

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP REPORTS FIRST QUARTER 2016 RESULTS

Book Value per Share, excluding AOCI, of \$53.25, up 7%

Share repurchases of \$200 million in the Quarter

Consolidated net flows of \$873 million

Radnor, PA, May 4, 2016 – Lincoln Financial Group (NYSE: LNC) today reported net income for the first quarter of 2016 of \$208 million, or \$0.82 per diluted share available to common stockholders, compared to net income in the first quarter of 2015 of \$300 million, or \$1.15 per diluted share available to common stockholders. First quarter income from operations was \$314 million, or \$1.25 per diluted share available to common stockholders, compared to \$352 million, or \$1.35 per diluted share available to common stockholders, in the first quarter of 2015.

“Earnings in the quarter were negatively impacted by several items that we have already seen reverse or anticipate to recover in the second quarter” said Dennis R. Glass, president and CEO of Lincoln Financial Group. “Product breadth and innovation, robust distribution reach, and capital flexibility will continue to be the basis for long-term EPS growth. We were encouraged that the final DOL rule had constructive changes, particularly clarifying the use of commissions alongside fees as appropriate forms of compensation for annuities and acknowledging the unique benefits of lifetime income products.”

(in millions, except per share data)	As of or For the Quarter Ended	
	2016	2015
Net Income (Loss)	\$208	\$300
Net Income (Loss) Available to Common Stockholders	201	299
Net Income (Loss) per Diluted Share Available to Common Stockholders	0.82	1.15
Revenues	3,243	3,304
Income (Loss) from Operations	314	352
Income (Loss) from Operations per Diluted Share Available to Common Stockholders	1.25	1.35
Average Diluted Shares	245.1	260.6
ROE (Income from Operations)	9.8%	11.2%
ROE (Net Income)	6.5%	9.5%
Book Value per Share, Including AOCI	\$61.33	\$64.14
Book Value per Share, Excluding AOCI	53.25	49.70

Operating Highlights – First Quarter 2016 versus First Quarter 2015

- Operating revenues of \$3.4 billion up slightly despite 2% decline in total average account balances
- Group Protection non-medical loss ratio of 69.6%, an 850 basis point improvement
- Retirement Plan Services deposits of \$1.8 billion, up 5%
- Active capital management continued with \$200 million in share repurchases

There were no notable items in the current or prior year quarter.

First Quarter 2016 – Segment Results

Annuities

The Annuities segment reported income from operations of \$218 million in the quarter compared to \$239 million in the prior-year period. A decrease in fee income, driven by a 4% decline in average account values, and lower variable investment income were the primary drivers of the decrease.

Gross annuity deposits in the first quarter of \$2.4 billion decreased 21% as a decline in variable annuity sales was partially offset by a significant increase in fixed annuity sales. The percentage of variable annuity sales from products without living benefits is consistent with recent quarters at 26%. Net flows of \$(35) million were negatively impacted by lower sales, though an improvement in persistency and recovering equity markets later in the quarter resulted in an end-of-period account balance of \$122 billion.

Retirement Plan Services

Retirement Plan Services reported income from operations of \$31 million compared to \$35 million in the prior-year quarter. The decrease in earnings is primarily due to a decline in variable investment income.

Total deposits for the quarter of \$1.8 billion benefitted from a 6% increase in recurring deposits, which are seasonally strong in the first quarter and a 3% increase in first-year sales. Positive net flows in both the small and mid-large markets resulted in \$78 million of positive net flows. Total average account values of \$53 billion decreased 2% compared to the prior-year period while end-of-period account balances were unchanged.

Life Insurance

Life Insurance income from operations was \$75 million compared to \$111 million in the prior-year quarter. Current period results included \$17 million (or two-thirds of consolidated) of lower than expected long-term returns on alternative investments and \$30 million of higher than normal mortality, with approximately two-thirds reflecting typical seasonality.

Individual life insurance sales in the quarter were \$132 million, a 5% decrease from the prior-year quarter. Increased sales of *MoneyGuard*[®], IUL and Term were offset by decreases in UL and VUL sales. Executive Benefit sales, which can fluctuate quarter to quarter, contributed an additional \$7 million to total Life Insurance sales.

