

SKYWEST INC
Form 10-Q
November 06, 2018
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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2018

OR

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 0-14719

SKYWEST, INC.

444 South River Road
Incorporated under the laws of Utah
87-0292166
(I.R.S. Employer ID No.)

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St. George, Utah 84790

(435) 634-3000

(Address of principal executive offices and telephone number)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes No

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

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

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

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the registrant’s classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

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| Class | Outstanding at October 31, 2018 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Common stock, no par value | 51,895,343 |

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SKYWEST, INC.

QUARTERLY REPORT ON FORM 10-Q

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PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

SKYWEST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(Dollars in Thousands)

ASSETS

| | September 30, 2018 (unaudited) | December 31, 2017 (a) |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 324,561 | \$ 181,792 |
| Marketable securities | 380,242 | 503,503 |
| Income tax receivable | 18,118 | 5,316 |
| Receivables, net | 62,233 | 42,731 |
| Inventories, net | 124,037 | 119,755 |
| Prepaid aircraft rents | 89,839 | 115,098 |
| Other current assets | 53,042 | 26,938 |
| Total current assets | 1,052,072 | 995,133 |
| PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT: | | |
| Aircraft and rotatable spares | 6,229,941 | 5,335,870 |
| Deposits on aircraft | 27,579 | 49,000 |
| Buildings and ground equipment | 297,862 | 265,608 |
| | 6,555,382 | 5,650,478 |
| Less-accumulated depreciation and amortization | (1,680,115) | (1,467,475) |
| Total property and equipment, net | 4,875,267 | 4,183,003 |
| OTHER ASSETS: | | |
| Long-term prepaid assets | 189,357 | 230,923 |
| Other assets | 68,164 | 65,341 |
| Total other assets | 257,521 | 296,264 |
| Total assets | \$ 6,184,860 | \$ 5,474,400 |

(a) Amounts adjusted due to the adoption of Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606). See Note 1 to the financial statements contained in Part I, Item 1 of this report for

additional information.

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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SKYWEST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(Dollars in Thousands)

LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

| | September 30, 2018 (unaudited) | December 31, 2017 (a) |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| CURRENT LIABILITIES: | | |
| Current maturities of long-term debt | \$ 357,327 | \$ 309,678 |
| Accounts payable | 320,432 | 288,904 |
| Accrued salaries, wages and benefits | 150,881 | 154,367 |
| Taxes other than income taxes | 21,618 | 19,228 |
| Other current liabilities | 63,187 | 48,648 |
| Total current liabilities | 913,445 | 820,825 |
| LONG-TERM DEBT, net of current maturities | 2,751,722 | 2,377,346 |
| DEFERRED INCOME TAXES PAYABLE | 493,562 | 419,020 |
| DEFERRED AIRCRAFT CREDITS | 34,580 | 44,225 |
| OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES | 62,678 | 58,662 |
| COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (Note 6) | | |
| STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY: | | |
| Preferred stock, 5,000,000 shares authorized; none issued | — | — |
| Common stock, no par value, 120,000,000 shares authorized; 81,239,194 and 80,398,104 shares issued, respectively | 688,168 | 672,593 |
| Retained earnings | 1,714,621 | 1,516,957 |
| Treasury stock, at cost, 29,310,836 and 28,643,535 shares, respectively | (473,898) | (435,178) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (18) | (50) |
| Total stockholders' equity | 1,928,873 | 1,754,322 |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$ 6,184,860 | \$ 5,474,400 |

(a) Amounts adjusted due to the adoption of Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606). See Note 1 to the financial statements contained in Part I, Item 1 of this report for additional information.

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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SKYWEST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(Dollars and Shares in Thousands, Except per Share Amounts)

(Unaudited)

| | Three months ended September 30, | | Nine months ended September 30, | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 (a) | 2018 | 2017 (a) |
| OPERATING REVENUES: | | | | |
| Flying agreements | \$ 816,057 | \$ 800,965 | \$ 2,377,659 | \$ 2,317,218 |
| Airport customer service and other | 13,218 | 11,708 | 40,531 | 34,133 |
| Total operating revenues | 829,275 | 812,673 | 2,418,190 | 2,351,351 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES: | | | | |
| Salaries, wages and benefits | 301,378 | 304,014 | 901,775 | 896,476 |
| Aircraft maintenance, materials and repairs | 142,285 | 148,787 | 423,665 | 433,467 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 86,088 | 74,095 | 246,386 | 215,415 |
| Aircraft rentals | 36,827 | 54,976 | 119,015 | 168,098 |
| Aircraft fuel | 30,258 | 22,791 | 87,208 | 61,295 |
| Airport-related expenses | 25,655 | 30,209 | 80,852 | 91,106 |
| Other operating expenses | 68,859 | 65,432 | 206,511 | 190,235 |
| Total operating expenses | 691,350 | 700,304 | 2,065,412 | 2,056,092 |
| OPERATING INCOME | 137,925 | 112,369 | 352,778 | 295,259 |
| OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE): | | | | |
| Interest income | 2,283 | 1,408 | 5,692 | 3,398 |
| Interest expense | (31,440) | (27,101) | (86,485) | (78,713) |
| Other income (expense), net | 1,157 | — | 3,470 | — |
| Total other expense, net | (28,000) | (25,693) | (77,323) | (75,315) |
| INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES | 109,925 | 86,676 | 275,455 | 219,944 |
| PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES | 26,879 | 32,960 | 62,189 | 80,966 |
| NET INCOME | \$ 83,046 | \$ 53,716 | \$ 213,266 | \$ 138,978 |
| BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE | | | | |
| | \$ 1.60 | \$ 1.04 | \$ 4.10 | \$ 2.68 |
| DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE | | | | |
| | \$ 1.57 | \$ 1.01 | \$ 4.03 | \$ 2.62 |
| Weighted average common shares: | | | | |
| Basic | 52,039 | 51,833 | 52,002 | 51,801 |
| Diluted | 52,981 | 53,080 | 52,976 | 53,087 |
| COMPREHENSIVE INCOME: | | | | |
| Net income | \$ 83,046 | \$ 53,716 | \$ 213,266 | \$ 138,978 |
| Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on marketable securities, net of taxes | (2) | 11 | 32 | 67 |
| TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME | \$ 83,044 | \$ 53,727 | \$ 213,298 | \$ 139,045 |

- (a) Amounts adjusted due to the adoption of Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606). See Note 1 to the financial statements contained in Part I, Item 1 of this report for additional information.

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements

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SKYWEST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

(UNAUDITED)

(In Thousands)

| | Nine months ended September 30, | |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 |
| NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES | \$ 573,127 | \$ 532,289 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Purchases of marketable securities | (1,575,991) | (1,002,624) |
| Sales of marketable securities | 1,699,284 | 843,509 |
| Proceeds from the sale of aircraft, property and equipment | — | 51,079 |
| Acquisition of property and equipment: | | |
| Aircraft and rotatable spare parts | (848,723) | (563,524) |
| Deposits on aircraft | — | (46,733) |
| Buildings and ground equipment | (35,870) | (8,275) |
| Aircraft deposits applied towards acquired aircraft | 21,421 | 36,533 |
| Increase in other assets | (2,479) | (5,019) |
| NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES | (742,358) | (695,054) |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES: | | |
| Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt | 626,163 | 384,825 |
| Principal payments on long-term debt | (262,923) | (245,745) |
| Net proceeds from issuance of common stock | 5,212 | 3,447 |
| Purchase of treasury stock and employee income tax paid on equity awards | (38,720) | (14,330) |
| Increase in debt issuance cost | (3,182) | (3,245) |
| Payment of cash dividends | (14,550) | (10,868) |
| NET CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES | 312,000 | 114,084 |
| Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 142,769 | (48,681) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | 181,792 | 146,766 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD | \$ 324,561 | \$ 98,085 |
| SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION: | | |
| Non-cash investing activities: | | |
| Acquisition of rotatable spare parts | \$ 10,346 | \$ — |
| Debt assumed on aircraft acquired off lease | \$ 59,132 | \$ — |
| Cash paid during the period for: | | |

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| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Interest, net of capitalized amounts | \$ 85,611 | \$ 77,915 |
| Income taxes | \$ 2,382 | \$ 2,354 |

See accompanying notes to condensed consolidated financial statements.

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SKYWEST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(UNAUDITED)

Note 1 — Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

Basis of Presentation

The condensed consolidated financial statements of SkyWest, Inc. (“SkyWest” or the “Company”) and its operating subsidiaries, SkyWest Airlines, Inc. (“SkyWest Airlines”) and ExpressJet Airlines, Inc. (“ExpressJet”) included herein have been prepared, without audit, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”). Certain information and disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”) have been condensed or omitted pursuant to such rules and regulations, although the Company believes that the following disclosures are adequate to make the information presented not misleading. These condensed consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments that, in the opinion of management, are necessary to present fairly the results of operations for the interim periods presented. All adjustments are of a normal recurring nature, unless otherwise disclosed. These condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017. The results of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 2018.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results will likely differ, and may differ materially, from those estimates and assumptions. The Company reclassified certain prior period amounts to conform to the current period presentation.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

Standards Effective in Future Years and Not Yet Adopted

In February 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the “FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update 2016 02, “Leases (Topic 842)” (“Topic 842”). Topic 842 amends the existing accounting standards for lease accounting, including requiring lessees to recognize most leases on their balance sheets and making targeted changes to lessor

accounting. Topic 842 will be effective beginning in the first quarter of 2019. Early adoption of Topic 842 is permitted. In July 2018, the FASB issued ASU No. 2018-11, "Targeted Improvements - Leases (Topic 842)." This update provides an optional transition method that allows entities to elect to apply the standard prospectively at its effective date, versus recasting the prior periods presented. The Company anticipates electing this adoption method and expects to recognize a cumulative-effect adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings in the period of adoption. The Company has not completed its assessment, but the adoption of Topic 842 will have a significant impact on its consolidated balance sheets. However, the Company does not expect the adoption to have a significant impact on the recognition, measurement or presentation of lease revenue and lease expenses within the condensed consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income or the condensed consolidated statements of cash flows. See Note 6, "Commitments and Contingencies," about the Company's undiscounted future lease payments and the timing of those payments.

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Recently Adopted Standards

In May 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09, “Revenue from Contracts with Customers, (Topic 606)” (“Topic 606”). Under Topic 606, revenue is recognized at the time a good or service is transferred to a customer for the amount of consideration received for that specific good or service. In 2016, the FASB issued several amendments to the standard, including principal versus agent considerations when another party is involved in providing goods or services to a customer and the application of identifying performance obligations. The Company adopted this standard as of January 1, 2018, utilizing the full retrospective method of adoption allowed by the standard, in order to provide for comparative results in all periods presented. Under the new standard, the Company concluded that, in addition to the aircraft lease, the individual flights are distinct services and the flight services promised in a capacity purchase agreement represent a series of services that should be accounted for as a single performance obligation, recognized over time as the flights are completed. The adoption of Topic 606 did not have a material impact on recorded amounts when applied to the opening balance sheet as of January 1, 2018. The adoption of Topic 606 only affected the Company’s consolidated balance sheets and statements of comprehensive income classification, with no impact on the Company’s operating income (loss), net income (loss), earnings (loss) per share or cash flows, however the principal versus agent considerations under Topic 606 resulted in the Company recording directly reimbursed fuel expense under its fixed-fee contracts as a reduction to the applicable operating expense (net) rather than revenue (gross). This classification change resulted in a reduction to total revenue and a reduction to operating expenses by the same amount, resulting in no change to operating income. Additionally, under the nonrefundable up-front fees and contract costs considerations of Topic 606, reimbursements from the Company’s major airline partners for up-front contract costs will be deferred and amortized over the contract term. The related up-front costs to obtain the contract will also be capitalized and amortized over the contract term. As the amount of the up-front reimbursement is determined from the Company’s actual costs to fulfill the contract, this change is not expected to impact the Company’s operating income (loss) as the amount of deferred revenue and the amount of capitalized costs will be recognized over the same period. This change also resulted in a deferred revenue liability and a capitalized contract cost on the balance sheet of the same amount.

