

FRANKLIN ELECTRIC CO INC
Form 11-K
June 16, 2015

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 11-K

FOR ANNUAL REPORTS OF EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE, SAVINGS AND SIMILAR PLANS
PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

ý 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 0-362

FRANKLIN ELECTRIC CO., INC. RETIREMENT PROGRAM
(Full title of the plan)

FRANKLIN ELECTRIC CO., INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Indiana
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or
organization)

35-0827455
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

9255 Coverdale Road
Fort Wayne, Indiana
(Address of principal executive offices)

46809
(Zip Code)

(260) 824-2900
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Franklin Electric Co., Inc. Retirement Program
Financial Statements as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and for the Year Ended December 31, 2014, and
Supplemental Schedule as of December 31, 2014, and Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

FRANKLIN ELECTRIC CO., INC. RETIREMENT PROGRAM
TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page Number
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Financial Statements</u>	
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2014 and 2013	<u>5</u>
<u>Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the Year Ended December 31, 2014</u>	<u>6</u>
Notes to Financial Statements as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and for the Year ended December 31, 2014	<u>7</u>
<u>Supplemental Schedule</u>	
<u>Form 5500, Schedule H, Part IV, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2014</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Signature</u>	<u>18</u>

Exhibit 23.1 - Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

All other schedules required by Section 2520.103-10 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 have been omitted because they are not applicable.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Participants and the Employee Benefits Committee
Franklin Electric Co., Inc. Retirement Program
Fort Wayne, Indiana

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of Franklin Electric Co., Inc. Retirement Program (the Plan) as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2014. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's 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. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan 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 U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

The supplemental Schedule H, Part IV, 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 Plan's financial statements. The supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the information presented in 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/ Crowe Horwath LLP
Columbus, Ohio
June 16, 2015

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FRANKLIN ELECTRIC CO., INC. RETIREMENT PROGRAM
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013

	2014	2013
ASSETS:		
Cash	\$1,200	\$6,200
Participant-directed investments - at fair value (see Note 3):		
Short-term investments	752,000	1,106,400
Franklin Electric Co., Inc. common stock	30,021,300	38,620,300
Wells Fargo stable return fund	21,038,100	21,481,000
Collective funds	15,443,900	13,063,500
Investments in shares of registered investment companies	54,190,500	49,118,300
Total investments	121,445,800	123,389,500
Receivables:		
Employer contributions	5,633,100	5,414,300
Notes receivable from participants	2,384,700	2,219,800
Total receivables	8,017,800	7,634,100
Total assets	\$129,464,800	\$131,029,800
Net assets available for benefits, reflecting all investments at fair value	\$129,464,800	\$131,029,800
Adjustments from fair value to contract value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts	(284,100)	(169,200)
Net assets available for benefits	\$129,180,700	\$130,860,600

See Notes to Financial Statements.

FRANKLIN ELECTRIC CO., INC. RETIREMENT PROGRAM
 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

Contributions:	
Participant contributions	\$5,056,000
Participant rollover contributions	634,200
Employer contributions	5,633,100
Total contributions	11,323,300
Investment income:	
Dividends and interest	1,313,600
Total investment income	1,313,600
Total additions	12,636,900
Deductions:	
Net depreciation	3,109,000
Benefits paid to participants	10,904,800
Administrative expenses	303,000
Total deductions	14,316,800
Net decrease	(1,679,900)
Net assets available for benefits:	
Beginning of year	130,860,600
End of year	\$ 129,180,700

See Notes to Financial Statements.

FRANKLIN ELECTRIC CO., INC. RETIREMENT PROGRAM
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013, AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following description of the Franklin Electric Co., Inc. Retirement Program (the "Plan") is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan Document and Summary Plan Description for more complete information, which is available from the Plan Administrator.

General - The Plan is administered by the Franklin Electric Co., Inc. (the "Company") Employee Benefits Committee ("Plan Fiduciary"). The Employee Benefits Committee is appointed by the Company and approved by the Board of Directors of Franklin Electric Co., Inc. The Plan's trustee is Wells Fargo Bank of Minnesota, N.A. ("Plan Trustee"). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), as amended.

The Plan is a defined-contribution employee benefit plan covering substantially all eligible employees. Company matching contributions for employees are made to the Plan.

Contribution - Effective during the 2013 Plan year, the Company added a Roth election option to the Plan, allowing employees to contribute on an after-tax basis in addition to pre-tax deferrals.

U.S. domestic employees can contribute on a pre-tax basis and/or after-tax Roth basis from 1% to 50% of their eligible compensation not to exceed the IRS limit (\$17,500 for 2014). An additional \$5,500 'catch-up' contribution is also allowed for the year if an employee reaches age 50 by the end of the calendar year.

For U.S. domestic employees, other than the Little Rock union contract employees, the Company contributed an amount equal to 100% for the first 2% and 50% of the next 3% of the participant's total contributions, or up to 3 1/2% of each employee's eligible compensation.

For the Little Rock union contract employees, the Company contributed 3 1/2% of each employee's eligible compensation, whether the employee participated in the Plan or not.

Most participants also receive a service-based contribution in the range of 3% to 9% of annual earnings depending on the number of years of service to the Company. Participants not eligible to receive the service-based contribution include non-bargaining employees, the Franklin Control Systems division employees (formerly named Cerus Industrial) and hourly participants still accruing benefits under the sunset provision related to the previously frozen Franklin Electric Co., Inc. Pension Plans.

Effective April 14, 2014, an amendment was passed by the Plan which excludes Franklin Control Systems employees from receiving the annual service-based contribution.

Company contributions to the participant accounts are funded in the first quarter following the plan year.

Participant Accounts - Individual accounts are maintained for each Plan participant. Each participant's account is credited/charged with: (a) the participant's contributions and withdrawals; (b) Company matching contributions and service-based contributions (if applicable) made to the Plan; and (c) Plan earnings and losses, less expenses.

Allocation of earnings and expenses are based on participants' account balances. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's account.

Investments - Participating employees direct the investment of their contributions and account balances into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Plan currently offers a Franklin Electric common stock fund, various intermediate bond funds, a stable return collective investment fund, a diversified real asset fund, various international equity funds, a small capitalization growth equity fund, a small capitalization value fund, a small-cap blended fund, a mid-cap blended fund, a large capitalization growth fund, a large capitalization value fund, a large-cap blended fund, and various target date funds as investment options for participants.

Concentration - The Plan includes two investments, Franklin Electric Co., Inc. Common Stock and the Wells Fargo Stable Return Fund, that represented approximately 23% and 16% of the Plan's net assets as of December 31, 2014, respectively. These respective investments represented approximately 30% and 17% of the Plan's net assets as of December 31, 2013.

Vesting - Participants are 100% vested in both their own contributions and the employer match contribution at all times. Participants are 100% vested in the service contribution after completing three calendar years of service, with at least 1,000 hours of service completed within each calendar year. Forfeited balances of terminated participants are allocated to the remaining Plan participants. \$99,200 of forfeited nonvested amounts were allocated to Plan participants during the first quarter of 2015 relating to 2014 employer contributions.

Notes Receivable from Participants - Participants may borrow from their accounts up to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of the participant's account. Loan transactions are treated as a transfer between the investment fund and the loan fund. Loan terms range from 1 to 5 years for general purpose loans or up to 10 years for the purchase of a primary residence and are repaid through payroll deductions. Interest is charged at the prime rate plus 1%, determined at the time the funds are borrowed, and is credited to the participant's account. The maximum number of loans that a participant may have at any one time is two. Should the participant terminate as an employee of the Company, the balance of the outstanding loan(s) (including any accrued interest) becomes due and the participant's account may be used to pay the balance of the outstanding loan(s).

All loan fees are paid by the participant and are deducted directly from the assets of the participant's account.

Administrative Expenses - Administrative, recordkeeping, and trustee expenses for the Plan are charged to the plan. All other administrative expenses are paid by the Company.