Life Insurance average in-force of \$665 billion grew 4%, and average account values of \$44 billion increased 3% over the prior-year quarter.

Group Protection

For the first quarter, Group Protection reported income from operations of \$5 million compared to a loss from operations of \$(6) million in the prior-year period. The non-medical loss ratio improved to 69.6% compared to 78.1% in the prior-year quarter driven in part by continued pricing actions and improvements in disability claims management. Offsetting strong risk results was approximately \$18 million from accelerated amortization of deferred acquisition costs due to a decline in persistency from our extensive repricing of policy renewals.

Group Protection sales of \$59 million were up 5% from the same period last year as market disruption from our pricing actions has subsided. Employee-paid product sales represented 54% of total sales in the quarter.

Non-medical net earned premiums were \$489 million, a 9% decrease from the prior-year quarter driven by lower persistency.

Other Operations

Other Operations reported a loss from operations of \$15 million in the quarter versus a loss of \$27 million in the prior-year period. Earnings were positively impacted by \$7 million of lower expenses related to mark-to-market adjustments on LNC stock related to our deferred compensation plans. This adjustment is excluded from our EPS calculation under the equity method.

Realized Gains and Losses

Realized gains/losses (after-tax) included:

- A net loss from general account investments of \$28 million as compared to a \$10 million net loss in the prior-year quarter.
- A \$27 million variable annuity net derivatives loss in the quarter.
- An investment related legal settlement in the quarter.

Unrealized Gains and Losses

The company reported a net unrealized gain of \$5.5 billion, pre-tax, on its available-for-sale securities at March 31, 2016. This compares to a net unrealized gain of \$8.6 billion at March 31, 2015.

Capital

During the quarter, the company repurchased 5.5 million shares of stock at a cost of \$200 million. The quarter's average diluted share count of 245.1 million shares was down 6% from the first quarter of 2015, the result of repurchasing 15.5 million shares of stock at a cost of \$750 million since March 31, 2015.

Book Value

As of March 31, 2016, book value per share, including accumulated other comprehensive income ("AOCI"), of \$61.33 decreased 4% from a year ago. Book value per share, excluding AOCI, of \$53.25 increased 7% from the prior-year period.

This press release may contain statements that are forward-looking, and actual results may differ materially, especially given the current economic and capital markets conditions. Please see the Forward Looking Statements – Cautionary Language that follow for additional factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from our current expectations.

The tables attached to this release define and reconcile income from operations, return on equity ("ROE"), and book value per share excluding AOCI, non-GAAP measures, to net income, ROE, and book value per share including AOCI calculated in accordance with GAAP.

For definitions of sales metrics and other financial information, please refer to the company's first quarter 2016 statistical supplement available on its website, www.LincolnFinancial.com/earnings.

Lincoln Financial Group will discuss the company's first quarter results with investors in a conference call beginning at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, May 5, 2016. Interested persons are invited to listen through the internet. Please go to www.LincolnFinancial.com/webcast at least fifteen minutes prior to the event to register, download and install any necessary streaming media software. Interested persons may also listen to the call by dialing the following numbers:

Dial: (866) 394-4575 (Domestic)

(678) 509-7536 (International)

Ask for the Lincoln National Conference Call.

Audio replay will begin by 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time on May 5, 2016, and it will remain available through midnight Eastern Time on May 12, 2016. To access the re-broadcast:

(855) 859-2056 (Domestic)

(404) 537-3406 (International)

Enter conference code: 77443794

A replay of the call will also be available by 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time on May 5, 2016 at www.LincolnFinancial.com/webcast.

About Lincoln Financial Group

Lincoln Financial Group provides advice and solutions that help empower Americans to take charge of their financial lives with confidence and optimism. Today, more than 17 million customers trust our retirement, insurance and wealth protection expertise to help address their lifestyle, savings and income goals, as well as to guard against long-term care expenses. Headquartered in Radnor, Pennsylvania, Lincoln Financial Group is the marketing name for Lincoln National Corporation (NYSE:LNC) and its affiliates. The company had \$220 billion in assets under management as of March 31, 2016. Learn more at: www.LincolnFinancial.com. Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#). To sign up for email alerts, please visit our Newsroom at <http://newsroom.lfg.com>.

