# Adjusted performance measures

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, the Company reported adjusted net income of \$853 million, or \$1.04 per diluted share and \$2,251 million, or \$2.72 per diluted share, respectively. The adjusted figures for the nine months ended September 30, 2014 exclude a gain on disposal of the Deux-Montagnes subdivision, including the Mont-Royal tunnel, together with the rail fixtures, of \$80 million, or \$72 million after-tax (\$0.09 per diluted share).

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013, the Company reported adjusted net income of \$724 million, or \$0.86 per diluted share and \$1,947 million, or \$2.30 per diluted share, respectively. The adjusted figures for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013 exclude an income tax expense of \$19 million (\$0.02 per diluted share) resulting from the enactment of higher provincial corporate income tax rates. The adjusted figures for the nine months ended September 30, 2013 also exclude a gain on exchange of perpetual railroad operating easements, including the track and roadway assets on specific rail lines, of \$29 million, or \$18 million aftertax (\$0.02 per diluted share); an income tax expense of \$5 million (\$0.01 per diluted share) resulting from the enactment of higher provincial corporate income tax rates and a gain on disposal of a segment of the Oakville subdivision, together with the rail fixtures and certain passenger agreements, of \$40 million, or \$36 million after-tax (\$0.04 per diluted share).

Management believes that adjusted net income and adjusted earnings per share are useful measures of performance that can facilitate period-to-period comparisons, as they exclude items that do not necessarily arise as part of the normal day-to-day operations of the Company and could distort the analysis of trends in business performance. The exclusion of such items in adjusted net income and adjusted earnings per share does not, however, imply that such items are necessarily non-recurring. These adjusted measures do not have any standardized meaning prescribed by GAAP and therefore, may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other companies. The reader is advised to read all information provided in the Company's 2014 unaudited Interim Consolidated Financial Statements and Notes thereto. The following tables provide a reconciliation of net income and earnings per share, as reported for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 and 2013, to the adjusted performance measures presented herein.

	 Three months	ended Septem	ber	30, 2014	Nine months ended September 30, 2014					
In millions, except per share data	Reported	Adjustments		Adjusted		Reported	Adjustments	Adjusted		
Revenues	\$ 3,118 \$	-	\$	3,118	\$	8,927 \$	- \$	8,927		
Operating expenses	1,832			1,832		5,563	-	5,563		
Operating income	1,286	-		1,286		3,364	-	3,364		
Interest expense	(94)	-		(94)		(277)	-	(277)		
Other income (loss)	(2)	-		(2)		94	(80)	14		
Income before income taxes	1,190	-		1,190		3,181	(80)	3,101		
Income tax expense	(337)	-		(337)		(858)	8	(850)		
Net income	\$ 853 \$	-	\$	853	\$	2,323 \$	(72) \$	2,251		
Operating ratio	 58.8%			58.8%		62.3%		62.3%		
Effective tax rate	28.3%			28.3%		27.0%		27.4%		
Basic earnings per share	\$ 1.04 \$	-	\$	1.04	\$	2.83 \$	(0.09) \$	2.74		
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 1.04 \$	-	\$	1.04	\$	2.81 \$	(0.09) \$	2.72		

	 Three months ended September 30, 2013					Nine months ended September 30, 2013					
In millions, except per share data	Reported	Adjustments	Adjustments			Reported	Adjustments	Adjusted			
Revenues	\$ 2,698	\$ -	\$	2,698	\$	7,830 \$	- \$	7,830			
Operating expenses	1,614	-		1,614		4,924	-	4,924			
Operating income	1,084	-		1,084		2,906	-	2,906			
Interest expense	(89)	-		(89)		(266)	-	(266)			
Other income	5	-		5		75	(69)	6			
Income before income taxes	1,000	-		1,000		2,715	(69)	2,646			
Income tax expense	(295)	19		(276)		(738)	39	(699)			
Net income	\$ 705	\$ 19	\$	724	\$	1,977 \$	(30) \$	1,947			
Operating ratio	59.8%			59.8%		62.9%		62.9%			
Effective tax rate	29.5%			27.6%		27.2%		26.4%			
Basic earnings per share	\$ 0.84	\$ 0.02	\$	0.86	\$	2.34 \$	(0.03) \$	2.31			
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.84	\$ 0.02	\$	0.86	\$	2.33 \$	(0.03) \$	2.30			

### **Constant currency**

Although CN conducts its business and reports its earnings in Canadian dollars, a large portion of revenues and expenses is denominated in US dollars. As such, the Company's results are affected by exchange rate fluctuations.