Prior to the Company’s adoption of Topic 606, the Company segregated its revenue into two categories: “Passenger revenue” and “Ground handling and other revenue.” “Passenger revenue” included revenue from fixed-fee contracts, prorate flying agreements and airport customer service agreements for flights operated by the Company. “Ground handling and other revenue” included revenue from airport customer service agreements for flights operated by third parties and other revenue. Under the disaggregated revenue disclosure considerations in Topic 606, the Company segregated its revenue into the following categories: “Flying agreements revenue” and “Airport customer service and other revenues.” “Flying agreements revenue” includes revenue from fixed-fee contracts, prorate flying agreements and other revenue, primarily lease revenue for the use of the aircraft. “Airport customer service and other revenues” includes revenue from airport customer services agreements. This change reclassifies amounts previously reported as “Passenger revenue” and “Ground handling and other revenue”. Additionally, in connection with the Company’s adoption of Topic 606, the Company renamed the operating expense “Ground handling services” to “Airport-related expenses.” Certain airport-related expenses, such as landing fees and airport facility rents, were previously reported as “Other operating expenses” and have been reclassified as “Airport-related expenses.”

In 2016, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update 2016-15, “Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230): Classification of Certain Cash Receipts and Cash Payments” and Accounting Standard Update 2016-18, “Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230): Restricted Cash” related to the classification of certain cash receipts and cash payments and the presentation of restricted cash within an entity’s statement of cash flows, respectively. These standards are effective

for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017. The Company adopted this standard in the first quarter of 2018 and modified the presentation to include changes in restricted cash in the Company's Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, which had an immaterial impact.

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Impact of Recently Adopted Standards

The Company recast certain prior period amounts to conform with the adoption of Topic 606, as shown in the tables below (in thousands):

| | Three months ended | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| | September 30, 2017 | | |
| | Previously | | Current |
| Income Statement: | Reported | Adjustments | Presentation |
| OPERATING REVENUES: | | | |
| Flying agreements (1) | \$ 812,295 | \$ (11,330) | \$ 800,965 |
| Airport customer service and other (2) | 19,641 | (7,933) | 11,708 |
| Total operating revenues | \$ 831,936 | \$ (19,263) | \$ 812,673 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES: | | | |
| Salaries, wages and benefits | \$ 303,997 | \$ 17 | \$ 304,014 |
| Aircraft fuel | 42,071 | (19,280) | 22,791 |
| Airport-related expenses (3) | 16,693 | 13,516 | 30,209 |
| Other operating expenses | 78,948 | (13,516) | 65,432 |
| Total operating expenses | 719,567 | (19,263) | 700,304 |
| OPERATING INCOME | \$ 112,369 | \$ — | \$ 112,369 |

1. In previously reported periods, this line item was presented as passenger revenue.
2. In previously reported periods, this line item was presented as ground handling and other.
3. In previously reported periods, this line item was presented as ground handling services.

| | Nine months ended | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | September 30, 2017 | | |
| | Previously | | Current |
| Income Statement: | Reported | Adjustments | Presentation |
| OPERATING REVENUES: | | | |
| Flying agreements (1) | \$ 2,349,047 | \$ (31,829) | \$ 2,317,218 |
| Airport customer service and other (2) | 58,063 | (23,930) | 34,133 |
| Total operating revenues | \$ 2,407,110 | \$ (55,759) | \$ 2,351,351 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES: | | | |
| Salaries, wages and benefits | \$ 899,966 | \$ (3,490) | \$ 896,476 |
| Aircraft fuel | 113,564 | (52,269) | 61,295 |

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| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|----------|------------|
| Airport-related expenses (3) | 52,130 | 38,976 | 91,106 |
| Other operating expenses | 229,211 | (38,976) | 190,235 |
| Total operating expenses | 2,111,851 | (55,759) | 2,056,092 |
| | | | |
| OPERATING INCOME | \$ 295,259 | \$ — | \$ 295,259 |

1. In previously reported periods, this line item was presented as passenger revenue.
2. In previously reported periods, this line item was presented as ground handling and other.
3. In previously reported periods, this line item was presented as ground handling services.

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| | Previously Reported | | Current Presentation |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| | December 31, 2017 | Adjustments | December 31, 2017 |
| Balance Sheet: | | | |
| ASSETS: | | | |
| Other long-term assets | \$ 49,220 | \$ 16,121 | \$ 65,341 |
| LIABILITIES: | | | |
| Other long-term liabilities | \$ 42,541 | \$ 16,121 | \$ 58,662 |

The \$16.1 million adjustment to other long-term assets and other long-term liabilities reflects the amount of capitalized up-front contract costs and the amount of deferred revenue for up-front reimbursements as of December 31, 2017. The \$16.1 million capitalized contract costs and deferred revenue is expected to be amortized over the applicable remaining contract term. For the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, the Company recognized \$1.4 million and \$1.1 million, respectively, of revenue associated with the amortization of the up-front contract reimbursements.

As of September 30, 2018, the Company had \$62.2 million in accounts receivable of which \$56.4 million related to flying agreements. As of December 31, 2017, the Company had \$42.7 million in accounts receivable of which \$33.9 million related to flying agreements.

Note 2 — Flying Agreements Revenue and Airport Customer Service and Other Revenues

The Company recognizes flying agreements revenue and airport customer service and other revenues when the service is provided under its code-share agreements. Under the Company's fixed-fee arrangements (referred to as "fixed-fee arrangements," "fixed-fee contracts" or "capacity purchase agreements") with Delta Air Lines, Inc. ("Delta"), United Airlines, Inc. ("United"), American Airlines, Inc. ("American") and Alaska Airlines, Inc. ("Alaska") (each, a "major airline partner"), the major airline partner generally pays the Company a fixed-fee for each departure, flight hour (measured from takeoff to landing, excluding taxi time) or block hour (measured from takeoff to landing, including taxi time) incurred, and an amount per aircraft in service each month with additional incentives based on flight completion and on-time performance. The major airline partner also directly reimburses the Company for certain direct expenses incurred under the fixed-fee arrangement, such as airport landing fees and airport rents. Under the fixed-fee arrangements, revenue is earned when each flight is completed and is reflected in flying agreements revenue. The transaction price for the fixed-fee agreements is determined from the fixed-fee consideration, incentive consideration and directly reimbursed expenses earned as flights are completed over the agreement term. For the nine months ended September 30, 2018, fixed-fee arrangements represented approximately 84.3% of the Company's flying agreements revenue.

Under the Company's revenue-sharing arrangements (referred to as a "revenue-sharing" or "prorate" arrangement), the major airline partner and the Company negotiate a passenger fare proration formula, pursuant to which the Company

receives a percentage of the ticket revenues for those passengers traveling for one portion of their trip on a Company airline and the other portion of their trip on the major airline partner. Revenue is recognized under the Company's prorate flying agreements when each flight is completed based upon the portion of the prorate passenger fare the Company anticipates that it will receive for each completed flight. The transaction price for the prorate agreements is determined from the proration formula derived from each passenger ticket amount on each completed flight over the agreement term. For the nine months ended September 30, 2018, prorate flying arrangements represented approximately 15.7% of the Company's flying agreements revenue.

Airport customer service and other revenues primarily consist of ground handling functions, such as gate and ramp agent services at applicable airports where the Company provides such services. The transaction price for airport customer service agreements is determined from an agreed-upon rate by location applied to the applicable number of flights handled by the Company over the agreement term.

Other ancillary revenues commonly associated with airlines, such as baggage fee revenue, ticket change fee revenue and the marketing component of the sale of mileage credits, are retained by the Company's major airline partners on flights that the Company operates under its code share agreements.

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The following table represents the Company's flying agreements revenue by type for the three and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2018 and 2017 (in thousands):

| | For the three months ended | | For the nine months ended | |
|--|----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | September 30, 2018 | 2017 | September 30, 2018 | 2017 |
| Capacity purchase agreements revenue: flight operations | \$ 472,952 | \$ 462,832 | \$ 1,404,801 | \$ 1,367,901 |
| Capacity purchase agreements revenue: aircraft lease revenue | 208,813 | 213,967 | 599,188 | 621,099 |
| Prorate agreements revenue | 134,292 | 124,166 | 373,670 | 328,218 |
| Flying agreements revenue | \$ 816,057 | \$ 800,965 | \$ 2,377,659 | \$ 2,317,218 |

A portion of the Company's compensation under its fixed-fee agreements is designed to reimburse the Company for certain aircraft ownership costs. The aircraft compensation structure varies by agreement, but is intended to cover either the Company's aircraft principal and interest debt service costs, its aircraft depreciation and interest expense or its aircraft lease expense costs while the aircraft is under contract. The consideration associated with the use of the aircraft under the Company's fixed-fee agreements is deemed to be lease revenue, inasmuch as the agreements identify the "right of use" of a specific type and number of aircraft over a stated period of time. The lease revenue associated with the Company's fixed-fee agreements is accounted for as an operating lease and is reflected as flying agreements revenue on the Company's consolidated statements of comprehensive income. The Company has not separately stated aircraft rental income and aircraft rental expense in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income since the use of the aircraft is not a separate activity of the total service provided.

The Company's fixed-fee and prorate agreements include weekly provisional cash payments from the respective major airline partner based on a projected level of flying each month. The Company and each major airline partner subsequently reconcile these payments to the actual completed flight activity on a monthly or quarterly basis. In the event a flying agreement includes a mid-term rate reset to adjust rates prospectively and the contractual rates under the Company's flying agreements have not been finalized at quarterly or annual financial statement dates, the Company applies the variable constraint guidance under Topic 606, where the Company records revenue to the extent it believes that it is probable that a significant reversal in the amount of cumulative revenue recognized will not occur when the uncertainty associated with the variable consideration is subsequently resolved.

In several of the Company's agreements, the Company is eligible to receive incentive compensation upon the achievement of certain performance criteria. The incentives are defined in the agreements and are measured and determined on a monthly, quarterly or semi annual basis. At the end of each period during the term of an agreement, the Company calculates the incentives achieved during that period and recognizes revenue attributable to that agreement accordingly, subject to the variable constraint guidance under Topic 606.