Payment of Benefits - Participants may elect to receive a lump-sum distribution equal to the value of their account or receive equal monthly or annual installments over a specified period as defined by the Plan.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting - The financial statements of the Plan have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures 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 could differ from these estimates.

Risks and Uncertainties - Investment securities, in general, are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit, and overall market volatility. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is 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.

Notes Receivable from Participants - Notes receivable from participants are reported at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest, with no allowance for credit losses, as repayments of principal and interest are received through payroll deductions and the notes are collateralized by the participants' account balances.

Investment Transactions - Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis.

Income Recognition - Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation/(depreciation) includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments - The fair values of employer contributions receivable have been determined to approximate carrying value based upon their short-term nature.

Investment Valuation - The Plan's investments are stated at fair value.

Short-term investments include highly liquid assets that seek to maintain a constant net asset value of \$1 per unit. Short-term investments are valued at the deposit account balance, which approximates fair value. Investments in Franklin Electric Co., Inc. common stock are valued at the last quoted sale or bid prices as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. Shares of mutual funds are valued at quoted market prices on a nationally recognized security exchange, which represent the net asset values of shares held by the Plan at year end.

According to accounting guidance related to Reporting of Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contracts Held by Certain Investment Companies Subject to the AICPA Investment Company Guide and Defined-Contribution Health and Welfare and Pension Plans, investment contracts held by a defined-contribution plan are required to be reported at fair value. However, contract value

is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets available for benefits of a defined-contribution plan 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. The Plan holds an indirect interest in such contracts through its investment in a stable return fund. As required by the accounting guidance, the statements of net assets available for benefits presents the fair value of the investment contracts as well as the adjustment of the fully benefit-responsive investment contracts from fair value to contract value. The statement of changes in net assets available for benefits is prepared on a contract value basis.

The Wells Fargo Stable Return Fund N35 (the "Fund") is a collective fund whose only investment is the Wells Fargo Stable Return Fund G ("Fund G"), a collective trust fund sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. The value of the Fund is based on the underlying unit value reported by Fund G. Fund G invests primarily in investment contracts including traditional guaranteed investment contracts and security-backed contracts issued by insurance companies and other financial institutions. The Fund establishes a daily net asset value, including an annual administrative services fee of 0.35% and investment management and trustee fee of 0.13%, which is then applied to unit holders of the Fund to determine the daily value of account balances. The fair values of participation units in the stable value collective trust are based upon the net asset values of such fund, after adjustments to reflect all fund investments at fair value, including direct and indirect interests in fully benefit responsive contracts. The fair values of these investment contracts, including any wrapper contracts, are calculated by using either the quoted market prices of the underlying securities adjusted for the present value of the difference between the current wrapper fee and the contracted wrapper fee, or by discounting the related cash flows based on the current discount rate. The plan administrator, committee, participant or other authorized party may instruct Wells Fargo in writing to redeem some or all units. Units will be redeemed at the unit value as determined following receipt by Wells Fargo of written redemption instructions. Redemption proceeds will generally be paid to the account within one business day after receipt of a redemption request, and in all cases within six business days after such a receipt.

The Pacific Investment Management Company ("PIMCO") Diversified Real Asset Collective Trust Fund (the "Fund") is a collective trust fund comprised of investments in treasury inflation protected securities ("TIPS"), commodities, and real estate. For investments in TIPS, the Fund seeks to outperform the Barclays Capital US TIPS Index by employing a variety of top-down macroeconomic and bottom-up sector-specific strategies. In commodities management, the Fund seeks to outperform the Dow Jones-UBS Commodity Index. The Fund uses derivatives linked to commodity indices to gain exposure to the asset class. Finally, in real estate management, the Fund seeks to outperform the Dow Jones US REIT Index by actively managing an enhanced cash collateral portfolio to outperform the LIBOR-based rate assumed within the derivatives used to gain the core real estate exposure. The Fund uses derivatives linked to a real estate index to gain basic exposure to the asset class.

