

ACUITY BRANDS INC
Form 11-K
June 30, 2015
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 11-K

Annual Report Pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Mark One)

R ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT
OF 1934.
For the fiscal year ended: December 31, 2014

OR

o TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE
ACT OF 1934.
For the transition period from to .
Commission file number 001-16583

A. Full title of the plans and the address of the plans, if different from that of the Issuer named below:

Acuity Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan
Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees
Holophane Division of Acuity Brands Lighting 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees Covered by a
Collective Bargaining Agreement

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plans and the address of the Principal executive
office:

Acuity Brands, Inc.
1170 Peachtree Street, NE
Suite 2300
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

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Acuity Brands, Inc.

Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans

Audited Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013 and for the year ended December 31, 2014

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
To the Plan Administrator
Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans
Atlanta, GA

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of Acuity Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan, Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees, and Holophane Division of Acuity Brands Lighting 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees Covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement (“Plans”) as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2014. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plans' management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The Plans are not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plans' internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plans as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2014, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The accompanying supplemental Schedule H, Line 4i Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2014 has been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Plans' financial statements. The supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plans' management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental schedule reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental schedule. In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, the supplemental schedule is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

/s/ BDO USA, LLP

Atlanta, Georgia
June 30, 2015

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Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

As of December 31, 2014

| | Acuity Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan | Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees | Holophane Division of Acuity Brands Lighting 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees Covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Filing Plan No. | 033 | 067 | 070 | |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Plan interest in Acuity DC Trust at fair value | \$248,682,178 | \$7,246,179 | \$19,179,093 | |
| Receivables: | | | | |
| Employer contribution | 1,095 | — | 414 | |
| Participant contributions | 363 | 67 | 31 | |
| Notes receivable from participants | 2,358,541 | 156,542 | 469,140 | |
| Total Assets | 251,042,177 | 7,402,788 | 19,648,678 | |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Accrued expenses | 63,191 | 1,863 | 4,946 | |
| Net assets at fair value | 250,978,986 | 7,400,925 | 19,643,732 | |
| Valuation adjustment * | (1,328,732 |) (41,919 |) (255,490 |) |
| Net assets available for benefits | \$249,650,254 | \$7,359,006 | \$19,388,242 | |
| Plan interest percentage in Acuity DC Trust | 90.4 | % 2.6 | % 7.0 | % |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

* Represents adjustment from fair value to contract value for interest in the Acuity DC Trust related to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts. See Note 2 Summary of Accounting Policies.

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Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

As of December 31, 2013

| | Acuity Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan | Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees | Holophane Division of Acuity Brands Lighting 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees Covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Filing Plan No. | 033 | 067 | 070 | |
| Assets: | | | | |
| Plan interest in Acuity DC Trust at fair value | \$236,537,398 | \$7,065,117 | \$18,334,118 | |
| Receivables: | | | | |
| Employer contribution | 64,856 | — | — | |
| Participant contributions | 202 | — | — | |
| Notes receivable from participants | 2,118,021 | 172,065 | 455,930 | |
| Total Assets | 238,720,477 | 7,237,182 | 18,790,048 | |
| Liabilities: | | | | |
| Accrued expenses | 63,118 | 1,914 | 4,968 | |
| Net assets at fair value | 238,657,359 | 7,235,268 | 18,785,080 | |
| Valuation adjustment * | (1,110,003 |) (36,588 |) (221,878 |) |
| Net assets available for benefits | \$237,547,356 | \$7,198,680 | \$18,563,202 | |
| Plan interest percentage in Acuity DC Trust | 90.3 | % 2.7 | % 7.0 | % |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

* Represents adjustment from fair value to contract value for interest in the Acuity DC Trust related to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts. See Note 2 Summary of Accounting Policies.

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Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

Year Ended December 31, 2014

| | Acuity Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan | Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees | Holophane Division of Acuity Brands Lighting 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees Covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement |
|---|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Filing Plan No. | 033 | 067 | 070 |
| Additions to net assets attributed to: | | | |
| Net investment gain from Acuity DC Trust | \$17,200,849 | \$491,639 | \$1,058,080 |
| Contributions: | | | |
| Employer | 4,920,978 | 78,939 | 275,935 |
| Participant | 12,808,118 | 370,730 | 377,305 |
| Total additions | 34,929,945 | 941,308 | 1,711,320 |
| Deductions from net assets attributed to: | | | |
| Benefit payments | 22,634,381 | 774,636 | 878,479 |
| Expenses | 193,243 | 5,769 | 7,801 |
| Total deductions | 22,827,624 | 780,405 | 886,280 |
| Net increase | \$12,102,321 | \$160,903 | \$825,040 |
| Plan transfers in (out), net | 577 | (577 |) — |
| Net assets available for benefits: | | | |
| Beginning of year | \$237,547,356 | \$7,198,680 | \$18,563,202 |
| End of year | \$249,650,254 | \$7,359,006 | \$19,388,242 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans
Notes to Financial Statements