The following table summarizes the significant provisions of each code-share agreement the Company has with each major airline partner:

Delta Connection Agreements

| Agreement | Aircraft type | Number of Aircraft | Term / Termination Dates |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---|
| SkyWest Airlines | •CRJ 200 | 65 | •Individual aircraft have scheduled removal dates from 2018 to 2027 |
| Delta Connection Agreement | •CRJ 700 | 25 | |
| (fixed-fee arrangement) | •CRJ 900 | 37 | |
| ExpressJet | •E175 •CRJ 700 | 41 12 | •Individual aircraft have scheduled removal dates throughout 2018 |
| Delta Connection Agreement | | | |
| (fixed-fee arrangement) | | | |
| SkyWest Airlines | •CRJ 200 | 29 | •Terminable with 30-day notice |
| Delta Connection Prorate Agreement | | | |
| (revenue-sharing arrangement) | | | |

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United Express Agreements

| Agreement | Aircraft type | Number of Aircraft | Term / Termination Dates |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|---|
| SkyWest Airlines | •CRJ 200 | 61 | •Individual aircraft have scheduled removal dates from 2018 to 2029 |
| United Express Agreements (fixed-fee arrangement) | •CRJ 700 | 19 | |
| ExpressJet | •E175 •ERJ 145 | 65 100 | •Individual aircraft have scheduled removal dates from 2018 to 2022 |

United ERJ Agreement

| | | | |
|---|----------|----|---------------------------------|
| (fixed-fee arrangement) SkyWest Airlines | •CRJ 200 | 23 | •Terminable with 120-day notice |
|---|----------|----|---------------------------------|

United Express Prorate Agreement

(revenue-sharing arrangement)

American Agreements

| Agreement | Aircraft type | Number of Aircraft | Term / Termination Dates |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------|---|
| SkyWest Airlines | •CRJ 700 | 42 | •Individual aircraft have scheduled removal dates from 2019 to 2023 |

American Agreement

| | | | |
|---|----------|---|---------------------------------|
| (fixed-fee arrangement) SkyWest Airlines | •CRJ 200 | 7 | •Terminable with 120-day notice |
|---|----------|---|---------------------------------|

American Prorate Agreement

(revenue-sharing arrangement)

| | | | |
|------------|----------|----|---|
| ExpressJet | •CRJ 700 | 16 | •Individual aircraft have scheduled removal dates from 2018 to 2019 |
|------------|----------|----|---|

American Agreement

(fixed-fee arrangement)

Alaska Capacity Purchase Agreement

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| Agreement | Aircraft type | Number of Aircraft | Term / Termination Dates |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---|
| SkyWest Airlines | •E175 | 32 | •Individual aircraft have scheduled removal dates from 2027 to 2030 |
| Alaska Agreement | | | |
| (fixed-fee arrangement) | | | |

In addition to the contractual arrangements described above, SkyWest Airlines has entered into agreements with Alaska and Delta to place additional Embraer E175 dual-class regional jet aircraft (which are typically configured with 76 or 70 seats) (“E175”) into service for those major airline partners. As of September 30, 2018, the Company anticipated placing an additional three E175 aircraft with Alaska and eight E175 aircraft with Delta. The delivery dates for the new E175 aircraft are expected to take place by the end of 2018 or early 2019 with the exception of three E175 aircraft with Alaska that have been deferred until 2021. Final delivery dates may be adjusted based on various factors.

SkyWest Airlines also entered into an agreement with Delta in the second quarter of 2018 to operate 20 new Canadair CRJ900 regional jet aircraft. The aircraft will be acquired by Delta with delivery dates beginning in 2018 that are expected to continue through the end of 2020. These aircraft will replace 20 Canadair CRJ700 regional jet aircraft (“CRJ700”) scheduled to expire under SkyWest’s flying contracts with Delta.

SkyWest Airlines also reached an agreement with American in the second quarter of 2018 to place 20 used CRJ700 aircraft into service under a four-year contract. The 20 CRJ700 aircraft are being sourced from within the Company’s fleet. SkyWest Airlines began transitioning the CRJ700 aircraft into service during the second and third quarters of 2018 and all 20 aircraft are expected to be in service by early 2019.

Additionally, in the second quarter of 2018, SkyWest Airlines and United agreed to extend the flying contract for 19 CRJ700 aircraft. These aircraft previously had expirations scheduled for mid-2019, which were extended to mid-2022.

During the third quarter of 2018, ExpressJet began transitioning 20 Canadair CRJ200 regional jet aircraft (“CRJ200s”) into service under a previously announced three-year agreement with United. The aircraft are being sourced

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from within the Company's existing fleet through other contract expirations. The first aircraft was placed into service in October 2018 and all 20 CRJ200 aircraft are scheduled to be placed into service with United by early 2019.

When an aircraft is scheduled to be removed from a fixed-fee arrangement, the Company may, as practical under the circumstances, negotiate an extension with the respective major airline partner, negotiate the placement of the aircraft with another major airline partner, return the aircraft to the lessor if the aircraft is leased and the lease is expiring, place owned aircraft for sale, or pursue other uses for the aircraft. Other uses for the aircraft may include placing the aircraft in a prorate arrangement, leasing the aircraft to a third party or parting out the aircraft to use the engines and parts as spare inventory or to lease the engine to a third party.

The Company's operating revenues could be impacted by a number of factors, including changes to the Company's code-share agreements with its major airline partners, contract modifications resulting from contract renegotiations, the Company's ability to earn incentive payments contemplated under the Company's code-share agreements and settlement of reimbursement disputes with the Company's major airline partners.

Note 3 — Share-Based Compensation and Stock Repurchases

During the nine months ended September 30, 2018, the Company granted 15,165 fully-vested shares of common stock to the Company's directors at a grant date fair value of \$53.40. Additionally, during the nine months ended September 30, 2018, the Company granted 114,856 restricted stock units and 89,982 performance shares to certain employees of the Company and its subsidiaries under the SkyWest, Inc. 2010 Long-Term Incentive Plan. Both the restricted stock units and performance shares have a three-year vesting period, during which the recipient must remain employed with the Company or one of the Company's subsidiaries. The number of performance shares awardable from the 2018 grants can range from 0% to 200% of the original amount granted depending on the Company's performance over the three-year vesting period against the pre-established targets. Upon vesting, each restricted stock unit and performance share will be replaced with one share of common stock. The fair value of the restricted stock units and performance shares on the date of grant was \$53.40 per share. During the nine months ended September 30, 2018, the Company did not grant any options to purchase shares of common stock.

The Company accounts for forfeitures of stock options, restricted stock units and performance share grants in 2018 when forfeitures occur. The estimated fair value of the stock options, restricted stock units and performance shares is amortized over the applicable vesting periods. During the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, the Company recorded pre-tax share-based compensation expense of \$10.4 million and \$8.2 million, respectively.

The Company repurchased 427,869 shares of its common stock for \$25.2 million, and paid \$13.6 million for the income tax obligation on vested employee equity awards and issued the net, after-tax shares to employees during the nine months ended September 30, 2018. The Company repurchased 281,000 shares of its common stock for \$10.0 million and paid \$4.3 million for the income tax obligation on vested employee equity awards and issued the net, after-tax shares to employees during the nine months ended September 30, 2017.

Note 4 — Net Income Per Common Share

Basic net income per common share (“Basic EPS”) excludes dilution and is computed by dividing net income by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted net income per common share (“Diluted EPS”) reflects the potential dilution that could occur if stock options or other contracts to issue common stock were exercised or converted into common stock. The computation of Diluted EPS does not assume exercise or conversion of securities that would have an anti-dilutive effect on net income per common share. During the nine months ended September 30, 2018, 207,000 performance shares (at target performance) were excluded from the computation of Diluted EPS since the Company had not achieved the minimum target thresholds as of September 30, 2018. During the nine months ended September 30, 2017, 284,000 performance shares (at target performance) were excluded from the computation of Diluted EPS since the Company had not achieved the minimum target thresholds as of September 30, 2017.

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The calculation of the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding for Basic EPS and Diluted EPS for the periods indicated (in thousands, except per share data) is as follows:

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|------------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2018 | 2017 |
| Numerator: | | | | |
| Net Income | \$ 83,046 | \$ 53,716 | \$ 213,266 | \$ 138,978 |
| Denominator: | | | | |
| Weighted average number of common shares outstanding | 52,039 | 51,833 | 52,002 | 51,801 |
| Effect of outstanding share-based awards | 942 | 1,247 | 974 | 1,286 |
| Weighted average number of shares for diluted net income per common share | 52,981 | 53,080 | 52,976 | 53,087 |
| Basic earnings per share | \$ 1.60 | \$ 1.04 | \$ 4.10 | \$ 2.68 |
| Diluted earnings per share | \$ 1.57 | \$ 1.01 | \$ 4.03 | \$ 2.62 |

Note 5 - Segment Reporting

The Company's three reporting segments consist of the operations of SkyWest Airlines, ExpressJet and SkyWest Leasing activities. Corporate overhead expenses incurred by the Company are allocated to the operating expenses of SkyWest Airlines, ExpressJet and SkyWest Leasing.

The Company's chief operating decision maker analyzes the profitability of operating the E175 aircraft (including operating costs and associated revenue) separately from the profitability of the Company's ownership, financing costs and associated revenue of the Company's E175 aircraft (including depreciation expense, interest expense and associated revenue). The SkyWest Leasing segment includes aircraft lease revenue attributed to the Company's E175 aircraft ownership related revenues under the applicable fixed-fee contracts and the depreciation and interest expense of the Company's E175 aircraft. The SkyWest Leasing segment's total assets and capital expenditures include the acquired E175 aircraft. The SkyWest Leasing segment additionally includes the ownership and activity of four CRJ200 aircraft leased to a third party.

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The following represents the Company's segment data for the three-month periods ended September 30, 2018 and 2017 (in thousands):

| | Three months ended September 30, 2018 | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| | SkyWest | | SkyWest | |
| | Airlines | ExpressJet | Leasing | Consolidated |
| Operating revenues (1) | \$ 607,052 | \$ 140,155 | \$ 82,068 | \$ 829,275 |
| Operating expense | 512,278 | 139,736 | 39,336 | 691,350 |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 39,651 | 8,683 | 37,754 | 86,088 |
| Interest expense | 4,044 | 649 | 26,747 | 31,440 |
| Segment profit (loss) (2) | 90,730 | (230) | 15,985 | 106,485 |
| Identifiable intangible assets, other than goodwill | — | 1,224 | — | 1,224 |
| Total assets (as of September 30, 2018) | 2,251,563 | 565,266 | 3,368,031 | 6,184,860 |
| Capital expenditures (including non-cash) | 44,689 | 3,069 | 273,808 | 321,566 |

| | Three months ended September 30, 2017 | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| | SkyWest | | SkyWest | |
| | Airlines | ExpressJet | Leasing | Consolidated |
| Operating revenues (1) (3) | \$ 558,994 | \$ 191,368 | \$ 62,311 | \$ 812,673 |
| Operating expense (3) | 472,000 | 200,344 | 27,960 | 700,304 |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 34,049 | 12,573 | 27,473 | 74,095 |
| Interest expense | 5,276 | 1,017 | 20,808 | 27,101 |
| Segment profit (loss) (2) | 81,718 | (9,993) | 13,543 | 85,268 |
| Identifiable intangible assets, other than goodwill | — | 6,121 | — | 6,121 |
| Total assets (as of September 30, 2017) (3) | 2,072,597 | 721,939 | 2,579,459 | 5,373,995 |
| Capital expenditures (including non-cash) | 27,118 | 2,259 | 24,122 | 53,499 |

- (1) Prorate revenue, Airport customer service and other revenues is primarily reflected in the SkyWest Airlines segment.
- (2) Segment profit (loss) is equal to operating income less interest expense.
- (3) Amounts adjusted due to the adoption of Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606). See Note 1 to the financial statements contained in Part I, Item 1 of this report for additional information.

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The following represents the Company's segment data for the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2018 and 2017 (in thousands):

| | Nine months ended September 30, 2018 | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| | SkyWest | | SkyWest | |
| | Airlines | ExpressJet | Leasing | Consolidated |
| Operating revenues (1) | \$ 1,750,827 | \$ 444,943 | \$ 222,420 | \$ 2,418,190 |
| Operating expense | 1,505,298 | 455,084 | 105,030 | 2,065,412 |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 115,979 | 30,044 | 100,363 | 246,386 |
| Interest expense | 12,722 | 2,264 | 71,499 | 86,485 |
| Segment profit (loss) (2) | 232,807 | (12,405) | 45,891 | 266,293 |
| Identifiable intangible assets, other than goodwill | — | 1,224 | — | 1,224 |
| Total assets (as of September 30, 2018) | 2,251,563 | 565,266 | 3,368,031 | 6,184,860 |
| Capital expenditures (including non-cash) | 121,010 | 5,996 | 827,065 | 954,071 |

| | Nine months ended September 30, 2017 | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| | SkyWest | | SkyWest | |
| | Airlines | ExpressJet | Leasing | Consolidated |
| Operating revenues (1) (3) | \$ 1,543,618 | \$ 631,634 | \$ 176,099 | \$ 2,351,351 |
| Operating expense (3) | 1,331,931 | 644,490 | 79,671 | 2,056,092 |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 98,396 | 38,808 | 78,211 | 215,415 |
| Interest expense | 16,811 | 3,219 | 58,683 | 78,713 |
| Segment profit (loss) (2) | 194,876 | (16,075) | 37,745 | 216,546 |
| Identifiable intangible assets, other than goodwill | — | 6,121 | — | 6,121 |
| Total assets (as of September 30, 2017) (3) | 2,072,597 | 721,939 | 2,579,459 | 5,373,995 |
| Capital expenditures (including non-cash) | 85,895 | 12,414 | 474,091 | 572,400 |

- (1) Prorate revenue, Airport customer service and other revenues is primarily reflected in the SkyWest Airlines segment.
- (2) Segment profit (loss) is equal to operating income less interest expense.
- (3) Amounts adjusted due to the adoption of Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606). See Note 1 to the financial statements contained in Part I, Item 1 of this report for additional information.

