions at existing and former sites.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (“DATCP”) has information dating back to 1994 indicating that agricultural chemicals are present within the subsurface area of the Kenosha, Wisconsin plant. The agricultural chemicals were used by previous owners and operators of the site. None of the identified chemicals have been used in association with Compass Minerals’ operations since it acquired the property in 2002. DATCP directed us in October 2004 to conduct an investigation into the possible presence of agricultural chemicals in soil and ground water at the Kenosha plant. We have completed such investigation of the soils and ground water and have provided the findings to DATCP. We are presently proceeding with select remediation activities to mitigate agricultural chemical impact to soils and ground water at the site. All investigations and mitigation activities to date, and any potential future remediation work, are being conducted under the Wisconsin Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program (“ACCP”), which would provide for reimbursement of some of the costs. We may seek participation by, or cost reimbursement from, other parties responsible for the presence of any agricultural chemicals

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

found in soil and ground water at this site if we do not receive an acknowledgement of no further action and are required to conduct further investigation or remedial work that may not be eligible for reimbursement under the ACCP.

Remediation at Third-Party Facilities - Along with impacting the sites at which we have operated, various third parties have alleged that our past operations have resulted in contamination to neighboring off-site areas or third-party facilities including third-party disposal facilities for regulated substances generated by our operating activities. CERCLA imposes liability, without regard to fault or to the legality of a party's conduct, on certain categories of persons who are considered to have contributed to the release of "hazardous substances" into the environment. Under CERCLA, or its various state analogues, one party may potentially be required to bear more than its proportional share of cleanup costs at a site where it has liability if payments cannot be obtained from other responsible parties.

We have entered into "de minimis" settlement agreements with the EPA with respect to several CERCLA sites, pursuant to which we have made one-time cash payments and received statutory protection from future claims arising from those sites. In some cases, however, such settlements have included "reopeners," which could result in additional liability at such sites in the event of newly discovered contamination or other circumstances.

At other sites for which we have received notice of potential CERCLA liability, we have provided information to the EPA that we believe demonstrates that we are not liable, and the EPA has not asserted claims against us with respect to such sites. In some instances, we have agreed, pursuant to orders from or agreements with appropriate governmental agencies or agreements with private parties, to undertake or fund investigations, some of which currently are in progress, to determine whether remedial action, under CERCLA or otherwise, may be required to address contamination. At other locations, we have entered into consent orders or agreements with appropriate governmental agencies to perform required remedial activities that will address identified site conditions.

At present, we are not aware of any additional sites for which we expect to receive a notice from the EPA or any other party of potential CERCLA liability that would have a material effect on our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows. However, based on past operations, there is a potential that we may receive notices in the future for sites of which we are currently unaware or that our liability at currently known sites may increase. Expenditures for our known environmental liabilities and site conditions currently are not expected, individually or in the aggregate, to be material or have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

ITEM 1A.

RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the following risks and all of the information set forth in this annual report on Form 10-K. The risks described below are not the only ones facing our company. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial may also materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Risks Related to Our Business

Our mining, manufacturing and distribution operations are subject to a variety of risks and hazards, which may not be covered by insurance.

The process of mining, manufacturing and distribution involves risks and hazards, including environmental hazards, industrial accidents, labor disputes, unusual or unexpected geological conditions or acts of nature. Our rock salt mines are located near bodies of water and industrial operations. These risks and hazards could lead to uncontrolled water intrusion or flooding or other events or circumstances, which could result in the complete loss of a mine or could otherwise result in damage or impairment to, or destruction of, mineral properties and production facilities, environmental damage, delays in mining and business interruption, and could result in personal injury or death. Our

products are converted into finished goods inventories of salt and specialty fertilizer products and are stored in various locations throughout North America and the U.K. These inventories may become impaired either through accidents or obsolescence.

Our salt mines located in Cote Blanche, Louisiana, and Goderich, Ontario, Canada, constitute approximately 75% of our total salt production capacity. These underground salt mines supply substantially all of the salt product necessary to support almost all of our North American highway deicing product line and significant portions of our consumer and industrial salt products. Although sales of our deicing products and profitability of the salt segment can vary from year to year partially due to weather variations in our markets, over the last three years sales of highway deicing products have averaged approximately 40% of our consolidated sales. An extended production interruption or catastrophic event at either of these facilities could result in an inability to have product available for sale or to fulfill our highway deicing sales contracts and could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

In August 2011, a tornado struck our salt mine and our salt mechanical evaporation plant, both located in Goderich, Ontario. There was no damage to the underground operations at the mine. However, some of the mine's surface structures and the evaporation plant incurred significant damage which temporarily ceased production at both facilities. We expect to be fully reimbursed by our insurers for the replacement and repair costs for our property, plant and equipment and associated clean-up costs incurred. We also expect to have a substantial business interruption claim to offset lost profits and to offset certain additional expenses incurred related to the ongoing operations and we believe the impact of lost production and additional

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

expenses incurred related to the tornado will be substantially covered by our insurance policies. However, we can make no assurance that we will be fully or even substantially reimbursed for these losses. In addition, the period in which the insurance recoveries will be recognized in the consolidated financial statements will not correspond to the period in which the losses have been recognized, and accordingly our margins in any one period will be significantly impacted. As of December 31, 2012, we had collected \$62.5 million of advances related to our Goderich tornado claims, which includes approximately \$25.6 million that have offset asset impairment charges and clean-up and restoration costs recognized in our consolidated statements of operations.

Although we evaluate our risks and carry insurance policies to mitigate the risk of loss where economically feasible, not all of these risks are reasonably insurable and our insurance coverage contains limits, deductibles and exclusions. We cannot assure you that our coverage will be sufficient to meet our needs in the event of loss. Such a loss may have a material adverse effect on the Company.

Our operations are dependent on our rights and ability to mine our property and having renewed or received the required permits and approvals from third parties and governmental authorities.

We hold numerous governmental, environmental, mining and other permits, water rights and approvals authorizing operations at each of our facilities. A decision by a third party or a governmental agency to deny or delay issuing a new or renewed permit or approval, or to revoke or substantially modify an existing permit or approval, could have a material adverse effect on our ability to continue operations at the affected facility. Certain organizations have challenged some of our permits for existing operations at our Ogden, Utah facility. There can be no assurance that existing permits will be upheld.

Expansion of our existing operations is also predicated upon securing the necessary environmental or other permits, water rights or approvals, which we may not receive in a timely manner or at all. Furthermore, many of our facilities are located on land leased from governmental authorities. Expansion of these operations may require securing additional leases, which we may not obtain in a timely manner, or at all. Our leases generally require us to continue mining in order to retain the lease, the loss of which could adversely affect our ability to mine the associated reserves. In addition, our facilities are located near existing and proposed third-party industrial operations that could affect our ability to fully extract, or the manner in which we extract the mineral deposits to which we have mining rights.

We are currently seeking to expand our solar-evaporation-pond acreage at the Great Salt Lake, which requires both leases and permits from governmental authorities. The permitting process is lengthy and complicated. We have held permits and leases to operate on approximately 48,000 acres for many years. We are currently seeking to acquire permits to operate on an additional 48,000 acres on which we have leases and for an additional 38,000 acres for which we have applied for leases. Certain organizations have challenged the process for granting leases for this expansion project. The final scope of this phase of any expansion will be determined following the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' comprehensive permitting process and our detailed engineering analysis. We do not expect to begin construction on any portion of the additional, undeveloped lands during the next year. There can be no assurance that we will be granted the necessary permits for all or any portion of these undeveloped lands nor, if received, that the lands will be developed to produce marketable product. If we are unable to obtain all or a portion of the required permits, the previously capitalized costs associated with the project would be evaluated for impairment. As of December 31, 2012, total capital expenditures related to this project were \$5.9 million.

In addition, we are aware of an aboriginal land claim filed in 2003 by The Chippewas of Nawash and the Chippewas of Saugeen (the "Chippewas") in the Ontario Superior Court against The Attorney General of Canada and Her Majesty The Queen In Right of Ontario. The Chippewas claim that a large part of the land under Lake Huron was never conveyed by treaty and therefore belongs to the Chippewas. The land claimed includes land under which our Goderich mine operates and has mining rights granted to it by the government of Ontario. We are not a party to this court action.

Similar claims are pending with respect to other parts of the Great Lakes by other aboriginal claimants. We have been informed by the Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario that “Canada takes the position that the common law does not recognize aboriginal title to the Great Lakes and its connecting waterways.” We do not believe that this action will result in a material adverse financial effect on the Company.

In some instances, we have received access rights or easements from third parties which allow for a more efficient operation than would exist without the access or easement. We do not believe any action will be taken to suspend these accesses or easements. However, no assurance can be made that a third party will not take any action to suspend the access or easement, nor that any such action would not be materially adverse to our results of operation or financial condition.

Our business is capital-intensive, and the inability to fund necessary capital expenditures in order to develop or expand our operations could have an adverse effect on our growth and profitability.

We continue to evaluate plans to expand our SOP processing plant at our Great Salt Lake facility which would require us to make significant capital expenditures over the next several years. Capital expenditures required for these projects may increase due to factors beyond our control. Although we currently finance most of our capital expenditures through cash provided by operations, we may depend on the availability of credit to fund future capital expenditures. We could have difficulty finding or obtaining the financing required to fund our capital expenditures, which could limit our expansion ability or increase our debt service requirements, which could have a material adverse effect on our cash flows and profitability.

In addition, our credit agreement contains restrictive covenants related to financial metrics. We may pursue other financing arrangements, including leasing transactions as a method of financing our capital needs. If we are unable to obtain suitable

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

financing, we may not be able to complete our expansion plans. A failure to complete our expansion plans could negatively impact our growth and profitability.

Significant capital expenditures are required to maintain our existing facilities and the amount of capital expenditures to maintain these facilities can fluctuate significantly when a large replacement or other need is required to maintain operations. These activities may require the temporary suspension of production at portions of our facilities, which could adversely affect our cash flows and profitability. For our solar pond operations, we may need to obtain regulatory approvals to complete the activity and there can be no assurance that such approvals will be received. If these approvals are not received, the impact on our operations may be material. See Item 1A, “Risk Factors – “Our operations are dependent on our rights and ability to mine our property and having renewed or received the required permits and approvals from third parties and governmental authorities.”

New technology may reduce the demand for our products or result in new or less costly methods of competitors producing products. Either of which could adversely affect our operating results.

The demand for our products may be adversely affected by advances in technology. More efficient application methods for salt and fertilizer may reduce demand. These new application methods as well as any future technological advances may have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. Methods of producing sodium chloride, magnesium chloride and SOP in large quantities have historically been characterized by slow pace of technological advances for existing competitors or potential new entrants. New methods developed to produce sodium chloride, magnesium chloride or SOP could increase competition and impact the demand for our products, thereby impacting our profitability.

The seasonal demand for our products and the variations in our operations from quarter to quarter due to weather conditions, including any effects from climate changes, may have an adverse effect on our results of operations and the price of our common stock.

Our deicing product line is seasonal, with operating results varying from quarter to quarter as a result of weather conditions and other factors. On average, over the last three years, approximately 65% of our deicing product sales occurred during the months of November through March when winter weather was most severe. Winter weather events are not predictable outside of a relatively short time frame, yet we must stand ready to deliver deicing products under our highway deicing contracts. As a result, we need to stockpile sufficient supplies of highway deicing salt in the last three fiscal quarters to meet estimated demand for the winter season.

In addition, winter weather events may be influenced by climate change, weather cycles and other natural events. Any prolonged change in weather patterns in our relevant geographic markets could impact demand for our deicing products. Weather conditions that impact our highway deicing product line include temperature, amounts of wintry precipitation, number of snowfall events and the potential for, and duration and timing of, snowfall or icy conditions in our relevant geographic markets. Lower than expected sales during the winter season could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and the price of our common stock.

Our SOP operating results are dependent in part upon conditions in the agriculture sector. The fertilizer business, including our SOP business, can be affected by a number of factors, including weather patterns, crop prices, field conditions (particularly during periods of traditionally high crop nutrients application) and quantities of crop nutrients imported to and exported from North America. Our ability to produce SOP at our solar evaporation ponds is dependent upon sufficient lake brine levels and hot, arid summer weather conditions. Extended periods of precipitation or a prolonged lack of sunshine would hinder the evaporation rate and hence our production levels, which may result in lower sales volumes and higher unit production costs.

Additionally, our ability to harvest minerals could be negatively impacted by any prolonged change in weather patterns, including any effects from climate change, leading to changes in mountain snowfall fresh water run-off that significantly impact lake levels or by increased rainfall during the summer months at our solar evaporation ponds at the Great Salt Lake. A cooler and/or wet evaporation season could also impact the harvest of minerals at the Great

Salt Lake. Similar factors can negatively impact the concentration of sulfates at the Big Quill Lake, thereby impacting the production at our Big Quill facility.

Agricultural economics, customer expectations about future potash market prices and availability and customer application rates can have a significant effect on the demand for our specialty fertilizer product, which can affect our sales volumes and prices.

When customers anticipate increased SOP selling prices or improving agricultural economics, they may accumulate inventories in advance, which may result in a delay in the realization of price increases for our products. In addition, customers may delay their purchases when they anticipate future SOP selling prices may remain constant or decline, or when they anticipate declining agricultural economics, which may adversely affect our sales volumes and selling prices. Customer expectations about the availability of SOP can have similar effects on sales volumes and prices.

Growers are continually seeking to maximize their economic return, which may impact the application rates for potash products. Growers' decisions regarding the application rate for potash, including whether to forgo application altogether, may vary based on many factors, including crop and potash prices and nutrient levels in the soil. Growers are more likely to increase application rates when crop prices are relatively high or when potash prices and soil nutrient levels are relatively low. Growers are more likely to reduce application rates or forgo application of potash when crop prices are relatively low and when potash prices and soil nutrient levels are relatively high. This variability can materially impact our sales prices and volumes.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Our production processes rely on the consumption of natural gas and electricity. Additionally, KCl is a raw material feedstock, used to produce some of our deicing products and sell for water conditioning applications and we use purchased salt to supplement our salt production. A significant interruption in the supply or an increase in the price of any of these products or services could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

Energy costs, primarily natural gas and electricity, represented approximately 11% of our total production costs in 2012. Natural gas is a primary fuel source used in the evaporated salt-production process. Our profitability is impacted by the price and availability of natural gas we purchase from third parties. We have a policy of hedging natural gas prices through the use of futures forward swap contracts. We have not entered into any contracts beyond three years for the purchase of natural gas. Our contractual arrangements for the supply of natural gas do not specify quantities and are automatically renewed annually unless either party elects not to do so. We do not have arrangements in place with back-up suppliers. In addition, potential climate change regulations or other carbon or emissions taxes could result in higher production costs for energy, which may be passed on to us, in whole or in part. A significant increase in the price of energy that is not recovered through an increase in the price of our products or covered through our hedging arrangements, or an extended interruption in the supply of natural gas or electricity to our production facilities, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. See Item 1A, "Risk Factors – Increasing costs or a lack of availability of transportation services could have an adverse effect on our ability to deliver products at competitive prices."

We use KCl as a raw material feedstock in our SOP production process at our Big Quill facility and it also may be used to supplement our solar harvest at our Great Salt Lake facility. We also use KCl as an additive to some of our consumer deicing products and to sell for water conditioning applications. KCl for our Big Quill Resources facility is purchased at prices that have been substantially below market pricing under a long-term supply agreement. All other KCl purchases have been purchased under contracts where the pricing is typically determined by a formula which has been favorable to market prices until 2010. In 2010, we suspended purchases of, and currently do not have plans to purchase, KCl used to supplement our SOP production from solar ponds. However, we purchased and consumed higher-cost potassium mineral feedstock for SOP production in 2012. We have continued to purchase KCl for certain water conditioning and consumer deicing applications at higher prices than those experienced prior to 2010. Large positive or negative price fluctuations can occur without a corresponding change in sales price to our customers. This could change the profitability of these products, which could materially affect our results of operations and cash flows. This could reduce the amount of blended deicing and water conditioning products we produce, which could adversely affect our results of operations and cash flows.

We purchase finished salt product from suppliers under contracts at three facilities. In late 2013, one of those contracts will expire. There can be no assurances that we can successfully negotiate an arrangement to replace the annual production of those products at the same or similar cost. If we are unsuccessful in negotiating such an arrangement, it could negatively impact our operating earnings and our cash flows would be negatively impacted.

Increasing costs or a lack of availability of transportation services could have an adverse effect on our ability to deliver products at competitive prices.

Transportation and handling costs are a significant component of the total delivered cost of sales for our products, particularly salt. The high relative cost of transportation tends to favor producers located near the customer. We contract bulk shipping vessels, as well as barges, trucking and rail services to move salt from our production facilities to distribution outlets and customers. In many instances, we have committed to deliver salt, under penalty of non-performance, up to nine months prior to producing and delivering the salt for delivery to our customers. A reduction in the dependability or availability of transportation services or a significant increase in transportation service rates, including the impact of weather and water levels on the waterways we use, could impair our ability to deliver our products economically to our customers and impair our ability to expand our markets.

In addition, diesel fuel is a significant component of transportation costs we incur to deliver our products to customers. In limited circumstances, our arrangements with customers allow for full or partial recovery of changes in diesel fuel costs through an adjustment to the selling price. However, a significant increase in the price of diesel fuel that is not recovered through transportation costs we charge our customers could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. See Item 1A, “Risk Factors – Our production processes rely on the consumption of natural gas and electricity. Additionally, KCl is a raw material feedstock, used to produce some of our deicing products and sell for water conditioning applications and we use purchased salt to supplement our salt production. A significant interruption in the supply or an increase in the price of any of these products or services could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.”

Competition in our markets and governmental policies and regulations could limit our ability to attract and retain customers, force us to continuously make capital investments, alter supply levels and put pressure on the prices we can charge for our products. Additionally, with regard to our specialty fertilizer product, economic conditions in the agriculture sector, and supply and demand imbalances for competing potash products can also impact the price of or demand for our products.

We encounter competition in all areas of our business. Some of our competitors are privately-held companies and therefore information about these companies may be difficult to obtain, which may hinder us competitively. Competition in our product lines is based on a number of considerations, including product quality and performance, transportation costs (especially in salt distribution), brand reputation, price, and quality of customer service and support. Many of our customers attempt to reduce the

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

number of vendors from which they purchase in order to increase their efficiency. Our customers increasingly demand a broad product range and we must continue to develop our expertise in order to manufacture and market these products successfully. To remain competitive, we will need to invest continuously in manufacturing, marketing, customer service and support and our distribution networks. We may not have sufficient resources to continue to make such investments or maintain our competitive position. We may have to adjust the prices of some of our products to stay competitive. Additionally, a portion of our specialty fertilizer business is dependent upon international sales, which accounted for approximately 26% of SOP sales volumes in 2012. We face intense global competition from other SOP and potash producers, and new competitors may enter the markets in which we sell at any time. We may face more competition in periods in which the foreign currency exchange rates versus the dollar are favorable for our competitors. Changes in potash competitors' production or marketing focus could have a material impact on our business. Some of our competitors may have greater financial and other resources than we do.

MOP is the least expensive form of potash fertilizer based on the concentration of potassium oxide and, consequently, it is the most widely used potassium source for most crops. SOP is utilized by growers for many high-value crops, especially crops for which low-chloride content fertilizers and/or the presence of the sulfur micro-nutrient improves quality and yield. Economic conditions for agricultural products can affect the type and amount of crops grown as well as the type of fertilizer product used. Potash is a commodity, and consequently, it is a highly competitive industry affected by global supply and demand. When the demand and price of potash are high, competitors are more likely to increase their production. Competitors may also expand their future production capacity of potash or new facilities may also be built by new market participants, both of which could impact available supplies. An over-supply of either type of potash product domestically or worldwide could unfavorably impact the sales prices we can charge for our specialty potash fertilizer, as a large price disparity between potash products could cause growers to choose a less-expensive alternative.

If we cannot successfully complete acquisitions or integrate acquired businesses, our growth may be limited and our financial condition adversely affected.

Our business strategy includes supplementing internal growth by pursuing acquisitions of complementary businesses. We may be unable to identify suitable businesses to acquire. We compete with other potential buyers for the acquisition of other complementary businesses. Competition and regulatory considerations may result in fewer acquisition opportunities. If we cannot complete acquisitions, our growth may be limited and our financial condition may be adversely affected.

The information we obtain about an acquisition target may be limited and there can be no assurance that an acquisition will perform as expected or positively impact our financial performance. Additionally, we may not be able to successfully integrate the acquired businesses. Any potential acquisition involves risk, including the ability to effectively integrate the acquired technologies, operations and personnel into the business, the diversion of capital and management's attention from other areas of the business, and the impact of debt obligations resulting from the acquisition.

Our business is dependent upon highly skilled personnel, and the loss of key personnel may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

The success of our business is dependent on our ability to attract and retain highly skilled managers and other personnel. We cannot assure you that we will be able to attract and retain the personnel necessary for the efficient operation of our business. The loss of the services of key personnel or the failure to attract additional personnel, as needed, could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and could lead to higher labor costs or the use of less-qualified personnel. We do not currently maintain "key person" life insurance on any of our key employees.

If we cannot successfully negotiate new collective bargaining agreements, we may experience significant increases in the cost of labor or a disruption in our operations.

Labor costs, including benefits, represented approximately 30% of our total production costs in 2012. As of December 31, 2012, we had 1,778 employees, of which 886 are employed in the U.S., 715 in Canada and 177 in the U.K. Approximately 30% of our U.S. workforce and 50% of our global workforce is represented by labor unions. Of our nine material collective bargaining agreements, four will expire in 2013, three will expire in 2014 and two will expire in 2015. Although the terms of a new collective bargaining agreement have not been reached with the union at Cote Blanche, we continue to have the capability to operate the mine at normal levels. The Company is involved in proceedings alleging unfair labor practices at its Cote Blanche, Louisiana mine. This matter arises out of a labor dispute between the Company and the United Steelworkers Union over the terms of a new contract for certain employees at the mine. These employees initiated a strike that began on April 7, 2010 and ended on June 15, 2010. In September 2012, the U.S. National Labor Relations Board issued a decision finding that the Company had committed unfair labor practices in connection with the labor dispute. The Company disagrees with the decision and has appealed that decision to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. If it loses on appeal, the Company would be responsible for back pay to affected employees as a result of changes made in union work rules and past practices beginning April 1, 2010. Any requirement for the Company to pay back wages would be offset by any wages earned at other places of employment during this period.

Approximately 10% of our workforce is employed in Europe where trade union membership is common. Although we believe that our employee relations are satisfactory, they can be affected by general economic, financial, competitive, legislative, political and other factors beyond our control. We cannot assure you that we will be successful in negotiating new collective bargaining agreements, that such negotiations will not result in significant increases in the cost of labor or that a breakdown in such negotiations will not result in the disruption of our operations.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Environmental laws and regulation may subject us to significant liability and require us to incur additional costs in the future.

We are subject to numerous business, environmental and health and safety laws and regulations in the countries in which we do business. They include laws and regulations relating to land reclamation and remediation of hazardous substance releases, and discharges to soil, air and water with which we must comply to effectively operate our business. Environmental laws and regulations with which we currently comply may become more stringent and require material expenditures for continued compliance. Environmental remediation laws such as CERCLA, impose liability, without regard to fault or to the legality of a party's conduct, on certain categories of persons (known as "potentially responsible parties" or "PRPs") who are considered to have contributed to the release of "hazardous substances" into the environment. Although we are not currently incurring material liabilities pursuant to CERCLA, in the future we may incur material liabilities under CERCLA and other environmental cleanup laws, with regard to our current or former facilities, adjacent or nearby third-party facilities, or off-site disposal locations. Under CERCLA, or its various state analogues, one party may, under some circumstances, be required to bear more than its proportional share of cleanup costs at a site where it has liability if payments cannot be obtained from other responsible parties. Liability under these laws involves inherent uncertainties. Violations of environmental, health and safety laws are subject to civil, and in some cases, criminal sanctions.

In the past, we have received notices from governmental agencies that we may be a PRP at certain sites under CERCLA or other environmental cleanup laws. In some cases, we have entered into "de minimis" settlement agreements with the U.S. with respect to certain CERCLA sites, pursuant to which we have made one-time cash payments and received statutory protection from future claims arising from those sites. At other sites for which we have received notice of potential CERCLA liability, we have provided information to the EPA that we believe demonstrates that we are not liable and the EPA has not asserted claims against us with respect to such sites. In some instances, we have agreed, pursuant to consent orders or agreements with the appropriate governmental agencies, to undertake investigations, which currently are in progress, to determine whether remedial action may be required to address such contamination. At other locations, we have entered into consent orders or agreements with appropriate governmental agencies to perform remedial activities that will address identified site conditions.

At present, we are not aware of any sites for which we expect to receive a notice from the EPA of potential CERCLA liability that would have a material effect on our financial condition or results of operations. However, based on past operations, we may receive such notices in the future for sites of which we are currently unaware. We currently do not expect our known environmental liabilities and site conditions, individually or in the aggregate, to have a material adverse impact on our financial position. However, material expenditures could be required in the future to remediate the contamination at these or at other current or former sites.

We have also developed alternative mine uses. For example, we sold an excavated portion of our salt mine in the U.K. to a subsidiary of Veolia, a business with operations in the waste management industry. That business is permitted by the jurisdictional environmental agency to securely dispose of certain stable types of hazardous waste in the area of the salt mine owned by them for which they pay us fees. We believe that the mine is stable and provides a secure disposal location separate from our mining and records management operations. However, we recognize that any temporary or permanent storage of hazardous waste may involve risks to the environment. Although we believe that we have taken these risks into account during our planning process, and Veolia is required by U.K. statute to maintain adequate security for any potential closure obligation, it is possible that material expenditures could be required in the future to further reduce this risk or to remediate any future contamination.

Continued government and public emphasis on environmental issues, including climate change, can be expected to result in increased future investments for environmental controls at ongoing operations, which would be charged against income from future operations. The U.S. has announced that reporting requirements for the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions and federal climate change legislation is possible in the future in the U.S. while Canada has already committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Future environmental laws and regulations applicable to our operations may require substantial capital expenditures and may have a material adverse effect on our business,

financial condition and results of operations. For more information, see Item 1, “Business – Environmental, Health and Safety Matters.”

Our business is subject to numerous laws and regulations with which we must comply in order to operate our business and obtain contracts with governmental entities.