1. Description of the Plans

General

The financial positions of Acuity Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan (the "ABI Plan"), Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees (the "ABL Plan"), and Holophane Division of Acuity Brands Lighting 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees Covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement (the "Holophane Plan") (collectively, the "Plans") are included in the accompanying financial statements. The investment assets of the Plans are included in the Acuity Brands, Inc. Defined Contribution Plans Master Trust (the "Acuity DC Trust"). The Plans are subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA").

Refer to the respective plan agreement for additional information about the Plans' eligibility, funding, allocation, vesting, and benefit provisions.

Eligibility and Forfeitures

Each of the Plans is a defined contribution plan. The Plans cover substantially all domestic salaried, commissioned, union and non-union hourly employees of Acuity Brands, Inc. and its subsidiaries ("Acuity Brands" or the "Company"). Employees of certain unions who have elected not to participate in such Plans are not eligible to participate.

Employees have immediate eligibility upon attaining the age requirement of each respective plan. The Plans provide that forfeitures of Company contributions may be used to pay plan administrative expenses or reduce future Company contributions. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, forfeited nonvested accounts totaled \$326,835 and \$51,115, respectively. During the year ended December 31, 2013, employer contributions were reduced by forfeited nonvested accounts of \$303,829. Employer contributions were not reduced by forfeited nonvested accounts during the year ended December 31, 2014. Plan expenses totaling \$72,201 were paid using forfeited nonvested accounts during the year ended December 31, 2014.

In the event of the cessation of operation of a plant or the discontinuance of a component of the Company's business, plan participants identified for separation from the Company shall automatically become fully vested in employer contributions upon termination.

Administration

Administration of the Plans is the responsibility of the Company's Investment Committee, members of which are designated by the Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Acuity Brands, Inc. All administrative expenses of the Plans were paid by either the Company or plan forfeitures during the year ended December 31, 2014. The Investment Committee determines the appropriateness of the Plan's investment offerings and monitors investment performance.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participant loans are reflected as notes receivable from participants on the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits. Participants may borrow the lesser of 50% of their vested balance or \$50,000 (reduced by the participant's highest outstanding loan balance from the twelve months prior to the loan request). Participants agree to loan repayment terms upon endorsement of the borrowed funds. Only one outstanding general-purpose loan and one residence loan, a loan issued for the purchase of a primary residence, are permitted during a calendar year. The Holophane Plan is the only plan which allows for residential loans. The loan interest rate is set at one percent above the prime rate, as defined.

Loan repayments must be substantially equal in amount over the term of the loan and must be made by payroll deduction on an after-tax basis. General-purpose loans must be repaid within five years and residential loans must be repaid within ten years.

Loan repayments may be suspended, at the discretion of the Company, for a period of not more than twelve months if a participant is on unpaid leave of absence, disability, or military service. Upon return, the loan will be amortized over the remaining initial loan repayment period.

Plan Termination

Although the Company intends for the Plans to be permanent, the Plan agreements provide the Company the right to discontinue contributions or to terminate the Plans at any time and to terminate the plan subject to the provisions of ERISA.

In the event of a plan termination, each respective participant shall be 100% vested in the balance of his/her account and his/her proportionate share of any future adjustments or forfeitures.

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Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans
Notes to Financial Statements

Parties-In-Interest Transactions

As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, the percentage of the Acuity DC Trust's net assets invested in the common stock of Acuity Brands, Inc. was 4.6% and 4.3%, respectively. As described in Note 2 Summary of Accounting Policies, the Plans paid certain expenses related to plan operations and investment activity to various service providers. These transactions are party-in-interest transactions under ERISA.

Vesting

Participants are vested immediately in their contributions and the related earnings. Participants in the ABI Plan and the ABL Plan vest in the Company's contributions to their accounts ratably over a five-year service period.

Participants in the Holophane Plan vest in the Company's contributions to their accounts immediately upon the third anniversary of their hire date.