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Definition of Income (Loss) from Operations, Operating Revenues and Operating Return on Equity

Income (loss) from operations, operating revenues and operating return on equity ("ROE"), as used in the earnings release, are non-GAAP financial measures and do not replace GAAP revenues, net income (loss) and ROE. We exclude the after-tax effects of the following items from GAAP net income (loss) to arrive at income (loss) from operations: realized gains and losses associated with the following ("excluded realized gain (loss)"): sales or disposals and impairments of securities; change in the fair value of derivative investments, embedded derivatives within certain reinsurance arrangements and our trading securities; change in the fair value of the derivatives we own to hedge our guaranteed death benefit ("GDB") riders within our variable annuities, which is referred to as "GDB derivatives results"; change in the fair value of the embedded derivatives of our guaranteed living benefit ("GLB") riders within our variable annuities accounted for under the Derivatives and Hedging and the Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topics of the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") ("embedded derivative reserves"), net of the change in the fair value of the derivatives we own to hedge the changes in the embedded derivative reserves, the net of which is referred to as "GLB net derivative results"; and changes in the fair value of the embedded derivative liabilities related to index call options we may purchase in the future to hedge contract holder index allocations applicable to future reset periods for our indexed annuity products accounted for under the Derivatives and Hedging and the Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topics of the FASB ASC ("indexed annuity forward-starting option"); change in reserves accounted for under the Financial Services - Insurance - Claim Costs and Liabilities for Future Policy Benefits Subtopic of the FASB ASC resulting from benefit ratio unlocking on our GDB and GLB riders ("benefit ratio unlocking"); income (loss) from the initial adoption of new accounting standards; income (loss) from reserve changes (net of related amortization) on business sold through reinsurance; gain (loss) on early extinguishment of debt; losses from the impairment of intangible assets; income (loss) from discontinued operations; and income (loss) from initial adoption of new accounting standards.

Operating revenues represent GAAP revenues excluding the pre-tax effects of the following items, as applicable: excluded realized gain (loss); amortization of deferred front-end loads ("DFEL") arising from changes in GDB and GLB benefit ratio unlocking; amortization of deferred gains arising from the reserve changes on business sold through reinsurance; and revenue adjustments from the initial adoption of new accounting standards.

ROE measures how efficiently we generate profits from the resources provided by our net assets. ROE is calculated by dividing annualized income (loss) from operations by average equity, excluding accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) ("AOCI"). Management evaluates return on equity by both including and excluding average goodwill within average equity.

Income (loss) from operations, operating revenues and return on equity (including and excluding average goodwill within average equity), excluding AOCI, using annualized income (loss) from operations are financial measures we use to evaluate and assess our results. Management believes that these performance measures explain the results of the company's ongoing businesses in a manner that allows for a better understanding of the underlying trends in the company's current business because the excluded items are unpredictable and not necessarily indicative of current operating fundamentals or future performance of the business segments, and, in most instances, decisions regarding these items do not necessarily relate to the operations of the individual segments.

The company uses its prevailing corporate federal income tax rate of 35% while taking into account any permanent differences for events recognized differently in its financial statements and federal income tax returns when reconciling non-GAAP measures to the most comparable GAAP measure.

Lincoln National Corporation
Reconciliation of Net Income to Income from Operations

(in millions, except per share data)

	For the Quarter Ended March 31,	
	2016	2015
Total Revenues	\$ 3,243	\$ 3,304
Less:		
Excluded realized gain (loss)	(158)	(91)
Amortization of deferred gains arising from reserve changes on business sold through reinsurance	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,394
Net Income (Loss) Available to Common Stockholders – Diluted	\$ 201	\$ 299
Less:		
Adjustment for deferred units of LNC stock in our deferred compensation plans ⁽¹⁾	<u>(7)</u>	<u>(1)</u>
Net Income (Loss)	208	300
Less ⁽²⁾ :		
Excluded realized gain (loss)	(102)	(60)
Benefit ratio unlocking	<u>(4)</u>	<u>8</u>
Income (Loss) from Operations	\$ 314	\$ 352
Earnings (Loss) Per Common Share – Diluted		
Income (loss) from operations	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.35
Net income (loss)	0.82	1.15
Average Stockholders' Equity		
Average equity, including average AOCI	\$ 14,137	\$ 15,982
Average AOCI	<u>1,388</u>	<u>3,374</u>
Average equity, excluding AOCI	12,749	12,608
Average goodwill	<u>2,273</u>	<u>2,273</u>
Average equity, excluding AOCI and goodwill	\$ 10,476	\$ 10,335
Return on Equity, Excluding AOCI		
Net income (loss) with average equity including goodwill	6.5%	9.5%
Income (loss) from operations with average equity including goodwill	9.8%	11.2%
Income (loss) from operations with average equity excluding goodwill	12.0%	13.6%