Note 6 — Commitments and Contingencies

As of September 30, 2018, the Company leased aircraft, airport facilities, office space, and other property and equipment under non-cancelable operating leases which are generally on a long-term, triple net lease basis pursuant to which the Company pays taxes, maintenance, insurance and certain other operating expenses applicable to the leased property. The Company expects that, in the normal course of business, such operating leases that expire will be renewed or replaced by other leases, or the property may be purchased rather than leased. The following table

summarizes future minimum rental payments primarily related to aircraft required under operating leases that had initial or remaining non-cancelable lease terms as of September 30, 2018 (in thousands):

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| October 2018 through December 2018 | \$ 25,327 |
| 2019 | 83,268 |
| 2020 | 98,790 |
| 2021 | 90,378 |
| 2022 | 72,438 |
| Thereafter | 125,570 |
| | \$ 495,771 |

As of September 30, 2018, the Company had a firm purchase commitment for eleven E175 aircraft from Embraer, S.A. with scheduled delivery dates through the end of 2018 or early 2019 with the exception of three E175 aircraft that have been deferred until 2021.

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The following table summarizes the Company's commitments and obligations as noted for each of the next five years and thereafter (in thousands):

| | Total | Oct - Dec 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Thereafter |
|--|--------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Operating lease payments for aircraft and facility obligations | \$ 495,771 | \$ 25,327 | \$ 83,268 | \$ 98,790 | \$ 90,378 | \$ 72,438 | \$ 125,570 |
| Firm aircraft and spare engine commitments | 352,925 | 211,485 | 27,500 | 27,500 | 86,440 | — | — |
| Interest commitments (1) | 600,413 | 60,498 | 111,075 | 96,051 | 82,139 | 69,227 | 181,423 |
| Principal maturities on long-term debt | 3,134,768 | 90,653 | 360,599 | 342,080 | 336,897 | 342,439 | 1,662,100 |
| Total commitments and obligations | \$ 4,583,877 | \$ 387,963 | \$ 582,442 | \$ 564,421 | \$ 595,854 | \$ 484,104 | \$ 1,969,093 |

(1) At September 30, 2018, the Company had variable rate notes representing only 1.0% of its total long-term debt.
Note 7 — Fair Value Measurements

The Company holds certain assets that are required to be measured at fair value in accordance with GAAP. The Company determined the fair value of these assets based on the following three levels of inputs:

- Level 1 — Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2 — Observable inputs other than Level 1 prices such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities. Some of the Company's marketable securities primarily utilize broker quotes in a non-active market for valuation of these securities.
- Level 3 — Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities, therefore requiring an entity to develop its own assumptions.

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As of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the Company held certain assets that are required to be measured at fair value on a recurring basis. Assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis are summarized below (in thousands):

| | Fair Value Measurements as of September 30, 2018 | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------|------------|---------|
| | Total | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| Cash, Cash Equivalents | \$ 324,561 | \$ 324,561 | \$ — | \$ — |
| Marketable Securities | | | | |
| Bonds and bond funds | \$ 159,942 | \$ — | \$ 159,942 | \$ — |
| Commercial paper | 220,300 | — | 220,300 | — |
| | 380,242 | — | 380,242 | — |
| Total Assets Measured at Fair Value | \$ 704,803 | \$ 324,561 | \$ 380,242 | \$ — |

| | Fair Value Measurements as of December 31, 2017 | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------|------------|---------|
| | Total | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| Cash, Cash Equivalents | \$ 181,792 | \$ 181,792 | \$ — | \$ — |
| Marketable Securities | | | | |
| Bonds and bond funds | \$ 344,251 | \$ — | \$ 344,251 | \$ — |
| Commercial paper | 159,252 | — | 159,252 | — |
| | 503,503 | — | 503,503 | — |
| Total Assets Measured at Fair Value | \$ 685,295 | \$ 181,792 | \$ 503,503 | \$ — |

The Company's "marketable securities" classified as Level 2 securities primarily utilize broker quotes in a non-active market for valuation of these securities.

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The Company did not make any significant transfers of securities between Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 during the nine months ended September 30, 2018. The Company's policy regarding the recording of transfers between levels is to record any such transfers at the end of the reporting period.

As of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the Company classified \$380.2 million and \$503.5 million of marketable securities, respectively, as short-term since it had the intent to maintain a liquid portfolio and the ability to redeem the securities within one year. As of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the cost of the Company's total cash and cash equivalents and available for sale securities was \$704.8 million and \$685.5 million, respectively. As of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the fair value of the Company's total cash and cash equivalents and available for sale securities was \$704.8 million and \$685.3 million, respectively.

The fair value of the Company's long-term debt classified as Level 2 debt was estimated using discounted cash flow analyses, based on the Company's current estimated incremental borrowing rates for similar types of borrowing arrangements. The fair value of the Company's long-term debt is estimated based on current rates offered to the Company for similar debt and was estimated to be \$3.15 billion as of September 30, 2018 and \$2.70 billion as of December 31, 2017, as compared to the carrying amount of \$3.13 billion as of September 30, 2018 and \$2.71 billion as of December 31, 2017.

Note 8 — Long-Term Debt

Long-term debt consisted of the following as of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017 (in thousands):

| | September 30, 2018 | December 31, 2017 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Current portion of long-term debt | \$ 361,131 | \$ 313,243 |
| Current portion of unamortized debt issue cost, net | (3,804) | (3,565) |
| Current portion of long-term debt, net of debt issue costs | \$ 357,327 | \$ 309,678 |
| Long-term debt, net of current maturities | \$ 2,773,637 | \$ 2,399,107 |
| Long-term portion of unamortized debt issue cost, net | (21,915) | (21,761) |
| Long-term debt, net of current maturities and debt issue costs | \$ 2,751,722 | \$ 2,377,346 |
| Total long-term debt (including current portion) | \$ 3,134,768 | \$ 2,712,350 |
| Total unamortized debt issue cost, net | (25,719) | (25,326) |
| Total long-term debt, net of debt issue costs | \$ 3,109,049 | \$ 2,687,024 |

During the nine months ended September 30, 2018, the Company took delivery of 31 E175 aircraft and purchased nine previously-leased aircraft, which the Company financed through \$626.2 million of long-term debt. The debt associated with the 31 E175 aircraft has a 12-year term, is due in quarterly installments with a fixed annual interest rate ranging from 4.6% to 5.0% and is secured by the E175 aircraft. The Company acquired nine aircraft off a lease during the nine months ended September 30, 2018. The debt associated with the nine previously-leased aircraft has a term ranging from three to four years, is due in semi-annual installments with a fixed annual interest rate of 6.45% and is secured by the previously-leased aircraft.

As of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the Company had \$84.8 million and \$87.4 million, respectively, in letters of credit and surety bonds outstanding with various banks and surety institutions.

Note 9 — Income Taxes

The Company's effective tax rate for the three months ended September 30, 2018 was 24.5%. The Company's effective tax rate for the three months ended September 30, 2018 varied from the federal statutory rate of 21.0% primarily due to the provision for state income taxes and the impact of non-deductible expenses.

The Company's effective tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 was 22.6%. The Company's effective tax rate for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 varied from the federal statutory rate of 21.0% primarily due to the provision for state income taxes and the impact of non-deductible expenses, partially offset by a \$4.6 million

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discrete tax benefit from excess tax deductions generated from employee equity transactions that occurred during the nine months ended September 30, 2018 pursuant to Accounting Standards Update No. 2016-09, “Compensation—Stock Compensation (Topic 718) and a \$0.9 million discrete tax benefit from a capital loss carryforward valuation allowance resulting from a gain on sale of capital assets during the nine months ended September 30, 2018.

In connection with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (“Tax Act”) enacted in December 2017, the Company recorded a provisional amount of income tax benefit of \$246.8 million related to the re-measurement of deferred tax balances for the year ended December 31, 2017. In accordance with relevant SEC guidance, the effects of the Tax Act may be adjusted within a one-year measurement period from the enactment date for the items that were previously reported as provisional, or where a provisional estimate could not be made. The income tax provision for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 did not reflect any adjustments to the provisional amounts as of December 31, 2017. The Company is still analyzing the impacts of the Tax Act on \$13.9 million of alternative minimum tax credits that may be refundable as of September 30, 2018. The Company will continue to assess forthcoming guidance and accounting interpretations on the effects of the Tax Act and expects to complete its analysis within the measurement period in accordance with SEC guidance.

Note 10 — Legal Matters

The Company is subject to certain legal actions which it considers routine to its business activities. As of September 30, 2018, the Company’s management believed, after consultation with legal counsel, that the ultimate outcome of such legal matters was not likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company’s financial position, liquidity or results of operations.

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ITEM 2: MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion and analysis presents factors that had a material effect on the results of operations of SkyWest, Inc. (“SkyWest” “we” or “us”) during the three and nine-month periods ended September 30, 2018 and 2017. Also discussed is our financial condition as of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017. You should read this discussion in conjunction with our condensed consolidated financial statements for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2018, including the notes thereto, appearing elsewhere in this Report. This discussion and analysis contains forward-looking statements. Please refer to the section of this Report entitled “Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements” for discussion of uncertainties, risks and assumptions associated with these statements.

Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements

Certain of the statements contained in this Report should be considered “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements may be identified by words such as “may,” “will,” “expect,” “intend,” “anticipate,” “believe,” “estimate,” “plan,” “project,” “could,” “should,” “continue” and similar terms used in connection with statements regarding our outlook, anticipated operations, the revenue environment, our contractual relationships, and our anticipated financial performance. These statements include, but are not limited to, statements about the expected delivery, and removal from service and/or placement into service, of certain aircraft, our future growth and development plans, including our future financial and operating results, our plans for SkyWest Airlines, Inc. (“SkyWest Airlines”) and ExpressJet Airlines, Inc. (“ExpressJet”), our objectives, expectations, estimates, intentions and other statements that are not historical facts. All forward-looking statements are based on our existing beliefs about present and future events outside of our control and on assumptions that may prove to be incorrect. If one or more risks identified in this Report materializes, or any other underlying assumption proves incorrect, our actual results will vary, and may vary materially, from those anticipated, estimated, projected, or intended for a number of reasons, including but not limited to: the challenges of competing successfully in a highly competitive and rapidly changing industry; developments associated with fluctuations in the economy and the demand for air travel; the financial stability of United Airlines, Inc. (“United”), Delta Air Lines, Inc. (“Delta”), American Airlines, Inc. (“American”) and Alaska Airlines, Inc. (“Alaska”) (each, a “major airline partner”) and any potential impact of their financial condition on the operations of SkyWest, SkyWest Airlines or ExpressJet; fluctuations in flight schedules, which are determined by the major airline partners for whom SkyWest’s operating airlines conduct flight operations; variations in market and economic conditions; significant aircraft lease and debt commitments; residual aircraft values and related impairment charges; the impact of global instability; labor relations and costs; potential fluctuations in fuel costs, and potential fuel shortages; the impact of weather-related or other natural disasters on air travel and airline costs; new aircraft deliveries; the ability to attract and retain qualified pilots; the other factors identified under the heading “Risk Factors” in Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017, under the heading “Risk Factors” in Part II, Item 1A of this Report, elsewhere in this Report, in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) and other unanticipated factors.

There may be other factors not identified above of which we are not currently aware that may affect matters discussed in the forward-looking statements, and may also cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed. We assume no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement to reflect actual results, changes in assumptions or changes in other factors affecting these statements other than as required by law.