The Wells Fargo/BlackRock International Equity Index CIT (the "Fund") is a collective fund that seeks to approximate the total return of the Morgan Stanley Capital International Europe, Australasia, and Far East Index (the "Index"). The Fund invests in substantially the same stocks in approximately the same percentages that make up the Index. The Fund intends to remain 90% invested in the stocks comprising the Index. The Fund's remaining assets are invested in cash reserves.

The Wells Fargo/BlackRock Russell 2000 Index CIT (the "Fund") is a collective fund that seeks to approximate the total return of the Russell 2000 Index (the "Index"). The Fund invests in the same stocks in approximately the same percentages as the stocks that make up the Index. The Fund intends to remain 97% invested in the stocks comprising the Index. The Fund's remaining assets are invested in cash reserves.

The Wells Fargo/BlackRock S&P 500 Index CIT (the "Fund") is a collective fund that seeks to approximate the total return of the Standard & Poor's 500 Index (the "Index"). The Fund invests in the same stocks in approximately the same percentages as the stocks that make up the Index. The Fund intends to remain 95% invested in the stocks

comprising the Index. The Fund's remaining assets are invested in cash reserves.

The Wells Fargo/BlackRock S&P MidCap Index CIT (the "Fund") is a collective fund that seeks to approximate the total return of the S&P 400 MidCap Index (the "Index"). The Fund invests in the same stocks in approximately the same percentages as the stocks that make up the Index. The Fund intends to remain 95% invested in the stocks comprising the Index. The Fund's remaining assets are invested in cash reserves.

The Wells Fargo/BlackRock US Aggregate Bond Index CIT (the "Fund") is a collective fund that seeks to approximate the total return of the Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index (the "Index") by investing in bonds selected by stratified sampling. Stratified sampling represents a low-cost and efficient method of security selection, designed to select a single bond in the Index to represent several bonds within the Index with similar attributes such as maturity, credit quality, and coupon.

Units of the Wells Fargo collective funds listed above, other than the Wells Fargo Stable Return Fund N35, are valued based on the unit value established for each fund on the valuation date. The unit value for these funds is calculated by dividing each fund's

net asset value on the calculation date by the number of units that are outstanding on the calculation date for each fund. The fair values of participation units held in the various Wells Fargo collective funds were based on the net asset value reported by the fund manager as of the financial statement dates and recent transaction prices. The Plan Administrator, committee, participant or other authorized party may instruct Wells Fargo in writing to redeem some or all units of the various Wells Fargo collective funds. Units will be redeemed at the unit value as determined following receipt by Wells Fargo of written redemption instructions. Redemption proceeds will generally be paid to the account within one business day after receipt of a redemption request, and in all cases within six business days after such a receipt.

Management fees charged to the Plan for investments are deducted from income earned on a daily basis, and are not separately reflected. Accordingly, management fees are reflected as a reduction of investment return for such investments.

Payment of Benefits - Benefit payments to participants are recorded upon distribution. Amounts allocated to accounts of persons who have elected to withdraw from the Plan but have not yet been paid were not significant at December 31, 2014 and 2013.

Administrative Expenses - Administrative expenses may be paid by the Company or the Plan, at the Company's discretion and are recognized when incurred.

3. INVESTMENTS

Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures, provides guidance for defining, measuring, and disclosing fair value within an established framework and hierarchy. Fair value is defined as the amount that would be received for selling an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants and requires that assets and liabilities carried at fair value are classified and disclosed in the following three categories:

Level 1 - Securities valued using quoted prices from active markets for identical assets;

Level 2 - Securities not traded on an active market but for which observable market inputs are readily available; and

Level 3 - Securities valued based on significant unobservable inputs that reflect the Plan's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability.

Assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The following tables set forth, by level within the fair value hierarchy, a summary of the Plan's investments measured at fair value on a recurring basis at December 31, 2014 and 2013:

	December 31, 2014	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Short-term investments	\$752,000	\$—	\$752,000	