Payments of Benefits

On termination of service due to death, disability or retirement, a participant may elect to receive either a lump sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account, or annual installments over a 10-year period. For termination of service for other reasons, a participant may receive the value of the vested interest in his or her account as a lump sum distribution.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions and Company matching contributions, as well as the applicable portion of net earnings/losses generated by the investment fund(s) selected by the participant. Net earnings/losses for each investment fund consist of both realized and unrealized gross earnings/losses which are adjusted to incorporate fund management expenses specific to each investment fund. Many of the investment funds provide for a revenue sharing arrangement with the Plans that provides for a portion of the fund expenses to be credited to the Plans to pay for certain administrative expenses that are incurred by the Plans. Fees related to the administration of notes receivable from participants are charged directly to the participant's account. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Contributions

The basis for determining participant and Company contributions is as follows:

| Plan Name | Participant Contributions | Employer Contributions |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| Acuity Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan | 1% to 50% of compensation | Matching contribution of 60% up to 6% of participant compensation contributed. New hires are automatically enrolled at 3% contribution to the plan. Teamsters Local Union 673 - Through December 14, 2014, Midwest Regional Warehouse employees receive an employer contribution equal to \$0.17 per hour worked regardless of whether they made participant deferrals into the plan. Beginning December 15, 2014, Midwest Regional Warehouse employees have a matching contribution of 60% up to 6% of participant compensation contributed. |
| Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees | 1% to 25% of compensation | Non-union hourly employees have a matching contribution of 60% up to 6% of participant compensation contributed as of June 2013. All other employees at all other locations participating in the plan do not receive an employer contribution. |
| Holophane Division of Acuity Brands Lighting 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees Covered by a Collective Bargaining | 1% to 25% of compensation | USW Local Nos. 4, 105 and 525 - Participating employees hired prior to August 5, 2002 receive an employer matching contribution of 30% up to 6% of compensation contributed, plus an additional basic contribution of 5% of annual compensation. Participating employees |

Agreement

hired on or after August 5, 2002 receive an employer matching contribution of 60% up to 6% of compensation contributed.

Under all of the Plans, participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. Additionally, participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified plans. Effective October 2013, an amendment was executed to allow elective Roth contributions in the Plans. Contributions are subject to certain IRS limitations.

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Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans
Notes to Financial Statements

2. Summary of Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements are prepared on the accrual method of accounting.

Investments

The investments in the Acuity DC Trust are subject to certain administrative guidelines and limitations as to the type and amount of securities held. Fund assets are allocated to selected independent investment managers to invest under these guidelines.

Investments of the Acuity DC Trust are stated at fair value. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (an exit price). Refer to Note 3 Acuity DC Trust and Note 5 Fair Value Measurements for further discussion. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the dividend date. Net appreciation includes the Plans' gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

The Acuity DC Trust holds investments in the Invesco Stable Value Fund, which holds synthetic guaranteed investment contracts ("synthetic GICs" or "wrap contracts") and a diversified portfolio of investments, primarily units of collective trust funds held in the name of the Acuity DC Trust. The collective trust funds invest in high-quality bonds, including corporate bonds, mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities, and government securities. The synthetic GICs or wrap contracts have features that provide for variable interest crediting rates which are credited to the contract value of the contracts' underlying holdings. As required by Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 946, Financial Services-Investment Companies, ("ASC 946"), and ASC 962, Plan Accounting-Defined Contribution Pension Plans, ("ASC 962"), the investments in synthetic GICs deemed to be fully benefit-responsive are presented at fair value within Plan Interest in Acuity DC Trust at fair value on the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits. A valuation adjustment has also been included in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits so that the ending values of the synthetic GICs are recorded at contract value.

Contract value represents contributions made under the contract, plus earnings, less member withdrawals and administrative expenses. Members may ordinarily direct the withdrawal and transfer of all or a portion of their investment at contract value. The crediting interest rate is based on a mutually agreed upon formula that resets on a monthly basis depending on the performance of the underlying investments being managed. The crediting interest rate will not be less than 0%.

Certain events limit the ability of the Plans to transact at contract value with the issuers. These events include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) amendments to the Plan documents that materially and adversely affect the risk borne by the contract issuer, unless otherwise approved by the issuers, (2) bankruptcy of the Plans' sponsor or other events which cause a significant withdrawal from the Plans, or (3) the failure of the Acuity DC Trust to qualify for exemption from federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under ERISA. Acuity Brands does not believe that the occurrence of any event limiting the Plans' ability to transact at contract value with the issuers has occurred or is probable.

The contract issuers can only terminate the contract under very limited circumstances, such as Acuity Brands or the investment fund managers breaching any of their material obligations under the agreement, or upon completion of specified periods of time following notice periods. Acuity Brands does not believe it is likely that the contracts will be terminated.

The average yield of the Invesco Stable Value Fund based on actual earnings was approximately 2.18% and 2.30% at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The average yield credited to members reflecting all investments in the Stable Value Fund was approximately 2.17% and 2.06% at December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, the fair values of the underlying assets of the synthetic GICs were \$49,993,402 and \$50,521,061, respectively. At December 31, 2014 and 2013, the values of the wrap contracts and valuation

adjustments included in the Acuity DC Trust were \$(1,626,141) and \$(1,368,469), respectively.