(1) The numerator used in the calculation of our diluted EPS is adjusted to remove the mark-to-market adjustment for deferred units of LNC stock in our deferred compensation plans if the effect of equity classification would result in a more dilutive EPS.

(2) We use our prevailing federal income tax rate of 35% while taking into account any permanent differences for events recognized differently in our financial statements and federal income tax returns when reconciling our non-GAAP measures to the most comparable GAAP measure.

Definition of Book Value Per Share Excluding AOCI

Book value per share excluding AOCI is calculated based upon a non-GAAP financial measure. It is calculated by dividing (a) stockholders' equity excluding AOCI by (b) common shares outstanding. We provide book value per share excluding AOCI to enable investors to analyze the amount of our net worth that is primarily attributable to our business operations. Management believes book value per share excluding AOCI is useful to investors because it eliminates the effect of items that can fluctuate significantly from period to period, primarily based on changes in interest rates. Book value per share is the most directly comparable GAAP measure. A reconciliation of book value per share to book value per share excluding AOCI as of March 31, 2016 and 2015 is set forth below.

	As of March 31,	
	2016	2015
Book value per share, including AOCI	\$ 61.33	\$ 64.14
Per share impact of AOCI	8.08	14.44
Book value per share, excluding AOCI	53.25	49.70

Lincoln National Corporation
Digest of Earnings

(in millions, except per share data)

	For the Quarter Ended March 31,	
	2016	2015
Revenues	\$ 3,243	\$ 3,304
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 208	\$ 300
Adjustment for deferred units of LNC stock in our deferred compensation plans ⁽¹⁾	(7)	(1)
Net Income (Loss) Available to Common Stockholders – Diluted	\$ 201	\$ 299
Earnings (Loss) Per Common Share – Basic	\$ 0.86	\$ 1.17
Earnings (Loss) Per Common Share – Diluted	0.82	1.15
Average Shares – Basic	241,676,364	255,495,650
Average Shares – Diluted	245,121,179	260,561,704

⁽¹⁾ The numerator used in the calculation of our diluted EPS is adjusted to remove the mark-to-market adjustment for deferred units of LNC stock in our deferred compensation plans if the effect of equity classification would be more dilutive to our diluted EPS.

Forward Looking Statements — Cautionary Language

Certain statements made in this press release and in other written or oral statements made by Lincoln or on Lincoln's behalf are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 ("PSLRA"). A forward-looking statement is a statement that is not a historical fact and, without limitation, includes any statement that may predict, forecast, indicate or imply future results, performance or achievements, and may contain words like: "believe", "anticipate", "expect", "estimate", "project", "will", "shall" and other words or phrases with similar meaning in connection with a discussion of future operating or financial performance. In particular, these include statements relating to future actions, trends in Lincoln's businesses, prospective services or products, future performance or financial results, and the outcome of contingencies, such as legal proceedings. Lincoln claims the protection afforded by the safe harbor for forward-looking statements provided by the PSLRA.

Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from the results contained in the forward-looking statements. Risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to vary materially, some of which are described within the forward-looking statements include, among others:

- Deterioration in general economic and business conditions that may affect account values, investment results, guaranteed benefit liabilities, premium levels, claims experience and the level of pension benefit costs, funding and investment results;
- Adverse global capital and credit market conditions could affect our ability to raise capital, if necessary, and may cause us to realize impairments on investments and certain intangible assets, including goodwill and the valuation allowance against deferred tax assets, which may reduce future earnings and/or affect our financial condition and ability to raise additional capital or refinance existing debt as it matures;
- Because of our holding company structure, the inability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends to the holding company in sufficient amounts could harm the holding company's ability to meet its obligations;
- Legislative, regulatory or tax changes, both domestic and foreign, that affect: the cost of, or demand for, our subsidiaries' products, the required amount of reserves and/or surplus, our ability to conduct business and our captive reinsurance arrangements as well as restrictions on revenue sharing and 12b-1 payments, the potential for U.S. Federal tax reform and the effect of the Department of Labor's regulation defining fiduciary;
- Actions taken by reinsurers to raise rates on in force business;
- Declines in or sustained low interest rates causing a reduction in investment income, the interest margins of our businesses, estimated gross profits and demand for our products;
- Rapidly increasing interest rates causing contract holders to surrender life insurance and annuity policies, thereby causing realized investment losses, and reduced hedge performance related to variable annuities;
- Uncertainty about the effect of rules and regulations to be promulgated under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act on us and the economy and financial services sector in particular;
- The initiation of legal or regulatory proceedings against us, and the outcome of any legal or regulatory proceedings, such as: adverse actions related to present or past business practices common in businesses in which we compete; adverse decisions in significant actions including, but not limited to, actions brought by federal and state authorities and class action cases; new decisions that result in changes in law; and unexpected trial court rulings;
- A decline in the equity markets causing a reduction in the sales of our subsidiaries' products, a reduction of asset-based fees that our subsidiaries charge on various investment and insurance products, an acceleration of the net amortization of deferred acquisition costs, or "DAC," value of business acquired, or "VOBA," deferred sales inducements, or "DSI," and deferred front end sales loads, or "DFEL," and an increase in liabilities related to guaranteed benefit features of our subsidiaries' variable annuity products;
- Ineffectiveness of our risk management policies and procedures, including various hedging strategies used to offset the effect of changes in the value of liabilities due to changes in the level and volatility of the equity markets and interest rates;
- A deviation in actual experience regarding future persistency, mortality, morbidity, interest rates or equity market returns from the assumptions used in pricing our subsidiaries' products, in establishing related insurance reserves and in the net amortization of DAC, VOBA, DSI and DFEL, which may reduce future earnings;
- Changes in accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, or "GAAP," including convergence with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), that may result in unanticipated changes to our net income;
- Lowering of one or more of our debt ratings issued by nationally recognized statistical rating organizations and the adverse effect such action may have on our ability to raise capital and on our liquidity and financial condition;
- Lowering of one or more of the insurer financial strength ratings of our insurance subsidiaries and the adverse effect such action may have on the premium writings, policy retention, profitability of our insurance subsidiaries and liquidity;
- Significant credit, accounting, fraud, corporate governance or other issues that may adversely affect the value of certain investments in our portfolios as well as counterparties to which we are exposed to credit risk requiring that we realize losses on investments;
- Inability to protect our intellectual property rights or claims of infringement of the intellectual property rights of others;
- Interruption in telecommunication, information technology or other operational systems or failure to safeguard the confidentiality or privacy of sensitive data on such systems from cyberattacks or other breaches of our data security systems;
- The effect of acquisitions and divestitures, restructurings, product withdrawals and other unusual items;
- The adequacy and collectability of reinsurance that we have purchased;
- Acts of terrorism, a pandemic, war or other man-made and natural catastrophes that may adversely affect our businesses and the cost and availability of reinsurance;
- Competitive conditions, including pricing pressures, new product offerings and the emergence of new competitors, that may affect the level of premiums and fees that our subsidiaries can charge for their products;
- The unknown effect on our subsidiaries' businesses resulting from changes in the demographics of their client base, as aging baby-boomers move from the asset-accumulation stage to the asset-distribution stage of life; and
- Loss of key management, financial planners or wholesalers.

The risks included here are not exhaustive. Our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and other documents filed with the SEC include additional factors which could impact our business and financial performance. Moreover, we operate in a rapidly changing and competitive environment. New risk factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for management to predict all such risk factors.

Further, it is not possible to assess the impact of all risk factors on our businesses or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements. Given these risks and uncertainties, investors should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements as a prediction of actual results. In addition, Lincoln disclaims any obligation to update any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that occur after the date of this presentation.

The reporting of RBC measures is not intended for the purpose of ranking any insurance company or for use in connection with any marketing, advertising or promotional activities.