Financial results at "constant currency" allow results to be viewed without the impact of fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates, thereby facilitating period-to-period comparisons in the analysis of trends in business performance. Measures at constant currency are considered non-GAAP measures and do not have any standardized meaning prescribed by GAAP and therefore, may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other companies. Financial results at constant currency are obtained by translating the current period results denominated in US dollars at the foreign exchange rates of the comparable period of the prior year. The average foreign exchange rates were \$1.09 per US\$1.00, for both the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, and \$1.04 and \$1.02 per US\$1.00, respectively, for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2013.

On a constant currency basis, the Company's net income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014 would have been lower by \$22 million, or \$0.03 per diluted share and \$76 million, or \$0.09 per diluted share, respectively. The following table presents a reconciliation of 2014 net income as reported to net income on a constant currency basis:

	Three months	s ended	Nine months ended September 30, 2014		
In millions	September 3	0, 2014			
Net income, as reported	\$	853	\$	2,323	
Impact due to the weakening Canadian dollar included in net income		(18)		(70)	
Decrease due to the weakening Canadian dollar on additional year-over-year US\$ net income		(4)		(6)	
Impact of foreign exchange using constant currency rates		(22)		(76)	
Net income, on a constant currency basis	\$	831	\$	2,247	

#### Free cash flow

Free cash flow does not have any standardized meaning prescribed by GAAP and therefore, may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other companies. The Company believes that free cash flow is a useful measure of performance as it demonstrates the Company's ability to generate cash for debt obligations and for discretionary uses such as payment of dividends and strategic opportunities.

The Company defines its free cash flow measure as the difference between net cash provided by operating activities and net cash used in investing activities; adjusted for changes in restricted cash and cash equivalents and the impact of major acquisitions, if any.

	Three months ended September 30					Nine months ended September 30				
In millions		2014		2013		2014		2013		
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$	1,328	\$	1,066	\$	3,246	\$	2,450		
Net cash used in investing activities		(552)		(579)		(1,220)		(1,151)		
Net cash provided before financing activities		776		487		2,026		1,299		
Adjustment:										
Change in restricted cash and cash equivalents		(1)		32		19		8		
Free cash flow	\$	775	\$	519	\$	2,045	\$	1,307		

# **Non-GAAP Measures**

### Credit measures

Management believes that the adjusted debt-to-total capitalization ratio is a useful credit measure that aims to show the true leverage of the Company. Similarly, the adjusted debt-to-adjusted earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) multiple is another useful credit measure because it reflects the Company's ability to service its debt. The Company excludes Other income in the calculation of EBITDA. However, since these measures do not have any standardized meaning prescribed by GAAP, they may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other companies and, as such, should not be considered in isolation.

#### Adjusted debt-to-total capitalization ratio

	September 30,	2014	2013
Debt-to-total capitalization ratio (1)		36.3%	39.3%
Add: Impact of present value of operating lease commitments (2)		1.7%	1.8%
Adjusted debt-to-total capitalization ratio		 38.0%	41.1%
Adjusted debt-to-adjusted EBITDA			
\$ in millions, unless otherwise indicated	Twelve months ended September 30,	2014	2013
Debt		\$ 7,841	\$ 7,498
Add: Present value of operating lease commitments (2)		583	587
Adjusted debt		8,424	8,085
Operating income		4,331	3,828
Add: Depreciation and amortization		1,025	963
EBITDA (excluding Other income)		5,356	4,791
Add: Deemed interest on operating leases		29	30
Adjusted EBITDA		\$ 5,385	\$ 4,821
Adjusted debt-to-adjusted EBITDA		1.56 times	1.68 times

<sup>(1)</sup> Debt-to-total capitalization is calculated as total long-term debt plus current portion of long-term debt, divided by the sum of total debt plus total shareholders' equity.

<sup>(2)</sup> The operating lease commitments have been discounted using the Company's implicit interest rate for each of the periods presented.