Notes Receivable from Participants

The notes receivable from participants represent participant loans, which are carried at principal amounts outstanding plus accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expense and are expensed when they are incurred. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2014 and 2013. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and the Plan Administrator deems the participant loan to be in default, the participant loan balance is reduced and a benefit payment is recorded.

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Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans
Notes to Financial Statements

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Payments

Benefit payments are recorded when paid.

Expenses

Investment related expenses are included in net appreciation of fair value of investments. Many of the investment funds provide for a revenue sharing arrangement with the Plans that provides for a portion of the fund expenses to be credited to the Plans to pay for certain administrative expenses that are incurred by the Plans, such as record keeping and investment advisory fees. Certain expenses of maintaining the Plans are paid directly by the Company and are excluded from these financial statements. Fees related to the administration of notes receivable from participants are charged directly to the participant's account and are included in administrative expenses.

Accounting Standards to be Adopted

The FASB has issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) No. 2015-07, Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Disclosures for Investments in Certain Entities That Calculate Net Asset Value per Share (or Its Equivalent). The amendments apply to reporting entities that elect to measure the fair value of an investment using the net asset value per share (or its equivalent) practical expedient. The amendments remove the requirement to categorize within the fair value hierarchy all investments for which fair value is measured using the net asset value per share practical expedient. The amendments also remove the requirement to make certain disclosures for all investments that are eligible to be measured at fair value using the net asset value per share practical expedient. Rather, those disclosures are limited to investments for which the entity has elected to measure the fair value using that practical expedient.

3. Acuity DC Trust

The Acuity DC Trust is a collective investment of the assets of the Company's participating employee benefit plans. Trust assets are allocated among participating plans by assigning to each plan certain transactions (primarily contributions and benefit payments which can be specifically identified and distributed among all plans) in proportion to the fair value of the assets assigned to each plan, and income and expenses resulting from the collective investment of the Trust assets. The fair value of net assets of the Acuity DC Trust as of December 31, 2014 and 2013 is presented below:

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Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans
Notes to Financial Statements

| | 2014 Value | Plans' Percentage Interest | | | | | |
|---|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----|------|----|
| | | Plan No. 033 | Plan No. 067 | Plan No. 070 | | | |
| Mutual Funds | | | | | | | |
| American Beacon Large Cap Value | \$ 16,111,194 | 92.1 | %* | 1.9 | % | 6.0 | %* |
| Northern Small Cap Value | 11,359,636 | 95.8 | % | 2.6 | % | 1.6 | % |
| T Rowe Price Growth | 13,187,528 | 90.7 | % | 2.0 | % | 7.3 | % |
| T. Rowe Price Mid Cap | 23,276,003 | 89.3 | %* | 3.1 | %* | 7.6 | %* |
| Templeton Institutional | 12,248,327 | 94.6 | % | 2.1 | % | 3.3 | % |
| Vanguard Explorer Admiral | 12,218,000 | 88.2 | % | 2.2 | % | 9.6 | %* |
| Vanguard Institutional Index | 35,779,577 | 91.9 | %* | 2.9 | %* | 5.2 | %* |
| Vanguard Selected Value | 9,160,182 | 95.4 | % | 1.8 | % | 2.8 | % |
| Wells Fargo Target 2010 | 807,176 | 89.1 | % | 8.1 | % | 2.8 | % |
| Wells Fargo Target 2015 | 2,852,277 | 92.5 | % | 3.5 | % | 4.0 | % |
| Wells Fargo Target 2020 | 6,078,412 | 79.7 | % | 7.0 | %* | 13.3 | % |
| Wells Fargo Target 2025 | 9,587,410 | 90.1 | % | 5.0 | %* | 4.9 | % |
| Wells Fargo Target 2030 | 8,574,083 | 93.4 | % | 3.0 | % | 3.6 | % |
| Wells Fargo Target 2035 | 7,139,840 | 92.4 | % | 6.5 | %* | 1.1 | % |
| Wells Fargo Target 2040 | 5,105,958 | 96.5 | % | 2.1 | % | 1.4 | % |
| Wells Fargo Target 2045 | 3,705,136 | 96.0 | % | 4.0 | % | — | % |
| Wells Fargo Target 2050 | 2,599,831 | 98.5 | % | 1.5 | % | — | % |
| Wells Fargo Target 2055 | 551,216 | 93.8 | % | 6.1 | % | 0.1 | % |
| Wells Fargo Target Today | 41,051 | 87.1 | % | 1.0 | % | 11.9 | % |
| Total Mutual Funds | 180,382,837 | | | | | | |
| Self-Directed Brokerage Accounts | | | | | | | |
| Money Market Fund | 3,751,625 | 98.8 | % | — | % | 1.2 | % |
| Corporate Bonds | 495,444 | 100.0 | % | — | % | — | % |
| Mutual Funds | 2,926,351 | 95.5 | % | — | % | 4.5 | % |
| Preferred Stocks | 40,908 | 100.0 | % | — | % | — | % |
| Common Stocks | 12,351,498 | 94.2 | % | — | % | 5.8 | % |
| Total Self-Directed Brokerage Accounts | 19,565,826 | | | | | | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | |
| Acuity Brands Stock Fund | 12,746,224 | 96.0 | % | 1.7 | % | 2.3 | % |
| Common/Collective Trusts | | | | | | | |
| SSGA US Bond Index Fund CL P | 9,940,038 | 95.4 | % | 2.2 | % | 2.4 | % |
| Invesco Stable Value Fund | 52,059,167 | 81.7 | %* | 2.6 | %* | 15.7 | %* |
| Total Common/Collective Trusts | 61,999,205 | | | | | | |
| Total Investments at fair value | 274,694,092 | | | | | | |
| Unallocated Cash | 412,595 | | | | | | |
| Accrued Investment Income | 314 | | | | | | |
| Adjustment for pending trades | 450 | | | | | | |
| Acuity DC Trust at fair value | 275,107,451 | | | | | | |
| Accrued expenses and other | (70,000) |) | | | | | |
| Net Assets at fair value | 275,037,451 | | | | | | |
| Valuation Adjustment | (1,626,141) |) | | | | | |
| Notes Receivable | 2,984,223 | | | | | | |