Our highway deicing customers principally consist of municipalities, counties, states, provinces and other governmental entities in North America and the U.K. This product line represented approximately 43% of our annual sales in 2012. We are required to comply with numerous laws and regulations administered by federal, state, local and foreign governments relating to, but not limited to, the production, transporting and storing of our products as well as the commercial activities conducted by our employees and our agents. Failure to comply with applicable laws and regulations could preclude us from conducting business with governmental agencies and lead to penalties, injunctions, civil remedies or fines.

In 2010, the U.S. government enacted comprehensive health care reform legislation. The legislation’s provisions include, among other things, guaranteed coverage for employees that meet minimum requirements, and impact the types of coverage and the level of benefits provided. The legislation began to be phased-in in 2010 and that process is scheduled to continue over the next several years. While we do not expect the impact in the short term to be significant, we continue to evaluate the impact on the Company over the longer term. As a result, future changes to our healthcare plan may be necessary.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

The Canadian government's past proposal to regulate the use of road salt, if revived or further developed, could have a material adverse effect on our business, including reduced sales and the incurrence of substantial costs and expenditures.

In 2001, through the Priority Substance List Program, the Canadian government released an Assessment Report for road salts that found the use of road salts may cause adverse effects to the environment. This allowed the Minister of Environment to potentially regulate road salts under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. In lieu of any regulatory action, in 2004, Environment Canada published a Code of Practice to serve as voluntary guidelines for users of road salts. The Code of Practice requires large users of road salts across Canada to develop salt management plans. On a provincial level, in its 2006–2007 Annual Report, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario recommended, along with other items, the development of a comprehensive, mandatory, province-wide road salts management strategy. To date, the national Code of Practice and the provincial management strategy have been effective in eliminating or minimizing the potential adverse effects of road salts to the environment. We do not believe that these regulatory activities have had or will have a material direct effect on us, but further development of salt management plans and road salts management strategies could lead to changes in the application or amount of road salts used in Canada, particularly in Ontario. We are not aware of any similar regulatory considerations governing road salts in either the U.S. or the U.K.; we cannot guarantee that such considerations will not arise.

Our intellectual property may be misappropriated or subject to claims of infringement.

We protect our intellectual property rights primarily through a combination of patent, trademark, and trade secret protection. We have obtained patents on some of our products and processes, and from time to time we file new patent applications. Our patents, which vary in duration, may not preclude others from selling competitive products or using similar production processes. We cannot assure you that pending applications for protection of our intellectual property rights will be approved. Many of our important brand names are registered as trademarks in the U.S. and foreign countries. These registrations can be renewed if the trademark remains in use. These trademark registrations may not prevent our competitors from using similar brand names. We also rely on trade secret protection to guard confidential unpatented technology and when appropriate, we require that employees and third-party consultants or advisors enter into confidentiality agreements. These agreements may not provide meaningful protection for our trade secrets, know-how or other proprietary information in the event of any unauthorized use, misappropriation or disclosure. It is possible that our competitors could independently develop the same or similar technology or otherwise obtain access to our unpatented technology. If we are unable to maintain the proprietary nature of our technologies, we may lose any competitive advantage provided by our intellectual property. As a result, our results of operations may be adversely affected. Additionally, third parties may claim that our products infringe their patents or other proprietary rights and seek corresponding damages or injunctive relief.

Economic and other risks associated with international sales and operations could adversely affect our business, including economic loss and have a negative impact on earnings.

Since we produce and sell our products primarily in the U.S., Canada and the U.K., our business is subject to risks associated with doing business internationally. Our sales outside the U.S., as a percentage of our total sales, were 34% for the year ended December 31, 2012. Accordingly, our future results could be adversely affected by a variety of factors, including:

- changes in currency exchange rates;
- exchange controls;
- tariffs, other trade protection measures and import or export licensing requirements;

- potentially negative consequences from changes in tax laws;
- differing labor regulations;
- requirements relating to withholding taxes on remittances and other payments by subsidiaries;
- restrictions on our ability to own or operate subsidiaries, make investments or acquire new businesses in these jurisdictions;
- restrictions on our ability to repatriate dividends from our subsidiaries; and
- changes in regulatory requirements.

Fluctuations in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to the Canadian dollar or British pound sterling may adversely affect our results of operations. Because our consolidated financial results are reported in U.S. dollars, the translation into U.S. dollars of sales or earnings can result in a significant increase or decrease in the reported amount of those sales or earnings. In addition, our debt service requirements are primarily in U.S. dollars even though a significant percentage of our cash flow is generated in Canadian dollars and pounds sterling. Significant changes in the value of Canadian dollars and pounds sterling relative to the U.S. dollar could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and our ability to meet interest and principal payments on U.S. dollar-denominated debt.

In addition to currency translation risks, we incur currency transaction risk whenever we or one of our subsidiaries enter into either a purchase or a sales transaction using a currency other than the local currency of the transacting entity. Given the volatility of exchange rates, we cannot assure you that we will be able to effectively manage our currency transaction and/or translation risks. It is possible that volatility in currency exchange rates could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations. We have experienced and expect to experience economic loss and a negative impact on

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

earnings from time to time as a result of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations. See “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations – Effects of Currency Fluctuations and Inflation”, and “Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.”

Our overall success as a global business depends, in part, upon our success in differing economic and political conditions. We cannot assure you that we will continue to succeed in developing and implementing policies and strategies that are effective in each location where we do business.

Our indebtedness could adversely affect our financial condition and impair our ability to operate our business. Furthermore, CMI is a holding company with no operations of its own and is dependent on its subsidiaries for cash flows.

As of December 31, 2012, Compass Minerals had \$482.3 million of outstanding indebtedness, consisting of \$98.2 million of senior notes (“8% Senior Notes”) and approximately \$384.1 million of borrowings under a senior secured term loan. Our indebtedness could have important consequences, including the following:

- it may limit our ability to borrow money or sell stock to fund our working capital, capital expenditures and debt service requirements;
- it may limit our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business;
- we may be more highly leveraged than some of our competitors, which may place us at a competitive disadvantage;
- it may make us more vulnerable to a downturn in our business or the economy;
- it may require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to the repayment of our indebtedness, thereby reducing the availability of our cash flow for other purposes; and
- it may materially and adversely affect our business and financial condition if we are unable to service our indebtedness or obtain additional financing, as needed.

Although our operations are conducted through our subsidiaries, none of our subsidiaries is obligated to make funds available to CMI for payment on our 8% Senior Notes or to pay dividends on our capital stock. Accordingly, CMI’s ability to make payments on our 8% Senior Notes and distribute dividends to our stockholders is dependent on the earnings and the distribution of funds from our subsidiaries to CMI, and our compliance with the terms of our senior secured credit facilities, including the total leverage ratio and interest coverage ratio. We must also comply with the terms of our indenture, which limits the amount of dividends we can pay to our stockholders and the amount of our stock we can repurchase. We cannot assure you that we will remain in compliance with these ratios nor can we assure you that the agreements governing the current and future indebtedness of our subsidiaries will permit our subsidiaries to provide CMI with sufficient dividends, distributions or loans to fund scheduled interest and principal payments on the 8% Senior Notes, when due. If we consummate an acquisition, our debt service requirements could increase. Furthermore, we may need to refinance all or a portion of our indebtedness on or before maturity, however we cannot assure you that we will be able to refinance any of our indebtedness on commercially reasonable terms or at all.

An increase in interest rates would have an adverse effect on our interest expense under our senior secured credit facilities. Additionally, the restrictive covenants in the agreements governing our indebtedness may limit our ability to pursue our business strategies or may require accelerated payments on our debt.

We pay variable interest on our senior secured credit facilities based on either the Eurodollar rate or the alternate base rate. Significant increases in interest rates will adversely affect our cost of debt.

Our senior secured credit facilities and indebtedness limit our ability and the ability of our subsidiaries, among other things, to:

- incur additional indebtedness or contingent obligations;
- pay dividends or make distributions to our stockholders;
- repurchase or redeem our stock;
- make investments;
- grant liens;
- enter into transactions with our stockholders and affiliates;
- sell assets; and
- acquire the assets of, or merge or consolidate with, other companies.

Our senior secured credit facilities require us to maintain financial ratios. These financial ratios include an interest coverage ratio and a total leverage ratio. Although we have historically been able to maintain these financial ratios, we may not be able to maintain these ratios in the future. Covenants in our senior secured credit facilities may also impair our ability to finance future operations or capital needs or to enter into acquisitions or joint ventures or engage in other favorable business activities.

If we default under our senior secured credit facilities, the lenders could require immediate payment of the entire principal amount. A default includes nonpayment of principal, interest, fees or other amounts when due; a change of control; default under agreements governing our other indebtedness in which the principal amount exceeds \$30,000,000; material judgments in

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

excess of \$30,000,000; failure to provide timely audited financial statements; or inaccuracy of representations and warranties. Any default under our senior secured credit facilities or agreements governing our other indebtedness could lead to an acceleration of principal payments under our other debt instruments that contain cross-acceleration or cross-default provisions. If the lenders under our senior secured credit facilities would require immediate repayment, we would need to obtain new borrowings to be able to repay them immediately, nor could we repay our other indebtedness, which may also become immediately due. We may be able to obtain new borrowings to finance these accelerated payment requirements, however there can be no assurance that such borrowings could be obtained at terms which are acceptable to us. Our ability to comply with these covenants and restrictions contained in our senior secured credit facilities and other agreements governing our other indebtedness may be affected by changes in the economic or business conditions or other events beyond our control.

Economic conditions and credit and capital markets could impair our ability to operate our business and implement our strategies.

The Company, our customers and suppliers depend on the availability of credit to operate. The economic environment over the last several years resulted in a general tightening of the credit markets and reduced the availability of credit to borrowers worldwide. Economic conditions could adversely affect the cash flows of our customers (including state, provincial and other local governmental entities) and the availability of credit for all parties, including the Company. Our customers may not be able to purchase our products or there may be delays in payment or nonpayment for delivered products, which would negatively impact our revenues, cash flows and profitability.

Our banks may become insolvent, which would jeopardize cash deposits in excess of the federally insured amounts as well as limit our access to credit. In addition, we are subject to the risk that the counterparties to our natural gas swap agreements, or similar financial hedging activities in the future, may not be able to fulfill their obligations, which could adversely impact our consolidated financial statements.

Our tax liabilities are based on existing tax laws in our relevant tax jurisdictions and include estimates. Changes in tax laws or estimates could adversely impact our future profitability, cash flow and liquidity.

The Company files U.S., Canadian and U.K. tax returns with federal and local taxing jurisdictions. Developing our provision for income taxes and analyzing our potential tax exposure items requires significant judgment and assumptions as well as a thorough knowledge of the tax laws in various jurisdictions. We are subject to audit by various taxing authorities and we may be assessed additional taxes during an audit. We regularly assess the likely outcomes of these audits, including any appeals, in order to determine the appropriateness of our tax provision. However, there can be no assurance that the actual outcomes of these audits or appeals will approximate our estimates and the outcomes could have a material impact on our net earnings or financial condition. Our future effective tax rate could be adversely affected by changes in the mix of earnings in countries with differing statutory tax rates, changes in the valuation of deferred tax assets and liabilities, changes in tax laws and the discovery of new information in the course of our tax return preparation process. In particular, the carrying value of deferred tax assets, which are predominantly in the U.S., is dependent on our ability to generate future taxable income in the U.S.

Canadian provincial tax authorities have issued tax reassessments for years 2002-2007, which are under audit, totaling approximately \$67 million, including interest through December 2012, challenging tax positions claimed by one of the Company's Canadian subsidiaries. The Company disputes these reassessments and plans to continue to work with the appropriate authorities in Canada to resolve the dispute. There is a reasonable possibility that the ultimate resolution of this dispute, and any related disputes for other open tax years, may be materially higher or lower than the amounts reserved for such disputes by the Company. In connection with this dispute, local regulations require the Company to post security with the tax authority until the dispute is resolved. The Company and the tax authority have agreed that the Company will post collateral of approximately \$35 million in a performance bond (including approximately \$8 million of the performance bond which will be cancelled pro rata as the outstanding assessment balance falls below

the outstanding amount of the performance bond) and make cash payments of approximately \$40 million (including approximately \$8 million of cash to be paid when a portion of the performance bond is cancelled). Of these cash payments, the Company has paid approximately \$21 million and it has agreed to pay an additional approximately \$6 million during 2013 with the remaining balance to be paid after 2013. The Company will be required by the same local regulations to provide security for additional interest on the above disputed amounts and for any future reassessments issued by the Canadian tax authorities in the form of cash, letters of credit, performance bonds, asset liens or other arrangements agreeable with the tax authorities until the dispute is resolved.

In addition, the Canadian federal taxing authority has reassessed us for years 2004-2006 which have been previously settled by agreement between the Company, the Canadian federal taxing authority and the U.S. federal taxing authority. We have fully complied with the agreement since entering into it and we believe this action is highly unusual. We are seeking to enforce the contract which provided the basis upon which our returns were previously filed and settled. The total amount of the reassessments, including penalties, related to this matter totals approximately \$102 million. We have agreed to post collateral in the form of approximately a \$24 million performance bond and make cash payments of approximately \$3 million during 2013. We are currently in discussions with the Canadian tax authorities regarding the remaining required collateral of approximately \$35 million necessary to proceed with future appeals or litigation. We expect that the ultimate outcome of this matter will not have a material impact on our results of operations or financial condition; however we can provide no assurance as to the ultimate outcome.

We have been able to manage our cash flows generated and used across the Company to permanently reinvest earnings in our foreign jurisdictions or efficiently repatriate those funds to the U.S. The amount of permanently reinvested earnings is influenced by, among other things, the profits generated by our foreign subsidiaries and the amount of investment in those same

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

subsidiaries. The profits generated by our domestic and foreign subsidiaries are, to some extent, impacted by values charged on the transfer of our products between them. We calculate values charged on transfer based on guidelines established by a multi-national organization which publishes accepted tax guidelines recognized in the jurisdictions in which we operate, and those calculated values are the basis upon which our subsidiary profits and cash flows are recorded, including estimates involving income taxes. Such calculations, however, involve significant judgment and estimates by the Company's management. Some of our calculations have been approved by taxing authorities for certain periods while the values for those same periods or different periods have been challenged by the same or other taxing authorities. While we believe our calculations and estimates are proper and consistent with the accepted guidelines the values constitute estimates for which there can be no guarantee that the final resolution with all of the relevant taxing authorities will be consistent with our existing calculations and resulting financial statement estimates. Additionally, the timing for settling these challenges may not occur for many years. We currently expect the outcome of these matters will not have a material impact on our results of operations. However, it is possible the resolution could impact the amount of earnings attributable to our domestic and foreign subsidiaries, which could impact the amount of permanently reinvested earnings and the tax-efficient access in all jurisdictions to consolidated cash on hand or future cash flows from operations which may impact our financial condition and liquidity.

Increases in costs of our defined benefit plan may reduce our profitability and cash flows.

The Company has a defined benefit pension plan for certain of its U.K. employees. This plan was closed to new participants in 1992 and future benefits ceased to accrue for the remaining active employee participants in the plan beginning in December 2008. We may experience significant increases in costs as a result of economic factors, which are beyond our control. In 2011, the Company offered all non-retired members of the U.K. Pension (the "Plan") the opportunity to transfer their accrued benefits out of the Plan in return for an enhancement to their transfer value. In addition, the Company amended the Plan to allow retired members an additional option in the calculation of their annual benefit payments in the defined benefit plan. Changes in assumptions used to calculate pension expense, the funded or underfunded balance in the plan, and any future buyouts or amendments to the plan may have an unfavorable impact on our costs and increase future funding contributions.

If our computer systems and information technology are compromised, our ability to conduct our business will be adversely impacted.

We rely on computer systems and information technology to conduct our business, including cash management, order entry, vendor payments, employee salaries and recordkeeping, inventory and asset management, shipping of products, and communication with employees and customers. The Company also uses its systems to analyze and communicate its operating results and other data to internal and external recipients. While we have taken steps to ensure the security of our information technology systems, we may be susceptible to computer viruses and other technological disruptions. A material failure or interruption of access to our computer systems for an extended period of time could adversely affect our operations and regulatory compliance. While we have mitigation and data recovery plans in place, it is possible that significant capital investment and time may be required to correct any of these issues. The additional capital investment needed to prevent or correct any of these issues may negatively impact our business and cash flows.

Risks Related to Our Common Stock

Our common stock price may be volatile.

Our common stock price may fluctuate in response to a number of events, including, but not limited to:

- our quarterly and annual operating results;

- weather conditions that impact our highway and consumer deicing product sales or SOP production levels and product sales;
- future announcements concerning our business;
- changes in financial estimates and recommendations by securities analysts;
- changes and developments affecting internal controls over financial reporting;
- actions of competitors;
- market and industry perception of our success, or lack thereof, in pursuing our growth strategy;
- changes in government and environmental regulation;
- changes and developments affecting the salt or potash fertilizer industries;
- general market, economic and political conditions; and
- natural disasters, terrorist attacks and acts of war.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

We may be restricted from paying cash dividends on our common stock in the future.

We currently declare and pay regular quarterly cash dividends on our common stock. Any payment of cash dividends will depend upon our financial condition, earnings, legal requirements, restrictions in our debt agreements and other factors deemed relevant by our board of directors. The terms of our senior secured credit facilities limit regular annual dividends to \$80 million plus 50% of the preceding year net income, as defined, and may restrict us from paying cash dividends on our common stock if our total leverage ratio exceeds 4.50x (actual ratio of 2.4x as of December 31, 2012) or if a default or event of default has occurred and is continuing under the credit facilities. The terms of our indenture may also restrict us from paying cash dividends on our common stock. The payment of a cash dividend on our common stock is considered a restricted payment under our indenture and we are restricted from paying any cash dividend in excess of \$60 million on our common stock unless we satisfy minimum requirements with respect to our cumulative consolidated net income (plus any additional cash proceeds received upon the issuance of our common stock). We cannot assure you that the agreements governing our current and future indebtedness, including our senior secured credit facilities, will permit us to pay dividends on our common stock.

Shares eligible for future sale may adversely affect our common stock price.

Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock in the public market, or the perception that these sales may occur, could cause the market price of our common stock to decline. This could also impair our ability to raise additional capital through the sale of our equity securities. We are authorized to issue up to 200,000,000 shares of common stock, as of December 31, 2012, of which 33,272,490 shares of common stock were outstanding and 643,156 shares were issuable upon the exercise of outstanding stock options, issuance of earned deferred stock units and vesting of restricted stock units. We cannot predict the size of future issuances of our common stock or the effect, if any, that future sales and issuances of shares of our common stock would have on the market price of our common stock.

Our equity incentive and stockholders' rights plans could have a dilutive effect on our common stock.

Our directors have received deferred stock units, and officers and certain managers have received restricted stock units, performance stock units and options to purchase our common stock as part of their compensation. These equity grants could have a dilutive effect on our common stock. Upon the occurrence of certain triggering events associated with a potential change of control described in the Company's rights agreement, holders of rights (excluding the acquiring person) would be entitled to purchase 1/1000th of a share of our preferred stock for each share of common stock, or to purchase common stock at a discount in certain cases. These rights could dilute the value of common stock to common stockholders who do not exercise those rights.

ITEM 1B.

UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2.PROPERTIES

Information regarding our plant and properties is included in Item 1, "Business," of this report.

ITEM 3.LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The Company from time to time is involved in various routine legal proceedings. These primarily involve commercial claims, product liability claims, personal injury claims and workers' compensation claims. We cannot predict the outcome of these lawsuits, legal proceedings and claims with certainty. Nevertheless, we believe that the outcome of these proceedings, even if determined adversely, would not have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. In addition, The Mosaic Company, a former owner of the Company,

has agreed to indemnify us against certain legal matters.

We are aware of an aboriginal land claim filed in 2003 by the Chippewas in the Ontario Superior Court against The Attorney General of Canada and Her Majesty The Queen In Right of Ontario. The Chippewas claim that a large part of the land under Lake Huron was never conveyed by treaty and therefore belongs to the Chippewas. The land claimed includes land under which our Goderich mine operates and has mining rights granted to it by the government of Ontario. We are not a party to this court action. Similar claims are pending with respect to other parts of the Great Lakes by other aboriginal claimants. We have been informed by the Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario that, “Canada takes the position that the common law does not recognize aboriginal title to the Great Lakes and its connecting waterways.” We do not believe that this action will result in a material adverse financial effect on the Company.

ITEM 4.

MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Information concerning mine safety violations or other regulatory matters required by Section 1503(a) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and Item 104 of Regulation S-K is included in Exhibit 95 to this annual report.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Executive Officers of the Registrant

The following table sets forth the name, age and position of each person who is an executive officer as of December 31, 2012 and as of the date of the filing of this report.

Name	Age	Position
Gerald Bucan	49	Vice President and General Manager, Consumer and Industrial
Keith E. Clark	57	Vice President and General Manager, North American Highway
David J. Goadby	58	Vice President of Strategic Development
Richard Grant	66	Interim Chief Executive Officer
Shelly Kinnune	42	Vice President and General Manager, Specialty Fertilizers
Francis J. Malecha	48	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director
Rodney L. Underdown	46	Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Secretary and Vice President of Compass Minerals UK

Gerald Bucan joined CMP as Vice President and General Manager, Consumer and Industrial in November 2007. Prior to joining CMP, Mr. Bucan held positions of Vice President and General Manager of the Deli division of ConAgra Foods' Refrigerated Meats operating company in 2006, and Corporate Vice President of Program Management for Federated Group, Inc. from 2003 through 2005.

Keith E. Clark has served as the Vice President and General Manager, North American Highway for CMP since January 2008. Prior to this position, he served as General Manager, Consumer and Industrial for CMP since August 2004. He served as the Vice President and General Manager of CMI's consumer and industrial business unit since August 1997, when North American Salt Company, a subsidiary of CMP, was under the management of Harris Chemical Group.

David J. Goadby was named Vice President – Strategic Development for CMP in October 2006. Prior to this position, he served as Vice President of CMP since August 2004, Vice President of CMI since February 2002 and as the Managing Director of Salt Union Ltd., our U.K. subsidiary, since April 1994, under the management of Harris Chemical Group.

Richard S. Grant was named Interim Chief Executive Officer on December 29, 2012 and served until January 17, 2013, when a permanent Chief Executive Officer joined CMP. Mr. Grant has been a director of the Company since April 2004. From 1998 through 2002, Mr. Grant served as Chief Executive Officer of BOC Process Gas Solutions, a global business providing utilities and services primarily to the chemical, petrochemical and metals industries. Concurrently, he served as a director of the BOC Group plc and Chairman of CNC sa, a Mexican joint venture. Mr. Grant currently serves as a director of BlueLinx Holdings, Inc., a distributor of building products.

Shelly Kinnune joined CMP as Vice President and General Manager, Specialty Fertilizers in May 2012. Prior to joining CMP, Ms. Kinnune held the position of Head, Permanent Crops Portfolio with Syngenta. Ms. Kinnune also served in several other strategic planning and business development positions with Syngenta from 2008 to 2012. Prior

to 2008, Ms. Kinnune held positions in operations, marketing and finance leadership roles with Blacktoe Medical, Inc., EMD & Associates, Inc., SePRO Corporation and Monsanto.

Francis J. Malecha joined CMP as President and Chief Executive Officer in January 2013. Prior to joining CMP, Mr. Malecha was Chief Operating Officer – Grain at Viterra, Inc. He was employed with Viterra, Inc. beginning in 2000, holding positions in operations and merchandising management. From 1986 to 2000, Mr. Malecha was employed with General Mills, Inc. in finance and merchandising management roles.

Rodney L. Underdown was appointed Chief Financial Officer of CMP in December 2002, and has served as a Vice President of CMP since November 2001. In July 2011, Mr. Underdown was also appointed to Vice President – Compass Minerals U.K. division. Mr. Underdown has served as CMP's Secretary since August 2005 and served as Treasurer from May 2006 to July 2011. Prior to November 2001, Mr. Underdown was a Vice President of Finance for the Salt Division of CMP's former parent company from June 1998.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

PART II

**ITEM MARKET FOR THE REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS
5. AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES**
PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK

Our common stock, \$0.01 par value, trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "CMP". The following table sets forth the high and low closing prices per share for the four quarters ended December 31, 2012 and 2011:

	First	Second	Third	Fourth
2012				
Low	\$68.38	\$68.84	\$70.82	\$74.20
High	76.31	77.53	77.81	80.65
2011				
Low	\$85.35	\$82.49	\$66.78	\$64.80
High	96.29	97.61	88.28	80.50

HOLDERS

On February 18, 2013, the number of holders of record of our common stock was 61.

DIVIDEND POLICY

We intend to pay quarterly cash dividends on our common stock. The declaration and payment of future dividends to holders of our common stock will be at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend upon many factors, including our financial condition, earnings, legal requirements, restrictions in our debt agreements and other factors our board of directors deems relevant. See Item 1A, "Risk Factors – We may be restricted from paying cash dividends on our common stock in the future."

The Company paid quarterly dividends totaling \$1.98 and \$1.80 per share in 2012 and 2011, respectively. On February 8, 2013, our board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.545 per share on our outstanding common stock, an increase of 10% from the quarterly cash dividends paid in 2012 of \$0.495 per share. The dividend will be paid on March 15, 2013 to stockholders of record as of the close of business on March 1, 2013.

EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION

The following table sets forth information at December 31, 2012 concerning our common stock authorized for issuance under our equity compensation plan

Plan category	Number of shares to be issued upon exercise	Weighted-average exercise price of	Number of securities available for issuance under plan
---------------	--	---	--

		outstanding securities	
Equity compensation plans approved by stockholders			
Stock options	435,721	\$ 67.46	
Restricted stock units	77,749	N/A	
Performance stock units	49,932		
Deferred stock units	47,739	N/A	
Total securities under approved plans	611,141		1,906,037
Equity compensation plans not approved by stockholders			
(a):			
Deferred stock units	32,015	N/A	6,963
Total	643,156		1,913,000

(a) For 2007 and earlier years, common stock issued to directors as compensation was allocated under the 2004 Directors Deferred Share Plan, which is no longer active. In 2008, the Company began issuing director compensation shares under the Incentive Award Plan.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The information included in the following table should be read in conjunction with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the Consolidated Financial Statements and accompanying Notes thereto included elsewhere in this annual report.