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Overview

Through SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet, we have the largest regional airline operations in the United States. As of September 30, 2018, SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet offered scheduled passenger service with approximately 2,800 total daily departures to destinations in the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean. As of September 30, 2018, SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet had a total fleet of 625 aircraft, of which 574 were in scheduled service, summarized as follows:

| | CRJ200 | CRJ700 | CRJ900 | ERJ145 | E175 | Total |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|-------|
| United | 84 | 19 | — | 100 | 65 | 268 |
| Delta | 94 | 37 | 37 | — | 41 | 209 |
| American | 7 | 58 | — | — | — | 65 |
| Alaska | — | — | — | — | 32 | 32 |
| Aircraft in scheduled service | 185 | 114 | 37 | 100 | 138 | 574 |
| Subleased to an un-affiliated entity | 4 | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| Other* | 19 | 15 | — | 13 | — | 47 |
| Total | 208 | 129 | 37 | 113 | 138 | 625 |

*As of September 30, 2018, these aircraft have been removed from service and are in the process of being returned under the applicable leasing arrangement or are aircraft transitioning between code-share agreements with our major airline partners.

As of September 30, 2018, approximately 46.7% of our aircraft in scheduled service operated for United, approximately 36.4% was operated for Delta, approximately 11.3% was operated for American and approximately 5.6% was operated for Alaska.

Our business model is based on providing scheduled regional airline service under code-share agreements (commercial agreements, typically in the form of fixed-fee arrangements or prorate arrangements, each as defined below, between airlines that, among other things, allow one airline to use another airline's flight designator codes on its flights) with our major airline partners. Our success is principally centered on our ability to meet the needs of our major airline partners through providing a reliable and safe operation at attractive economics.

Historically, multiple contractual relationships with major airlines have enabled us to reduce our reliance on any single major airline code and to enhance and stabilize operating results through a mix of fixed-fee arrangements (referred to as "fixed-fee arrangements," "fixed-fee contracts," "contract flying arrangements" or "capacity purchase agreements") and revenue-sharing arrangements (referred to as "prorate" arrangements). For the nine months ended September 30, 2018, contract flying revenue and prorate revenue represented approximately 84.3% and 15.7%, respectively, of our total flying agreements revenue. On contract routes, the major airline partner controls scheduling,

ticketing, pricing and seat inventories and we are compensated by the major airline partner at contracted rates based on completed block hours (measured from takeoff to landing, including taxi time), flight departures and other operating measures. On prorate routes, our revenue may fluctuate based on ticket prices and passenger loads and we are responsible for all costs to operate the flight, including fuel.

Third Quarter Summary

Our total operating revenues of \$829.3 million for the three months ended September 30, 2018 increased 2.0% compared to total operating revenues of \$812.7 million for the three months ended September 30, 2017. We had net income of \$83.0 million, or \$1.57 per diluted share, for the three months ended September 30, 2018, compared to net income of \$53.7 million, or \$1.01 per diluted share, for the three months ended September 30, 2017.

Significant items affecting our financial performance during the three months ended September 30, 2018 are outlined below:

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Revenue

The number of aircraft we have under contract and the number of actual block hours we incur on completed flights are significant revenue drivers under our fixed-fee arrangements. We are currently in the process of a fleet transition that involves increasing the number of large dual-class regional jets we operate, including the Embraer E175 dual-class regional jet aircraft (“E175s”), while reducing the number of less profitable jets we operate, including a portion of our Embraer ERJ145 regional jet aircraft (“ERJ145s”), Embraer ERJ135 regional jet aircraft (“ERJ135s”) and Canadair CRJ200 regional jet aircraft (“CRJ200s”). Additionally, during the nine months ended September 30, 2018, we completed the process of returning Canadair CRJ900 regional jet aircraft (“CRJ900s”) and Canadair CRJ700 regional jet aircraft (“CRJ700”) operated by ExpressJet under a fixed-fee contract and aircraft lease with Delta. Our objective in the fleet transition is to improve our profitability through the addition of new dual class aircraft, while removing aircraft from service that have been operating under unprofitable or less profitable fixed-fee contracts.

Although the number of our aircraft operating in scheduled service decreased by 5.0% since September 30, 2017, and we had a 4.7% reduction in our block hour production since September 30, 2017, our total revenues increased \$16.6 million for the three months ended September 30, 2018 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2017. The increase in revenue, despite the decrease in fleet size and block hour production, was primarily driven by the increase in revenue from 34 new E175 aircraft added to flying arrangements since September 30, 2017, significantly offset by the removal of 65 CRJ200s, ERJ145s, CRJ700s and CRJ900s with a lower revenue per aircraft during the same time period.

Operating Expenses

Our total operating expenses decreased \$9.0 million for the three months ended September 30, 2018, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2017. This decrease was primarily due to a net reduction in our fleet size and related level of departures and block hours, partially offset by an increase in our average fuel cost per gallon on our prorate flying and an increase in engine maintenance costs as an increased percentage of our fleet is under long-term Power-By-The-Hour engine maintenance agreements. “Power-By-The-Hour” agreements are agreements between us and a third-party vendor, pursuant to which we pay the third-party vendor a set dollar amount per engine hour flown on a monthly basis and the third-party vendor assumes the obligation to repair the engines at no additional cost, subject to certain specified exclusions. Additional details regarding the increase in our operating expenses are described in the section of this Report entitled “Results of Operations.”

Fleet activity

The following table summarizes our fleet scheduled for service as of September 30, 2018 and 2017:

| Aircraft in Service | September 30, 2018 | September 30, 2017 |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| CRJ200s | 185 | 191 |
| CRJ700s | 114 | 131 |
| CRJ900s | 37 | 60 |
| ERJ145/135s | 100 | 118 |
| E175s | 138 | 104 |
| Total | 574 | 604 |

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Changes in our fleet activity from September 30, 2017 to September 30, 2018 are summarized as follows:

| | |
|---|------|
| Aircraft available for scheduled service at September 30, 2017: | 604 |
| Additions: | |
| New E175 aircraft added with Alaska: | 11 |
| New E175 aircraft added with Delta: | 23 |
| New CRJ900 aircraft added with Delta: | 1 |
| New aircraft added to fleet: | 35 |
| Removals, net: | |
| ERJ145/ERJ135 aircraft removed from service: | (18) |
| CRJ200 aircraft removed from service: | (6) |
| CRJ700 aircraft removed from service: | (17) |
| CRJ900 aircraft removed from service: | (24) |
| Total removals, net: | (65) |
| Aircraft available for scheduled service at September 30, 2018: | 574 |

Critical Accounting Policies

Our significant accounting policies are summarized in Note 1 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017, which are presented in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017. Critical accounting policies are those policies that are most important to the preparation of our consolidated financial statements and require management's subjective and complex judgments due to the need to make estimates about the effect of matters that are inherently uncertain. Our critical accounting policies relate to revenue recognition, maintenance, aircraft leases, impairment of long-lived assets and stock-based compensation expense. The application of these accounting policies involves the exercise of judgment and the use of assumptions as to future uncertainties and, as a result, actual results will likely differ, and may differ materially, from such estimates.

We adopted Topic 606 as of January 1, 2018, utilizing the full retrospective option. See Note 1 to the condensed consolidated financial statements contained in Part I, Item 1 of this report for additional information.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

See Note 1 to the condensed consolidated financial statements for a description of recent accounting pronouncements. Certain prior period amounts were reclassified to conform to the current period presentation.

Results of Operations

Three Months Ended September 30, 2018 and 2017

Operational Statistics. The following table sets forth our major operational statistics and the associated percentage changes for the periods identified below:

| | For the three months ended September 30, | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------|----------|-----|
| | 2018 | 2017 | % Change | |
| Block hours | 448,025 | 469,901 | (4.7) | % |
| Departures | 261,382 | 281,921 | (7.3) | % |
| Passengers carried | 12,812,370 | 13,475,674 | (4.9) | % |
| Passenger load factor | 82.2 | % 80.0 | % 2.2 | pts |
| Average passenger trip length (miles) | 519 | 503 | 3.2 | % |

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Operating Revenues

The following table summarizes our operating revenue for the periods indicated (dollar amounts in thousands):

| | For the three months ended September 30, | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------|-----------|----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | \$ Change | % Change |
| Flying agreements | \$ 816,057 | \$ 800,965 | \$ 15,092 | 1.9 % |
| Airport customer service and other | 13,218 | 11,708 | 1,510 | 12.9 % |
| Total operating revenues | \$ 829,275 | \$ 812,673 | \$ 16,602 | 2.0 % |

Flying agreements revenue primarily consists of revenue earned on flights we operate under our capacity purchase agreements and prorate agreements with our major airline partners. Airport customer service and other revenues primarily consist of revenue earned from providing airport counter, gate and ramp services. Changes in our flying agreements revenue are summarized below (dollar amounts in thousands).

| | For the three months ended September 30, | | | |
|--|--|------------|-----------|----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | \$ Change | % Change |
| Capacity purchase agreements revenue: flight operations | \$ 472,952 | \$ 462,832 | \$ 10,120 | 2.2 % |
| Capacity purchase agreements revenue: aircraft lease revenue | 208,813 | 213,967 | (5,154) | (2.4) % |
| Prorate agreements revenue | 134,292 | 124,166 | 10,126 | 8.2 % |
| Flying agreements revenue | \$ 816,057 | \$ 800,965 | \$ 15,092 | 1.9 % |

The increase in “Capacity purchase agreements revenue: flight operations” of \$10.1 million was primarily due to incremental revenue generated from 34 new E175 aircraft and one new CRJ900 aircraft added to our fleet and economic improvements made to certain existing fixed-fee agreements since September 30, 2017, partially offset by the timing of the removal of 65 CRJ200, ERJ145/135, CRJ700 and CRJ900 aircraft from flying arrangements with a lower revenue per aircraft since September 30, 2017. The decrease in “Capacity purchase agreement revenue: aircraft lease revenue” of \$5.2 million was primarily due to a reduction in aircraft lease revenue under our fixed-fee agreements that resulted from the net reduction of 30 aircraft from our fleet since September 30, 2017. The increase in prorate agreement revenue of \$10.1 million was primarily due to the incremental revenue generated from six CRJ200 aircraft added to our prorate agreements and new prorate agreements at improved economics since September 30, 2017.

The \$1.5 million increase in airport customer service and other revenues was primarily related to a combination of an increase in volume of airport service agreements and contract rate increases on agreements that were renewed since

September 30, 2017.

Operating Expenses

The following table summarizes our operating expenses and interest expense, collectively, "Total airline expense" for the periods indicated (dollar amounts in thousands):

| | For the three months ended September 30, | | | | |
|---|--|------------|------------|----------|---|
| | 2018 | 2017 | \$ Change | % Change | |
| Salaries, wages and benefits | \$ 301,378 | \$ 304,014 | \$ (2,636) | (0.9) | % |
| Aircraft maintenance, materials and repairs | 142,285 | 148,787 | (6,502) | (4.4) | % |
| Depreciation and amortization | 86,088 | 74,095 | 11,993 | 16.2 | % |
| Aircraft rentals | 36,827 | 54,976 | (18,149) | (33.0) | % |
| Aircraft fuel | 30,258 | 22,791 | 7,467 | 32.8 | % |
| Airport-related expenses | 25,655 | 30,209 | (4,554) | (15.1) | % |
| Other operating expenses | 68,859 | 65,432 | 3,427 | 5.2 | % |
| Total operating expenses | \$ 691,350 | \$ 700,304 | \$ (8,954) | (1.3) | % |
| Interest expense | 31,440 | 27,101 | 4,339 | 16.0 | % |
| Total airline expenses | \$ 722,790 | \$ 727,405 | \$ (4,615) | (0.6) | % |

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Salaries, wages and benefits. The \$2.6 million decrease in salaries, wages and benefits was primarily due to a decrease in direct labor costs resulting from a net reduction in our fleet size and related level of departures and block hours partially offset by increased labor costs and employee benefit costs for certain work groups, including flight crews.

Aircraft maintenance, materials and repairs. The \$6.5 million decrease in aircraft maintenance expense was primarily due to a decrease in direct maintenance costs that corresponds with our net decrease in fleet size and block hour reduction of 6.0% and a decrease in the number of maintenance events during the three months ended September 30, 2018 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2017. This decrease in aircraft maintenance expense was partially offset by an increase in the percentage of our fleet that is under long-term, Power-By-The-Hour engine maintenance agreements, including the additional 34 E175 aircraft added since September 2017.

Depreciation and amortization. The \$12.0 million increase in depreciation and amortization expense was primarily due to the purchase of 34 E175 aircraft and spare engines subsequent to September 30, 2017, which was partially offset by a reduction of less profitable owned aircraft and related depreciation during the same period.

Aircraft rentals. The \$18.1 million decrease in aircraft rentals was primarily due to a reduction of our fleet size that was financed through leases subsequent to September 30, 2017.

Aircraft Fuel. The \$7.5 million increase in fuel cost was primarily due to an increase in our average fuel cost per gallon from \$2.06 for the three months ended September 30, 2017 to \$2.69 for the three months ended September 30, 2018. We purchase and incur expense for all fuel on flights operated under our prorate agreements. All fuel costs incurred under our fixed-fee contracts are either purchased directly by our major airline partner, or if purchased by us, we record the direct reimbursement as a reduction to our fuel expense. The following table summarizes the gallons of fuel we purchased under our prorate agreements, for the periods indicated:

| (in thousands) | For the three months ended September 30, | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------|----------|---|
| | 2018 | 2017 | % Change | |
| Fuel gallons purchased | 11,245 | 11,085 | 1.4 | % |
| Fuel expense | \$ 30,258 | \$ 22,791 | 32.8 | % |

Airport-related expenses. Airport-related expenses include airport-related customer service costs such as outsourced airport gate and ramp agent services, airport security fees, passenger interruption costs, deicing, landing fees and station rents (our employee customer service labor costs are reflected in salaries, wages and benefits). The \$4.6 million decrease in airport-related expenses was primarily due to a decrease in airport terminal rents during the three months ended September 30, 2018.

Other operating expenses. Other operating expenses primarily consist of property taxes, hull and liability insurance, simulator costs, crew per diem, and crew hotel costs. The \$3.4 million increase in other operating expenses was primarily related to an increase in hotel room rates, an increase in the use of hotels for crew trainings and property tax on additional aircraft added since September 30, 2017, which was partially offset by the decrease in fleet size and other operating costs that resulted from the reduction in departures.

Interest Expense. The \$4.3 million increase in interest expense was primarily related to the additional interest expense associated with the 34 E175 aircraft added to our fleet since September 30, 2017, which were debt financed.

Total airline expenses. The \$4.6 million decrease in total airline expenses was primarily related to a reduction in fleet size and related block hour production of 4.7% during the three months ended September 30, 2018 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2017, partially offset by an increase in our average fuel cost per gallon incurred under our prorate agreements and an increase in engine maintenance costs as an increased percentage of our fleet is under long-term, Power-By-The-Hour engine maintenance agreements.

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Summary of interest income, other income (expense) and provision for income taxes:

Interest income. Interest income increased \$0.9 million, or 62.1%, during the three months ended September 30, 2018, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2017. The increase in interest income was primarily related to an increase in interest rates subsequent to September 30, 2017.

Other income (expense). During the three months ended September 30, 2018, we had other income of \$1.2 million primarily related to a gain on the sale of excess rotatable spare parts sold during the three months ended September 30, 2018.

Income taxes. Our provision for income taxes was 24.5% and 38.0% for the three months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively. The decrease in the effective tax rate primarily relates to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 which reduced the federal statutory rate from 35% to 21%.

Net income. Primarily due to the factors described above, we generated net income of \$83.0 million, or \$1.57 per diluted share, for the three months ended September 30, 2018, compared to net income of \$53.7 million, or \$1.01 per diluted share, for the three months ended September 30, 2017.

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2018 and 2017

Operational Statistics. The following table sets forth our major operational statistics and the associated percentage changes for the periods identified below:

| | For the nine months ended September 30, | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------|----------|-----|
| | 2018 | 2017 | % Change | |
| Block hours | 1,323,566 | 1,389,684 | (4.8) | % |
| Departures | 765,070 | 826,109 | (7.4) | % |
| Passengers carried | 36,472,231 | 38,861,025 | (6.1) | % |
| Passenger load factor | 80.5 | % 80.2 | % 0.3 | pts |
| Average passenger trip length (miles) | 522 | 511 | 2.2 | % |

Operating Revenues

The following table summarizes our operating revenue for the periods indicated (dollar amounts in thousands):

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| | For the nine months ended September 30, | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------|-----------|----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | \$ Change | % Change |
| Flying agreements | \$ 2,377,659 | \$ 2,317,218 | \$ 60,441 | 2.6 % |
| Airport customer service and other | 40,531 | 34,133 | 6,398 | 18.7 % |
| Total operating revenues | \$ 2,418,190 | \$ 2,351,351 | \$ 66,839 | 2.8 % |

Changes in our flying agreements revenue are summarized below (dollar amounts in thousands).

| | For the nine months ended September 30, | | | |
|--|---|--------------|-----------|----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | \$ Change | % Change |
| Capacity purchase agreements revenue: flight operations | \$ 1,404,801 | \$ 1,367,901 | \$ 36,900 | 2.7 % |
| Capacity purchase agreements revenue: aircraft lease revenue | 599,188 | 621,099 | (21,911) | (3.5) % |
| Prorate agreements revenue | 373,670 | 328,218 | 45,452 | 13.8 % |
| Flying agreements revenue | \$ 2,377,659 | \$ 2,317,218 | \$ 60,441 | 2.6 % |

The increase in “Capacity purchase agreements revenue: flight operations” of \$36.9 million was primarily due to incremental revenue generated from 34 new E175 aircraft and one new CRJ900 aircraft added to our fleet and economic improvements made to certain existing fixed-fee agreements since September 30, 2017, partially offset by the timing of the removal of 65 CRJ200, ERJ145/135, CRJ700 and CRJ900 aircraft from flying arrangements with a lower revenue per aircraft since September 30, 2017. The decrease in “Capacity purchase agreement revenue: aircraft lease

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revenue” of \$21.9 million was primarily due to a reduction in aircraft lease revenue under our fixed-fee agreements that resulted from the net reduction of 30 aircraft from our fleet since September 30, 2017. The increase in prorate agreement revenue of \$45.5 million was primarily due to the incremental revenue generated from six CRJ200 aircraft added to our prorate agreements and other economic improvements made to certain prorate agreements since September 30, 2017.

The \$6.4 million increase in airport customer service and other revenues was primarily related to a combination of an increase in volume of airport service agreements and contract rate increases on agreements that were renewed since September 30, 2017.

Operating Expenses

The following table summarizes our operating expenses and interest expense, collectively, “Total airline expense” for the periods indicated (dollar amounts in thousands):

| | For the nine months ended September 30, | | | |
|---|---|--------------|-----------|----------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | \$ Change | % Change |
| Salaries, wages and benefits | \$ 901,775 | \$ 896,476 | \$ 5,299 | 0.6 % |
| Aircraft maintenance, materials and repairs | 423,665 | 433,467 | (9,802) | (2.3) % |
| Depreciation and amortization | 246,386 | 215,415 | 30,971 | 14.4 % |
| Aircraft rentals | 119,015 | 168,098 | (49,083) | (29.2) % |
| Aircraft fuel | 87,208 | 61,295 | 25,913 | 42.3 % |
| Airport-related expenses | 80,852 | 91,106 | (10,254) | (11.3) % |
| Other operating expenses | 206,511 | 190,235 | 16,276 | 8.6 % |
| Total operating expenses | \$ 2,065,412 | \$ 2,056,092 | \$ 9,320 | 0.5 % |
| Interest expense | 86,485 | 78,713 | 7,772 | 9.9 % |
| Total airline expenses | \$ 2,151,897 | \$ 2,134,805 | \$ 17,092 | 0.8 % |

Salaries, wages and benefits. The \$5.3 million increase in salaries, wages and benefits was primarily due to higher flight crew compensation costs resulting from labor agreements executed during the second half of 2017, which was partially offset by a decrease in direct labor costs resulting from a net reduction in our fleet size and related level of departures and block hours.

Aircraft maintenance, materials and repairs. The \$9.8 million decrease in aircraft maintenance expense was primarily due to a decrease in direct maintenance costs that corresponds with our net decrease in fleet size and block hour reduction of 4.8% during the nine months ended September 30, 2018 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2017, which was partially offset by an increase in the percentage of our fleet that is under long-term,

Power-By-The-Hour engine maintenance agreements, including the additional 34 E175 aircraft added since September 2017.

Depreciation and amortization. The \$31.0 million increase in depreciation and amortization expense was primarily due to the purchase of 34 E175 aircraft and spare engines subsequent to September 30, 2017, which was partially offset by a reduction of less profitable owned aircraft and related depreciation during the same period.

Aircraft rentals. The \$49.1 million decrease in aircraft rentals was primarily due to a reduction of our fleet size that was financed through leases subsequent to September 30, 2017.

Aircraft Fuel. The \$25.9 million increase in fuel cost was primarily due to an increase in the number of prorate flights we operated and the corresponding additional gallons of fuel we purchased along with an increase in our average fuel cost per gallon from \$2.00 for the nine months ended September 30, 2017 to \$2.58 for the nine months ended September 30, 2018. We purchase and incur expense for all fuel on flights operated under our prorate agreements. All fuel costs incurred under our fixed-fee contracts are either purchased directly by our major airline partner, or if

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purchased by us, we record the direct reimbursement as a reduction to our fuel expense. The following table summarizes the gallons of fuel we purchased under our prorate agreements, for the periods indicated:

| (in thousands) | For the nine months ended September 30, | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------|----------|---|
| | 2018 | 2017 | % Change | |
| Fuel gallons purchased | 33,858 | 30,628 | 10.5 | % |
| Fuel expense | \$ 87,208 | \$ 61,295 | 42.3 | % |

Airport-related expenses. The \$10.3 million decrease in airport-related expenses was primarily due to a decrease in airport terminal rents and an increase in terminal rents being directly paid for by our major airline partners under fixed-fee agreements during the nine months ended September 30, 2018.

Other operating expenses. The \$16.3 million increase in other operating expenses was primarily related to an increase in hotel room rates, an increase in the use of hotels for crew trainings and property tax on additional aircraft added since September 30, 2017, which was partially offset by the decrease in fleet size and other operating costs that resulted from the reduction in departures.

Interest Expense. The \$7.8 million increase in interest expense was primarily related to the additional interest expense associated with the 34 E175 aircraft added to our fleet since September 30, 2017 which were debt financed.

Total airline expense. The \$17.1 million increase in total airline expenses was primarily related to an increase in our average fuel cost per gallon incurred under our prorate agreements, an increase in flight crew compensation costs and an increase in engine maintenance costs as an increased percentage of our fleet is under long-term Power-By-The-Hour engine maintenance agreements, partially offset by a reduction in fleet size and related block hour production of 4.8% during the nine months ended September 30, 2018 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2017.

Summary of interest income, other income (expense) and provision for income taxes:

Interest income. Interest income increased \$2.3 million, or 67.5%, during the nine months ended September 30, 2018, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2017. The increase in interest income was primarily related to an increase in interest rates subsequent to September 30, 2017.

Other Income, net. During the nine months ended September 30, 2018, we had other income of \$3.4 million primarily related to a mark-to-market gain on trading securities and excess rotatable spare parts sold during the nine months ended September 30, 2018.