Net Assets of the Acuity DC Trust, at contract value \$276,395,533

* Represents investments greater than 5% of the Plan's net assets.

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Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans
Notes to Financial Statements

| | 2013 Value | Plans' Percentage Interest | | | | | |
|--|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----|------|----|
| | | Plan No. 033 | Plan No. 067 | Plan No. 070 | | | |
| Mutual Funds | | | | | | | |
| Vanguard Institutional Index Fund | \$31,075,083 | 92.0 | %* | 2.9 | %* | 5.1 | %* |
| American Century Equity Income Fund | 16,249,240 | 92.5 | %* | 2.3 | %* | 5.2 | % |
| T Rowe Price Mid Cap Fund | 23,201,161 | 89.7 | %* | 2.9 | %* | 7.4 | %* |
| Templeton Institutional Fund | 13,424,152 | 94.5 | %* | 1.7 | % | 3.8 | % |
| CRM Mid Cap Value Fund | 10,020,984 | 94.9 | % | 1.8 | % | 3.3 | % |
| Vanguard Explorer Admiral Fund | 15,143,382 | 89.7 | %* | 2.3 | % | 8.0 | %* |
| T Rowe Price Growth Fund | 13,098,616 | 91.2 | %* | 2.1 | % | 6.7 | % |
| Northern Small Cap Value Fund | 9,603,564 | 95.7 | % | 2.4 | % | 1.9 | % |
| Total Mutual Funds | 131,816,182 | | | | | | |
| Self-Directed Brokerage Accounts | | | | | | | |
| Money Market Fund | 3,880,926 | 99.5 | % | — | % | 0.5 | % |
| Corporate Bonds | 245,362 | 100.0 | % | — | % | — | % |
| Mutual Funds | 2,015,448 | 100.0 | % | — | % | — | % |
| Preferred Stocks | 52,029 | 100.0 | % | — | % | — | % |
| Common Stocks | 7,242,785 | 91.8 | % | — | % | 8.2 | % |
| Total Self-Directed Brokerage Accounts | 13,436,550 | | | | | | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | |
| Acuity Brands Stock Fund | 11,249,038 | 96.4 | % | 1.6 | % | 2.0 | % |
| Common/Collective Trusts | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Target 2015 Fund | 4,086,992 | 88.6 | % | 3.7 | % | 7.7 | % |
| Dow Jones Target 2025 Fund | 16,806,613 | 91.9 | %* | 3.9 | %* | 4.2 | % |
| Dow Jones Target 2035 Fund | 10,403,614 | 91.9 | % | 5.5 | %* | 2.6 | % |
| Dow Jones Target 2045 Fund | 10,993,935 | 93.4 | % | 6.0 | %* | 0.6 | % |
| Dow Jones Target Today Fund | 1,778,119 | 73.8 | % | 4.7 | % | 21.5 | % |
| SSGA Passive Bond Market | 10,107,117 | 96.0 | % | 1.9 | % | 2.1 | % |
| Invesco Stable Value Fund | 51,209,030 | 81.1 | %* | 2.7 | %* | 16.2 | %* |
| Total Common/Collective Trusts | 105,385,420 | | | | | | |
| Total Investments at fair value | 261,887,190 | | | | | | |
| Unallocated Cash | 48,779 | | | | | | |
| Accrued Investment Income | 314 | | | | | | |
| Adjustment for pending trades | 350 | | | | | | |
| Acuity DC Trust at fair value | 261,936,633 | | | | | | |
| Accrued expenses and other | (70,000) | | | | | | |
| Net Assets at fair value | 261,866,633 | | | | | | |
| Valuation Adjustment | (1,368,469) | | | | | | |
| Notes Receivable | 2,746,016 | | | | | | |
| Net Assets of the Acuity DC Trust, at contract value | \$263,244,180 | | | | | | |