(Dollars in millions, except share data)	For the Year Ended December 31,				
	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Statement of Operations Data:					
Sales	\$ 941.9	\$ 1,105.7	\$ 1,068.9	\$ 963.1	\$ 1,167.7
Shipping and handling cost	238.1	293.8	268.6	249.3	341.1
Product cost (a)	414.7	440.6	436.7	319.2	432.2
Depreciation, depletion and amortization (b)	64.5	64.7	52.0	43.7	41.4
Selling, general and administrative expenses	93.9	94.5	88.4	83.9	82.0
Operating earnings (c)	133.2	215.3	226.5	270.2	274.2
Interest expense	18.2	21.0	22.7	25.8	41.6
Net earnings from continuing operations (c)	88.9	149.0	150.6	163.9	159.5
Net earnings available for common stock (c)	87.8	146.7	147.9	160.5	156.1
Share Data:					
Weighted-average common shares outstanding (in thousands):					
Basic	33,109	32,906	32,747	32,574	32,407
Diluted	33,135	32,934	32,763	32,596	32,477
Net earnings from continuing operations per share:					
Basic	\$ 2.65	\$ 4.46	\$ 4.52	\$ 4.93	\$ 4.82
Diluted	2.65	4.45	4.51	4.92	4.81
Cash dividends declared per share					
	1.98	1.80	1.56	1.42	1.34
Balance Sheet Data (at year end):					
Total cash and cash equivalents	\$ 100.1	\$ 130.3	\$ 91.1	\$ 13.5	\$ 34.6
Total assets	1,300.6	1,205.5	1,114.3	1,003.8	822.6
Total debt	482.3	482.7	486.7	490.7	495.7
Other Financial Data:					
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (d)	5.95	x 8.86	x 8.21	x 9.08	x 5.88

- (a) "Product cost" is presented exclusive of depreciation, depletion and amortization.
- (b) Depreciation, depletion and amortization include amounts also included in selling, general and administrative expenses.
- (c) In 2012 and 2011, the Company's operating earnings and net earnings were impacted by the effects of a tornado in Goderich, Ontario that occurred in August 2011.
- (d) For the purposes of computing the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of earnings from continuing operations before income taxes and fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense, including the amortization of deferred debt issuance costs and the interest component of our operating rents.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The statements in this discussion regarding the industry outlook, our expectations for the future performance of our business, and the other non-historical statements in this discussion are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are subject to numerous risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, the risks and uncertainties described in Item 1A, "Risk Factors." You should read the following discussion together with Item 1A, "Risk Factors" and the Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto included elsewhere in this annual report on Form 10-K.

COMPANY OVERVIEW

Based in the Kansas City metropolitan area, Compass Minerals is a leading producer of minerals, including salt, sulfate of potash specialty fertilizer ("SOP") and magnesium chloride. As of December 31, 2012, we operated 12 production and packaging facilities, including the largest rock salt mine in the world in Goderich, Ontario Canada and the largest rock salt mine in the U.K. in Winsford, Cheshire. In addition, we operate a records management business utilizing excavated areas of our Winsford salt mine with two other locations in London, U.K., which provide services to businesses throughout the U.K. Our solar evaporation facility located in Ogden, Utah, is both the largest SOP production site and the largest solar salt production site in North America. Our salt business sells sodium chloride and magnesium chloride, which is used for highway deicing, dust control, consumer deicing, water conditioning, consumer and industrial food preparation, and agricultural and industrial applications. In addition, we are North America's leading producer of sulfate of potash, which is used in the production of specialty fertilizers for high-value crops and turf.

Salt Segment

Salt is indispensable and enormously versatile with thousands of reported uses. In addition, there are no known cost-effective alternatives for most high-volume uses. As a result, our cash flows from salt have not been materially impacted through a variety of economic cycles. We are among the lowest-cost salt producers in our markets because our salt deposits are high-grade quality and among the most extensive in the world, and because we use effective mining techniques and efficient production processes. Since the highway deicing business accounts for nearly half of our annual sales, our business is seasonal, therefore results and cash flows will vary depending on the severity of the winter weather in our markets.

The severity of the winter seasons has varied considerably over the last three years. We assess the severity of winter weather compared to recent averages, using official government snow data and comparisons of our sales volumes to historical trends and other relevant data. In the markets we serve, the winter weather was milder than average in our North American markets in the first quarter of 2010, while winter weather in the fourth quarter of 2010 was near average. In 2011, winter weather was near average in the first quarter and was significantly milder than average in the fourth quarter. In 2012, winter weather was significantly milder than average in both the first and fourth quarters of 2012. Not only does the weather affect our highway and consumer and industrial deicing salt sales volumes and resulting gross profit and cash flows, but it also impacts our inventory levels, which influences production volume, the resulting cost per ton, and ultimately our profit margins.

In August 2011, a tornado struck our salt mine and our salt mechanical evaporation plant, both located in Goderich, Ontario. There was no damage to the underground operations at the mine. However, some of the mine's surface structures and the evaporation plant incurred significant damage which temporarily ceased production at both facilities. We resumed production and shipping activities, on a reduced basis, at the Goderich mine in early September 2011 and regained full hoisting capability in April 2012. However, the mine still requires some repairs and reconstruction to fully restore the damaged surface structures and long-lived operating assets. The evaporation plant

resumed limited activities in late September 2011 and reached full capability by the end of the first quarter of 2012. We received \$37.5 million and \$25.0 million of insurance advances in 2012 and 2011, respectively. We expect to be fully reimbursed by our insurers for the replacement and repair costs for our property, plant and equipment and associated clean-up costs incurred. We recorded approximately \$11.1 million and \$14.5 million of insurance advances received as a reduction to salt product costs in the consolidated statements of operations for the twelve months ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, to offset recognized impairment charges and site clean-up and restoration costs. The actual insurance recoveries related to the replacement cost of property, plant and equipment are expected to exceed the net book value of the damaged property, plant and equipment and the related impairment charges of \$5.9 million, which included \$1.1 million and \$4.8 million, recorded for the twelve months ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

We also expect to have a substantial business interruption claim to offset lost profits and to offset certain additional expenses incurred related to the ongoing operations. Thus far, we have identified approximately \$21 million and \$16 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, of estimated losses which we believe qualify as recoverable business interruption losses. However, we may not have been able to estimate the full amount of losses incurred since the tornado occurred. We do not expect the identified losses in 2013 to be material. The amount of actual business interruption recoveries may differ materially from our current and future estimates. We believe the impact of estimated lost sales, lost production and additional expenses that will be incurred related to the tornado will be substantially covered by our insurance policies. Any insurance recoveries related to business interruption and any gains related to the replacement of property, plant and equipment will be recognized as a reduction to product cost in the consolidated statements of operations when the insurance claim has been settled. We have not recognized any reduction to product cost from insurance recoveries related to estimated business interruption or property, plant and equipment losses. We incurred approximately \$35 million and \$17 million of capital expenditures during 2012 and 2011, respectively, to replace and, in some instances, improve property,

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

plant and equipment damaged or destroyed from the tornado and estimate we will spend more than \$5 million during 2013 to complete the replacement of all property, plant and equipment impacted by the tornado. Capital expenditures to replace damaged property, plant and equipment will result in an increase in depreciation expense in future years.

Specialty Fertilizer Segment

Our SOP production facility in Ogden, Utah, the largest in North America and one of only three SOP solar brine evaporation operations in the world, utilizes naturally occurring brines in its production process. The brine moves through a series of solar evaporation ponds over a two to three-year production cycle. Because our production process relies on solar evaporation during the summer to produce SOP at our Ogden facility, the intensity of heat and relative dryness of the weather conditions during that time impacts the amount of solar evaporation which occurs and correspondingly, the amount of raw SOP available to convert to finished product. During the summer of 2011, unusual localized rains and cooler weather, especially early in the summer, slowed the summer solar evaporation process at this operation, when compared to more-typical weather, reducing the amount of precipitated minerals over the solar season, which are the raw materials utilized to produce SOP. The reduced minerals deposited decreased SOP finished goods production volumes from our solar ponds primarily in 2012, and increased per-unit production costs accordingly. Due to this lower raw material solar pond harvest, we purchased and consumed some higher-cost potassium mineral feedstock for SOP production in 2012. We expect the higher per-unit production costs for the inventory produced in 2012 to continue to significantly impact our margins into early 2013 when we expect the remaining inventory produced in 2012 will be sold. In the 2012 solar evaporation season, the weather was more typical than during the 2011 season. Therefore, we expect a better-than-normal deposit of raw materials from which we produce our finished SOP, and significantly more than the same period of 2011's solar season. These raw materials will be utilized to produce SOP primarily in 2013.

In addition, we acquired Big Quill Resources, Inc., Canada's leading SOP producer, in January 2011 which has added approximately 40,000 tons to our annual SOP capacity. The acquisition has broadened and strengthened our specialty fertilizer segment by adding unique production capabilities and higher-value applications.

Our domestic sales of SOP are concentrated in the Western and Southeastern U.S. where the crops and soil conditions favor the use of low-chloride potassium nutrients, such as SOP. Consequently, weather patterns and field conditions in these locations can impact the amount of specialty fertilizer sales volumes. Additionally, the demand for and market price of SOP is affected by the broader potash market. The potash market is influenced by many factors such as world grain and food supply, changes in consumer diets, general levels of economic activity, governmental food programs, and governmental agriculture and energy policies around the world. Economic factors may impact the amount or type of crop grown in certain locations, or the type of fertilizer product used. High-value or chloride-sensitive crop yields and/or quality are generally lower when potassium chloride ("MOP" or "KCl") is used as a potassium nutrient, rather than SOP.

Worldwide consumption of potash has increased in response to growing populations and reduced arable land per capita requiring improved crop yield efficiencies. In addition, increases in energy prices over time, as well as certain government policies, improved the economics of ethanol and bio-diesel production or increased their use, which utilize agricultural products as feedstock. To combat these factors, we believe some growers have refined application techniques to reduce inefficiencies. Demand for these products decreased in 2009, as the broader agricultural industry dealt with a global economic slowdown, reduced credit availability and the reluctance of fertilizer customers to purchase potash at historically high prices experienced in 2008. In 2010, we experienced a rebound in potash demand and demand has remained relatively stable through 2012. MOP market pricing declined throughout 2009 from prices experienced at the end of 2008. However, market prices for potash stabilized during 2010 and increased through 2011 to levels which are well above historical levels though below the historic-high prices seen at the end of 2008. In 2012, market prices were similar to those experienced in 2011. These above factors have similarly influenced SOP market pricing, which has historically been sold at prices above MOP market pricing, and the resulting average price of our SOP has fluctuated dramatically in recent years. We expect SOP pricing to retain a premium to MOP although as

MOP pricing increases, the amount and percentage of the premium tends to decrease.

General

We contract bulk shipping vessels, barge, trucking and rail services to move products from our production facilities to distribution outlets and customers. Our North American salt mines and SOP production facilities are near either water or rail transport systems, which reduces our shipping and handling costs. However, shipping and handling costs still account for a relatively large portion of the total delivered cost of our products. Increasing oil-based fuel costs beginning in late 2009 and continuing through 2012 contributed to higher per ton shipping and handling costs in all three years when compared to previous years. Future period shipping and handling per-unit costs will continue to be influenced by oil-based fuel costs.

Manpower costs, energy costs, packaging, and certain raw material costs, particularly KCl, which can be used to make a portion of our deicing and water conditioning products, are also significant. Our production workforce is typically represented by labor unions with multi-year collective bargaining agreements. Miners at our Cote Blanche mine took part in a strike in the second quarter of 2010 relating to shift scheduling and wages. We had lower salt production in 2010 at both our Cote Blanche and Goderich mines and certain consumer and industrial salt plants. These 2010 factors resulted in significantly higher per-unit salt production costs, especially for mined rock salt, when compared to our historical costs, a portion of which remained in inventory at the end of 2010. This inventory was sold during the first quarter of 2011 as part of the Company's normal seasonal inventory changes, which resulted in higher per-unit costs in the first quarter of 2011. However, this trend began to reverse beginning in the second quarter of 2011 as production costs, net of estimated costs related to the tornado, trended lower due to more typical production volumes. During 2012, this trend again reversed as a mild winter weather season resulted in lower

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

production needs in 2012. Lower production volumes in 2012 also were a result of a strike by miners at our Goderich, Ontario mine during the third quarter of 2012. In addition, we incurred additional costs and other losses associated with the Goderich tornado through 2012 when the remaining tornado-impacted finished goods inventories were sold and other losses and costs associated with the tornado ceased to be incurred. Our energy costs result from the consumption of electricity with relatively stable, rate-regulated pricing, and natural gas, which can have significant pricing volatility. We manage the pricing volatility of our natural gas purchases with natural gas forward swap contracts up to 36 months in advance of purchases, helping to reduce the impact of short-term spot market price volatility. We have historically purchased KCl under long-term supply contracts with annual changes in price based on previous year changes in the market price for KCl. The market price for KCl increased significantly in recent years, causing continued price increases under our supply contracts. In 2010, we suspended purchases of, and currently do not have plans to purchase, KCl used to supplement our SOP production from solar ponds. We continued to purchase KCl for certain water conditioning and consumer deicing applications at higher prices, which increased input costs, principally beginning in 2010. The Company's SOP production in Saskatchewan, Canada purchases KCl under a long-term supply agreement. One of the production methods uses the brine of Big Quill Lake, which is rich in sodium sulfate, and adds the purchased KCl to create high-purity SOP.

We focus on building intrinsic value by improving our earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization, or "EBITDA," (adjusted for an average winter weather season) and by improving our financing cost structure. We can employ our operating cash flow and other sources of liquidity to pay dividends, re-invest in our business, pay down debt and make acquisitions. In May 2012, we amended and extended the terms of our credit agreement which enhances our financial flexibility. Over the last several years, we have completed expansion projects at our Goderich rock salt mine increasing that mine's annual capacity to 9.0 million tons. Also, in 2007, we began a multi-phased plan to strengthen our low-cost, solar-pond-based SOP production through upgrades to our processing plant and expansion of our solar evaporation ponds. The initial phase included some modification to our existing solar evaporation ponds and increases in the extraction yield and processing capacity of our SOP plant. These improvements are expected to increase annual solar-pond-based SOP production capacity to approximately 350,000 tons during the first half of 2013. Additionally in 2012, we completed a multi-year plan to use patent-pending technology to increase the yield of our SOP solar pond harvest by sealing the walls of our existing solar ponds to significantly reduce brine migration through these walls. This technology is expected to increase the efficiency and capacity of our solar ponds incrementally over a three to four-year period beginning with the 2012 solar season harvest. Should we decide to expand our processing plant in the future to process the incremental solar harvest material, the project should be capable of adding an estimated 220,000 tons to our solar pond-based SOP production capacity.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following table presents consolidated financial information with respect to sales from our salt and specialty fertilizer segments for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010. The results of operations of the consolidated records management business and other incidental revenues include sales of \$12.3 million, \$10.8 million, and \$11.1 million for 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. These revenues are not material to our consolidated financial results and are not included in the following table. The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the information contained in our Consolidated Financial Statements and the Notes thereto included in this annual report on Form 10-K.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
Salt Sales (in millions)			
Salt sales	\$ 703.4	\$ 885.3	\$ 870.3
Less: salt shipping and handling	211.9	268.5	244.2
Salt product sales	\$ 491.5	\$ 616.8	\$ 626.1
Salt Sales Volumes (thousands of tons)			
Highway deicing	7,530	10,235	10,008
Consumer and industrial	2,095	2,285	2,357
Total tons sold	9,625	12,520	12,365
Average Salt Sales Price (per ton)			
Highway deicing	\$ 53.11	\$ 52.30	\$ 51.51
Consumer and industrial	144.87	153.12	150.52
Combined	73.08	70.71	70.38
Specialty fertilizer ("SOP") sales (in millions)			
SOP sales	\$ 226.2	\$ 209.6	\$ 187.5
Less: SOP shipping and handling	26.2	25.3	24.4
SOP product sales	\$ 200.0	\$ 184.3	\$ 163.1
SOP Sales Volumes (thousands of tons)			
SOP Sales Volumes (thousands of tons)	367	344	362
SOP Average Price (per ton)	\$ 616	\$ 610	\$ 518

Year Ended December 31, 2012 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2011

Sales

Sales for the year ended December 31, 2012 of \$941.9 million decreased \$163.8 million, or 15% compared to \$1,105.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2011. Sales primarily include revenues from the sale of our products, or "product sales," and the impact on pricing of shipping and handling costs incurred to deliver salt and specialty fertilizer products to our customers. Shipping and handling costs for salt and specialty fertilizer products were \$238.1 million during the year ended December 31, 2012, a decrease of \$55.7 million, or 19% compared to \$293.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2011. The decrease in shipping and handling costs is primarily due to lower salt sales volumes in 2012 when compared to 2011. Fuel costs were slightly higher for 2012 when compared with 2011 and unfavorably impacted shipping and handling costs.

Product sales for salt and specialty fertilizer for the year ended December 31, 2012 of \$691.5 million decreased \$109.6 million, or 14% compared to \$801.1 million for 2011. Salt product sales for the year ended December 31, 2012 of \$491.5 million decreased \$125.3 million, or 20% compared to \$616.8 million in 2011 while specialty fertilizer product sales of \$200.0 million increased \$15.7 million, or 9% compared to \$184.3 million in 2011.

The decrease in salt product sales of \$125.3 million was due to lower salt sales volumes. Salt sales volumes in 2012 decreased by 2,895,000 tons or 23% from 2011 levels, which included a decrease to highway deicing products sales volumes of 2,705,000 tons and a decrease to consumer and industrial sales volumes of 190,000 tons. These decreases in volumes were almost exclusively due to the significantly milder than average winter weather in the first and fourth quarters of 2012 in the markets we serve. In addition, we experienced unprecedented preseason demand in 2011, while sales volumes in 2012 were lower from the effects of the 2011-2012 winter season which left customers with higher inventory levels and therefore, reduced the need for early fill orders in the latter half of 2012. In 2012, price

improvements for our highway business were partially offset by lower average selling prices for our consumer and industrial business due to product mix.

The increase in specialty fertilizer product sales of \$15.7 million was due primarily to an increase in specialty fertilizer sales volumes from 344,000 tons in 2011 to 367,000 tons in 2012, an increase of 23,000 tons, or 7% and an increase in our average sales price to \$616 per ton in 2012 compared to \$610 per ton in 2011.

Gross Profit

Gross profit for the year ended December 31, 2012 of \$227.1 million decreased \$82.7 million, or 27% compared to \$309.8 million for 2011. As a percent of sales, gross profit decreased 4% from 28% in 2011 to 24% in 2012. The gross profit for the salt segment contributed approximately \$64 million to the decline in gross profit due to lower salt deicing volumes and the impact of higher 2012 average per-unit salt product costs. The higher per-unit costs were partially a result of the effects of a tornado which struck our salt mine and our salt mechanical evaporation plant, both located in Goderich, Ontario in August 2011. We have identified to date approximately \$21 and \$16 million of estimated losses incurred for the twelve months ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, which we believe qualify as recoverable business interruption losses. Any insurance recoveries related to business interruption and any gains related to the replacement of property, plant and equipment

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

will be recognized as a reduction to product cost in the consolidated statements of operations when the insurance claim has been settled. We recorded \$11.1 million and \$14.5 million of asset impairment charges and clean-up and restoration costs for the twelve months ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, which were offset by \$11.1 million and \$14.5 million of expected insurance recoveries in the same respective periods. In 2011, gross profit was unfavorably impacted when inventory, with higher-than-typical per-unit production costs, from 2010 were sold in early 2011. The specialty fertilizer segment gross profit decreased by approximately \$18 million in 2012 principally due to higher per-unit production costs resulting from unusual localized rains and cooler weather experienced in the summer of 2011 at our Ogden facility. This reduced our solar pond-based SOP production volumes which increased per-unit production costs. To better serve the markets in which we compete, we also purchased higher cost purchased mineral feedstock for production in 2012, thereby increasing our costs.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2012 of \$93.9 million decreased \$0.6 million or 1% compared to \$94.5 million in 2011, and increased from 8.5% to 10.0% as a percentage of sales. The decrease in expense is primarily due to lower marketing expense and variable employee compensation expense which was partially offset by transition costs of approximately \$3.3 million related to the retirement of our Chief Executive Officer in 2012 when compared to the same period in 2011.

Interest Expense

Interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2012 of \$18.2 million decreased \$2.8 million compared to \$21.0 million for 2011. This decrease is primarily due to lower average interest rates on our outstanding debt, resulting from the expiration of our interest rate swap agreements which fixed interest rates in the first quarter of 2011 and the refinancing of our term loans in May 2012.

Other (Income) Expense, Net

Other expense was \$3.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2012 and compared to other income of \$3.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2011. The second quarter of 2012 included a \$2.8 million charge related to the refinancing of our term loans in May 2012, comprised of refinancing fees of \$1.8 million and the write-off of existing deferred financing fees of \$1.0 million. In addition, net foreign exchange losses were \$2.5 million in 2012 when compared to foreign exchange gains of \$2.3 million in 2011.

Income Tax Expense

Income tax expense for the year ended December 31, 2012 of \$22.4 million decreased \$25.9 million compared to \$48.3 million in 2011. The 2012 income tax expense decrease was primarily due to lower pre-tax income in 2012 when compared to 2011. In addition, we settled an income tax audit which resulted in a \$3.0 million reduction to income tax expense in the second quarter of 2012. Our income tax provision also differs from the U.S. statutory federal income tax rate primarily due to U.S. statutory depletion, domestic manufacturing deductions, state income taxes (net of federal benefit), foreign income, mining and withholding taxes (net of U.S. deductions) and interest expense recognition differences for tax and financial reporting purposes.

Year Ended December 31, 2011 Compared to the Year Ended December 31, 2010**Sales**

Sales for the year ended December 31, 2011 of \$1,105.7 million increased \$36.8 million, or 3% compared to \$1,068.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2010. Sales primarily include revenues from the sale of our products, or "product sales," and the impact on pricing of shipping and handling costs incurred to deliver salt and specialty fertilizer products to our customers. Shipping and handling costs for salt and specialty fertilizer products were \$293.8 million

during the year ended December 31, 2011, an increase of \$25.2 million, or 9% compared to \$268.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2010. The shipping and handling costs increase primarily reflect higher per-unit oil-based fuel costs and higher salt sales volumes for 2011 when compared to 2010.

Product sales for salt and specialty fertilizer for the year ended December 31, 2011 of \$801.1 million increased \$11.9 million, or 2% compared to \$789.2 million for 2010. Salt product sales for the year ended December 31, 2011 of \$616.8 million decreased \$9.3 million, or 1% compared to \$626.1 million in 2010 while specialty fertilizer product sales of \$184.3 million increased \$21.2 million, or 13% compared to \$163.1 million in 2010.

The decrease in salt product sales of \$9.3 million was due primarily to lower net sales prices, which were influenced principally by the impacts of customer mix and contributed approximately \$12 million to the product sales decline. Salt sales volumes in 2011 increased by 155,000 tons or 1% from 2010 levels, which included an increase to highway deicing products sales volumes of 227,000 tons due to higher sales of rock salt used in chemical applications. However, consumer and industrial salt sales volumes decreased 72,000 tons principally due to lower sales volumes to industrial customers and lower sales of potassium-based water care products. These volume changes combined to decrease salt product sales approximately \$8 million. In the first quarter of 2011, we estimated the impact on our salt sales due to winter weather to be near average. While the frequency of winter weather events in the first quarter of 2011 was higher than long-term averages, Company inventory constraints limited our ability to capitalize on above-average weather in some regions. However, in the first quarter of 2010 we estimated the impact on salt product sales due to winter weather to have been lower from what would have been reported had

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

winter weather been average. In contrast, during the fourth quarter of 2011, our primary deicing service regions experienced significantly milder than average winter weather which negatively impacted salt product sales when compared to average winter weather and when compared to the fourth quarter of 2010. The decline in consumer and industrial volumes were principally due to lower deicing sales in these product lines. The weakening of the U.S. dollar in 2011 when compared to the prior year exchange rate for the Canadian dollar and the British pound, favorably impacted product sales by approximately \$10 million.

The increase in specialty fertilizer product sales of \$21.2 million was due primarily to higher market prices in 2011 when compared to 2010 and the acquisition of Big Quill Resources in January 2011. Our average market price in 2011 was \$610 per ton compared to \$518 per ton in 2010 consistent with price improvements in the broader potash industry. This increase was partially offset by declines in sales volumes in 2011 when compared to 2010.

Gross Profit

Gross profit for the year ended December 31, 2011 of \$309.8 million decreased \$5.1 million, or 2% compared to \$314.9 million for 2010. As a percent of sales, gross margin decreased 1% from 29% in 2010 to 28% in 2011. The gross margin for the salt segment contributed approximately \$20 million to the decline in gross profit. Salt gross profit was favorably impacted by highway and consumer deicing volumes and was offset due to higher per-unit salt costs in 2011 as a result of higher per-unit production costs in 2010, a portion of which remained in inventory at the end of 2010. These higher-cost inventories were essentially all sold in the first quarter of 2011, which unfavorably impacted gross profit when compared to the prior year period. In addition, average per-unit salt product costs following the second quarter of 2011 have been higher than the elevated costs in the same periods in the prior year due to the effects of a tornado which struck our salt mine and salt mechanical evaporation plant, both located in Goderich, Ontario on August 21, 2011. As a result of the tornado, we recorded \$14.5 million of asset impairment charges and clean-up and restoration costs which were offset by \$14.5 million of expected insurance recoveries. In addition, we have identified approximately \$16 million of losses which we believe qualify as recoverable business interruption losses in 2011. Any insurance recoveries related to business interruption and any gains related to the replacement of property, plant and equipment will be recognized as a reduction to product cost in the consolidated statements of operations when the insurance claim has been settled. Specialty fertilizer segment gross profit increased by approximately \$18 million due to higher average market prices partially offset by lower sales volumes, net of the impact of the acquisition of Big Quill Resources in January 2011.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2011 of \$94.5 million increased \$6.1 million or 7% compared to \$88.4 million in 2010, and increased from 8.3% to 8.5% as a percentage of sales. The increase in expense is primarily due to higher professional services costs and higher compensation expenses in the 2011 when compared to the same period in 2010.

Interest Expense

Interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2011 of \$21.0 million decreased \$1.7 million compared to \$22.7 million for 2010. This decrease is primarily due to lower market interest rates on our floating-rate debt.

Other, Net

Other, net was income of \$3.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2011 and was an expense of \$8.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2010. Net foreign exchange gains were \$2.3 million in 2011 when compared to losses of \$6.4 million in 2010. In 2010, other expense, net includes approximately \$2.4 million of fees paid to amend and extend our credit agreement.