Income taxes. Our provision for income taxes was 22.6% and 36.8% for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively. The decrease in the effective tax rate relates to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 which reduced the federal statutory rate from 35% to 21%, a year-over-year increase in the discrete tax benefit from excess tax deductions generated from employee equity transactions, and a 2018 discrete tax benefit from a release of capital loss carryforward valuation allowance. Multiple variables may impact the future tax benefit from excess tax deductions generated from employee equity transactions including changes in our stock price, timing of employee stock option exercises and timing of restricted share vesting, among other factors.

Net income. Primarily due to the factors described above, we generated net income of \$213.3 million, or \$4.03 per diluted share, for the nine months ended September 30, 2018, compared to net income of \$139.0 million, or \$2.62 per diluted share, for the nine months ended September 30, 2017.

Our Business Segments

Three Months Ended September 30, 2018 and 2017

For the three months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, we had three reportable segments which are the basis of our internal financial reporting: SkyWest Airlines, ExpressJet and SkyWest Leasing. Our segment disclosure relates to components of our business for which separate financial information is available to, and regularly evaluated by, our chief

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operating decision maker. Our operating segments consist of SkyWest Airlines, ExpressJet and SkyWest Leasing. Corporate overhead expense is allocated to the operating expenses of SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet.

| | For the three months ended September 30, (dollar amounts in thousands) | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|------------|------------|----------|---|
| | 2018 | 2017 | \$ Change | % Change | |
| Operating Revenues: | | | | | |
| SkyWest Airlines operating revenue | \$ 607,052 | \$ 558,994 | \$ 48,058 | 8.6 | % |
| ExpressJet operating revenues | 140,155 | 191,368 | (51,213) | (26.8) | % |
| SkyWest Leasing operating revenues | 82,068 | 62,311 | 19,757 | 31.7 | % |
| Total Operating Revenues | \$ 829,275 | \$ 812,673 | \$ 16,602 | 2.0 | % |
| Airline Expenses: | | | | | |
| SkyWest Airlines airline expense | \$ 516,322 | \$ 477,276 | \$ 39,046 | 8.2 | % |
| ExpressJet airline expense | 140,385 | 201,361 | (60,976) | (30.3) | % |
| SkyWest Leasing airline expense | 66,083 | 48,768 | 17,315 | 35.5 | % |
| Total Airline Expense (1) | \$ 722,790 | \$ 727,405 | \$ (4,615) | (0.6) | % |
| Segment profit (loss): | | | | | |
| SkyWest Airlines segment profit | \$ 90,730 | \$ 81,718 | \$ 9,012 | 11.0 | % |
| ExpressJet segment loss | (230) | (9,993) | 9,763 | (97.7) | % |
| SkyWest Leasing profit | 15,985 | 13,543 | 2,442 | 18.0 | % |
| Total Segment Profit | \$ 106,485 | \$ 85,268 | \$ 21,217 | 24.9 | % |
| Interest Income and other income | 2,283 | 1,408 | 875 | 62.1 | % |
| Other Income (Expense), net | 1,157 | — | 1,157 | * | |
| Consolidated Income Before Taxes | \$ 109,925 | \$ 86,676 | \$ 23,249 | 26.8 | % |

(1) Total Airline Expense includes operating expense and interest expense

* is not measurable

SkyWest Airlines Segment Profit. SkyWest Airlines block hour production increased to 355,264, or 8.8%, for the three months ended September 30, 2018, from 326,608 for the three months ended September 30, 2017, primarily due to the additional block hour production from 34 new E175 aircraft added subsequent to September 30, 2017. Significant items contributing to the SkyWest Airlines segment profit are set forth below.

The \$48.1 million, or 8.6%, increase in SkyWest Airlines Operating Revenues for the three months ended September 30, 2018, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2017, was primarily due to revenue associated with 34 additional E175 aircraft subsequent to September 30, 2017.

The \$39.0 million, or 8.2%, increase in SkyWest Airlines Airline Expense for the three months ended September 30, 2018, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2017, was primarily due to the following factors:

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- SkyWest Airlines' salaries, wages and benefits expense increased by \$23.2 million, or 11.8%, primarily due to the additional block hour production.
- SkyWest Airlines' aircraft maintenance, materials and repairs expense increased by \$3.9 million, or 3.8%, primarily attributable to direct maintenance costs related to the increased volume of block hours along with an increase in the percentage of our fleet that is under long-term, Power-By-The-Hour engine maintenance agreements, including the additional 34 E175 aircraft added since September 2017, partially offset by a decrease in the number of maintenance events during the three months ended September 30, 2018 compared to the three months ended September 30, 2017.
- SkyWest Airlines' fuel expense increased \$7.5 million, or 32.8%, primarily due to an increase in the average fuel cost per gallon in 2018 compared to 2017. The average fuel cost per gallon was \$2.69 and \$2.06 for the three months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

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- SkyWest Airlines' other operating expense increased \$6.0 million, or 22.9%, primarily due to an increase in the use of hotels for crews, property taxes on additional aircraft added since September 30, 2017 and an increase in direct operating costs associated with the increase in block hour production year-over-year.

ExpressJet Segment Loss. ExpressJet's block hour production decreased to 92,761, or 35.3%, for the three months ended September 30, 2018, from 143,293 for the three months ended September 30, 2017, primarily due to the reduction in fleet size. Significant items contributing to the ExpressJet segment loss are set forth below.

The \$51.2 million, or 26.8%, decrease in ExpressJet Operating Revenues for the three months ended September 30, 2018, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2017, was primarily due to a reduction in block hour production due to a reduced fleet size since September 30, 2017.

The \$61.0 million, or 30.3%, decrease in ExpressJet Airline Expense for the three months ended September 30, 2018, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2017, was primarily due to the following factors:

- ExpressJet's salaries, wages and benefits expense decreased \$25.9 million, or 24.3%, primarily due to a reduction in direct labor costs associated with 35.3% fewer block hours produced year-over-year.
- ExpressJet's aircraft maintenance, materials and repairs expense decreased \$11.4 million, or 25.0%, primarily due to the decrease in fleet size subsequent to September 30, 2017.
- ExpressJet's aircraft rental expenses decreased \$8.1 million, or 83.8%, primarily due to a reduction of ExpressJet's fleet size that was financed through leases subsequent to September 30, 2017.
- ExpressJet's airport-related expenses decreased \$4.3 million, or 80.6%, primarily due to a reduction in station rents since September 30, 2017.
- ExpressJet's other operating expense decreased \$6.9 million, or 33.9%, primarily due to a decrease in direct operating costs associated with a 35.3% reduction in block hour production year-over-year.

SkyWest Leasing Segment Profit. SkyWest Leasing profit increased \$2.4 million during the three months ended September 30, 2018, compared to the three months ended September 30, 2017, primarily due to 34 E175 aircraft added to our fleet subsequent to September 30, 2017.

Nine Months Ended September 30, 2018 and 2017

For the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, we had three reportable segments which are the basis of our internal financial reporting: SkyWest Airlines, ExpressJet and SkyWest Leasing. Our segment disclosure relates to components of our business for which separate financial information is available to, and regularly evaluated by, our chief

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operating decision maker. Our operating segments consist of SkyWest Airlines, ExpressJet and SkyWest Leasing. Corporate overhead expense is allocated to the operating expenses of SkyWest Airlines and ExpressJet.

| | For the nine months ended September 30, (dollar amounts in thousands) | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------|------------|----------|---|
| | 2018 | 2017 | \$ Change | % Change | |
| Operating Revenues: | | | | | |
| SkyWest Airlines operating revenue | \$ 1,750,827 | \$ 1,543,618 | \$ 207,209 | 13.4 | % |
| ExpressJet operating revenues | 444,943 | 631,634 | (186,691) | (29.6) | % |
| SkyWest Leasing operating revenues | 222,420 | 176,099 | 46,321 | 26.3 | % |
| Total Operating Revenues | \$ 2,418,190 | \$ 2,351,351 | \$ 66,839 | 2.8 | % |
| Airline Expenses: | | | | | |
| SkyWest Airlines airline expense | \$ 1,518,020 | \$ 1,348,742 | \$ 169,278 | 12.6 | % |
| ExpressJet airline expense | 457,348 | 647,709 | (190,361) | (29.4) | % |
| SkyWest Leasing airline expense | 176,529 | 138,354 | 38,175 | 27.6 | % |
| Total Airline Expense (1) | \$ 2,151,897 | \$ 2,134,805 | \$ 17,092 | 0.8 | % |
| Segment profit (loss): | | | | | |
| SkyWest Airlines segment profit | \$ 232,807 | \$ 194,876 | \$ 37,931 | 19.5 | % |
| ExpressJet segment loss | (12,405) | (16,075) | 3,670 | (22.8) | % |
| SkyWest Leasing profit | 45,891 | 37,745 | 8,146 | 21.6 | % |
| Total Segment Profit | \$ 266,293 | \$ 216,546 | \$ 49,747 | 23.0 | % |
| Interest Income and other income | 5,692 | 3,398 | 2,294 | 67.5 | % |
| Other Income (Expense), net | 1,157 | — | 1,157 | * | |
| Consolidated Income Before Taxes | \$ 273,142 | \$ 219,944 | \$ 53,198 | 24.2 | % |

(1) Total Airline Expense includes operating expense and interest expense

* is not measurable

SkyWest Airlines Segment Profit. SkyWest Airlines block hour production increased to 1,028,492, or 13.2%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2018, from 908,364 for the nine months ended September 30, 2017, primarily due to the additional block hour production from 34 new E175 aircraft added subsequent to September 30, 2017. Significant items contributing to the SkyWest Airlines segment profit are set forth below.

The \$207.2 million, or 13.4%, increase in SkyWest Airlines Operating Revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2018, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2017, was primarily due to revenue associated with 34 additional E175 aircraft subsequent to September 30, 2017.

The \$169.3 million, or 12.6%, increase in SkyWest Airlines Airline Expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2018, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2017, was primarily due to the following factors:

- SkyWest Airlines' salaries, wages and benefits expense increased by \$84.3 million, or 15.1%, primarily due to the additional block hour production along with higher flight crew compensation costs resulting from labor agreements executed during the second half of 2017.
- SkyWest Airlines' aircraft maintenance, materials and repairs expense increased by \$31.3 million, or 11.3%, primarily attributable to an increase in the percentage of our fleet that is under long-term, Power-By-The-Hour engine maintenance agreements, including the additional 34 E175 aircraft added since September 2017, and direct maintenance costs related to the increased volume of block hours.
- SkyWest Airlines' fuel expense increased \$26.8 million, or 44.4%, primarily due to an increase in the average fuel cost per gallon in 2018 compared to 2017 along with an increase in the volume of gallons purchased. The average fuel cost per gallon was \$2.58 and \$2.00 for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

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- SkyWest Airlines' other operating expense increased \$34.8 million, or 27.6%, primarily due to an increase in the use of hotels for crews, property taxes on additional aircraft added since September 30, 2017 and an increase in direct operating costs associated with a 13.2% increase in block hour production year-over-year.

ExpressJet Segment Loss. ExpressJet's block hour production decreased to 295,074, or 38.7%, for the nine months ended September 30, 2018, from 481,320 for the nine months ended September 30, 2017, primarily due to the reduction in fleet size. Significant items contributing to the ExpressJet segment loss are set forth below.

The \$186.7 million, or 29.6%, decrease in ExpressJet Operating Revenues for the nine months ended September 30, 2018, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2017, was primarily due to a reduction in block hour production due to a reduced fleet size since September 30, 2017.

The \$190.4 million, or 29.4%, decrease in ExpressJet Airline Expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2018, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2017, was primarily due to the following factors:

- ExpressJet's salaries, wages and benefits expense decreased \$79.3 million, or 23.5%, primarily due to a reduction in direct labor costs associated with 38.7% fewer block hours produced year-over-year.
- ExpressJet's aircraft maintenance, materials and repairs expense decreased \$44.0 million, or 28.1%, primarily due to the decrease in fleet size subsequent to September 30, 2017.
- ExpressJet's aircraft rental expenses decreased \$23.4 million, or 79.5%, primarily due to a reduction of ExpressJet's fleet size that was financed through leases subsequent to September 30, 2017.
- ExpressJet's airport-related expenses decreased \$14.6 million, or 83.6%, primarily due to a reduction in station rents since September 30, 2017.
- ExpressJet's other operating expense decreased \$18.5 million, or 28.8%, primarily due to a decrease in direct operating costs associated with a 38.7% reduction in block hour production year-over-year.

SkyWest Leasing Segment Profit. SkyWest Leasing profit increased \$8.1 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2018, compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2017, primarily due to 34 E175 aircraft added to our fleet subsequent to September 30, 2017.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Sources and Uses of Cash

Cash Position and Liquidity. The following table provides a summary of the net cash provided by (used in) our operating, investing and financing activities for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 and 2017, and our total cash and marketable securities positions as of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017 (in thousands):

| | For the nine months ended September 30, | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------|------------|----------|---|--|
| | 2018 | 2017 | \$ Change | % Change | | |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | \$ 573,127 | \$ 532,289 | \$ 40,838 | 7.7 | % | |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (742,358) | (695,054) | (47,304) | 6.8 | % | |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | 312,000 | 114,084 | 197,916 | 173.5 | % | |
| | | | | | | |
| | September 30, | December 31, | \$ Change | % Change | | |
| | 2018 | 2017 | | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 324,561 | \$ 181,792 | \$ 142,769 | 78.5 | % | |
| Marketable securities | 380,242 | 503,503 | (123,261) | (24.5) | % | |
| Total cash and marketable securities | \$ 704,803 | \$ 685,295 | \$ 19,508 | 2.8 | % | |

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Cash Flows provided by Operating Activities

The \$40.8 million increase in net cash provided by operating activities was primarily due to an increase in income before income taxes of \$55.5 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2017. This increase in net cash provided by operating activities was partially offset by changes in working capital.

Cash Flows used in Investing Activities

The \$47.3 million increase in cash used in investing activities was primarily due to the acquisition of 31 E175 aircraft and the related spare aircraft assets during the nine months ended September 30, 2018, compared to 18 E175 aircraft and the related spare aircraft assets purchased during the nine months ended September 30, 2017, which in total represented an increase of \$285.2 million. This increase in cash used in investing activities was significantly offset by net liquidation of marketable securities, which provided an additional \$282.4 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2018 compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2017. Additionally, during the nine months ended September 30, 2017, we received proceeds from the sale of 15 CRJ200 aircraft, eleven EMB120 aircraft and one CRJ700 aircraft for \$51.1 million.

Cash Flows provided by Financing Activities

The \$197.9 million increase in cash provided by financing activities was primarily related to proceeds from the issuance of long-term debt of \$626.2 million associated with 31 E175 aircraft acquired during the nine months ended September 30, 2018, compared to proceeds from the issuance of debt of \$384.8 million associated with 18 E175 aircraft acquired during the nine months ended September 30, 2017. During the nine months ended September 30, 2018, we used an additional \$17.2 million as principal payments on long-term debt primarily due to the additional E175 aircraft acquired subsequent to September 30, 2017, partially offset by the payoff of debt on 15 CRJ200 aircraft and one CRJ700 aircraft that we sold during the nine months ended September 30, 2017. Additionally, during the nine months ended September 30, 2018, we used an additional \$24.4 million to purchase treasury shares and make income tax payments towards vested employee equity awards.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

We believe that in the absence of unusual circumstances, the working capital currently available to us will be sufficient to meet our present financial requirements, including anticipated expansion, planned capital expenditures, and scheduled lease payments and debt service obligations for at least the next 12 months.

At September 30, 2018, our total capital mix was 41.2% equity and 58.8% long-term debt, compared to 42.5% equity and 57.5% long-term debt at December 31, 2017.

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Significant Commitments and Obligations

General

The following table summarizes our commitments and obligations as noted for each of the next five years and thereafter (in thousands):

| | Total | Oct - Dec 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | Thereafter |
|--|--------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Operating lease payments for aircraft and facility obligations | \$ 495,771 | \$ 25,327 | \$ 83,268 | \$ 98,790 | \$ 90,378 | \$ 72,438 | \$ 125,570 |
| Firm aircraft and spare engine commitments | 352,925 | 211,485 | 27,500 | 27,500 | 86,440 | — | — |
| Interest commitments (1) | 600,413 | 60,498 | 111,075 | 96,051 | 82,139 | 69,227 | 181,423 |
| Principal maturities on long-term debt | 3,134,768 | 90,653 | 360,599 | 342,080 | 336,897 | 342,439 | 1,662,100 |
| Total commitments and obligations | \$ 4,583,877 | \$ 387,963 | \$ 582,442 | \$ 564,421 | \$ 595,854 | \$ 484,104 | \$ 1,969,093 |

(1) At September 30, 2018, we had variable rate notes representing only 1.0% of our total long-term debt.

Purchase Commitments and Options

As of September 30, 2018, we had a firm purchase commitment for eleven E175 aircraft from Embraer, S.A. with scheduled delivery dates through the end of 2018 or early 2019 with the exception of three E175 aircraft that are anticipated to be delivered in 2021.

We have not historically funded a substantial portion of our aircraft acquisitions with working capital. Rather, we have generally funded our aircraft acquisitions through a combination of operating leases and long-term debt financing. At the time of each aircraft acquisition, we evaluate the financing alternatives available to us, and select one or more of these methods to fund the acquisition. At present, we intend to fund our acquisition of any additional aircraft through cash on hand and debt financing. Based on current market conditions and discussions with prospective leasing organizations and financial institutions, we currently believe that we will be able to obtain financing for our committed acquisitions, as well as additional aircraft. We intend to finance the firm order for eleven E175 aircraft with approximately 85% debt and the remaining balance with cash.

Aircraft Lease and Facility Obligations

We also have significant long-term lease obligations primarily relating to our aircraft fleet. At September 30, 2018, we had 265 aircraft under lease with remaining terms ranging from one year or less to nine years. Future minimum lease payments due under all long-term operating leases were approximately \$495.8 million at September 30, 2018. Assuming a 5.0% discount rate, which is the average rate used to approximate the implicit rates within the applicable aircraft leases, the present value of these lease obligations would have been equal to approximately \$403.1 million at September 30, 2018.

Long-term Debt Obligations

As of September 30, 2018, we had \$3.1 billion of long-term debt obligations, including current maturities, related to the acquisition of CRJ200, CRJ700, CRJ900 and E175 aircraft and spare engine financings. The average effective interest rate on the debt related to such aircraft and spare engine financings was approximately 4.2% at September 30, 2018.

Guarantees

We have guaranteed the obligations of SkyWest Airlines under the SkyWest Airlines Delta Connection Agreement and the SkyWest Airlines United Express Agreement for the E175 aircraft. We have also guaranteed the

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obligations of ExpressJet under the ExpressJet Delta Connection Agreement and the ExpressJet United ERJ Agreement. In addition, we have guaranteed certain other obligations under aircraft financing and leasing agreements.

Seasonality

Our results of operations for any interim period are not necessarily indicative of those for an entire year, since the airline industry is subject to seasonal fluctuations and general economic conditions. Our operations are somewhat favorably affected by increased travel on our prorate routes, historically occurring during the summer months, and unfavorably affected by decreased travel during the months November through February and by inclement weather, which may occasionally or frequently, depending on the severity of the inclement weather in any given winter, result in cancelled flights during the winter months.

ITEM 3: QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Aircraft Fuel

In the past, we have not experienced difficulties with fuel availability and we currently expect to be able to obtain fuel at prevailing prices in quantities sufficient to meet our future needs. Pursuant to our fixed-fee arrangements, United, Delta, Alaska and American have agreed to bear the economic risk of fuel price fluctuations on our contracted flights. We bear the economic risk of fuel price fluctuations on our prorate operations. For the nine months ended September 30, 2018, prorate flying arrangements represented approximately 15.7% of our total flying agreements revenue. For illustrative purposes only, we have estimated the impact of the market risk of fuel price fluctuations on our prorate operations using a hypothetical increase of 25% in the price per gallon we purchase. Based on this hypothetical assumption, we would have incurred an additional \$21.8 million in fuel expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2018.

Interest Rates

Our earnings may be affected by changes in interest rates due to our variable rate long-term debt. The interest rates applicable to variable rate debt may rise and increase our interest expense. At September 30, 2018, we had variable rate notes representing 1.0% of our total long-term debt compared to 2.5% of our long-term debt at December 31, 2017 and changes in interest rates are not expected to have a material adverse effect on our earnings. For illustrative purposes only, we have estimated the impact of market risk using a hypothetical increase in interest rates of one percentage point for variable rate long-term debt. Based on this hypothetical assumption, we would have incurred an additional \$0.4 million in interest expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2018.

We currently intend to finance the acquisition of aircraft through manufacturer financing, third-party leases or long-term borrowings. Changes in interest rates may impact the actual cost to us to acquire these aircraft. To the extent we place these aircraft in service under our code-share agreements with Delta, United, American, Alaska or other carriers, our code-share agreements currently provide that reimbursement rates will be adjusted higher or lower to reflect changes in our aircraft financing interest rates.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, performed an evaluation of our disclosure controls and procedures, which have been designed to ensure that information we are required to disclose in the reports we file or submit 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 rules and forms of the SEC. Our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, concluded that, as of September 30, 2018, those controls and procedures were effective to ensure that information we are required to disclose in the reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

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Changes in Internal Control

During the nine months ended September 30, 2018, we implemented changes to our processes in response to the adoption of Accounting Standards Update No. 2014-09 “Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)” that became effective January 1, 2018. The operating effectiveness of these changes will be evaluated as part of our annual assessment of the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

We are subject to certain legal actions which we consider routine to our business activities. As of September 30, 2018, there were no pending legal proceedings that, if decided against us, were likely to have a material adverse effect on our financial position, liquidity or results of operations.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

In addition to the other information set forth in this Report, you should carefully consider the factors discussed in Part I, Item 1A, “Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 and in our other filings with the SEC, which factors could materially affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. The risks described in our reports filed with the SEC are not the only risks facing our company. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

Our Board of Directors has adopted a stock repurchase program which authorizes us to repurchase shares of our common stock in the public market or in private transactions, from time to time, at prevailing prices. Our stock repurchase program currently authorizes the repurchase of up to \$100.0 million of our common stock. The following table summarizes the repurchases under our stock repurchase program during the three months ended September 30, 2018.

| | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid Per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of a Publicly Announced Program (1) | Maximum Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Program (in Thousands) |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| | | \$ | | \$ |
| July 1, 2018 — July 31, 2018 | 10,000 | 59.87 | 10,000 | 69,390 |
| August 1, 2018 — August 31, 2018 | 111,996 | 60.07 | 111,996 | 62,661 |
| September 1, 2018 — September 30, 2018 | 128,293 | 61.04 | 128,293 | 54,828 |
| | | \$ | | \$ |
| Total | 250,289 | 60.56 | 250,289 | 54,828 |

(1) On February 9, 2017, we announced that our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$100.0 million of our common stock over the next three years. Purchases are made at management's discretion based on market conditions and financial resources. As of September 30, 2018, we had repurchased 911,648 shares of our common stock for \$45.2 million under this authorization.

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ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

| | |
|---------|--|
| 31.1 | <u>Certification of Chief Executive Officer</u> |
| 31.2 | <u>Certification of Chief Financial Officer</u> |
| 32.1 | <u>Certification of Chief Executive Officer</u> |
| 32.2 | <u>Certification of Chief Financial Officer</u> |
| 101.INS | XBRL Instance Document |
| 101.SCH | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document |
| 101.CAL | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document |
| 101.DEF | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document |
| 101.LAB | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document |
| 101.PRE | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document |

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Registrant has duly caused this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2018, to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, on November 6, 2018.

SKYWEST, INC.

By /s/ Robert J. Simmons
Robert J. Simmons
Chief Financial Officer