* Represents investments greater than 5% of the Plan's net assets.

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Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans
Notes to Financial Statements

Investment results of the Acuity DC Trust for the year ended December 31, 2014 are as follows:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Interest income | \$1,307,877 |
| Net appreciation in fair value of common stock at quoted market prices | 3,099,721 |
| Net investment gain from common/collective trust funds at net asset values | 2,569,850 |
| Net investment gain from mutual funds at quoted market prices | 11,773,120 |
| Investment results | \$18,750,568 |

4. Stable Value Fund

The following investments represent the components of the Invesco Stable Value Fund:

| Contract Issuer | Security | 2014 Fair Value | 2014 Valuation Adjustment | 2014 Contract Value |
|---|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Common/Collective Trusts: | | | | |
| Voya | IGT Voya Short Duration | \$7,404,118 | \$(104,904) | \$7,299,214 |
| Voya | IGT Invesco Multi-Manager Core Fixed Income Fund | 5,230,155 | (259,050) | 4,971,105 |
| Mass Mutual | MassMutual SA Intermediate GC Babson | 6,687,886 | (277,913) | 6,409,973 |
| Transamerica | IGT MxMGR Core Funds | 8,367,786 | (251,814) | 8,115,972 |
| Prudential Insurance | IGT INVESCO Short Term Bond Fund | 10,472,270 | (210,377) | 10,261,893 |
| Pacific Life Insurance | IGT INVESCO Multi-Manager Interm. Gov/Credit Fund | 11,831,187 | (522,083) | 11,309,104 |
| Subtotal | | 49,993,402 | (1,626,141) | 48,367,261 |
| Wrap Contracts: | | | | |
| Monumental | | 12,438 | — | 12,438 |
| Cash - Bank of America Merrill Lynch | Cash | 2,053,327 | — | 2,053,327 |
| Total | | \$52,059,167 | \$(1,626,141) | \$50,433,026 |
| 2013 | | | | |
| Contract Issuer | Security | Fair Value | 2013 Valuation Adjustment | 2013 Contract Value |
| Common/Collective Trusts: | | | | |
| ING Life & Annuity | IGT ING Short Duration | \$7,589,191 | \$(132,460) | \$7,456,731 |
| ING Life & Annuity | IGT Invesco Multi-Manager Core Fixed Income Fund | 5,158,453 | (131,379) | 5,027,074 |
| Mass Mutual | MassMutual SA Intermediate GC Babson | 6,715,459 | (233,620) | 6,481,839 |
| Monumental | IGT MxMGR Core | 8,444,043 | (182,644) | 8,261,399 |
| NATIXIS Capital Markets | IGT INVESCO Short Term Bond | 10,687,401 | (215,857) | 10,471,544 |
| Pacific Life Insurance | IGT MxMGR Int G/C | 11,926,514 | (472,509) | 11,454,005 |
| Subtotal | | 50,521,061 | (1,368,469) | 49,152,592 |
| Wrap Contracts: | | | | |
| Monumental | | 13,366 | — | 13,366 |
| Cash - Bank of America Merrill Lynch | Cash | 674,603 | — | 674,603 |

| | | | |
|-------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Total | \$51,209,030 | \$(1,368,469) | \$49,840,561 |
|-------|--------------|---------------|--------------|

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Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans
Notes to Financial Statements

5. Fair Value Measurements

In accordance with ASC Topic 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures ("ASC 820"), the Plans determine a fair value measurement using an exit price based on the assumptions a market participant would use in pricing an asset or liability. ASC 820 established a three-tiered hierarchy making a distinction between market participant assumptions based on (i) observable inputs such as quoted prices in active markets (Level 1), (ii) inputs other than quoted prices in active markets that are observable either directly or indirectly (Level 2), and (iii) unobservable inputs that reflect the Plans' best estimate of what market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability including consideration of the risk inherent in the valuation technique and the risk inherent in the inputs to the model (Level 3).