Income Tax Expense

Income tax expense for the year ended December 31, 2011 of \$48.3 million increased \$3.7 million compared to \$44.6 million in 2010. The 2011 income tax expense increase was due, in part, to higher pre-tax income in 2011 when compared to 2010. In the fourth quarter of 2010, we reached an agreement with taxing authorities to resolve some uncertain tax positions. The 2010 tax provision includes an income tax benefit of \$5.9 million related to a release of these tax reserves, which also lowered our income tax expense in 2010. Our income tax provision also differs from the U.S. statutory federal income tax rate primarily due to U.S. statutory depletion, domestic manufacturing deductions, state income taxes (net of federal benefit), foreign income, mining and withholding taxes (net of U.S. deductions) and interest expense recognition differences for tax and financial reporting purposes.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Overview

Over the last several years, the Company has undergone significant changes in order to strengthen its operational and financial position. We completed an expansion program at the Goderich mine, which increased our annual available salt production capacity at the mine to 9.0 million tons, which we expect to be available to be produced in the future as market conditions warrant. In 2007 we began a multi-phased plan to strengthen our low-cost, solar-pond-based SOP production through upgrades to our processing plant and improvements to and expansion of our solar evaporation ponds. The initial phase included some modification to our existing solar evaporation ponds and increases in the extraction yield and processing capacity

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

of our SOP plant. These improvements are expected to increase annual solar-pond-based SOP production capacity to approximately 350,000 tons during the first half of 2013. Additionally in 2012, we completed a multi-year plan to use patent-pending technology to increase the yield of our SOP solar pond harvest by sealing the walls of our existing solar ponds to significantly reduce brine migration through these walls. This technology is expected to increase the efficiency and capacity of our solar ponds incrementally over a three to four-year period beginning with the 2012 solar season harvest. Should we decide to expand our processing plant in the future to process the incremental solar harvest material, the project should be capable of adding an estimated 220,000 tons to our solar pond-based SOP production capacity. The expected total cost is currently being evaluated with engineering studies. Management expects to fund these and other capital projects with cash generated from operations and future borrowings. Additionally, in 2011 we acquired Big Quill Resources, Inc., Canada's leading SOP producer, for \$58.1 million, which added approximately 40,000 tons to our SOP capacity. In 2012, we acquired the mining rights to approximately 100 million tons of salt reserves in the Chilean Atacama Desert for approximately \$6.5 million. The project will require significant infrastructure development to establish extraction capabilities. Once production begins, we will be required to pay the seller royalties on any tons produced.

As a holding company, CMI's investments in its operating subsidiaries constitute substantially all of its assets. Consequently, our subsidiaries conduct all of our consolidated operations and own substantially all of our operating assets. The principal source of the cash needed to pay our obligations is the cash generated from our subsidiaries' operations and their borrowings. Our subsidiaries are not obligated to make funds available to CMI. Furthermore, we must remain in compliance with the terms of our senior secured credit facilities, including the total leverage ratio and interest coverage ratio, in order to make payments on our 8% Senior Notes or pay dividends to our stockholders. We must also comply with the terms of our indenture, which limits the amount of dividends we can pay to our stockholders. Although we are in compliance with our debt covenants as of December 31, 2012, we cannot assure you that we will remain in compliance with these ratios, nor can we assure you that the agreements governing the current and future indebtedness of our subsidiaries will permit our subsidiaries to provide us with sufficient dividends, distributions or loans to fund scheduled interest payments on the 8% Senior Notes, when due. If we consummate an acquisition, our debt service requirements could increase. Furthermore, we may need to refinance all or a portion of our indebtedness on or before maturity; however we cannot assure you that we will be able to refinance any of our indebtedness on commercially reasonable terms or at all.

As discussed in Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements, in 2012 we amended and restated our senior secured credit facility and refinanced our term loans into a single term loan. The term loan and \$125 million revolving credit facility will mature in May 2017 and October 2015, respectively. Over the last several years, we have been able to refinance higher-rate debt with lower rate debt.

Historically, our cash flows from operating activities have generally been adequate to fund our basic operating requirements, ongoing debt service and sustaining investment in property, plant and equipment. We have also used cash generated from operations to fund capital expenditures which strengthen our operational position, pay dividends, fund smaller acquisitions and repay our debt. We have been able to manage our cash flows generated and used across the Company to permanently reinvest earnings in our foreign jurisdictions or efficiently repatriate those funds to the U.S. As of December 31 2012, substantially all of our cash and cash equivalents (in the consolidated balance sheets) was either held directly or indirectly by foreign subsidiaries. Due in part to the seasonality of our domestic business, we experience large changes in our working capital requirements from quarter to quarter. Typically, our working capital requirements are the highest in the fourth quarter and lowest in the second quarter. When needed, we fund short term working capital requirements by accessing our \$125 million revolving line of credit. Due to our ability to generate adequate levels of domestic cash flow on an annual basis, it is our current intention to permanently reinvest our foreign earnings outside of the U.S. However, if we were to repatriate our foreign earnings to the U.S., we may be required to accrue and pay U.S. taxes in accordance with the applicable U.S. tax rules and regulations as a result of the repatriation. We review our tax circumstances on a regular basis with the intent of optimizing cash accessibility and minimizing tax expense.

In addition, the amount of permanently reinvested earnings is influenced by, among other things, the profits generated by our foreign subsidiaries and the amount of investment in those same subsidiaries. The profits generated by our domestic and foreign subsidiaries are, to some extent, impacted by the values charged on the transfer of our products between them. We calculate values charged on transfers based on guidelines established by the multi-national organization which publishes accepted tax guidelines recognized in all of the jurisdictions in which we operate, and those calculated values are the basis upon which our subsidiary income taxes, profits and cash flows are realized. Some of our calculated values have been approved by taxing authorities for certain periods while the values for those same periods or different periods have been challenged by the same or other taxing authorities. While we believe our calculations are proper and consistent with the accepted guidelines, we can make no assurance that the final resolution of these matters with all of the relevant taxing authorities will be consistent with our existing calculations and resulting financial statements. Additionally, the timing for settling these challenges may not occur for many years. We currently expect the outcome of these matters will not have a material impact on our results of operations. However, it is possible the resolution could impact the amount of earnings attributable to our domestic and foreign subsidiaries, which could impact the amount of permanently reinvested earnings and the tax-efficient access to consolidated cash on hand in all jurisdictions and future cash flows from operations.

Canadian provincial tax authorities have issued tax reassessments for years 2002-2007, which are under audit, totaling approximately \$67 million, including interest through December 2012, challenging tax positions claimed by one of our Canadian subsidiaries. We dispute these reassessments and plan to continue to work with the appropriate authorities in Canada to resolve the dispute. There is a reasonable possibility that the ultimate resolution of this dispute, and any related disputes for other open

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

tax years, may be materially higher or lower than the amounts we have reserved for such disputes. In connection with this dispute, local regulations require us to post security with the tax authority until the dispute is resolved. We have agreed with the tax authority to post collateral of approximately \$35 million in a performance bond (including approximately \$8 million of the performance bond which will be cancelled pro rata as the outstanding assessment balance falls below the outstanding amount of the performance bond) and make cash payments of approximately \$40 million (including approximately \$8 million of cash to be paid when a portion of the performance bond is cancelled). Of these cash payments, we have paid approximately \$21 million and we have agreed to pay an additional approximately \$6 million during 2013 with the remaining balance to be paid after 2013. We will be required by the same local regulations to provide security for additional interest on the above disputed amounts and for any future reassessments issued by the Canadian tax authorities in the form of cash, letters of credit, performance bonds, asset liens or other arrangements agreeable with the tax authorities until the dispute is resolved.

In addition, the Canadian federal taxing authority has reassessed us for years 2004-2006 which have been previously settled by agreement between the Company, the Canadian federal taxing authority and the U.S. federal taxing authority. We have fully complied with the agreement since entering into it and we believe this action is highly unusual. We are seeking to enforce the contract which provided the basis upon which our returns were previously filed and settled. The total amount of the reassessments, including penalties, related to this matter totals approximately \$102 million. We have agreed to post collateral in the form of approximately a \$24 million performance bond and make cash payments of approximately \$3 million during 2013. We are currently in discussions with the Canadian tax authorities regarding the remaining required collateral of approximately \$35 million necessary to proceed with future appeals or litigation. We expect that the ultimate outcome of this matter will not have a material impact on our results of operations or financial condition; however we can provide no assurance as to the ultimate outcome.

In August 2011, a tornado struck our salt mine and our salt mechanical evaporation plant in Goderich, Ontario. Some of the mine's surface structures and the evaporation plant incurred significant damage which temporarily ceased production at both facilities. Losses caused by the tornado affected our 2012 and 2011 consolidated financial statements and liquidity and will continue to impact our 2013 consolidated financial statements through at least the first quarter of 2013. While we expect to be reimbursed for these losses by our insurance carriers, there can be no assurance that all losses will be fully or even substantially reimbursed. At this time, we believe a final settlement will occur in 2013. We received \$37.5 million and \$25.0 million of insurance advances in 2012 and 2011, respectively. We recorded approximately \$11.1 million and \$14.5 million of insurance advances as a reduction to salt product cost in the consolidated statements of operations for the twelve months ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, to offset recognized impairment charges and site clean-up and restoration costs. We have identified approximately \$21 million and \$16 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, of estimated losses which we believe to be recoverable business interruption losses. However, we may not have been able to estimate the full amount of losses caused by the tornado. We incurred approximately \$35 million and \$17 million of capital expenditures during 2012 and 2011, respectively, to replace and, in some instances, improve property, plant and equipment damaged or destroyed from the tornado and estimate we will spend more than \$5 million during 2013 to complete the replacement of all property, plant and equipment impacted by the tornado. Business interruption losses and capital expenditures to replace or repair assets reduce cash flows available for other operating needs of our business. The amount of actual business interruption recoveries may differ materially from our current and future estimates and the ultimate collection and timing of any insurance recoveries could materially impact our short-term or long-term financial position and liquidity.

Principally due to the nature of our deicing business, our cash flows from operations are seasonal, with the majority of our cash flows from operations generated during the first half of the calendar year. When we have not been able to meet our short-term liquidity or capital needs with cash from operations, whether as a result of the seasonality of our business or other causes, we have met those needs with borrowings under our \$125 million Revolving Credit Facility. We expect to meet the ongoing requirements for debt service, any declared dividends and capital expenditures from these sources. This, to a certain extent, is subject to general economic, financial, competitive,

legislative, regulatory and other factors that are beyond our control.

For the year ended December 31, 2012

Net cash flows provided by operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2012 were \$151.7 million, a decrease of \$100.6 million compared to \$252.3 million for year ended December 31, 2011. Net earnings in 2012 decreased from 2011 by \$60.1 million. Additionally, we had an increase in working capital items of \$36.8 million in 2012 compared to a reduction of \$17.3 million in 2011. These changes to working capital provided a portion of our year over year change to cash flows from operations. Our working capital changes will vary, among other things, with the severity and timing of the winter weather in our regions.

Net cash flows used by investing activities of \$123.6 million for the year ended 2012 resulted from capital expenditures of \$130.9 million partially offset by insurance advances related to the Goderich tornado. Our capital expenditures in 2012 include expenditures to support the SOP evaporation plant expansion and yield improvement projects at our Great Salt Lake operations and capital expenditures of approximately \$35 million (including expenditures for improvements to our existing property, plant and equipment which are not fully reimbursable) for the replacement of property, plant and equipment damaged or destroyed by the tornado. The remaining capital expenditures were primarily for routine replacements.

Financing activities during 2012 used \$61.9 million of cash flows, primarily to make \$66.3 million of dividend payments and \$4.0 million of payments to redeem and refinance our debt in May 2012 which was partially offset by proceeds received from stock option exercises of \$7.4 million.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

For the year ended December 31, 2011

Net cash flows provided by operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2011 were \$252.3 million, an increase of \$11.1 million compared to \$241.2 million for year ended December 31, 2010. This increase reflects the seasonal impacts of more severe winter weather in December 2010 when compared to the mild winter weather experienced in December 2011 as well as year over year reduction in both salt and SOP inventories during 2011 both of which combined to help increase cash flows from operations, despite essentially flat net income year over year. Due to the seasonal nature of our deicing products, our working capital changes will vary with the severity and timing of the winter weather in our regions.

Net cash flows used by investing activities of \$152.4 million for the year ended 2011 resulted from capital expenditures of \$107.4 million and our acquisition of Big Quill Resources. Our capital expenditures in 2011 include capital expenditures of approximately \$17 million for the replacement of assets damaged or destroyed by the tornado (including expenditures for improvements to our existing property, plant and equipment which are not fully reimbursable), and activities to support the SOP evaporation plant expansion and yield improvement projects at the Great Salt Lake. The remaining capital expenditures were primarily for routine replacements. In addition, we invested \$58.1 million for the acquisition of Big Quill Resources in January 2011. In 2011, we also received \$25 million in insurance advances for the replacement of property, plant and equipment impaired related to the Goderich tornado.

Financing activities during 2011 used \$55.7 million of cash flows, primarily to make \$60.1 million of dividend payments which was partially offset by proceeds received from stock option exercises of \$5.1 million.

For the year ended December 31, 2010

Net cash flows provided by operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2010 were \$241.2 million, an increase of \$122.3 million compared to \$118.9 million for year ended December 31, 2009. This increase reflects a significant liquidation of both salt and SOP inventories during 2010 resulting in a net source of cash of approximately \$70 million. During 2009, we made a substantial investment to replenish depleted salt inventories due to strong sales in the fourth quarter of 2008 and our election to continue to produce SOP in excess of the demand to replenish depleted inventories, leverage our low-cost production methods and gain flexibility to service any possible subsequent surge during a rebound in demand. Additionally, due to the seasonal nature of our deicing products, our working capital changes will vary with the severity and timing of the winter weather in our regions.

Net cash flows used by investing activities of \$113.4 million for the year ended 2010 resulted from capital expenditures of \$112.1 million. Our capital expenditures in 2010 include expenditures in both our Goderich mine expansion project, to increase that mine's annual production capacity, and activities to support the SOP evaporation plant expansion and yield improvement projects at the Great Salt Lake. The remaining capital expenditures were primarily for routine replacements.

Financing activities during 2010 used \$55.1 million of cash flows, primarily to make \$52.0 million of dividend payments which was partially offset by proceeds received from stock option exercises of \$3.2 million. We also paid approximately \$2.4 million of fees in connection with the refinancing of our credit agreement.

Capital Resources

We believe our primary sources of liquidity will continue to be cash flow from operations and borrowings under our Revolving Credit Facility. We believe that our current banking syndicate is secure and believe we will have access to our entire Revolving Credit Facility. We expect that ongoing requirements for debt service and committed or sustaining capital expenditures will primarily be funded from these sources. During 2013, we also expect to settle our insurance claim related to the August 2011 tornado in Goderich. The amount and timing of any future settlement payments to be received, if any, are uncertain and there can be no assurance that we will receive any at all or we may be required to refund a portion of the previously received advances. The Company has approximately \$36.7 million of deferred revenue recorded as of December 31, 2012 in its consolidated balance sheets and has offset a total of

approximately \$25.6 million of asset impairment charges and clean-up and restoration costs recorded in statements of operations for 2012 and 2011 related to the tornado.

Our debt service obligations could, under certain circumstances, materially affect our financial condition and prevent us from fulfilling our debt obligations. See Item 1A, “Risk Factors – Our indebtedness could adversely affect our financial condition and impair our ability to operate our business. Furthermore, CMI is a holding company with no operations of its own and is dependent on its subsidiaries for cash flows.” In June of 2009, we issued senior notes with an aggregate face amount of \$100 million due in 2019, which bear interest at a rate of 8% per year payable semi-annually in June and December. The 8% Senior Notes were issued at 97.497% of their face value and the carrying value of the debt will accrete to their face value over the notes’ term, resulting in an effective interest rate of approximately 8.4%. With the proceeds of the 8% Senior Notes, the Company redeemed \$89.6 million of its 12% Senior Subordinated Discount Notes due 2013. In connection with the debt refinancing, the Company paid approximately \$1.8 million in refinancing fees, and paid \$2.2 million of fees that were capitalized as deferred financing costs. As discussed in Note 9 to the Consolidated Financial Statements, at December 31, 2012, we had \$482.3 million of outstanding indebtedness consisting of \$98.2 million 8% Senior Notes (\$100 million at maturity) due 2019 and \$384.1 million of borrowings outstanding under our senior secured credit agreement (“Credit Agreement”). Letters of credit totaling \$7.8 million reduced available borrowing capacity under the Revolving Credit Facility to \$117.2 million. In 2013, we may borrow amounts under the Revolving Credit Facility to fund our working capital requirements and capital expenditures, and for other general corporate purposes.

Our ability to make scheduled payments of principal, to pay the interest on, to refinance our indebtedness, or to fund planned capital expenditures will depend on our ability to generate cash in the future. This, to a certain extent, is subject to general

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors that are beyond our control. Based on our current level of operations, we believe that cash flow from operations and available cash, together with available borrowings under our Revolving Credit Facility and expected recoveries from insurers, will be adequate to meet our liquidity needs over the next 12 months.

We have various foreign and state net operating loss (“NOL”) carryforwards that may be used to offset a portion of future taxable income to reduce our cash income taxes that would otherwise be payable. We cannot assure you that we will be able to use all of our NOL carryforwards to offset future taxable income, or that the NOL carryforwards will not become subject to additional limitations due to future ownership changes.

At December 31, 2012, we had approximately \$4.1 million of gross foreign federal NOL carryforwards that have no expiration date.

We have a defined benefit pension plan for certain of our current and former U.K. employees. Beginning December 1, 2008, future benefits ceased to accrue for the remaining active employee participants in the plan concurrent with the establishment of a defined contribution plan for these employees. Generally, our cash funding policy is to make the minimum annual contributions required by applicable regulations. Since the plan’s accumulated benefit obligations are in excess of the fair value of the plan’s assets (by approximately \$7.5 million as of December 31, 2012), we may be required to use cash from operations above our historical levels to fund the plan in the future.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

At December 31, 2012, we had no off-balance sheet arrangements that have or are likely to have a material current or future effect on our consolidated financial statements.

Our contractual cash obligations and commitments as of December 31, 2012 are as follows (in millions):

Payments Due by Period

Contractual Cash Obligations	Total	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Thereafter
Long-term Debt	\$ 484.1	\$ 3.9	\$ 3.9	\$ 3.9	\$ 3.9	\$ 368.5	\$ 100.0
Interest (a)	83.5	15.5	15.4	15.3	15.3	10.7	11.3
Operating Leases (b)	48.9	10.0	7.5	5.5	4.3	3.7	17.9
Unconditional Purchase Obligations (c)	28.8	14.1	2.9	2.4	1.9	1.8	5.7
Estimated Future Pension Benefit Obligations (d)	69.6	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3	54.1
Other (e)	13.1	7.0	4.5	1.6	-	-	-
Total Contractual Cash Obligations	\$ 728.0	\$ 53.4	\$ 37.2	\$ 31.8	\$ 28.6	\$ 388.0	\$ 189.0
Other Commitments	Total	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Thereafter
Letters of Credit	\$ 7.8	\$ 7.8	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Performance Bonds (f)	102.5	102.4	-	0.1	-	-	-
Total Other Commitments	\$ 110.3	\$ 110.2	\$ -	\$ 0.1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

(a) Based on maintaining existing debt balances to maturity. Interest on the Credit Agreement varies with the Eurodollar rate. The December 31, 2012 blended rate of 3.2%, including the applicable spread, was used for this calculation.

(b) We lease property and equipment under non-cancelable operating leases for varying periods.

(c) We have long-term contracts to purchase certain amounts of electricity, and a minimum tonnage of salt under purchase contracts with four suppliers. The price of the salt is dependent on the product purchased and has been

estimated based on an average of the prices in effect for the various products at December 31, 2012 and adjusted based upon estimated price increases for 2013.

- (d) Note 8 to our Consolidated Financial Statements provides additional information.
- (e) Other cash obligations consist of payments required related to the Canadian tax reassessments. The amounts in the table do not include interest payments of approximately \$2 million in 2013 and approximately \$3 million in subsequent years which will be required to be deposited with the taxing authorities as long as the dispute remains outstanding. Note 7 to our Consolidated Financial Statements provides additional information.
- (f) Note 11 to our Consolidated Financial Statements provides additional information.

Sensitivity Analysis Related to EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA

Management uses a variety of measures to evaluate the performance of CMP. While the consolidated financial statements, taken as a whole, provide an understanding of our overall results of operations, financial condition and cash flows, we analyze components of the consolidated financial statements to identify certain trends and evaluate specific performance areas. In

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

addition to using U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) financial measures, such as gross profit, net earnings and cash flows generated by operating activities, management uses EBITDA and EBITDA adjusted for items which management believes are not indicative of our ongoing operating performance (“Adjusted EBITDA”). Both EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA are non-GAAP financial measures used to evaluate the operating performance of our core business operations due to our resource allocation, financing methods and cost of capital, and income tax positions which are managed at a corporate level, apart from the activities of the operating segments, and the operating facilities are located in different taxing jurisdictions, which can cause considerable variation in net earnings. We also use EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA to assess our operating performance and return on capital, and to evaluate potential acquisitions or other capital projects. EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA are not calculated under GAAP and should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for net earnings, cash flows or other financial data prepared in accordance with GAAP or as a measure of our overall profitability or liquidity. EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA exclude interest expense, income taxes and depreciation and amortization, each of which are an essential element of our cost structure and cannot be eliminated. Furthermore, Adjusted EBITDA excludes other cash and non-cash items including refinancing costs and other (income) expense. Our borrowings are a significant component of our capital structure and interest expense is a continuing cost of debt. We are also required to pay income taxes, a required and ongoing consequence of our operations. We have a significant investment in capital assets and depreciation and amortization reflect the utilization of those assets in order to generate revenues. Consequently, any measure that excludes these elements has material limitations. While EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA are frequently used as measures of operating performance, these terms are not necessarily comparable to similarly titled measures of other companies due to the potential inconsistencies in the method of calculation. The calculation of EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA as used by management is set forth in the table below (in millions).

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
Net earnings	\$ 88.9	\$ 149.0	\$ 150.6
Interest expense	18.2	21.0	22.7
Income tax expense	22.4	48.3	44.6
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	64.5	64.7	52.0
EBITDA	194.0	283.0	269.9
Other non-operating expenses:			
Fees and premiums paid to redeem debt	1.8	-	2.4
Write-off of unamortized deferred financing fees	1.0	-	0.1
Other (income) expense, net	0.9	(3.0)	6.1
Adjusted EBITDA	\$ 197.7	\$ 280.0	\$ 278.5

During 2012 and 2010, the Company amended the terms of its Credit Agreement. EBITDA also includes other non-operating income, primarily foreign exchange gains (losses) resulting from the translation of intercompany obligations, interest income and investment income (loss) relating to our nonqualified retirement plan totaling \$(0.9) million, \$3.0 million and \$(6.1) million for 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Our net earnings, EBITDA and Adjusted EBITDA are impacted by other events or transactions that the Company believes to be important in understanding our earnings trends. Those items include the effects of a tornado and the variability of weather. These items have not been adjusted in the amounts presented above. Thus far, we have identified approximately \$21 million and \$16 million of estimated losses in the consolidated statements of operations in the year ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, related to the effects of the 2011 tornado at Goderich. While we expect to be reimbursed for these losses by our insurance carriers, there can be no assurance that all losses will be fully or even substantially reimbursed. Also, our operating earnings were unfavorably impacted in 2012 by significantly milder than average winter weather in the markets we serve. In 2011, we estimate that our sales

and operating earnings were unfavorably impacted by milder than average winter weather, however not as significantly as in 2012.

Management's Discussion of Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities as of the reporting date and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could vary from these estimates. We have identified the critical accounting policies and estimates that are most important to the portrayal of our financial condition and results of operations. The policies set forth below require management's most subjective or complex judgments, often as a result of the need to make estimates about the effect of matters that are inherently uncertain.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Mineral Interests - As of December 31, 2012, we maintained \$144.0 million of net mineral properties as a part of property, plant and equipment. Mineral interests include probable mineral reserves. We lease mineral reserves at several of our extraction facilities. These leases have varying terms, and many provide for a royalty payment to the lessor based on a specific amount per ton of mineral extracted or as a percentage of revenue.

Mineral interests are primarily amortized on a units-of-production method based on third-party estimates of recoverable reserves. Our rights to extract minerals are generally contractually limited by time or lease boundaries. If we are not able to continue to extend lease agreements, as we have in the past, at commercially reasonable terms, without incurring substantial costs or incurring material modifications to the existing lease terms and conditions, if the assigned lives realized are less than those projected by management, or if the actual size, quality or recoverability of the minerals is less than the estimated probable reserves, then the rate of amortization could be increased or the value of the reserves could be reduced by a material amount.

Income Taxes – Developing our provision for income taxes and analyzing our potential tax exposure items requires significant judgment and assumptions as well as a thorough knowledge of the tax laws in various jurisdictions. These estimates and judgments occur in the calculation of certain tax liabilities and in the assessment of the likelihood that we will be able to realize our deferred tax assets, which arise from temporary differences between the tax and financial statement recognition of revenue and expense, carryforwards and other items. Based on all available evidence, both positive and negative, the reliability of that evidence and the extent such evidence can be objectively verified, we determine whether it is more likely than not that all, or a portion of, the deferred tax assets will be realized.

In evaluating our ability to realize our deferred tax assets, we consider the sources and timing of taxable income, our ability to carry back tax attributes to prior periods, qualifying tax planning, and estimates of future taxable income exclusive of reversing temporary differences. In determining future taxable income, our assumptions include the amount of pre-tax operating income according to multiple federal, international and state taxing jurisdictions, the origination of future temporary differences, and the implementation of feasible and prudent tax planning. These assumptions require significant judgment about material estimates, assumptions and uncertainties in connection with the forecasts of future taxable income, the merits in tax law and assessments regarding previous taxing authorities' proceedings or written rulings, and, while they are consistent with the plans and estimates we use to manage the underlying businesses, differences in our actual operating results or changes in our tax planning, tax credits or our assessment of the tax merits of our positions could affect our future assessments.

In addition, the calculation of our tax liabilities involves uncertainties in the application of complex tax regulations in multiple jurisdictions. We recognize potential liabilities in accordance with applicable U.S. GAAP for anticipated tax issues in the U.S. and other tax jurisdictions based on our estimate of whether, and the extent to which, additional taxes will be due. If payment of these amounts ultimately proves to be unnecessary, the reversal of the liabilities would result in tax benefits being recognized in the period when we determine the liabilities are no longer necessary. If our estimate of tax liabilities proves to be less than the ultimate assessment, a further charge to expense would result.

Taxes on Foreign Earnings - Our effective tax rate reflects the impact of undistributed foreign earnings for which no U.S. taxes have been provided because such earnings are planned to be reinvested indefinitely outside the U.S. Most of the amounts held outside the U.S. could be repatriated to the U.S., but would be subject to U.S. federal income taxes and foreign withholding taxes, less applicable foreign tax credits or deductions.

U.K. Pension Plan - We have a defined benefit pension plan covering some of our current and former employees in the U.K. The U.K. plan was closed to new participants in 1992. As we elected to freeze the plan, we ceased to accrue future benefits under the plan beginning December 1, 2008. We select our actuarial assumptions for our pension plan after consultation with our actuaries and consideration of market conditions. These assumptions include the discount rate and the expected long-term rates of return on plan assets, which are used in the calculation of the actuarial

valuation of our defined benefit pension plans. If actual conditions or results vary from those projected by management, adjustments may be required in future periods to meet minimum pension funding, or to increase pension expense or our pension liability. An adverse change of 25 basis points in our discount rate would have increased our projected benefit obligation as of December 31, 2012 by approximately \$1.9 million and our net periodic pension cost for 2012 by approximately \$0.2 million. An adverse change of 25 basis points in our expected return on assets assumption as of December 31, 2012 would have increased our net periodic benefit cost for 2012 by approximately \$0.2 million.

We set our discount rate for the U.K. plan based on a forward yield curve for a portfolio of high credit quality bonds with expected cash flows and an average duration closely matching the expected benefit payments under our plan. The assumption for the return on plan assets is determined based on expected returns applicable to each type of investment within the portfolio expected to be maintained over approximately the next 20 years. Our funding policy has been to make the minimum annual contributions required by applicable regulations. However, we have made special payments during some years when changes in the business could reasonably impact the plan's available assets, and when special early-retirement payments or other inducements are made to pensioners. Contributions totaled \$1.6 million, \$3.0 million and \$3.1 million during the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. If supplemental benefits were approved and granted under the provisions of the Plan or if periodic statutory valuations cause a change in funding requirements, our contributions could increase to fund all or a portion of those benefits. See Note 8 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for additional discussion of our pension plan.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Other Significant Accounting Policies - Other significant accounting policies not involving the same level of measurement uncertainties as those discussed above are nevertheless important to an understanding of our consolidated financial statements. Policies related to revenue recognition, allowance for doubtful accounts, valuation of inventory reserves, valuation of equity compensation instruments, derivative instruments and environmental accruals require difficult judgments on complex matters. Certain of these matters are among topics frequently discussed by accounting standards setters and regulators.

Effects of Currency Fluctuations and Inflation

We conduct operations in Canada and the U.K. Therefore, our results of operations are subject to both currency transaction risk and currency translation risk. We incur currency transaction risk whenever we or one of our subsidiaries enter into either a purchase or sales transaction using a currency other than the local currency of the transacting entity. With respect to currency translation risk, our financial condition and results of operations are measured and recorded in the relevant local currency and then translated into U.S. dollars for inclusion in our historical consolidated financial statements. Exchange rates between these currencies and the U.S. dollar have fluctuated significantly from time to time and may do so in the future. The majority of our revenues and costs are denominated in U.S. dollars, with pounds sterling and Canadian dollars also being significant. We generated 30% of our 2012 sales in foreign currencies, and we incurred 32% of our 2012 total operating expenses in foreign currencies. Additionally, we have \$492.6 million of net assets denominated in foreign currencies. In 2010 and 2011, the U.S. dollar weakened against the British pound sterling and the Canadian dollar, which had a positive impact on our reported assets, sales and operating earnings. In 2012, the U.S. dollar strengthened modestly against the British pound sterling and the Canadian dollar, which had a negative impact on our reported assets, sales and operating earnings. Significant changes in the value of the Canadian dollar or pound sterling relative to the U.S. dollar could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and our ability to meet interest and principal payments on U.S. dollar denominated debt, including borrowings under our senior secured credit facilities.

Although inflation has not had a significant impact on the Company's operations, our efforts to recover cost increases due to inflation may be hampered as a result of the competitive industries in which we operate.

Seasonality

We experience a substantial amount of seasonality in our sales, primarily with respect to our deicing products. Consequently, sales and operating income are generally higher in the first and fourth quarters and lower during the second and third quarters of each year. In particular, sales of highway and consumer deicing salt and magnesium chloride products vary based on the severity of the winter conditions in areas where the product is used. Following industry practice in North America, we seek to stockpile sufficient quantities of deicing salt in the second, third and fourth quarters to meet the estimated requirements for the winter season.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In July 2012, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued guidance, which allows entities to use a qualitative approach to test indefinite-lived intangibles for impairment. The new guidance permits an entity to perform a qualitative assessment to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of the indefinite-lived intangible is less than its carrying value. If the fair value is less than the carrying value, the entity would be required to perform a quantitative impairment test. This guidance will be effective for annual and interim impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after September 15, 2012, with early adoption permitted. The adoption of this standard will not impact the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In December 2011, the FASB issued guidance which requires an entity to disclose information about offsetting and related arrangements of financial instruments and derivative instruments. The update is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2013 and retrospective disclosure is required for all comparative periods presented. The adoption of this standard will not have a significant impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Our business is subject to various types of market risks that include, but are not limited to, interest rate risk, foreign currency translation risk and commodity pricing risk. Management may take actions to mitigate our exposure to these types of risks including entering into forward purchase contracts and other financial instruments. However, there can be no assurance that our hedging activities will eliminate or substantially reduce these risks. We do not enter into any financial instrument arrangements for speculative purposes.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Interest Rate Risk

As of December 31, 2012 we had \$384.1 million of debt outstanding under our term loan tranches, bearing interest at variable rates. Accordingly, our earnings and cash flows will be affected by changes in interest rates to the extent the principal balance is unhedged. Assuming no change in the amount of term loan or Revolver outstanding, a one hundred basis point increase in the average interest rate under these borrowings would have increased the interest expense related to our variable rate debt by approximately \$3.8 million based upon our debt outstanding as of December 31, 2012. Actual results may vary due to changes in the amount of variable rate debt outstanding.

As of December 31, 2012, a majority of the investments in the U.K. pension plan are in bond funds. Changes in interest rates could impact the value of the investments in the pension plan.

Foreign Currency Risk

In addition to the U.S., we conduct our business in Canada and the U.K. Our operations are, therefore, subject to volatility because of currency fluctuations, inflation changes and changes in political and economic conditions in these countries. Sales and expenses are frequently denominated in local currencies, and results of operations may be affected adversely as currency fluctuations affect our product prices and operating costs or those of our competitors. We may engage in hedging operations, including forward foreign currency exchange contracts, to reduce the exposure of our cash flows to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates. We do not engage in hedging for speculative investment purposes. Our historical results do not reflect any foreign currency exchange hedging activity. There can be no assurance that any hedging operations will eliminate or substantially reduce risks associated with fluctuating currencies. See Item 1A, "Risk Factors – Economic and other risks associated with international sales and operations could adversely affect our business, including economic loss and have a negative impact on earnings."

Considering our foreign earnings, a hypothetical 10% unfavorable change in the exchange rates compared to the U.S. dollar would have an estimated \$2.1 million impact on operating earnings for the year ended December 31, 2012. Actual changes in market prices or rates will differ from hypothetical changes.

Commodity Pricing Risk: Commodity Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities

We have a hedging policy to mitigate the impact of fluctuations in the price of natural gas. The notional amounts of volumes hedged are determined based on a combination of factors including estimated natural gas usage, current market prices and historical market prices. We enter into contractual natural gas price arrangements, which effectively fix the purchase price of our natural gas requirements up to 36 months in advance of the physical purchase of the natural gas. We may hedge up to approximately 90% of our expected natural gas usage. Because of the varying locations of our production facilities, we also enter into basis swap agreements to eliminate any further price variation due to local market differences. We have determined that these financial instruments qualify as cash flow hedges under U.S. GAAP. As of December 31, 2012, the amount of natural gas hedged with derivative contracts totaled 2.1 million MMBtus, of which 1.6 million expire within one year and 0.5 million expire in years two and three.

Excluding natural gas hedged with derivative instruments, a hypothetical 10% adverse change in our natural gas prices during the year ended December 31, 2012 would have increased our cost of sales by approximately \$0.4 million. Actual results will vary due to actual changes in market prices and consumption.

We are subject to increases and decreases in the cost of transporting our products due to variations in our contracted carriers' cost of fuel, which is typically diesel fuel. We may engage in hedging operations, including forward contracts, to reduce our exposure to changes in our transportation cost due to changes in the cost of fuel in the future. Due to the difficulty in meeting all of the requirements for hedge accounting under current U.S. GAAP, any such cash flow hedges of transportation costs would likely be accounted for by marking the hedges to market at each reporting period. Our historical results do not reflect any direct fuel hedging activity. There can be no assurance that any

hedging operations will eliminate or substantially reduce the risks associated with changes in our transportation costs. We do not engage in hedging for speculative investment purposes.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

ITEM 8.FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Description	Page
Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	43
Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2012 and 2011	45
Consolidated Statements of Operations for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2012	46
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2012	47
Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2012	48
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2012	49
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	50

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders of Compass Minerals International, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Compass Minerals International, Inc. as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2012. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule listed at Item 15(a)(2). These financial statements and schedule are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and schedule 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 audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Compass Minerals International, Inc. at December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2012, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Also, in our opinion, the related financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 21, 2013 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Kansas City, Missouri
February 21, 2013

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Board of Directors and Stockholders of Compass Minerals International, Inc.

We have audited Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (the COSO criteria). Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

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, Compass Minerals International, Inc. maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012, based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of Compass Minerals International, Inc. as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2012 of Compass Minerals International, Inc. and our report dated February 21, 2013 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Kansas City, Missouri
February 21, 2013

44

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Consolidated Balance Sheets

(In millions, except share data)	December 31,	
	2012	2011
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 100.1	\$ 130.3
Receivables, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$2.4 in 2012 and 2011	143.7	152.5
Inventories	229.7	207.2
Deferred income taxes, net	7.4	7.2
Other	26.0	18.6
Total current assets	506.9	515.8
Property, plant and equipment, net	645.2	573.4
Intangible assets, net	74.7	57.5
Other	73.8	58.8
Total assets	\$ 1,300.6	\$ 1,205.5
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities:		
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 3.9	\$ 156.0
Accounts payable	85.4	86.8
Accrued expenses	87.8	59.2
Accrued salaries and wages	20.1	17.3
Income taxes payable	1.0	6.6
Accrued interest	1.1	0.9
Total current liabilities	199.3	326.8
Long-term debt, net of current portion	478.4	326.7
Deferred income taxes, net	77.9	70.7
Other noncurrent liabilities	41.5	34.7
Commitments and contingencies (Note 11)		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common Stock:		
\$0.01 par value, authorized shares - 200,000,000; issued shares - 35,367,264	0.4	0.4
Additional paid-in capital	54.5	37.4
Treasury stock, at cost - 2,094,774 shares at December 31, 2012 and 2,334,060 shares at December 31, 2011	(4.0)	(4.5)
Retained earnings	395.0	372.5
Accumulated other comprehensive income	57.6	40.8
Total stockholders' equity	503.5	446.6
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 1,300.6	\$ 1,205.5

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Consolidated Statements of Operations

(In millions, except share data)	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
Sales	\$941.9	\$1,105.7	\$1,068.9
Shipping and handling cost	238.1	293.8	268.6
Product cost	476.7	502.1	485.4
Gross profit	227.1	309.8	314.9
Selling, general and administrative expenses	93.9	94.5	88.4
Operating earnings	133.2	215.3	226.5
Other (income) expense:			
Interest expense	18.2	21.0	22.7
Other, net	3.7	(3.0)	8.6
Earnings before income taxes	111.3	197.3	195.2
Income tax expense	22.4	48.3	44.6
Net earnings	\$88.9	\$149.0	\$150.6
Basic net earnings per common share	\$2.65	\$4.46	\$4.52
Diluted net earnings per common share	\$2.65	\$4.45	\$4.51
Weighted-average common shares outstanding (in thousands):			
Basic	33,109	32,906	32,747
Diluted	33,135	32,934	32,763
Cash dividends per share	\$1.98	\$1.80	\$1.56

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

(In millions)	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
Net earnings	\$88.9	\$149.0	\$150.6
Other comprehensive income (loss):			
Unrealized gain (loss) from change in pension costs, net of tax of \$1.2, \$(3.0) and \$(0.4) in 2012, 2011 and 2010	(4.3)	8.8	1.2
Unrealized gain (loss) on cash flow hedges, net of tax of \$(1.6), \$(0.8) and \$0.1 in 2012, 2011 and 2010	2.7	1.3	(0.1)
Cumulative translation adjustment	18.4	(15.3)	13.7
Comprehensive income	\$105.7	\$143.8	\$165.4

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity

(In millions)	Common Stock	Additional Paid-In Capital	Treasury Stock	Retained Earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)	Total
Balance, December 31, 2009	\$0.4	\$11.7	\$(5.2)	\$185.0	\$ 31.2	\$223.1
Comprehensive income				150.6	14.8	165.4
Dividends on common stock				(52.0)		(52.0)
Shares issued for restricted stock units		(0.1)	0.1			-
Income tax benefits from equity awards		2.8				2.8
Stock options exercised		3.0	0.2			3.2
Stock-based compensation		5.3				5.3
Balance, December 31, 2010	\$0.4	\$22.7	\$(4.9)	\$283.6	\$ 46.0	\$347.8
Comprehensive income				149.0	(5.2)	143.8
Dividends on common stock				(60.1)		(60.1)
Shares issued for restricted stock units		(0.1)	0.1			-
Income tax benefits from equity awards		3.5				3.5
Stock options exercised		4.8	0.3			5.1
Stock-based compensation		6.5				6.5
Balance, December 31, 2011	\$0.4	\$37.4	\$(4.5)	\$372.5	\$ 40.8	\$446.6
Comprehensive income				88.9	16.8	105.7
Dividends on common stock				(66.4)		(66.4)
Shares issued for restricted stock units		(0.1)	0.1			-
Income tax benefits from equity awards		1.7				1.7
Stock options exercised		7.0	0.4			7.4
Stock-based compensation		8.5				8.5
Balance, December 31, 2012	\$0.4	\$54.5	\$(4.0)	\$395.0	\$ 57.6	\$503.5

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(In millions)	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2012	2011	2010
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net earnings	\$ 88.9	\$ 149.0	\$ 150.6
Adjustments to reconcile net earnings to net cash flows provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	64.5	64.7	52.0
Finance fee amortization	1.3	1.5	1.3
Early extinguishment and refinancing of long-term debt	2.8	-	2.5
Stock-based compensation	8.5	6.5	5.3
Deferred income taxes	0.4	4.5	7.7
Other, net	1.6	5.3	3.6
Asset impairment charges, Goderich tornado	1.1	4.8	-
Insurance advances for operating purposes, Goderich tornado	26.5	10.4	-
Insurance advances for investment purposes, Goderich tornado	(8.7)	(12.6)	-
Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of acquisition:			
Receivables	8.6	48.6	(29.4)
Inventories	(23.8)	(3.1)	70.4
Other assets	(14.5)	(10.5)	(5.3)
Accounts payable, income taxes payable and accrued expenses	(7.1)	(17.7)	(2.2)
Other liabilities	1.6	0.9	(15.3)
Net cash provided by operating activities	151.7	252.3	241.2
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Capital expenditures	(130.9)	(107.4)	(112.1)
Insurance advances for investment purposes, Goderich tornado	8.7	12.6	-
Acquisition of a business	-	(58.1)	-
Other, net	(1.4)	0.5	(1.3)
Net cash used in investing activities	(123.6)	(152.4)	(113.4)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Proceeds from the issuance of long-term debt	387.0	-	-
Principal payments on long-term debt	(387.7)	(4.2)	(4.1)
Fees and premiums paid to redeem and refinance debt	(1.8)	-	(2.4)
Deferred financing costs	(2.2)	-	(2.6)
Dividends paid	(66.3)	(60.1)	(52.0)
Proceeds received from stock option exercises	7.4	5.1	3.2
Excess tax benefits from equity compensation awards	1.7	3.5	2.8
Net cash used in financing activities	(61.9)	(55.7)	(55.1)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	3.6	(5.0)	4.9
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(30.2)	39.2	77.6

Edgar Filing: COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL INC - Form 10-K

Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the year	130.3	91.1	13.5
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 100.1	\$ 130.3	\$ 91.1

Supplemental cash flow information:

Interest paid	\$ 17.9	\$ 20.0	\$ 22.6
Income taxes paid, net of refunds	\$ 32.0	\$ 45.9	\$ 58.7

In connection with the acquisition of Big Quill Resources, Inc., the Company assumed liabilities as follows (in millions):

Fair value of assets acquired, net of deferred tax liabilities and cash acquired(a)	\$ 60.0	
Cash paid during the year ended December 31, 2011	(58.1)
Liabilities assumed	\$ 1.9	

(a) The Company recorded \$11.1 million of deferred tax liabilities and acquired cash of \$2.4 million.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

1. ORGANIZATION AND FORMATION

Compass Minerals International, Inc., through its subsidiaries (“CMP”, “Compass Minerals”, or the “Company”), is a producer and marketer of inorganic mineral products with manufacturing sites in North America and the United Kingdom (“U.K.”). Its principal products are salt, consisting of sodium chloride and magnesium chloride, and sulfate of potash (“SOP”), a specialty fertilizer. The Company provides highway deicing products to customers in North America and the U.K., and specialty fertilizer to growers and fertilizer distributors worldwide. The Company also produces and markets consumer deicing and water conditioning products, ingredients used in consumer and commercial food preparation, and other mineral-based products for consumer, agricultural and industrial applications. Compass Minerals also provides records management services to businesses located in the U.K.

Compass Minerals International, Inc. is a holding company with no operations other than those of its wholly owned subsidiaries.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Management Estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) as included in the Accounting Standards Codification requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

b. Basis of Consolidation:

The Company’s consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Compass Minerals International, Inc. and its wholly owned domestic and foreign subsidiaries. All significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

c. Reclassifications:

Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified from receivables to other current assets in the Company’s consolidated financial statements to conform to the current year presentation.

d. Foreign Currency:

Assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars at end of period exchange rates. Revenues and expenses are translated using the monthly average rates of exchange during the year. Adjustments resulting from the translation of foreign-currency financial statements into the reporting currency, U.S. dollars, are included in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). The Company recorded foreign exchange gains (losses) of approximately \$10.7 million, \$(9.2) million and \$11.3 million in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively, in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) related to intercompany notes which were deemed to be of long-term investment nature. Aggregate exchange gains (losses) from transactions denominated in a currency other than the functional currency, which are included in other (income) expense, for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, were \$2.5 million, \$(2.3) million and \$6.4 million, respectively.

e. Revenue Recognition:

The Company recognizes revenue at the time of shipment to the customer, which coincides with the transfer of title and risk of ownership to the customer. Sales represent billings to customers net of sales taxes charged for the sale of the product. Sales include amounts charged to customers for shipping and handling costs, which are expensed when

the related product is sold.

f. Cash and Cash Equivalents:

The Company considers all investments with original maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents. The Company maintains the majority of its cash in bank deposit accounts with several commercial banks with high credit ratings in the U.S., Canada and Europe. Typically, the Company has bank deposits in excess of federally insured limits. Currently, the Company does not believe it is exposed to significant credit risk on its cash and cash equivalents.

g. Accounts Receivable and Allowance for Doubtful Accounts:

Receivables consist almost entirely of trade accounts receivable. Trade accounts receivable are recorded at the invoiced amount and do not bear interest. The allowance for doubtful accounts is the Company's best estimate of the amount of probable credit losses in its existing accounts receivable. The Company determines the allowance based on historical write-off experience by business line. The Company reviews its past due account balances for collectibility and adjusts its allowance for doubtful accounts accordingly. Account balances are charged off against the allowance when the Company believes it is probable that the receivable will not be recovered.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

h. Inventories:

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market. Finished goods and raw material and supply costs are valued using the average cost method. Raw materials and supplies primarily consist of raw materials purchased to aid in the production of mineral products, maintenance materials and packaging materials. Finished goods are primarily comprised of salt, magnesium chloride and specialty fertilizer products readily available for sale. All costs associated with the production of finished goods at the Company's producing locations are captured as inventory costs. As required by GAAP, a portion of the fixed costs at a location are not included in inventory and are expensed as a product cost if production at that location is determined to be abnormally low in any period. Additionally, since the Company's products are often stored at third-party warehousing locations, the Company includes in the cost of inventory the freight and handling costs necessary to move the product to storage until the product is sold to a customer.

i. Other Current Assets:

Other current assets consist principally of prepaid expenses as of December 31, 2012 and 2011.

j. Property, Plant and Equipment:

Property, plant and equipment is stated at cost and includes capitalized interest. The costs of replacements or renewals, which improve or extend the life of existing property, are capitalized. Maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred. Upon retirement or disposition of an asset, any resulting gain or loss is included in the Company's operating results.

Property, plant and equipment also includes mineral interests. The Company leases probable mineral reserves at several of its extraction facilities. These leases have varying terms, and many provide for a royalty payment to the lessor based on a specific amount per ton of mineral extracted or as a percentage of revenue. The Company's rights to extract minerals are contractually limited by time. However, the Company believes it will be able to continue to extend lease agreements as it has in the past, at commercially reasonable terms, without incurring substantial costs or material modifications to the existing lease terms and conditions, and therefore, management believes that assigned lives are appropriate. The Company's leased mineral interests are primarily amortized on a units-of-production basis over the respective estimated lives of mineral deposits not to exceed 99 years. The weighted average amortization period for these probable mineral reserves is 84 years as of December 31, 2012. The Company also owns other mineral properties. The weighted average life for these probable owned mineral reserves is 44 years as of December 31, 2012.

Buildings and structures are depreciated on a straight line basis over lives generally ranging from 10 to 30 years. Portable buildings generally have shorter lives than permanent structures. Leasehold and building improvements typically have shorter estimated lives of 5 to 20 years or lower based on the life of the lease to which the improvement relates.

The Company's other fixed assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over their respective lives. The following table summarizes the estimated useful lives of the Company's property, plant and equipment:

	Years
Land improvements	10 to 25
Buildings and structures	10 to 30
Leasehold and building improvements	5 to 40
Machinery and equipment – vehicles	3 to 10
Machinery and equipment – other mining and production	3 to 20
Office furniture and equipment	3 to 10
Mineral interests	20 to 99

The Company recognizes and measures obligations related to the retirement of tangible long-lived assets in accordance with applicable U.S. GAAP. Asset retirement obligations are not material to the Company's financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

The Company uses methodology, as prescribed by U.S. GAAP, to review its long-lived assets and the related mineral reserves for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying amounts of such assets may not be recoverable. If an indication of a potential impairment exists, recoverability of the respective assets is determined by comparing the forecasted undiscounted net cash flows of the operation to which the assets relate, to the carrying amount, including associated intangible assets, of such operation. If the operation is determined to be unable to recover the carrying amount of its assets, then intangible assets are written down first, followed by the other long-lived assets of the operation, to fair value. Fair value is determined based on discounted cash flows or appraised values, depending upon the nature of the assets.

k. Intangible Assets:

The Company follows the accounting rules for intangible assets as set forth in U.S. GAAP. Under these rules, intangible assets deemed to have finite lives are amortized over their estimated useful lives which, for CMP, range from 5 to 50 years. The Company reviews goodwill annually for impairment. In addition, goodwill and other intangible assets are reviewed when an event or change in circumstances indicates the carrying amounts of such assets may not be recoverable.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

l. Other Noncurrent Assets:

Other noncurrent assets include deferred financing costs of \$6.2 million as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 with accumulated amortization of \$1.6 million and \$1.8 million as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. In connection with the refinancing of the term loans in May 2012, the Company recorded a \$2.8 million charge in the second quarter of 2012 which is included in other expense in its consolidated statements of operations, comprised of refinancing fees of \$1.8 million and the write-off of existing deferred financing fees of \$1.0 million. Deferred financing costs are being amortized to interest expense over the terms of the debt to which the costs relate.

Certain inventories of spare parts and related inventory of approximately \$16.4 million and \$10.8 million at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, which will be utilized with respect to long-lived assets, have been classified in the consolidated balance sheets as other noncurrent assets.

The Company sponsors a non-qualified defined contribution plan for certain of its executive officers and key employees as described in Note 8. As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, investments in marketable securities representing amounts deferred by employees, Company contributions and unrealized gains or losses totaling \$6.0 million and \$6.3 million, respectively, were included in other noncurrent assets in the consolidated balance sheets. The marketable securities are classified as trading securities and accordingly, gains and losses are recorded as a component of other expense, net in the consolidated statements of operations.

m. Income Taxes:

The Company accounts for income taxes using the liability method in accordance with the provisions of U.S. GAAP. Under the liability method, deferred taxes are determined based on the differences between the financial statement and the tax basis of assets and liabilities using enacted tax rates in effect in the years in which the differences are expected to reverse. The Company's foreign subsidiaries file separate company returns in their respective jurisdictions.

The Company recognizes potential liabilities in accordance with applicable U.S. GAAP for anticipated tax issues in the U.S. and other tax jurisdictions based on its estimate of whether, and the extent to which, additional taxes will be due. If payment of these amounts ultimately proves to be unnecessary, the reversal of the liabilities would result in tax benefits being recognized in the period when the Company determines the liabilities are no longer necessary. If the Company's estimate of tax liabilities proves to be less than the ultimate assessment, a further charge to expense would result. Any penalties and interest that are accrued on the Company's uncertain tax positions are included as a component of income tax expense.

In evaluating the Company's ability to realize deferred tax assets, the Company considers the sources and timing of taxable income, including the reversal of existing temporary differences, the ability to carryback tax attributes to prior periods, qualifying tax-planning strategies, and estimates of future taxable income exclusive of reversing temporary differences. In determining future taxable income, the Company's assumptions include the amount of pre-tax operating income according to different state, federal and international taxing jurisdictions, the origination of future temporary differences, and the implementation of feasible and prudent tax-planning strategies.

If the Company determines that a portion of its deferred tax assets will not be realized, a valuation allowance is recorded in the period that such determination is made. In the future, if the Company determines, based on the existence of sufficient evidence, that more or less of the deferred tax assets are more likely than not to be realized, an adjustment to the valuation allowance will be made in the period such a determination is made.

n. Environmental Costs:

Environmental costs, other than those of a capital nature, are accrued at the time the exposure becomes known and costs can be reasonably estimated. Costs are accrued based upon management's estimates of all direct costs. The Company's environmental accrual was \$1.6 million and \$1.7 million at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

o. Equity Compensation Plans:

The Company has equity compensation plans under the oversight of the board of directors of CMP, whereby stock options, restricted stock units and performance stock units are granted to employees, consultants, or directors of CMP. See Note 12 for additional discussion.

p. Earnings per Share:

The Company's participating securities are accounted for in accordance with guidance related to the computation of earnings per share under the two-class method. The two-class method requires allocating the Company's net earnings to both common shares and participating securities based upon their rights to receive dividends. Basic earnings per share is computed by dividing net earnings available to common shareholders by the weighted-average number of outstanding common shares during the period. Diluted earnings per share reflects the potential dilution that could occur under the more dilutive of either the treasury stock method or the two-class method for calculating the weighed-average number of outstanding common shares. The treasury stock method is calculated assuming unrecognized compensation expense, income tax benefits and proceeds from the potential exercise of employee stock options are used to repurchase common stock.

q. Derivatives:

The Company is exposed to the impact of fluctuations in the purchase price of natural gas consumed in operations. The Company hedges portions of its risk of changes in natural gas prices through the use of derivative agreements. Prior to 2011,

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

the Company also had interest rate swap agreements to hedge the variability of a portion of its future interest payments on its variable rate debt. The Company accounts for derivative financial instruments in accordance with applicable U.S. GAAP, which requires companies to record derivative financial instruments as assets or liabilities measured at fair value. Accounting for the changes in the fair value of a derivative depends on its designation and effectiveness. Derivatives qualify for treatment as hedges when there is a high correlation between the change in fair value of the derivative instrument and the related change in value of the underlying hedged item. For qualifying hedges, the effective portion of the change in fair value is recognized through earnings when the underlying transaction being hedged affects earnings, allowing a derivative's gains and losses to offset related results from the hedged item in the statements of operations. For derivative instruments that are not accounted for as hedges, or for the ineffective portions of qualifying hedges, the change in fair value is recorded through earnings in the period of change. The Company formally documents, designates, and assesses the effectiveness of transactions that receive hedge accounting treatment initially and on an ongoing basis. The Company does not engage in trading activities with its financial instruments.

r. Concentration of Credit Risk:

The Company sells its salt and magnesium chloride products to various governmental agencies, manufacturers, distributors and retailers primarily in the Midwestern U.S., and throughout Canada and the U.K. The Company's specialty fertilizer products are sold across North America and internationally. No single customer or group of affiliated customers accounted for more than 10% of the Company's sales in any year during the three year period ended December 31, 2012, or more than 10% of accounts receivable at December 31, 2012 or 2011.

s. Recent Accounting Pronouncements:

In July 2012, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued guidance, which allows entities to use a qualitative approach to test indefinite-lived intangibles for impairment. The new guidance permits an entity to perform a qualitative assessment to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of the indefinite-lived intangible is less than its carrying value. If the fair value is less than the carrying value, the entity would be required to perform a quantitative impairment test. This guidance will be effective for annual and interim impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after September 15, 2012, with early adoption permitted. The adoption of this standard will not impact the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In December 2011, the FASB issued guidance which requires an entity to disclose information about offsetting and related arrangements of financial instruments and derivative instruments. The update is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2013 and retrospective disclosure is required for all comparative periods presented. The adoption of this standard will not have a significant impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

3. GODERICH TORNADO

In August 2011, a tornado struck the Company's salt mine and its salt mechanical evaporation plant, both located in Goderich, Ontario. There was no damage to the underground operations at the mine. However, some of the mine's surface structures and the evaporation plant incurred significant damage which temporarily ceased production at both facilities. The Company resumed production and shipping activities, on a reduced basis, at the Goderich mine in early September 2011 and regained full hoisting capability in April 2012. However, the mine still requires some repairs and reconstruction to fully restore the damaged surface structures and operating assets. The evaporation plant resumed limited activities in late September 2011 and reached full capability by the end of the first quarter of 2012.

The Company maintains comprehensive property and casualty insurance, including business interruption, which is expected to provide substantial coverage for the losses that have and will occur at these facilities and to the Company's business losses related to the tornado. The Company made an estimate of the impairment of its property, plant and

equipment pertaining to the impacted areas at both of the Goderich facilities. The Company may need to record additional impairment charges as more information becomes available. In addition, the Company incurred clean-up costs related to the storm. The Company expects to be fully reimbursed by its insurers for the replacement and repair costs for its property, plant and equipment and associated clean-up costs incurred, net of the Company's deductible. The impairment and clean-up and restoration costs incurred and insurance recoveries recognized in the consolidated statements of operations for 2012 and 2011 are as follows (in millions):

	For the Year Ended	
	December 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
Product cost:		
Property, plant and equipment impairment charges	\$ 1.1	\$ 4.8
Site clean-up and restoration costs	10.0	9.7
Estimated insurance recoveries recognized	(11.1)	(14.5)
Net impact on product cost excluding business interruption	\$ -	\$ -

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

The Company received \$37.5 million and \$25.0 million of insurance advances in 2012 and 2011, respectively. The Company recorded \$11.1 million and \$14.5 million of insurance advances as a reduction to salt product cost in the consolidated statements of operations for the twelve months ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, to offset recognized impairment charges and site clean-up and restoration costs. The Company also has recorded approximately \$26.5 million and \$10.4 million of the insurance advances as deferred revenue in 2012 and 2011, respectively, in accrued expenses in the consolidated balance sheets and has presented this amount in its operating section of the consolidated statements of cash flows for their respective periods. The actual insurance recoveries related to the replacement cost of property, plant and equipment will exceed the net book value of the damaged property, plant and equipment and the related impairment charges of \$5.9 million, which included \$1.1 million and \$4.8 million, recorded for the year ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. However, U.S. GAAP limits the recognition of insurance recoveries in the consolidated financial statements to the amount of recognized losses, provided the Company believes the recoveries are probable. Any gains related to the replacement of property, plant and equipment from insurance recoveries will be recorded in product cost in the consolidated statements of operations when all contingencies relating to the insurance claim have been resolved.

The Company also expects to have a substantial business interruption claim to offset lost profits and to offset certain additional expenses incurred related to the ongoing operations. Thus far, the Company has identified approximately \$21 million and \$16 million for the year ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, of estimated losses that it believes qualify as recoverable business interruption losses. The amount of actual business interruption recoveries may differ materially from the Company's current and future estimates. The Company believes the impact of estimated lost sales, lost production and additional expenses that have been and will be incurred related to the tornado will be substantially covered by the Company's insurance policies. Any insurance recoveries related to business interruption will be recognized as a reduction to product cost in the consolidated statements of operations when the insurance claim has been settled. The Company has not recognized any reduction to product cost from insurance recoveries related to estimated business interruption losses.

4. INVENTORIES

Inventories consist of the following at December 31 (in millions):

	2012	2011
Finished goods	\$185.6	\$169.4
Raw materials and supplies	44.1	37.8
Total inventories	\$229.7	\$207.2

5. PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant and equipment consists of the following at December 31 (in millions):

	2012	2011
Land, buildings and structures and leasehold improvements	\$309.0	\$275.9
Machinery and equipment	596.5	541.8
Office furniture and equipment	20.8	21.3
Mineral interests	184.4	174.4
Construction in progress	103.0	68.8
	1,213.7	1,082.2
Less accumulated depreciation and depletion	(568.5)	(508.8)
Property, plant and equipment, net	\$645.2	\$573.4

6. GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Intangible assets consist primarily of a KCl supply agreement, purchased rights to produce SOP, lease rights, water rights, a tradename and customer relationships. The supply agreement, SOP production rights, lease rights and customer relationships are being amortized over 50 years, 25 years, 25 years and 7-10 years, respectively. In the fourth quarter of 2012, the Company acquired intangible assets for \$15.5 million. In addition, the Company has water rights and a tradename, which have indefinite lives and have a value of \$5.2 million and \$0.7 million, respectively, as of December 31, 2012 and 2011. The weighted average amortization period for all finite-lived intangibles is approximately 38 years. None of the finite-lived intangible assets have a residual value. Aggregate amortization expense was \$2.1 million in 2012, \$1.9 million in 2011 and \$1.3 million in 2010 and is projected to be between \$1.8 million and \$2.1 million (excluding any amortization expense for the fourth quarter of 2012 purchase of intangible assets) per year over the next five years.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

The asset value and accumulated amortization as of December 31, 2012 for the finite-lived intangibles assets are as follows (in millions):

	Supply Agreement	SOP Production Rights	Customer Relationships	Lease Rights	Total
Intangible assets	\$36.4	\$ 24.3	\$ 2.1	\$2.2	\$65.0
Accumulated amortization	(1.4)	(8.8)	(1.4)	(0.1)	(11.7)
Intangible assets, net	\$35.0	\$ 15.5	\$ 0.7	\$2.1	\$53.3

As of December 31, 2011, finite-lived intangible assets included a long-term supply agreement, SOP production rights and customer relationships valued at \$34.9 million, \$24.3 million and \$2.1 million, respectively, with accumulated amortization of \$0.7 million, \$7.9 million and \$1.1 million, respectively.

In addition, the Company recorded goodwill in its specialty fertilizer segment of \$14.6 million related to its acquisition of Big Quill Resources in January 2011. The Company has recorded goodwill of approximately \$21.3 million as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 in other assets of its consolidated balance sheets.

7. INCOME TAXES

The Company files U.S., Canadian and U.K. tax returns at the federal and local taxing jurisdictional levels. The Company's U.S. federal tax returns for tax years 2009 forward remain open and subject to examination. Generally, the Company's state, local and foreign tax returns for years as early as 2002 forward remain open and subject to examination, depending on the jurisdiction.

The following table summarizes the Company's income tax provision (benefit) related to earnings for the years ended December 31 (in millions):

	2012	2011	2010
Current:			
Federal	\$10.3	\$27.9	\$20.6
State	2.1	6.2	5.2
Foreign	9.6	9.7	11.1
Total current	22.0	43.8	36.9
Deferred:			
Federal	(1.9)	(1.9)	6.3
State	(0.4)	(0.4)	1.6
Foreign	2.7	6.8	(0.2)
Total deferred	0.4	4.5	7.7
Total provision for income taxes	\$22.4	\$48.3	\$44.6

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

The following table summarizes components of earnings before taxes and shows the tax effects of significant adjustments from the expected tax expense computed at the federal statutory rate for the years ended December 31 (in millions):

	2012	2011	2010
Domestic income	\$76.6	\$141.5	\$142.4
Foreign income	34.7	55.8	52.8
Earnings before income taxes	111.3	197.3	195.2
Computed tax at the U.S. federal statutory rate of 35%	39.0	69.0	68.3
Foreign income, mining, and withholding taxes, net of U.S. federal deduction	1.9	(2.0)	(1.5)
Percentage depletion in excess of basis	(8.4)	(10.9)	(11.0)
Release of tax reserves due to agreement with taxing authorities	(2.7)	-	(5.9)
Other domestic tax reserves, net of reversals	0.6	(1.6)	(1.4)
Domestic manufacturers deduction	(1.4)	(1.8)	(2.7)
State income taxes, net of federal income tax benefit	1.5	3.6	5.0
Change in valuation allowance on deferred tax assets	(0.2)	(0.8)	0.1
Interest expense recognition differences	(7.3)	(6.8)	(7.0)
Other	(0.6)	(0.4)	0.7
Provision for income taxes	\$22.4	\$48.3	\$44.6
Effective tax rate	20 %	24 %	23 %

Under U.S. GAAP, deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the estimated future tax effects, based on enacted tax law, of temporary differences between the values of assets and liabilities recorded for financial reporting and tax purposes, and of net operating losses and other carryforwards. The significant components of the Company's deferred tax assets and liabilities were as follows at December 31 (in millions):

	2012	2011
Current deferred tax assets:		
Alternative minimum tax credit carryforwards	\$ 1.4	\$ 0.4
Accrued expenses	1.6	1.3
Other, net	4.4	5.5
Current deferred tax assets	7.4	7.2
Current deferred tax liabilities:		
Unrealized foreign exchange gains	-	0.9
Other, net	0.1	(0.5)
Current deferred tax liabilities	0.1	0.4
Noncurrent deferred taxes:		
Property, plant and equipment	76.3	70.9
Intangible asset	9.3	8.5
Total noncurrent deferred tax liabilities	85.6	79.4
Deferred tax assets:		
Net operating loss carryforwards	1.0	2.6
Other, net	8.0	7.6
Subtotal	9.0	10.2
Valuation allowance	(1.3)	(1.5)
Total noncurrent deferred tax assets	7.7	8.7

Net noncurrent deferred tax liabilities	\$ 77.9	\$ 70.7
---	---------	---------

At December 31, 2012, the Company had approximately \$4.1 million of gross foreign federal net operating loss (“NOL”) carryforwards that have no expiration date and \$0.1 million of tax-effected state NOL carryforwards which expire in 2022.

The Company has recorded a valuation allowance for a portion of its deferred tax asset relating to various tax attributes that it does not believe are, more likely than not to be realized. As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company’s valuation allowance was \$1.3 million and \$1.5 million, respectively. In the future, if the Company determines, based on existence of

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

sufficient evidence, that it should realize more or less of its deferred tax assets, an adjustment to the valuation allowance will be made in the period such a determination is made.

The calculation of the Company's tax liabilities involves dealing with uncertainties in the application of complex tax regulations in multiple jurisdictions. The Company recognizes potential liabilities for unrecognized tax benefits in the U.S. and other tax jurisdictions in accordance with applicable U.S. GAAP, which requires uncertain tax positions to be recognized only if they are more likely than not to be upheld based on their technical merits. The measurement of the uncertain tax position is based on the largest benefit amount that is more likely than not (determined on a cumulative probability basis) to be realized upon settlement of the matter. If payment of these amounts ultimately proves to be unnecessary, the reversal of the liabilities would result in tax benefits being recognized in the period when the Company determines the liabilities are no longer necessary. If the Company's estimate of tax liabilities proves to be less than the ultimate assessment, a further charge to expense may result.

The Company's uncertain tax positions primarily relate to transactions and deductions involving U.S. and Canadian operations. If favorably resolved, these unrecognized tax benefits would decrease the Company's effective tax rate. Management does not believe that it is reasonably possible that unrecognized tax benefits will decrease in the next twelve months as a result of resolution with various taxing authorities. The following table shows a reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits (in millions):

	2012	2011	2010
Unrecognized tax benefits:			
Balance at January 1	\$25.6	\$23.9	\$23.3
Additions resulting from current year tax positions	4.7	1.8	0.4
Additions relating to tax positions taken in prior years	0.4	1.3	10.9
Reductions due to cash payments	(0.3)	(0.6)	(3.6)
Reductions due to settlements	(2.5)	-	(6.4)
Reductions relating to tax positions taken in prior years	(2.6)	(0.4)	(0.4)
Reductions due to expiration of tax years	-	(0.4)	(0.3)
Balance at December 31	\$25.3	\$25.6	\$23.9

The Company accrues interest and penalties related to its uncertain tax positions within its tax provision. During the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, the Company accrued interest and penalties, net of reversals, of \$0.9 million, \$0.4 million and \$(1.9) million, respectively. As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, accrued interest and penalties included in the consolidated balance sheets totaled \$3.2 million and \$2.3 million, respectively.

The Company does not provide U.S. federal income taxes on undistributed earnings of foreign companies that are not currently taxable in the U.S. No undistributed earnings of foreign companies were subject to U.S. income tax in the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010. Total undistributed earnings on which no U.S. federal income tax has been provided were \$284.4 million at December 31, 2012. If these earnings are distributed, foreign tax credits may become available under current law to reduce or possibly eliminate the resulting U.S. income tax liability.

Canadian provincial tax authorities have issued tax reassessments for years 2002-2007, which are under audit, totaling approximately \$67 million, including interest through December 2012, challenging tax positions claimed by one of the Company's Canadian subsidiaries. The Company disputes these reassessments and plans to continue to work with the appropriate authorities in Canada to resolve the dispute. There is a reasonable possibility that the ultimate resolution of this dispute, and any related disputes for other open tax years, may be materially higher or lower than the amounts reserved for such disputes by the Company. In connection with this dispute, local regulations require the Company to post security with the tax authority until the dispute is resolved. The Company and the tax authority have agreed that the Company will post collateral in the form of a \$35 million performance bond (including approximately \$8 million of the performance bond which will be cancelled pro rata as the outstanding assessment balance falls below the outstanding amount of the performance bond) and make cash payments of approximately \$40 million (including the

\$8 million of cash to be paid when a portion of the performance bond is cancelled). Of these cash payments, the Company has paid \$21 million and it has agreed to pay an additional approximately \$6 million during 2013 with the remaining balance to be paid after 2013. The Company will be required by the same local regulations to provide security for additional interest on the above disputed amounts and for any future reassessments issued by the Canadian tax authorities in the form of cash, letters of credit, performance bonds, asset liens or other arrangements agreeable with the tax authorities until the dispute is resolved.

In addition, the Canadian federal taxing authority has reassessed the Company for years 2004-2006 which have been previously settled by agreement between the Company, the Canadian federal taxing authority and the U.S. federal taxing authority. The Company has fully complied with the agreement since entering into it and the Company believes this action is highly unusual. The Company is seeking to enforce the contract which provided the basis upon which the Company's returns were previously filed and settled. The total amount of the reassessments, including penalties, related to this matter totals approximately \$102 million. The Company has agreed to post collateral in the form of approximately a \$24 million performance bond and make cash payments of approximately \$3 million during 2013. The Company is currently in discussions with the Canadian tax authorities regarding the remaining required collateral of approximately \$35 million necessary to proceed with future appeals or litigation. The Company expects that the ultimate outcome of this matter will not have a material impact on its

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

results of operations or financial condition; however the Company can provide no assurance as to the ultimate outcome. As of December 31, 2012, the Company has reserved a small amount for the matters which resulted in the reassessments.

Additionally, the Company has other uncertain tax positions as well as assessments and disputed positions with taxing authorities in its various jurisdictions.

In the fourth quarter of 2010, the Company reached an agreement with taxing authorities to resolve uncertain tax positions. As a result of this agreement, the Company's income tax expense decreased by approximately \$5.9 million.

8. PENSION PLANS AND OTHER BENEFITS

The Company has a defined benefit pension plan for certain of its U.K. employees. Benefits of this plan are based on a combination of years of service and compensation levels. This plan was closed to new participants in 1992. Beginning December 1, 2008, future benefits ceased to accrue for the remaining active employee participants in the plan concurrent with the establishment of a defined contribution plan for these employees.

In 2011, the Company offered all non-retired members of the U.K. Pension (the "Plan") the opportunity to transfer their accrued benefits out of the Plan in return for an enhancement to their transfer value. The transfer extinguishes the Plan's liabilities to those members who elected this option. In 2011, the Company made transfers for 14 members of the Plan. In connection with this transfer, the Company has recognized in its consolidated statements of operations approximately \$2.3 million of settlement charges for 2011. In addition, the Company amended the Plan to allow retired members an additional option in the calculation of their annual benefit payments.

The Company's U.K. pension fund investment strategy is to maximize return on investments while minimizing risk. This is accomplished by investing in high-grade equity and debt securities. The Company's portfolio guidelines recommend that equity securities comprise approximately 75% of the total portfolio and that approximately 25% be invested in debt securities. Investment strategies and portfolio allocations are based on the plan's benefit obligations and its funded or underfunded status, expected returns, and the Company's portfolio guidelines and are monitored on a regular basis. In 2012 and 2011, the plan's investments consisted of larger percentages of bond funds as the Company continued to evaluate the investment climate. The weighted-average asset allocations by asset category are as follows:

Asset Category	Plan Assets at December 31,	
	2012	2011
Cash and cash equivalents	1%	2%
Equity Securities	21%	19%
Bond Funds	78%	79%
Total	100%	100%

The fair value of the Company's pension plan assets at December 31, 2012 and 2011 by asset category (see Note 13 for a discussion regarding fair value measurements) are as follows (in millions):

Asset category:	Market Value			
	at December 31, 2012	Level One	Level Two	Level Three
Cash and cash equivalents(a)	\$ 0.5	\$0.5	\$-	\$-
Equity securities	12.9	12.9	-	-
Bond funds(b):				
Treasuries	27.1	27.1	-	-

Corporate bond funds	21.6	21.6	-	-
Total Pension Assets	\$ 62.1	\$62.1	\$-	\$-

- (a) The fair value of cash and cash equivalents is its carrying value.
- (b) This category includes investments in investment-grade fixed-income instruments and funds linked to U.K. treasury notes. The funds are valued using the bid amounts for each fund. Approximately 44% of the Company's pension assets are invested in U.K. linked treasuries as of December 31, 2012.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC.	2012 FORM 10-K			
	Market Value			
	at			
	December 31,			
	2011	Level One	Level Two	Level Three
Asset category:				
Cash and cash equivalents(a)	\$ 1.5	\$1.5	\$-	\$-
Equity securities	10.9	10.9	-	-
Bond funds(b):				
Treasuries	27.1	27.1	-	-
Corporate bond funds	19.3	19.3	-	-
Total Pension Assets	\$ 58.8	\$58.8	\$-	\$-

(a) The fair value of cash and cash equivalents is its carrying value.

(b) This category includes investments in investment-grade fixed-income instruments and funds linked to U.K. treasury notes. The funds are valued using the bid amounts for each fund. Approximately 46% of the Company's pension assets are invested in U.K. linked treasuries as of December 31, 2011.

As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, amounts recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax, consisted of actuarial net losses of \$9.6 million (including \$11.8 million of accumulated loss less prior service cost of \$2.2 million) and \$5.3 million (including \$7.4 of accumulated loss less prior service cost of \$2.1), respectively. During 2012, the amounts recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax, consisted of actuarial net losses of \$(4.5) million, amortization of loss of \$0.8, amortization of prior service cost \$(0.1) and foreign exchange of \$(0.5). During 2011, the amounts recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax, consisted of actuarial net gain of \$4.2 million, prior service cost of \$2.2 million, amortization of loss of \$1.4 million, settlement gains of \$1.3 million and foreign exchange of \$(0.3) million. During 2010, the amounts recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax, consisted of actuarial net losses of \$(0.8), amortization of loss of \$1.4 million and foreign exchange of \$0.6 million. The Company expects to recognize approximately \$1.8 million (\$1.9 million of amortization of loss less \$0.1 million of prior service cost) of losses from accumulated other comprehensive income as a component of net periodic benefit cost in 2013. Total net periodic benefit cost in 2013 is expected to be \$2.0 million.

The assumptions used in determining pension information for the plans for the years ended December 31 were as follows:

	2012	2011	2010
Discount rate	4.60%	5.40%	5.70%
Expected return on plan assets	4.75%	6.25%	6.55%

The overall expected long-term rate of return on plan assets is a weighted-average expectation based on the targeted and expected portfolio composition. The Company considers historical performance and current benchmarks to arrive at expected long-term rates of return in each asset category. The Company determines its discount rate based on a forward yield curve for a portfolio of high-credit-quality bonds with expected cash flows and an average duration closely matching the expected benefit payments under the plan.

The Company's funding policy is to make the minimum annual contributions required by applicable regulations or agreements with the plan administrator. Management expects total contributions during 2013 will be approximately \$1.6 million. In addition, the Company may periodically make contributions to the plan based upon the underfunded status of the plan or other transactions, which warrant incremental contributions in the judgment of management.

The U.K. pension plan includes a provision whereby supplemental benefits may be available to participants under certain circumstances after case review and approval by the plan trustees. Because instances of this type of benefit have historically been infrequent, the development of the projected benefit obligation and net periodic pension cost has not provided for any future supplemental benefits. If additional benefits are approved by the trustees, it is likely that an additional contribution would be required and the amount of incremental benefits would be expensed by the Company.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

The Company expects to pay the following benefit payments (in millions), which reflect expected future service, as appropriate:

Calendar Year	Future Expected Benefit Payments
2013	\$ 2.9
2014	3.0
2015	3.1
2016	3.2
2017	3.3
2018 – 2022	15.6

The following table sets forth pension obligations and plan assets for the Company's defined benefit plans (based on a December 31 measurement date in 2012 and 2011), as of December 31 (in millions):

	2012	2011
Change in benefit obligation:		
Benefit obligation as of January 1	\$61.8	\$71.2
Interest cost	2.8	3.7
Plan amendment	-	(3.0)
Actuarial (gain) or loss	6.1	(1.4)
Benefits paid	(4.1)	(2.3)
Settlements	-	(6.4)
Currency fluctuation adjustment	3.0	-
Benefit obligation as of December 31	69.6	61.8
Change in plan assets:		
Fair value as of January 1	58.8	58.4
Actual return	3.0	7.5
Company contributions	1.6	3.0
Currency fluctuation adjustment	2.8	(0.3)
Settlements	-	(7.5)
Benefits paid	(4.1)	(2.3)
Fair value of plan assets as of December 31	62.1	58.8
Underfunded status of the plan	\$(7.5)	\$(3.0)

The underfunded status of the defined pension plan, which was recorded in the consolidated balance sheets, included \$1.6 million in accrued expenses and \$5.9 million in noncurrent liabilities in 2012, and \$1.6 million in accrued expenses and \$1.4 million in noncurrent liabilities in 2011. The accumulated benefit obligation for the defined benefit pension plan was \$69.6 million and \$61.8 million as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The accumulated benefit obligation is in excess of the plan's assets. The vested benefit obligation calculated is the actuarial present value of the vested benefits to which the employee is currently entitled but based on the employee's expected date of retirement. The components of net pension expense were as follows for the years ended December 31 (in millions):

	2012	2011	2010
Interest cost on projected benefit obligation	\$2.8	\$3.7	\$3.8
Prior service cost	(0.1)	(0.1)	-

Expected return on plan assets	(2.8)	(3.3)	(3.5)
Settlement cost	-	2.3	-
Net amortization	1.0	1.8	2.0
Net pension expense	\$0.9	\$4.4	\$2.3

The Company has defined contribution and pre-tax savings plans (“Savings Plans”) for certain of its employees. Under each of the Savings Plans, participants are permitted to defer a portion of their compensation. Company contributions to the Savings Plans are based on a percentage of employee contributions. Additionally, certain of the Company’s Savings Plans have a profit sharing feature for salaried and non-union hourly employees. The Company contribution to the profit-sharing feature is based on the employee’s age and pay and the Company’s financial performance. Expense attributable to all Savings Plans was \$5.3 million, \$7.3 million and \$6.3 million for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

The Savings Plans include a non-qualified plan for certain of its executive officers and key employees who are limited in their ability to participate in qualified plans due to existing regulations. These employees are allowed to defer a portion of their compensation, upon which they will be entitled to receive Company matching contributions as if the limitations imposed by

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

current U.S. regulations for qualified plans were not in place. The Company's matching contributions are based on a percentage of the employee's deferred salary, profit sharing contributions and any investment income (loss) that would have been credited to their account had the contributions been made according to employee-designated investment specifications. Although not required to do so, the Company actually invests amounts equal to the salary deferrals, the corresponding Company match and profit sharing amounts according to the employee-designated investment specifications. As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, investments in marketable securities totaling \$6.0 million and \$6.3 million, respectively, were included in other noncurrent assets with a corresponding deferred compensation liability included in other noncurrent liabilities in the consolidated balance sheets. Compensation expense recorded for this plan totaled \$1.0 million, \$0.2 million and \$0.7 million for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively, including amounts attributable to investment income (loss) of \$0.7 million, \$(0.1) million and \$0.6 million, respectively, which is included in other, net in the consolidated statements of operations.

9. LONG TERM DEBT

During 2007, the Company amended its previously existing senior secured credit facilities ("Credit Agreement"), which included a \$350 million term loan ("Term Loan") and a \$125 million revolving credit facility, and borrowed an additional \$127 million under an incremental term loan ("Incremental Term Loan"). In October 2010, the Company amended the terms of its Credit Agreement and entered into a new Revolving Credit Facility ("Revolving Credit Facility"). As part of the amendment, the Company extended the maturity of approximately \$234 million of its Term Loan and Incremental Term Loan ("Extended Term Loan") under the Credit Agreement to 2016. The \$125 million Revolving Credit Facility was extended to mature in October 2015. The remaining amount outstanding on the Term Loan and the Incremental Term Loan of \$154 million at December 31, 2011 was scheduled to mature in December 2012. In connection with the refinancing of the Credit Agreement in 2010, the Company paid approximately \$2.4 million of fees which were expensed and approximately \$2.6 million of fees which were capitalized as deferred financing costs. In May 2012, the Company amended and restated its senior secured credit facility and refinanced its term loans into a single term loan ("New Term Loan"). In connection with the refinancing of the term loans in 2012, the Company paid \$4.0 million of refinancing fees (approximately \$1.8 million were recorded as an expense and approximately \$2.2 million were capitalized as deferred financing costs) and wrote-off previously existing deferred finance costs of approximately \$1.0 million.

The New Term Loan is due in quarterly installments of principal and interest and matures in May 2017. The New Term Loan can be prepaid at anytime without penalty. Under the Revolving Credit Facility, \$40 million may be drawn in Canadian dollars and \$10 million may be drawn in British pounds sterling. Additionally, the Revolver includes a sub-limit for short-term letters of credit in an amount not to exceed \$50 million. As of December 31, 2012, there were no borrowings outstanding under the Revolving Credit Facility and, after deducting outstanding letters of credit totaling \$7.8 million, the Company's borrowing availability was \$117.2 million. The Company incurs participation fees related to its outstanding letters of credit and commitment fees on its available borrowing capacity. The rates vary depending on the Company's leverage ratio. Bank fees are not material.

Interest on the Credit Agreement is variable based on either the Eurodollar rate ("LIBOR") or a base rate (defined as the greater of a specified U.S. or Canadian prime lending rate or the federal funds effective rate, increased by 0.5%) plus a margin, which is dependent upon the Company's leverage ratio and the type of term loan borrowing. Currently, the New Term Loan bears interest 1.75% over LIBOR. As of December 31, 2012, the weighted average interest rate was 2.0% on all borrowings outstanding under the Credit Agreement.

In June of 2009, the Company issued 8% Senior Notes with an aggregate face amount of \$100 million due in 2019, which bear interest at a rate of 8% per year payable semi-annually in June and December. The 8% Senior Notes were issued at a discount at 97.497% of their face value and the carrying value of the debt will accrete to their face value over the notes' term, resulting in an effective interest rate of approximately 8.4%.

The Credit Agreement and the indenture governing the 8% Senior Notes limit the Company's ability, among other things, to: incur additional indebtedness or contingent obligations; pay dividends or make distributions to

stockholders; repurchase or redeem stock; make investments; grant liens; make capital expenditures; enter into transactions with stockholders and affiliates; sell assets; and acquire the assets of, or merge or consolidate with, other companies. The New Term Loan and Revolving Credit Facility are secured by substantially all existing and future assets of the Company's subsidiaries. Additionally, it requires the Company to maintain certain financial ratios, including a minimum interest coverage ratio and a maximum total leverage ratio. As of December 31, 2012, the Company was in compliance with each of its covenants.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

The 8% Senior Notes in the table below are subordinate to the Credit Agreement borrowings. Third-party long-term debt consists of the following at December 31 (in millions):

	2012	2011
Term Loan due December 2012	\$-	\$98.3
Incremental Term Loan due December 2012	-	55.3
Extended Term Loan due January 2016	-	231.1
Term Loan due May 2017	384.1	-
Revolving Credit Facility due October 2015	-	-
8% Senior Notes due June 2019	98.2	98.0
	482.3	482.7
Less current portion	(3.9)	(156.0)
Long-term debt	\$478.4	\$326.7

Future maturities of long-term debt for the years ending December 31, are as follows (in millions):

	Debt Maturity
2013	\$3.9
2014	3.9
2015	3.9
2016	3.9
2017	368.5
Thereafter	100.0
Total	\$484.1

10. DERIVATIVES AND FAIR VALUES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Company is subject to various types of market risks including interest rate risk, foreign currency exchange rate transaction and translation risk, and commodity pricing risk. Management may take actions to mitigate the exposure to these types of risks, including entering into forward purchase contracts and other financial instruments. Currently, the Company manages a portion of its commodity pricing risk by using derivative instruments. The Company does not seek to engage in trading activities or take speculative positions with any financial instrument arrangements. The Company has entered into natural gas derivative instruments with counterparties it views as creditworthy. However, management does attempt to mitigate its counterparty credit risk exposures by, among other things, entering into master netting agreements with these counterparties.

Cash Flow Hedges

As of December 31, 2012, the Company has entered into natural gas derivative instruments. In addition, the Company had interest rate swaps that expired in March 2011. The Company records derivative financial instruments as either assets or liabilities at fair value in the consolidated statements of financial position. Derivatives qualify for treatment as hedges when there is a high correlation between the change in fair value of the derivative instrument and the related change in value of the underlying hedged item. Depending on the exposure being hedged, the Company must designate the hedging instrument as a fair value hedge, a cash flow hedge or a net investment in foreign operations hedge. All derivative instruments held by the Company as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 qualified as cash flow hedges. For these qualifying hedges, the effective portion of the change in fair value is recognized through earnings

when the underlying transaction being hedged affects earnings, allowing a derivative's gains and losses to offset related results from the hedged item in the statements of operations. For derivative instruments that are not accounted for as hedges, or for the ineffective portions of qualifying hedges, the change in fair value is recorded through earnings in the period of change. Any ineffectiveness related to these hedges was not material for any of the periods presented.

Natural gas is consumed at several of the Company's production facilities, and a change in natural gas prices impacts the Company's operating margin. As of December 31, 2012, the Company had entered into natural gas derivative instruments to hedge a portion of its natural gas purchase requirements through March 2015. The Company's objective is to reduce the earnings and cash flow impacts of changes in market prices of natural gas by fixing the purchase price of up to 90% of its forecasted natural gas usage. It is the Company's policy to consider hedging portions of its natural gas usage up to 36 months in advance of the forecasted purchase. As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Company had agreements in place to hedge forecasted natural gas purchases of 2.1 and 2.9 million MMBtus, respectively.

As of December 31, 2012, the Company expects to reclassify from accumulated other comprehensive income to earnings during the next twelve months approximately \$1.0 million of net losses on derivative instruments related to its natural gas

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

hedges.

The following tables present the fair value of the Company's hedged items as of December 31, 2012, and December 31, 2011 (in millions):

Derivatives designated as hedging instruments(a):	Asset Derivatives		Liability Derivatives	
	Balance Sheet Location	December 31, 2012	Balance Sheet Location	December 31, 2012
Commodity contracts(b)	Other current assets	\$ 0.2	Accrued expenses	\$ 1.2
Commodity contracts	Other assets	-	Other noncurrent liabilities	0.2
Total derivatives designated as hedging instruments		\$ 0.2		\$ 1.4

(a)The Company has commodity hedge agreements with three counterparties. Amounts recorded as liabilities for the Company's commodity contracts are primarily payable to one counterparty. The amount recorded as an asset is due from two counterparties.

(b)The Company has master netting agreements with its counterparties and accordingly has netted in its consolidated balance sheets approximately \$0.2 million of its commodity contracts that are in a receivable position against its contracts in payable positions.

Derivatives designated as hedging instruments(a):	Asset Derivatives		Liability Derivatives	
	Balance Sheet Location	December 31, 2011	Balance Sheet Location	December 31, 2011
Commodity contracts(b)	Other current assets	\$ 0.3	Accrued expenses	\$ 5.0
Commodity contracts	Other assets	-	Other noncurrent liabilities	0.9
Total derivatives designated as hedging instruments		\$ 0.3		\$ 5.9

(a)The Company has commodity hedge agreements with three counterparties. All of the amounts recorded as liabilities for the Company's commodity contracts are payable almost entirely to one counterparty. The amount recorded as an asset is due from two counterparties.

(b)The Company has master netting agreements with its counterparties and accordingly has netted in its consolidated balance sheets approximately \$0.3 million of its commodity contracts that are in a receivable position against its contracts in payable positions.

The following tables present activity related to the Company's other comprehensive income for the twelve months ended December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011 (in millions):

Derivatives in Cash Flow Hedging Relationships	Location of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated OCI Into Income	Twelve Months Ended December 31, 2012	
		Amount of (Gain) Loss Recognized in	Amount of Gain (Loss) Reclassified

Edgar Filing: COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL INC - Form 10-K

	(Effective Portion)	OCI on Derivative (Effective Portion)	from Accumulated OCI Into Income (Effective Portion)
Commodity contracts	Product cost	\$ 1.5	\$ (5.8)
Total		\$ 1.5	\$ (5.8)

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

	Location of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated OCI Into Income (Effective Portion)	Twelve Months Ended December 31, 2011	
		Amount of (Gain) Loss Recognized in OCI on Derivative (Effective Portion)	Amount of Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated OCI Into Income (Effective Portion)
Derivatives in Cash Flow Hedging Relationships			
Interest rate contracts	Interest expense	\$ -	\$ (0.6)
Commodity contracts	Product cost	4.3	(5.8)
Total		\$ 4.3	\$ (6.4)

11. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Contingent Obligations:

The Company is involved in legal and administrative proceedings and claims of various types from normal Company activities.

The Company is aware of an aboriginal land claim filed in 2003 by The Chippewas of Nawash and The Chippewas of Saugeen (the "Chippewas") in the Ontario Superior Court against The Attorney General of Canada and Her Majesty The Queen In Right of Ontario. The Chippewas claim that a large part of the land under Lake Huron was never conveyed by treaty and therefore belongs to the Chippewas. The land claimed includes land under which the Company's Goderich mine operates and has mining rights granted to it by the government of Ontario. The Company is not a party to this court action.

Similar claims are pending with respect to other parts of the Great Lakes by other aboriginal claimants. The Company has been informed by the Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario that "Canada takes the position that the common law does not recognize aboriginal title to the Great Lakes and its connecting waterways."

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection ("DATCP") has information dating back to 1994 indicating that agricultural chemicals are present within the subsurface area of the Kenosha, Wisconsin plant. The agricultural chemicals were used by previous owners and operators of the site. None of the identified chemicals have been used in association with Compass Minerals' operations since it acquired the property in 2002. DATCP directed the Company in October 2004 to conduct an investigation into the possible presence of agricultural chemicals in soil and ground water at the Kenosha plant. The Company has completed such investigation of the soils and ground water and has provided the findings to DATCP. The Company is presently proceeding with select remediation activities to mitigate agricultural chemical impact to soils and ground water at the site. All investigations and mitigation activities to date, and any potential future remediation work, are being conducted under the Wisconsin Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program ("ACCP"), which would provide for reimbursement of some of the costs. The Company may seek participation by, or cost reimbursement from, other parties responsible for the presence of any agricultural chemicals found in soil and ground water at this site if the Company does not receive an acknowledgement of no further action and are required to conduct further investigation or remedial work that may not be eligible for reimbursement under the ACCP.

The Company is involved in proceedings alleging unfair labor practices at its Cote Blanche, Louisiana mine. This matter arises out of a labor dispute between the Company and the United Steelworkers Union over the terms of a new contract for certain employees at the mine. These employees initiated a strike that began on April 7, 2010 and ended on June 15, 2010. In September 2012, the U.S. National Labor Relations Board issued a decision finding that the

Company had committed unfair labor practices in connection with the labor dispute. The Company disagrees with the decision and has appealed that decision to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. If it loses on appeal, the Company would be responsible for back pay to affected employees as a result of changes made in union work rules and past practices beginning April 1, 2010. Any requirement for the Company to pay back wages would be offset by any wages earned at other places of employment during this period. The Company does not believe a loss is probable at this point and accordingly, has not recorded a liability related to this proceeding.

The Company does not believe that these actions will have a material adverse financial effect on the Company. Furthermore, while any litigation contains an element of uncertainty, management presently believes that the outcome of each such proceeding or claim, which is pending or known to be threatened, or all of them combined, will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's results of operations, cash flows or financial position.

Approximately 30% of the Company's U.S. workforce and approximately 50% of its global workforce is represented by labor unions. Of the Company's nine material collective bargaining agreements, four will expire in 2013 (representing approximately 15% of its total workforce), three will expire in 2014 and two will expire in 2015. Although the terms of a new collective bargaining agreement have not been reached with the union at Cote Blanche, the Company continues to have the capability to operate the mine at full capacity. Approximately 10% of the Company's workforce is employed in Europe where trade union membership is common. The Company considers its overall labor relations to be satisfactory.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Commitments:

Leases: The Company leases certain property and equipment under non-cancelable operating leases for varying periods. The aggregate future minimum annual rentals under lease arrangements as of December 31, 2012, are as follows (in millions):

	Operating Leases
2013	\$ 10.0
2014	7.5
2015	5.5
2016	4.3
2017	3.7
Thereafter	17.9
Total	\$ 48.9

Rental expense, net of sublease income, was \$16.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2012, \$15.1 million for 2011, and \$13.9 million for 2010.

Royalties: The Company has various private, state and Canadian provincial leases associated with the salt and specialty potash businesses, most of which are renewable by the Company. Many of these leases provide for a royalty payment to the lessor based on a specific amount per ton of mineral extracted or as a percentage of revenue. Royalty expense related to these leases was \$16.1 million, \$14.3 million and \$16.2 million for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010.

Sales Contracts: The Company has various salt and other deicing-product sales contracts that include performance provisions governing delivery and product quality. These sales contracts either require the Company to maintain performance bonds for stipulated amounts or contain contractual penalty provisions in the event of non-performance. For the three years ended December 31, 2012, the Company has had no material penalties related to these sales contracts. At December 31, 2012, the Company had approximately \$102.5 million of outstanding performance bonds, which includes the bonds outstanding for the Company's tax reassessments.

Purchase Commitments: In connection with the operations of the Company's facilities, the Company purchases electricity, other raw materials and services from third parties under contracts extending, in some cases, for multiple years. Purchases under these contracts are generally based on prevailing market prices. The Company has purchase contracts with four suppliers for a minimum amount of salt and potassium mineral feedstock for SOP production, one of which can be canceled with one year's notice. The purchase commitments for these contracts are estimated to be approximately \$13.7 million for 2013 and between \$1.8 million and \$2.5 million annually from 2014 through 2020. In addition, the Company's other future minimum long-term purchase commitments are estimated to be approximately \$0.3 million annually through 2015 and approximately \$0.1 million in 2016.

12. STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY AND EQUITY INSTRUMENTS

The Company paid dividends of \$1.98 per share in 2012 and currently intends to continue paying quarterly cash dividends. The declaration and payment of future dividends to holders of the Company's common stock will be at the discretion of its board of directors and will depend upon many factors, including the Company's financial condition, earnings, legal requirements, restrictions in its debt agreements (see Note 9) and other factors its board of directors deems relevant.

Under the Compass Minerals International, Inc. Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan as amended, adopted effective October 1, 2004, and the current equity compensation plan ("2005 Plan"), non-employee directors may defer all or a portion of the fees payable for their service, which deferred fees are converted into units equivalent to the value of the Company's common stock. Additionally, as dividends are declared on the Company's common stock, these units are entitled to accrete dividends in the form of additional units based on the stock price on the dividend payment date. Accumulated deferred units are distributed in the form of Company common stock at a future specified date or following resignation from the board of directors, based upon the member's annual election. During the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, members of the board were credited with 14,400, 10,460 and 9,317 deferred stock units, respectively. During the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, 1,144, 971 and 853 shares of common stock, respectively, were issued from treasury shares for director compensation. During the year ended December 31, 2011, 11,172 shares of common stock were issued from treasury shares to retiring directors.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Preferred stock

The Company is authorized to issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, of which no shares are currently issued or outstanding. However, subject to adjustment by the board of directors, 200,000 shares of preferred stock have been initially designated as series A junior participating preferred stock in connection with the Company's rights agreement, the terms of which entitle the holders of the Company's common stock to which the rights are attached to purchase one one-thousandth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock (or in some cases, shares of the Company's common stock or other securities) for a purchase price set by the board of directors and currently \$300 per share.

Rights plan

Pursuant and subject to the terms of the rights agreement dated as of December 11, 2003 (as amended, the "Rights Agreement") between the Company and its rights agent, the board of directors declared a dividend of one preferred share purchase right (a "Right") on each outstanding share of the Company's Common Stock.

Rights are only exercisable under limited circumstances specified in the Rights Agreement when there has been a triggering event and a distribution of the Rights, and the Rights are no longer redeemable or exchangeable by the Company. Rights (i) trade with the Company's Common Stock, (ii) have no voting power, and (iii) remain outstanding until redemption for a nominal price, expiration of the Rights Agreement, or until exercise or exchange.

Distribution of Rights occurs on the earlier of the tenth calendar day after public announcement a person becomes an Acquiring Person (as defined) or the tenth business day after the commencement of a tender or exchange offer that would, if consummated, result in a person becoming an Acquiring Person. Generally, an "Acquiring Person" includes any person (alone or with a group), who acquires beneficial ownership (as defined) of 15% or more of the outstanding shares of the Company's outstanding Common Stock, or acquires shares representing 15% or more of the voting power of the Company's outstanding Common Stock. Following the distribution date, Rights become exercisable, may trade separately from the Common Stock, and will entitle a holder other than an Acquiring Person (as to whom such rights will be null and void), to purchase one one-thousandth of a preferred share at the purchase price, which is currently \$300 and subject to adjustment.

Rights will expire upon the tenth anniversary of the date of the Rights Agreement, December 11, 2013, unless extended or the Rights are earlier redeemed by the Company. In certain cases, the board of directors may postpone distribution of Rights, redeem Rights at a nominal price, or exchange the Rights for Common Stock. In addition, provisions of the Rights Agreement may be amended by the board of directors in some circumstances without approval of the holder of Rights.

Equity Compensation Awards

Through December 31, 2004, non-qualified stock options were granted under the Company's 2001 stock option plan. These options were issued to eligible persons as determined by the Company's board of directors and included employees and directors. These options vested ratably, in tranches over three to four years, depending on the individual option agreement. Options granted to members of the board of directors vested at the time of grant. These options expire on the thirtieth day immediately following the eighth anniversary of issuance. No further option grants can be made under this plan.

In 2005, the Company adopted the 2005 Plan for executive officers, other key employees and directors allowing grants of equity instruments, including restricted stock units ("RSUs"), performance stock units ("PSUs") and stock options, with respect to 3,240,000 shares of CMP common stock. The right to grant awards expires in 2015. The grants occur following formal approval by the board of directors or on the date of hire if granted to a new employee, with the amount and terms communicated to employees shortly thereafter. The Company does not back-date awards. The strike price of options is equal to the closing stock price on the day of grant.

RSUs granted under the 2005 Plan vest after three years of service entitling the holders to one share of common stock for each vested RSU. The unvested RSUs do not have voting rights but are entitled to receive non-forfeitable

dividends or other distributions that may be declared on the Company's common stock equal to the per-share dividend declared.

PSUs granted under the 2005 Plan vest after three years of service. The PSUs granted are divided into three approximately equal tranches. Each tranche must satisfy an annual performance criterion based upon total shareholder return. For PSUs granted in 2012, each tranche is calculated based upon a one-year performance period beginning in 2012 and ending in 2014, with each annual tranche receiving between 0% and 150% based upon the Company's total shareholder return, compared to the total shareholder return for each company comprising the Russell 3000 Index.

Stock options granted under the 2005 Plan generally vest ratably, in tranches, over a four-year service period. Unexercised options expire after seven years. Upon vesting, each option can be exercised to purchase one share of the Company's common stock. While the option holders are not entitled to vote, each holder of options granted prior to 2009 is entitled to receive non-forfeitable dividends or other distributions declared on the Company's common stock equal to, and at the same time as, the per-share dividend declared to holders of the Company's common stock. The exercise price of options is equal to the closing stock price on the day of grant.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

The following is a summary of CMP's stock option, RSU and PSU activity and related information for the following periods:

	Stock Options		RSUs		PSUs	
	Number	Weighted-average exercise price	Number	Weighted-average fair value	Number	Weighted-average fair value
Outstanding at December 31, 2009	643,927	\$ 38.90	124,898	\$ 48.24	-	\$ -
Granted	97,619	78.47	34,535	78.48	6,366	86.51
Exercised (a)	(116,796)	27.12	-	-	-	-
Released from restriction (a)	-	-	(48,425)	33.58	-	-
Cancelled/Expired	(3,376)	65.08	(1,257)	65.39	-	-
Outstanding at December 31, 2010	621,374	\$ 47.19	109,751	\$ 64.03	6,366	\$ 86.51
Granted	71,709	86.47	33,595	86.47	19,139	93.82
Exercised (a)	(168,904)	30.21	-	-	-	-
Released from restriction (a)	-	-	(32,902)	55.68	-	-
Cancelled/Expired	(3,649)	71.66	(1,180)	72.35	(107)	93.82
Outstanding at December 31, 2011	520,530	\$ 57.94	109,264	\$ 73.35	25,398	\$ 91.99
Granted	92,472	71.87	40,889	71.87	24,534	74.87
Exercised (a)	(176,123)	41.60	-	-	-	-
Released from restriction (a)	-	-	(72,019)	65.40	-	-
Cancelled/Expired (b)	(1,158)	76.54	(385)	77.89	-	-
Outstanding at December 31, 2012	435,721	\$ 67.46	77,749	\$ 79.92	49,932	\$ 83.58

(a) Common stock issued for exercised options and RSUs released from restriction were issued from treasury stock.

(b) The final performance period for the 2010 PSU grant was completed in 2012. The Company expects to issue 6,341 shares in March 2013 when the 2010 PSU grant vests.

The Company generally expenses the fair value of its awards over the vesting period using the straight line method. To estimate the fair value of performance stock units on the grant date, the Company uses a Monte-Carlo simulation model, which simulates the Company's future stock prices as well as the companies comprising the Russell 3000 Index (Russell 2000 for grants in 2010). This model uses historical stock prices to estimate expected volatility and the Company's correlation to the applicable index. The risk free rate was determined using the same methodology as the option valuations as discussed below.

To estimate the fair value of options on the day of grant, the Company uses the Black-Scholes option valuation model. Award recipients are grouped according to expected exercise behavior. Unless better information is available to estimate the expected term of the options, the estimate is based on historical exercise experience. The risk-free rate, using U.S. Treasury yield curves in effect at the time of grant, is selected based on the expected term of each group. CMP's historical stock price is used to estimate expected volatility. The weighted average assumptions and fair values for options granted for each of the years ended December 31 is included in the following table.

	2012		2011		2010
Fair value of options granted	\$ 22.99		\$ 29.02		\$ 27.77
Expected term (years)	4.8		5.1		5.4
Expected volatility	46.0	%	45.2	%	44.3
Dividend yield	2.5	%	2.4	%	2.1
Risk-free interest rates	0.9	%	2.0	%	2.5

As of December 31, 2011, there were 520,530 options outstanding of which 287,702 were exercisable. The following table summarizes information about options outstanding and exercisable at December 31, 2012.

Range of exercise prices	Options outstanding	Options Outstanding		Options exercisable	Options Exercisable	
		Weighted-average remaining contractual life (years)	Weighted-average exercise price of options outstanding		Weighted-average remaining contractual life (years)	Weighted-average exercise price of exercisable options
\$33.44 - \$57.06	91,320	1.8	\$ 44.80	91,320	1.8	\$ 44.80
\$57.07 - \$68.68	86,866	3.0	59.07	64,091	3.0	59.11
\$68.69 - \$73.62	89,130	4.9	71.70	24,742	1.5	74.57
\$73.63 - \$86.80	168,405	3.8	81.82	94,120	2.9	81.24
Totals	435,721	3.4	\$ 67.46	274,273	2.4	\$ 63.33

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

During the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, the Company recorded compensation expense of \$7.5 million, \$5.6 million and \$4.6 million, respectively, related to its stock-based compensation awards that are expected to vest. No amounts have been capitalized. The fair value of options vested was approximately \$2.8 million, \$2.1 million and \$2.0 million in 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

In the fourth quarter of 2012, the Company modified the awards for Dr. Brisimitzakis, who retired as of December 28, 2012. The unvested options and RSUs were modified to accelerate their vesting to his retirement date and allow Dr. Brisimitzakis to exercise his options through June 30, 2014. The PSUs were modified to allow the award to vest as if he were still employed through the date of distribution of any outstanding PSU awards. The total incremental compensation cost recognized as a result of this modification was approximately \$1.2 million.

As of December 31, 2012, unrecorded compensation cost related to non-vested awards of \$6.5 million is expected to be recognized from 2013 through 2016, with a weighted average period of 2.0 years.

The intrinsic value of stock options exercised during the twelve months ended December 31, 2012, totaled approximately \$6.4 million. As of December 31, 2012, the intrinsic value of options outstanding totaled approximately \$4.1 million, of which 274,273 options with an intrinsic value of \$3.6 million were exercisable. The number of shares held in treasury is sufficient to cover all outstanding equity awards as of December 31, 2012.

Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income

The components of accumulated other comprehensive income, net of related taxes, are summarized as follows (in millions):

December 31,	2012	2011	2010
Unrealized net pension costs	\$ (9.6)	\$ (5.3)	\$ (14.1)
Unrealized loss on cash flow hedges	(0.7)	(3.4)	(4.7)
Cumulative foreign currency translation adjustments	67.9	49.5	64.8
Accumulated other comprehensive income	\$ 57.6	\$ 40.8	\$ 46.0

13. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

As required, the Company's financial instruments are measured and reported at their estimated fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction. When available, the Company uses quoted prices in active markets to determine the fair values for its financial instruments (level one inputs), or absent quoted market prices, observable market-corroborated inputs over the term of the financial instruments (level two inputs). The Company does not have any unobservable inputs that are not corroborated by market inputs (level three inputs).

The Company holds marketable securities associated with its non-qualified savings plan, which are valued based on readily available quoted market prices. The Company utilizes derivative instruments to manage its risk of changes in natural gas prices. The fair value of the natural gas derivative instruments are determined using market data of forward prices for all of the Company's contracts. The estimated fair values for each type of instrument are presented below (in millions).

	December 31, 2012	Level One	Level Two	Level Three
Asset Class:				
Mutual fund investments in a non-qualified savings plan(a)	\$ 6.0	\$6.0	\$-	\$-
Total Assets	\$ 6.0	\$6.0	\$-	\$-
Liability Class:				
Liabilities related to non-qualified savings plan	\$ (6.0)	\$(6.0)	\$-	\$-

Edgar Filing: COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL INC - Form 10-K

Derivatives – natural gas instruments	(1.2) -	(1.2) -
Total Liabilities	\$ (7.2) \$(6.0)	\$(1.2) \$-

(a) Includes mutual fund investments of approximately 15% in the common stock of large-cap U.S. companies, approximately 5% in the common stock of small-cap U.S. companies, approximately 5% in the common stock of international companies, approximately 20% in debt securities of U.S. companies, approximately 20% in short-term investments and approximately 35% in blended funds.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

	December 31, 2011	Level One	Level Two	Level Three
Asset Class:				
Mutual fund investments in a non-qualified savings plan(a)	\$ 6.3	\$6.3	\$-	\$-
Total Assets	\$ 6.3	\$6.3	\$-	\$-
Liability Class:				
Liabilities related to non-qualified savings plan	\$ (6.3)	\$(6.3)	\$-	\$-
Derivatives – natural gas instruments	(5.5)	-	(5.5)	-
Total Liabilities	\$ (11.8)	\$(6.3)	\$(5.5)	\$-

(a)Includes mutual fund investments of approximately 25% in the common stock of large-cap U.S. companies, approximately 5% in the common stock of small-cap U.S. companies, approximately 5% in the common stock of international companies, approximately 15% in debt securities of U.S. companies, approximately 20% in short-term investments and approximately 30% in blended funds.

Cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable (net of reserve for bad debts) and payables are carried at cost, which approximates fair value due to their liquid and short-term nature. The Company's investments related to its nonqualified retirement plan of \$6.0 million and \$6.3 million as of December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively, are stated at fair value based on quoted market prices. As of December 31, 2012, the estimated fair value of the fixed-rate 8% Senior Notes, based on available trading information, totaled \$107.4 million (level 2) compared with the aggregate principal amount at maturity of \$100 million. The fair value at December 31, 2012 of amounts outstanding under the Credit Agreement, based upon available bid information received from the Company's lender, totaled approximately \$384.1 million (level 2), the same value as the aggregate principal amount at maturity. The fair value of the Company's natural gas contracts is based on prices for notional amounts maturing in each respective timeframe.

14. OPERATING SEGMENTS

The Company's reportable segments are strategic business units that offer different products and services. They are managed separately because each business requires different technology and marketing strategies. The Company has two reportable segments: salt and specialty fertilizer. The salt segment produces and markets salt and magnesium chloride for use in road deicing and dust control, food processing, water softeners, pool salt and agricultural and industrial applications. SOP crop nutrients, industrial-grade SOP and magnesium chloride for agricultural purposes are produced and marketed through the specialty fertilizer segment.

The accounting policies of the segments are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies. All intersegment sales prices are market-based. The Company evaluates performance based on the operating earnings of the respective segments.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Segment information as of and for the years ended December 31, is as follows (in millions):

2012	Salt	Specialty Fertilizer	Corporate & Other (a)	Total
Sales to external customers	\$ 703.4	\$ 226.2	\$ 12.3	\$ 941.9
Intersegment sales	0.8	6.8	(7.6)	-
Shipping and handling cost	211.9	26.2	-	238.1
Operating earnings (loss) (b)	126.0	58.4	(51.2)	133.2
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	38.9	21.4	4.2	64.5
Total assets	809.3	412.3	79.0	1,300.6
Capital expenditures (c)	74.3	45.0	11.6	130.9

2011	Salt	Specialty Fertilizer	Corporate & Other (a)	Total
Sales to external customers	\$ 885.3	\$ 209.6	\$ 10.8	\$ 1,105.7
Intersegment sales	0.8	6.4	(7.2)	-
Shipping and handling cost	268.5	25.3	-	293.8
Operating earnings (loss) (b)	184.7	77.0	(46.4)	215.3
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	40.2	20.2	4.3	64.7
Total assets	758.8	378.2	68.5	1,205.5
Capital expenditures (c)	51.6	43.4	12.4	107.4

2010	Salt	Specialty Fertilizer	Corporate & Other (a)	Total
Sales to external customers	\$ 870.3	\$ 187.5	\$ 11.1	\$ 1,068.9
Intersegment sales	0.7	4.8	(5.5)	-
Shipping and handling cost	244.2	24.4	-	268.6
Operating earnings (loss)	206.0	61.4	(40.9)	226.5
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	35.2	12.3	4.5	52.0
Total assets	789.7	260.6	64.0	1,114.3
Capital expenditures	63.6	45.5	3.0	112.1

(a) Other includes corporate entities, records management operations, other incidental operations and eliminations. Corporate assets include deferred tax assets, deferred financing fees, investments related to the non-qualified retirement plan and other assets not allocated to the operating segments. In addition, operating earnings in 2012 include approximately \$3.3 million of transition costs related to the retirement of the Company's Chief Executive Officer.

(b) The Company estimated that the effect of the tornado reduced operating earnings for the salt segment by approximately \$21 million and \$16 million in 2012 and 2011.

(c) The salt segment includes approximately \$35 million and \$17 million of capital expenditures during 2012 and 2011, respectively, to replace and, in some instances, improve property, plant and equipment damaged or destroyed from the tornado at the Company's Goderich, Ontario facilities in 2011.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

Financial information relating to the Company's operations by geographic area for the years ended December 31 is as follows (in millions):

Sales	2012	2011	2010
United States (a)	\$ 617.4	\$ 733.3	\$ 718.8
Canada	231.6	246.4	200.5
United Kingdom	50.9	83.6	97.7
Other	42.0	42.4	51.9
Total sales	\$ 941.9	\$ 1,105.7	\$ 1,068.9

(a) United States sales exclude product sold to foreign customers at U.S. ports.

Financial information relating to the Company's long-lived assets, including deferred financing costs and other long-lived assets but excluding the investments related to the nonqualified retirement plan, by geographic area as of December 31 (in millions):

Long -Live Assets	2012	2011
United States	\$ 368.4	\$ 335.5
Canada	356.3	292.8
United Kingdom	56.2	54.5
Other	6.7	-
Total long-lived assets	\$ 787.6	\$ 682.8

15. EARNINGS PER SHARE

The FASB has issued guidance related to determining whether instruments granted in share-based payment transactions are participating securities prior to vesting, and therefore need to be included in the computation of earnings per share under the two-class method. The two-class method requires allocating the Company's net earnings to both common shares and participating securities. In addition, the guidance requires retrospective presentation of prior periods.

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings per common share (in millions, except for share and per share data):

Year ended December 31,	2012	2011	2010
Numerator:			
Net earnings	\$ 88.9	\$ 149.0	\$ 150.6
Less: Net earnings allocated to participating securities (a)	(1.1)	(2.3)	(2.7)
Net earnings available to common shareholders	\$ 87.8	\$ 146.7	\$ 147.9
Denominator (in thousands):			
Weighted average common shares outstanding, shares for basic earnings per share(b)	33,109	32,906	32,747
Weighted average equity awards outstanding	26	28	16
Shares for diluted earnings per share	33,135	32,934	32,763
Net earnings per common share, basic	\$ 2.65	\$ 4.46	\$ 4.52

Edgar Filing: COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL INC - Form 10-K

Net earnings per common share, diluted	\$ 2.65	\$ 4.45	\$ 4.51
--	---------	---------	---------

- (a) Participating securities include options, PSUs and RSUs that receive non-forfeitable dividends. Net earnings were allocated to participating securities of 409,000, 522,000 and 614,000 for 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.
- (b) For the calculation of diluted earnings per share, the Company uses the more dilutive of either the treasury stock method or the two-class method, to determine the weighted average number of outstanding common shares. In addition, the Company had 678,000, 716,000 and 760,000 weighted options outstanding for 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively, which were anti-dilutive and therefore not included in the diluted earnings per share calculation.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

16. QUARTERLY RESULTS (Unaudited) (in millions, except share and per share data)

Quarter	First	Second	Third	Fourth
2012				
Sales	\$315.3	\$178.5	\$181.0	\$267.1
Gross profit (a)	\$82.8	\$38.5	\$36.2	\$69.6
Net earnings (a)	\$39.9	\$9.5	\$9.4	\$30.1
Net earnings per share, basic	\$1.19	\$0.28	\$0.28	\$0.90
Net earnings per share, diluted	\$1.19	\$0.28	\$0.28	\$0.90
Basic weighted-average shares outstanding (in thousands)	33,035	33,093	33,110	33,195
Diluted weighted-average shares outstanding (in thousands)	33,058	33,118	33,138	33,225
2011				
Sales	\$390.6	\$179.9	\$229.1	\$306.1
Gross profit (a)	\$107.6	\$44.3	\$71.0	\$86.9
Net earnings (a)	\$56.5	\$14.0	\$34.6	\$43.9
Net earnings per share, basic	\$1.69	\$0.42	\$1.04	\$1.31
Net earnings per share, diluted	\$1.69	\$0.42	\$1.03	\$1.31
Basic weighted-average shares outstanding (in thousands)	32,835	32,889	32,906	32,991
Diluted weighted-average shares outstanding (in thousands)	32,866	32,922	32,931	33,013

(a) Beginning in the fourth quarter of 2011, the Company's gross profit and net earnings were impacted by the effects of a tornado in Goderich, Ontario. The Company estimated the effect of the tornado reduced gross profit by approximately \$14 million, \$3 million, \$1 million and \$3 million in the first, second, third and fourth quarters of 2012, respectively. The Company estimated the effects of the tornado reduced net earnings by approximately \$10 million, \$2 million, \$1 million and \$2 million in the first, second, third and fourth quarters of 2012, respectively. The Company estimated the effects of the tornado reduced its gross profit and net earnings by approximately \$16 million and \$11 million, respectively in the fourth quarter of 2011.

17. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Dividend Declared:

On February 8, 2013, the board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.545 per share on the Company's outstanding common stock, an increase of 10% from the quarterly cash dividends paid in 2012 of \$0.495 per share. The dividend will be paid on March 15, 2013, to stockholders of record as of the close of business on March 1, 2013.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

ITEM CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND
9. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None.

ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

The Company maintains disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in the Company's reports under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to management, including the Company's Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and Chief Financial Officer ("CFO"), as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives and management necessarily was required to apply its judgment in evaluating the cost-benefit relationship of possible controls and procedures.

In connection with the preparation of the Annual Report on Form 10-K, an evaluation is performed under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's management, including the CEO and CFO, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act). Based on that evaluation, the Company's CEO and CFO conclude whether the Company's disclosure controls and procedures are effective as of the reporting date at the reasonable assurance level. In connection with this Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, an evaluation was performed of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2012. Based on that evaluation, the Company's CEO and CFO concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of December 31, 2012 at the reasonable assurance level.

Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act. The 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. 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.

Management conducts an evaluation and assesses the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of the reporting date. In making its assessment of internal control over financial reporting, management uses the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission ("COSO") in Internal Control-Integrated Framework.

A material weakness is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that result in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the annual or interim financial statements will not be prevented or detected. As of December 31, 2012, management conducted an evaluation and assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Based on its evaluation, management concluded that the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2012. Ernst & Young LLP, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, has audited the consolidated financial statements of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2012, and has also issued an audit report dated February 21, 2013, on the effectiveness

of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012, which is included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There have been no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting during the most recently completed fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 9B.

OTHER INFORMATION

None.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

PART III

ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Information regarding executive officers is included in Part I to this Form 10-K under the caption “Executive Officers of Registrant”.

The information required by Item 10 of Form 10-K is incorporated herein by reference to sections (a) “Proposal 1 – Election of Directors”, (b) “Information Regarding Board of Directors and Committees” and (c) “Corporate Governance Guidelines” of the definitive proxy statement filed pursuant to Regulation 14A for the 2013 annual meeting of stockholders (“2013 Proxy Statement”). Additionally, “Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance” is also incorporated herein by reference to the 2013 Proxy Statement.

Code of Ethics

The Company has adopted a code of ethics for its executive and senior financial officers, violations of which are required to be reported to the CEO and the audit committee. The code of ethics is posted on the Company’s website at www.compassminerals.com.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The information required by Item 11 of Form 10-K is incorporated herein by reference to the executive compensation tables in the “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” to be included in the 2013 Proxy Statement.

ITEM 12. STOCK OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

The information required by Item 12 of Form 10-K is incorporated herein by reference to “Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management” to be included in the 2013 Proxy Statement.

ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE

Information required by Item 13 of Form 10-K is incorporated herein by reference to the disclosure under “Review and Approval of Transactions with Related Persons” and “Information Regarding Board of Directors and Committees” to be included in the 2013 Proxy Statement.

ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES

The information required by Item 14 of Form 10-K is incorporated herein by reference to “Proposal 2 – Ratification of Appointment of Independent Registered Accounting Firm” to be included in the 2013 Proxy Statement.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

PART IV

ITEM 15.EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

(a)(1) Financial statements and supplementary data required by this Item 15 are set forth below:

Description	Page
Management's Report on Internal Controls Over Financial Reporting	73
Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	43
Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2012 and 2011	45
Consolidated Statements of Operations for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2012	46
Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2012	47
Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2012	48
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2012	49
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	50
Schedule II – Valuation Reserves	75

(a)(2) Financial Statement Schedule:

Schedule II — Valuation Reserves

Compass Minerals International, Inc.
December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010

Description (in millions)	Balance at the Beginning of the Year	Additions (Deductions) Charged to Expense	Deductions (1) (2)	Balance at the End of the Year
Deducted from Receivables — Allowance for Doubtful Accounts				
2012	\$ 2.4	\$ 0.2	\$ (0.2)	\$ 2.4
2011	2.8	(0.2)	(0.2)	2.4
2010	2.5	1.1	(0.8)	2.8
Deducted from Deferred Income Taxes — Valuation Allowance				
2012	\$ 1.5	\$ 0.1	\$ (0.3)	\$ 1.3

Edgar Filing: COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL INC - Form 10-K

2011	2.3	0.2	(1.0)	1.5
2010	3.7	0.1	(1.5)	2.3

(1) Deduction for purposes for which reserve was created.

(2) Deductions from the deferred income tax valuation allowance in 2010 include a foreign currency adjustment of \$0.1 million.

75

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit

No.	Description of Exhibit
2.1	Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated October 13, 2001, among IMC Global Inc., Compass Minerals International, Inc. (formerly known as Salt Holdings Corporation), YBR Holdings LLC and YBR Acquisition Corp (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to Compass Minerals' Registration Statement on Form S-4, File No. 333-104603).
2.2	Amendment No. 1 to Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated November 28, 2001, among IMC Global Inc., Compass Minerals International, Inc. (formerly known as Salt Holdings Corporation), YBR Holdings LLC and YBR Acquisition Corp (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 2.2 to Compass Minerals Registration Statement on Form S-4, File No. 333-104603).
3.1	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Compass Minerals International, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form S-4, File No. 333-111953).
3.2	Amended and Restated By-laws of Compass Minerals International, Inc. (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated February 12, 2009).
4.1	Amended and Restated Rights Agreement, dated as of December 17, 2012, between Compass Minerals International, Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as successor rights agent (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 19, 2012).
4.2	Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of June 5, 2009, by and among Compass Minerals International, Inc., the Guarantors named therein, and Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC, J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., and Goldman, Sachs & Co., as representatives of the Initial Purchasers (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated June 8, 2009).
4.3	Indenture, dated as of June 5, 2009, by and among Compass Minerals International, Inc., the Guarantors named therein, and U.S. National Bank Association, as trustee, relating to the 8% Senior Notes due 2019 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated June 8, 2009).
4.4	Form of 8% Senior Notes due 2019 (included as Exhibit A to Exhibit 4.3).
10.1	Salt mining lease, dated November 9, 2001, between the Province of Ontario, as lessor, and Sifto Canada Inc. as lessee (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Compass Minerals' Registration Statement on Form S-4, File No. 333-104603).
10.2	Salt and Surface Agreement, dated June 21, 1961, by and between John Taylor Caffery, as agent for Marcie Caffery Gillis, Marcel A. Gillis, Bethia Caffery McCay, Percy McCay, Mary Louise Caffery Ellis, Emma Caffery Jackson, Edward Jackson, Liddell Caffery, Marion Caffery Campbell, Martha Gillis Restarick, Katherine Baker Senter, Caroline Baker, Bethia McCay Brown, Donelson Caffery McCay, Lucius Howard McCurdy Jr., John Andersen McCurdy, Edward Rader Jackson III, individually and as trustee for Donelson Caffery Jackson, and the J.M. Burguieres Company, LTD., and Carey Salt Company as amended by Act of Amendment to Salt Lease, dated May 30, 1973, as further amended by Agreement, dated November 21, 1990, and as further amended by Amendment to Salt and Surface lease, dated July 1, 1997 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Compass Minerals' Registration Statement on Form S-4, File No. 333-104603).
10.3	Royalty Agreement, dated September 1, 1962, between Great Salt Lake Minerals Corporation and the Utah State Land Board (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to Compass Minerals' Registration Statement on Form S-4, File No. 333-104603).

10.4*** Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated December 22, 2005, among Compass Minerals International, Inc., Compass Minerals Group, Inc., as U.S. borrower, Sifto Canada Corp., as Canadian borrower, Salt Union Limited, as U.K. borrower, JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A., as administrative agent, J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., as co-lead arranger and joint bookrunner, Goldman Sachs Credit Partners L.P., as co-lead arranger and joint bookrunner, Calyon New York Branch, as syndication agent, Bank of America, N.A., as co-documentation agent, and The Bank of Nova Scotia, as co-documentation agent (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2010).

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

- 10.5**** Amendment and Restatement Agreement dated as of May 18, 2012, to the Credit Agreement dated as of November 28, 2001 among Compass Minerals International, Inc., Sifto Canada Corp., Salt Union Limited, the lenders party thereto from time to time and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as administrative agent (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 24, 2012).
- 10.6 Amended and Restated U.S. Collateral and Guaranty Agreement, dated December 22, 2005, among Compass Minerals International, Inc. (formerly known as Salt Holdings Corporation), Compass Minerals Group, Inc., Compass Resources, Inc., Great Salt Lake Holdings, LLC, Carey Salt Company, Great Salt Lake Minerals Corporation, GSL Corporation, NAMSCO Inc., North American Salt Company and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as collateral agent (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005).
- 10.7 Amended and Restated U.S. Collateral Assignment, dated December 22, 2005, among Compass Minerals International, Inc., Compass Minerals Group, Inc. and JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005).
- 10.8 Amendment No. 1 to the US Collateral and Guaranty Agreement dated as of September 30, 2010 among Compass Minerals International, Inc., each subsidiary of Compass Minerals International, Inc. party thereto and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as collateral agent (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2010).
- 10.9 Amended and Restated Foreign Guaranty, dated December 22, 2005, among Sifto Canada Corp., Salt Union Limited, Compass Minerals (Europe) Limited, Compass Minerals (UK) Limited, DeepStore Limited (formerly known as London Salt Limited), Compass Minerals (No. 1) Limited (formerly known as Direct Salt Supplies Limited), J.T. Lunt & Co. (Nantwich) Limited, NASC Nova Scotia Company, Compass Minerals Canada Inc., Compass Canada Limited Partnership, Compass Minerals Nova Scotia Company, Compass Resources Canada Company and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as collateral agent (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005).
- 10.10 Certificate of Designation for the Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share (included as Exhibit A to Exhibit 4.1).
- 10.11 Compass Minerals International, Inc. Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan, Amended and Restated Effective as of January 1, 2005 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.26 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006).
- 10.12 First Amendment to the Compass Minerals International, Inc. Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan effective January 1, 2007 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.28 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006).
- 10.13 Second Amendment to the Compass Minerals International, Inc. Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2009).
- 10.14 Summary of Non-Employee Director Compensation Program (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012).
- 10.15 Compass Minerals International, Inc. Form of 2012 Independent Director Deferred Stock Award Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012).
- 10.16 Amended and Restated 2001 Stock Option Plan of Compass Minerals International, Inc., as adopted by the Board of Directors of Compass Minerals International, Inc. on December 11, 2003 (incorporated herein by

reference to Exhibit 10.12 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form S-4, File No. 33-111953).

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

- 10.17 Compass Minerals International, Inc. 2005 Incentive Award Plan as approved by stockholders on August 4, 2005 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.15 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005).
- 10.18 First Amendment to the Compass Minerals International, Inc. 2005 Incentive Award Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2007).
- 10.19 Second Amendment to the Compass Minerals International, Inc. 2005 Incentive Award Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2009).
- 10.20 Third Amendment to the Compass Minerals International, Inc. 2005 Incentive Award Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.22 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011).
- 10.21 Fourth Amendment to the Compass Minerals International, Inc. 2005 Incentive Award Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.23 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011).
- 10.22 2010 Form of Non-Qualified Stock Option Award Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2010).
- 10.23 2012 Form of Non-Qualified Stock Option Award Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012).
- 10.24 Form of Performance-Based Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Compass Minerals International Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2010).
- 10.25 2010 Form of Three-Year Performance Stock Unit Award Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Compass Minerals International Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 16, 2010).
- 10.26 2011 Form of Three-Year Performance Stock Unit Award Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Compass Minerals International Inc.'s Quarterly Report for the quarter ended March 31, 2011).
- 10.27 2012 Form of Three-Year Performance Stock Unit Award Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Compass Minerals International Inc.'s Quarterly Report for the quarter ended March 31, 2012).
- 10.28 Form of Dividend Equivalents Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2008).
- 10.29 Compass Minerals International, Inc. Restoration Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2007).
- 10.30 First Amendment to the Compass Minerals International, Inc. Restoration Plan dated as of December 5, 2007 (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.27 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2007).
- 10.31 Second Amendment to the Compass Minerals International, Inc. Restoration Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2009.)
- 10.32 2012 Form of Change in Control Severance Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012).

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

- 10.33 Form of Restrictive Covenant Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K filed dated January 23, 2006).
- 10.34* Listing of certain executive officers as parties to the Change in Control Severance Agreement and Restrictive Covenant Agreement as listed in Exhibits 10.32 and 10.33 herein.
- 10.35 Employment Agreement dated May 11, 2006 between Compass Minerals International, Inc. and Angelo C. Brisimitzakis (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 11, 2006).
- 10.36 409A Amendment to Existing Employment Agreement dated December 19, 2008 between Compass Minerals International, Inc. and Angelo C. Brisimitzakis (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.25 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008).
- 10.37 Employment Agreement effective January 17, 2013 between Compass Minerals International, Inc. and Fran Malecha (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated January 10, 2013).
- 10.38 Change in Control Severance Agreement dated May 11, 2006 between Compass Minerals International, Inc. and Angelo C. Brisimitzakis (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 11, 2006).
- 10.39 409A Amendment to Existing Change in Control Severance Agreement dated December 19, 2008 between Compass Minerals International, Inc. and Angelo C. Brisimitzakis (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.25 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008).
- 10.40* Change in Control Severance Agreement dated January 17, 2013 between Compass Minerals International, Inc. and Fran Malecha.
- 10.41 Restrictive Covenant Agreement dated May 11, 2006 between Compass Minerals International, Inc. and Angelo C. Brisimitzakis (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 11, 2006).
- 10.42 Employment Service Agreement, dated October 27, 2006 between Compass Minerals International, Inc. and David J. Goadby (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 27, 2006).
- 10.43 Summary of Executive Cash Compensation and Award Targets Under the Annual Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012).
- 10.44 Annual Incentive Compensation Plan Summary (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2010).
- 10.45 Form of Indemnification Agreement for Directors of Compass Minerals International, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s current Report on Form 8-K dated March 26, 2009).
- 10.46 Retirement Agreement dated October 1, 2012 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to Compass Minerals International, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 3, 2012).
- 12.1* Statement of Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.
- 21.1* Subsidiaries of the Registrant.
- 23.1* Consent of Ernst & Young LLP.
- 31.1* Section 302 Certifications of Francis J. Malecha, President and Chief Executive Officer.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

<u>31.2*</u>	Section 302 Certifications of Rodney L. Underdown, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.
<u>32*</u>	Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C.§1350 of Francis J. Malecha, President and Chief Executive Officer and Rodney L. Underdown, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.
<u>95*</u>	Mine Safety Disclosures.
101**	The following financial statements from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, formatted in Extensive Business Reporting Language (XBRL): (i) Consolidated Balance Sheets, (ii) Consolidated Statements of Operations, (iii) Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (iv) Consolidated Statement of Stockholders' Equity, (v) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, and (vi) the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

* Filed herewith.

** Furnished herewith.

*** Confidential treatment has been requested for portions of this exhibit. The confidential portions of the exhibit have been filed separately with the SEC.

Table of Contents

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 2012 FORM 10-K

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.

COMPASS MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

/s/ Francis J. Malecha
Francis J. Malecha
President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: February 21, 2013

/s/ Rodney L. Underdown
Rodney L. Underdown
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Date: February 21, 2013

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 indicated on February 21, 2013.

Signature	Capacity
/s/ Francis J. Malecha Francis J. Malecha	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)
/s/ Rodney L. Underdown Rodney L. Underdown	Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)
/s/ Bradley J. Bell Bradley J. Bell	Director
/s/ David J. D'Antoni David J. D'Antoni	Director
/s/ Eric Ford Eric Ford	Director
/s/ Richard S. Grant Richard S. Grant	Director
/s/ Perry W. Premdas Perry W. Premdas	Director
/s/ Allan R. Rothwell Allan R. Rothwell	Director
/s/ Paul S. Williams Paul S. Williams	Director

/s/ Amy Yoder
Amy Yoder

Director