Level 1 (Quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets)

Stable Value Fund Cash - represents cash not yet invested but available for investment in the Stable Value Fund as reported by the Investment Manager.

Money Market Fund - valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund.

U.S. Corporate Bonds - valued by using the closing price in the market where such investments are primarily traded.

Acuity Brands Stock Fund and Equity Securities - valued at the last sales price in the market where such securities are primarily traded. If the last sales price is not available, the security is generally valued at the closing bid price obtained from the primary exchange.

Mutual Funds - valued using the net asset value of shares held at year end as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Acuity DC Trust are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Level 2 (Significant other observable inputs)

Common/Collective Trusts - valued at the net asset value ("NAV") of units of a bank collective trust. The NAV, as provided by the trustee, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the fund less its liabilities. This practical expedient is not used when it is determined to be probable that the fund will sell the investment for an amount different than the reported NAV.

Participant transactions (purchases and sales) may occur daily. Were the Plan to initiate a full redemption of the collective trust, the investment adviser reserves the right to temporarily delay withdrawal from the trust in order to ensure that securities liquidations will be carried out in an orderly business manner.

Synthetic GICs - valued using contract prices for securities and repurchase agreements at amortized costs reported by the investment manager.

Level 3 (Significant unobservable inputs)

Synthetic GICs Wrap Contracts - valued by calculating the present value of excess future wrap fees. When the replacement cost of a wrap contract (a re-pricing provided annually by the contract issuer) is greater than the current wrap fee, the difference is converted into the implied additional fee payment cash flows for the duration of the holding. The present value of that cash flow stream is calculated using a swap curve yield that is based on the duration of the holding and adjusted for the holding's credit quality rating.

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Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans
Notes to Financial Statements

The following tables present information about the Acuity DC Trust's assets as of December 31, 2014 and 2013:

| | Fair Value as of December 31, 2014 | Fair Value Measurements as of December 31, 2014 | | |
|---|---|--|------------|---------|
| | | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| Stable Value Fund Cash ⁽²⁾ | \$2,053,327 | \$2,053,327 | \$— | \$— |
| Acuity Brands Stock Fund | 12,746,224 | 12,746,224 | | — |
| Mutual Funds: | | | | |
| US Equity Securities | 168,134,509 | 168,134,509 | — | — |
| International Equity Securities | 12,248,327 | 12,248,327 | — | — |
| Common/Collective Trusts ⁽¹⁾ | 9,940,038 | — | 9,940,038 | — |
| Synthetic GICs ⁽²⁾ | 50,005,840 | — | 49,993,402 | 12,438 |
| Subtotal | 255,128,265 | | | |
| Self-Directed Brokerage Accounts: | | | | |
| Money Market Fund | 3,751,625 | 3,751,625 | — | — |
| U.S. Corporate Bonds | 495,444 | 495,444 | — | — |
| Equity Securities | 12,392,406 | 12,392,406 | — | — |
| Mutual Funds | 2,926,351 | 2,926,351 | — | — |
| Subtotal | 19,565,826 | | | |
| TOTAL | \$274,694,091 | | | |
| | Fair Value as of December 31, 2013 | Fair Value Measurements as of December 31, 2013 | | |
| Assets | | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| Stable Value Fund Cash ⁽²⁾ | \$674,603 | \$674,603 | \$— | \$— |
| Acuity Brands Stock Fund | 11,249,038 | 11,249,038 | | — |
| Mutual Funds: | | | | |
| US Equity Securities | 118,392,030 | 118,392,030 | — | — |
| International Equity Securities | 13,424,152 | 13,424,152 | — | — |
| Common/Collective Trusts ⁽¹⁾ | 54,176,390 | — | 54,176,390 | — |
| Synthetic GICs ⁽²⁾ | 50,534,427 | — | 50,521,061 | 13,366 |
| Subtotal | 248,450,640 | | | |
| Self-Directed Brokerage Accounts: | | | | |
| Money Market Fund | 3,880,926 | 3,880,926 | — | — |
| U.S. Corporate Bonds | 245,362 | 245,362 | — | — |
| Equity Securities | 7,294,814 | 7,294,814 | — | — |
| Mutual Funds | 2,015,448 | 2,015,448 | — | — |
| Subtotal | 13,436,550 | | | |
| TOTAL | \$261,887,190 | | | |

- (1) The Dow Jones Target common/collective trust funds share the common goal of first growing and then later preserving principal and contain a mix of US common stocks, US issued bonds, and cash. The investment objective of the SSGA US Bond Index Fund CL P and the SSGA Passive Bond Market fund is to approximate as closely as practicable the performance of the Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index over the long term and contains a mix of US issued government and corporate bonds and cash. From time to time, the trustee of the Dow Jones Target and SSGA common/collective trust funds may exercise its rights to implement limited withdrawal safeguards in order to protect the principal and liquidity of all participants in the funds. There are currently no

redemption restrictions or unfunded commitments on these investments. The fair values of the investments in this category have been determined using the net asset value per share. Generally, redemptions of the fund units for investments in this category may be made each business day, based upon a transaction price per unit that is substantially equivalent to net asset value per share as of the close of the previous business day.

- (2) These investments represent the underlying investments of the Stable Value Fund. Participant-directed redemptions have no restrictions; however, the Plan is required to provide sufficient redemption notice to liquidate its entire share in the fund. The fair value of this fund has been determined based on the fair value of the underlying investment wrap contract and common/collective trusts in the fund as reported by the issuer of the contracts. The fair value differs from the contract value. As previously discussed in Note 2 Summary of Accounting Policies, contract value is the relevant measurement attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts, because contract value is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan.

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Acuity Brands, Inc. Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans
Notes to Financial Statements

No transfers between the levels of the fair value hierarchy occurred during the current plan year. In the event of a transfer in or out of a level within the fair value hierarchy, the transfers would be recognized as of the end of the plan year.

The table below presents a summary of changes in the fair value of the Acuity DC Trust's Level 3 assets for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013:

| | Year ended December 31, 2014 Wrap Contracts | Year ended December 31, 2013 Wrap Contracts |
|--|---|---|
| Balance, beginning of year | \$ 13,366 | \$ 24,040 |
| Purchases, sales, issuances, and settlements | — | — |
| Unrealized loss relating to instruments still held at the reporting date | (928 |) (10,674 |
| Balance, end of year | \$ 12,438 | \$ 13,366 |

6. Income Tax Status

The ABI Plan, ABL Plan, and Holophane Plan obtained their latest determination letters on August 12, 2013, July 10, 2013, and May 29, 2014, respectively, in which the IRS stated these plans are qualified under Section 401(a) of Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"). The Plans have been amended since requesting the latest determination letters and the plan administrator believes the Plans are currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC, and the Plans and related trust continue to be tax-exempt. Therefore, no provision for income taxes is included in these financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require plan management to evaluate uncertain tax positions taken by the Plans. The financial statement impact of a tax position is recognized when the position is more likely than not, based on the technical merits, to be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plans, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2014, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken. The Plans have recognized no interest or penalties related to uncertain tax positions. The Plans are subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress. The plan administrator believes it is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2011.

7. Benefits Payable

The following Plans had benefit payments that were approved for payment prior to December 31, but were not paid until subsequent to December 31:

| Plan No. | Plan Name | 2014 | 2013 |
|----------|--|------------|-----------|
| 033 | Acuity Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan | \$ 297,158 | \$ 31,826 |
| 067 | Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees | — | 1,499 |
| 070 | Holophane Division of Acuity Brands Lighting 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees Covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement | 112,437 | — |

These benefit payments represent a reconciling item between the financial statements and Form 5500. An additional reconciling item is related to the difference between the carrying value of synthetic GICs in the financial statements (contract value) and Form 5500 (fair value) in the amount of \$(1,626,141) as of December 31, 2014. The Form 5500 has not yet been finalized. As such, the differences may vary from those noted above. However, these differences are not expected to be material.

8. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plans invest in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the Statements of Net

Assets Available for Benefits.

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Acuity Brands, Inc.
 Selected 401(k) and Retirement Plans
 Schedule H, Line 4i
 Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
 December 31, 2014

| Plan Name | Plan No. | EIN # | Identity of Issue * | Description of Investment Varying Maturity Dates and Interest Rates Ranging from: | Cost | Current Value |
|--|----------|------------|---------------------|---|------|---------------|
| Acuity Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan | 033 | 58-2632672 | Participant Loans | 4.25% to 9.25% (various maturity dates) | \$— | \$2,358,541 |
| Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees | 067 | 58-2632672 | Participant Loans | 4.25% to 5% (various maturity dates) | — | 156,542 |
| Holophane Division of Acuity Brands Lighting 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees Covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement | 070 | 58-2632672 | Participant Loans | 4.25% to 9.25% (various maturity dates) | — | 469,140 |

* Represents a party in interest

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EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit Number | Description |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 23.1 | Consent of BDO USA, LLP |

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Signatures

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the trustees (or other persons who administer the employee benefit plans) have duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Date: June 30, 2015

Acuity Brands, Inc. 401(k) Plan

Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees

Holophane Division of Acuity Brands Lighting 401(k) Plan for Hourly Employees Covered by a Collective Bargaining Agreement

By: Acuity Brands, Inc.
Plan Administrator

By: /s/ Vernon J. Nagel

Name: Vernon J. Nagel

Title: Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer