

GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP INC

Form 424B2

November 25, 2015

[Table of Contents](#)

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2)

Registration Statement No. 333-198735

## The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

\$2,007,000

Autocallable Contingent Coupon Index-Linked Notes due 2025

**If the closing level of either the S&P 500® Index or the Russell 2000® Index on any determination date is less than 50.00% of its initial level, you will not receive a coupon on the applicable payment date.** The amount that you will be paid on your note is based on the performances of the indexes. The notes will mature on the stated maturity date (December 9, 2025), unless automatically called on any determination date commencing in November 2016 to and including August 2025. Your note will be called if the closing levels of both indexes on any such determination date are *greater than* or *equal to* their respective initial levels (2,086.59 with respect to the S&P 500® Index and 1,180.359 with respect to the Russell 2000® Index). If your note is called, you will receive a payment on the next payment date (the tenth business day after the relevant determination date) equal to the face amount of your note *plus* a coupon (as described below).

Determination dates are the 23rd day of each February, May, August and November commencing in February 2016 and ending in November 2025. If on any determination date the closing levels of both indexes are *greater than or equal to* 50.00% of their respective initial levels, you will receive on the applicable payment date a coupon for each \$1,000 face amount of your note equal to \$13.875.

The amount that you will be paid on your note at maturity, if it has not been called, in addition to the final coupon, if any, is based on the performance of the index with the lowest index return. The index return for each index is the percentage increase or decrease in the final level of such index on the final determination date from its initial level.

At maturity, for each \$1,000 face amount of your note, you will receive an amount in cash equal to:

- if the index return of both indexes is *greater than or equal to* -50.00% (the final level of both indexes is *greater than or equal to* 50.00% of their respective initial levels), \$1,000 plus a coupon calculated as described above; or
- if the index return of either index is *less than* -50.00% (the final level of either index is *less than* 50.00% of its initial level), the *sum* of (i) \$1,000 *plus* (ii) the *product* of (a) the lesser performing index return *times* (b) \$1,000. **You will receive less than 50.00% of the face amount of your note and no coupon.**

If the index return for either index is *less than* -50.00%, the percentage of the face amount of your note you will receive will be based on the performance of the index with the lowest index return. In such event, you will receive *less than* 50.00% of the face amount of your note and no coupon.

The maximum return on your note is 1.3875% quarterly, regardless of how much either index appreciates.

**You should read the additional disclosure herein so that you may better understand the terms and risks of your investment, including our credit risk. See page S-9. *The estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date is equal to approximately \$932 per \$1,000 face amount. For a discussion of the estimated value and the price at which Goldman, Sachs & Co. would initially buy or sell your notes, if it makes a market in the notes, see the following page.***

Original issue date:	November 27, 2015	Original issue price:	100.00% of the face amount
Underwriting discount:	3.95% of the face amount	Net proceeds to the issuer:	96.05% of the face amount

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense. The notes are not bank deposits and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency, nor are they obligations of, or guaranteed by, a bank.

## Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Prospectus Supplement No. 4231 dated November 23, 2015.

Table of Contents

The issue price, underwriting discount and net proceeds listed above relate to the notes we sell initially. We may decide to sell additional notes after the date of this prospectus supplement, at issue prices and with underwriting discounts and net proceeds that differ from the amounts set forth above. The return (whether positive or negative) on your investment in notes will depend in part on the issue price you pay for such notes.

Goldman Sachs may use this prospectus in the initial sale of the notes. In addition, Goldman, Sachs & Co. or any other affiliate of Goldman Sachs may use this prospectus in a market-making transaction in a note after its initial sale. ***Unless Goldman Sachs or its agent informs the purchaser otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this prospectus is being used in a market-making transaction.***

**Estimated Value of Your Notes**

***The estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date (as determined by reference to pricing models used by Goldman, Sachs & Co. (GS&Co.) and taking into account our credit spreads) is equal to approximately \$932 per \$1,000 face amount, which is less than the original issue price. The value of your notes at any time will reflect many factors and cannot be predicted; however, the price (not including GS&Co.'s customary bid and ask spreads) at which GS&Co. would initially buy or sell notes (if it makes a market, which it is not obligated to do) and the value that GS&Co. will initially use for account statements and otherwise is equal to approximately \$965 per \$1,000 face amount, which exceeds the estimated value of your notes as determined by reference to these models. The amount of the excess will decline on a straight line basis over the period from the trade date through December 8, 2016.***

**About Your Prospectus**

The notes are part of the Medium-Term Notes, Series D program of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. This prospectus includes this prospectus supplement and the accompanying documents listed below. This prospectus supplement constitutes a supplement to the documents listed below and should be read in conjunction with such documents:

- Prospectus supplement dated September 15, 2014
- Prospectus dated September 15, 2014

The information in this prospectus supplement supersedes any conflicting information in the documents listed above. In addition, some of the terms or features described in the listed documents may not apply to your notes.

Table of Contents

**SUMMARY INFORMATION**

*We refer to the notes we are offering by this prospectus supplement as the offered notes or the notes. Each of the offered notes, including your notes, has the terms described below and under Specific Terms of Your Notes on page S-18. Please note that in this prospectus supplement, references to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., we, our and us mean only The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and do not include its consolidated subsidiaries, while references to Goldman Sachs mean The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., together with its consolidated subsidiaries. Also, references to the accompanying prospectus mean the accompanying prospectus, dated September 15, 2014, as supplemented by the accompanying prospectus supplement, dated September 15, 2014, in each case relating to the Medium-Term Notes, Series D of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. References to the indenture in this prospectus supplement mean the senior debt indenture, dated July 16, 2008, between The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon, as trustee.*

**Key Terms**

**Issuer:** The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

**Indices:** the S&P 500® Index (Bloomberg symbol, SPX Index), as published by S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC (S&P); the Russell 2000® Index (Bloomberg symbol, RTY Index), as published by the Russell Investment Group (Russell); see The Indices on page S-27

**Specified currency:** U.S. dollars ( \$ )

**Face amount:** each note will have a face amount equal to \$1,000; \$2,007,000 in the aggregate for all the offered notes; the aggregate face amount of the offered notes may be increased if the issuer, at its sole option, decides to sell an additional amount of the offered notes on a date subsequent to the date of this prospectus supplement

**Denominations:** \$1,000 or integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof

**Purchase at amount other than face amount:** the amount we will pay you for your notes on a call payment date or the stated maturity date, as the case may be, will not be adjusted based on the issue price you pay for your notes, so if you acquire notes at a premium (or discount) to face amount and hold them to a call payment date or the stated maturity date, it could affect your investment in a number of ways. The return on your investment in such notes will be lower (or higher) than it would have been had you purchased the notes at

face amount. See **Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes** **If You Purchase Your Notes at a Premium to Face Amount, the Return on Your Investment Will Be Lower Than the Return on Notes Purchased at Face Amount and the Impact of Certain Key Terms of the Notes Will Be Negatively Affected** on page S-11 of this prospectus supplement

**Supplemental discussion of U.S. federal income tax consequences:** you will be obligated pursuant to the terms of the notes in the absence of a change in law, an administrative determination or a judicial ruling to the contrary to characterize each note for all tax purposes as an income-bearing pre-paid derivative contract in respect of the indices, as described under **Supplemental Discussion of Federal Income Tax Consequences** herein. Pursuant to this approach, it is the opinion of Sidley Austin LLP that it is likely that any coupon payment will be taxed as ordinary income in accordance with your regular method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If you are a United States alien holder of the notes, we intend to withhold on coupon payments made to you at a 30% rate or at a lower rate specified by an applicable income tax treaty. In addition, upon the sale, exchange, redemption or maturity of your notes, it would be reasonable for you to recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between the amount of cash you receive at such time (excluding amounts attributable to any coupon payment) and your tax basis in your notes

**Cash settlement amount (on any call payment date):** if your notes are automatically called on a call observation date because the closing levels of both indices are *greater than* or *equal to* their respective

Table of Contents

initial index levels, for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes, on the related call payment date, we will pay you an amount in cash equal to the *sum* of (i) \$1,000 *plus* (ii) the coupon then due

**Cash settlement amount (on the stated maturity date):** if your notes are not automatically called, for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes, we will pay you on the stated maturity date an amount in cash equal to:

- if the index return of both indices is *greater than or equal to* -50.00%, \$1,000 plus the related coupon; or
- if the index return of either index is *less than* -50.00%, the *sum* of (i) \$1,000 *plus* (ii) the *product* of (a) the lesser performing index return *times* (b) \$1,000. **You will receive less than 50.00% of the face amount of your note and no coupon**

**Automatic call feature:** if, as measured on any call observation date, the closing levels of both indices are *greater than or equal to* their respective initial index levels, your notes will be automatically called; if your notes are automatically called on any call observation date, on the corresponding call payment date, in addition to the coupon then due, you will receive an amount in cash equal to \$1,000 for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes

**Lesser performing index return:** the index return of the lesser performing index

**Lesser performing index:** the index with the lowest index return

**Coupon:** subject to the automatic call feature, on each coupon payment date, for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes, we will pay you an amount in cash equal to:

- if the closing levels of both indices on the related coupon determination date are *greater than or equal to* their respective coupon trigger levels, \$13.875; or
- if the closing level of either index on the related coupon determination date is *less than* its respective coupon trigger level, \$0.00

**Initial index level:** 2,086.59 with respect to the S&P 500® Index and 1,180.359 with respect to the Russell 2000® Index

**Final index level:** with respect to each index, the closing level of such index on the determination date, except in the limited circumstances described under **Specific Terms of Your Notes** **Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day** on page S-21

**Coupon trigger level:** 1,043.295 with respect to the S&P 500® Index and 590.1795 with respect to the Russell 2000® Index (in each case, 50.00% of its initial index level)

**Closing level:** with respect to each index, the closing level of such index on any trading day, as further described under **Specific Terms of Your Notes** **Special Calculation Provisions** **Closing Level** on page S-23

**Index return:** with respect to each index on the determination date, the *quotient* of (i) the final index level *minus* the initial index level *divided by* (ii) the initial index level, expressed as a positive or negative percentage

**Defeasance:** not applicable

**No listing:** the offered notes will not be listed or displayed on any securities exchange or interdealer market quotation system

**Business day:** as described on page S-23

**Trading day:** as described on page S-23

**Scheduled trading day:** as described on page S-23

**Trade date:** November 23, 2015



**Original issue date (settlement date):** November 27, 2015

**Stated maturity date:** December 9, 2025, subject to adjustment as described under Specific Terms of Your Notes Payment of Principal on Stated Maturity Date Stated Maturity Date on page S-20

**Determination date:** November 24, 2025, subject to adjustment as described under Specific Terms of Your Notes Payment of Principal on Stated Maturity Date Determination Date on page S-20

**Call observation date:** each coupon determination date commencing in November 2016 and ending in August 2025, subject to adjustment as described under Specific Terms of Your Notes Payment of Principal on Stated Maturity Date Call Observation Dates on page S-21

Table of Contents

**Call payment dates:** the tenth business day after each call observation date subject to adjustment as described under *Specific Terms of Your Notes* *Payment of Principal on Stated Maturity Date* *Call Payment Dates* on page S-21

**Coupon determination dates:** the 23rd day of each February, May, August and November, commencing in February 2016 and ending in November 2025 (provided that the coupon determination date in November 2025 will be November 24, 2025), subject to adjustment as described under *Specific Terms of Your Notes* *Coupon Determination Dates* on page S-20

**Coupon payment dates:** the tenth business day after each coupon determination date to and including the stated maturity date, subject to adjustment as described under *Specific Terms of Your Notes* *Coupon and Coupon Payment Dates* on page S-20

**Regular record dates:** the scheduled business day immediately preceding the day on which payment is to be made

**Calculation agent:** Goldman, Sachs & Co. ( *GS&Co.* )

**CUSIP no.:** 38148THJ1

**ISIN no.:** US38148THJ16

**FDIC:** the notes are not bank deposits and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency, nor are they obligations of, or guaranteed by, a bank

Table of Contents**HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLES**

The following tables and examples are provided for purposes of illustration only. They should not be taken as an indication or prediction of future investment results and are intended merely to illustrate (i) the impact that various hypothetical closing levels of the indices on a coupon determination date could have on the coupon payable on the related coupon payment date and (ii) the impact that various hypothetical closing levels of the lesser performing index on the determination date could have on the cash settlement amount at maturity assuming all other variables remain constant.

The examples below are based on a range of index levels that are entirely hypothetical; no one can predict what the index level of either index will be on any day throughout the life of your notes, what the closing level of either index will be on any coupon determination date or call observation date, as the case may be, and what the final index level of the lesser performing index will be on the determination date. The indices have been highly volatile in the past meaning that the index levels have changed substantially in relatively short periods and their performance cannot be predicted for any future period.

The information in the following examples reflects the hypothetical rates of return on the offered notes assuming that they are purchased on the original issue date at the face amount and held to a call payment date or the stated maturity date. If you sell your notes in a secondary market prior to a call payment date or the stated maturity date, as the case may be, your return will depend upon the market value of your notes at the time of sale, which may be affected by a number of factors that are not reflected in the tables below such as interest rates, the volatility of the indices and our creditworthiness. In addition, the estimated value of your notes at the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date (as determined by reference to pricing models used by GS&Co.) is less than the original issue price of your notes. For more information on the estimated value of your notes, see *Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes – The Estimated Value of Your Notes At the Time the Terms of Your Notes Are Set On the Trade Date (as Determined By Reference to Pricing Models Used By GS&Co.) Is Less Than the Original Issue Price Of Your Notes* on page S-9 of this prospectus supplement. The information in the tables also reflect the key terms and assumptions in the box below.

<b>Key Terms and Assumptions</b>	
Face amount	\$1,000
Initial index level of the S&P 500® Index	2,086.59
Initial index level of the Russell 2000® Index	1,180.359
The notes are not automatically called, unless otherwise indicated below	
Neither a market disruption event nor a non-trading day occurs on any originally scheduled coupon determination date or call observation date or the originally scheduled determination date	

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No change in or affecting any of the index stocks or the method by which the applicable index sponsor calculates either index

Notes purchased on original issue date at the face amount and held to a call payment date or the stated maturity date

For these reasons, the actual performance of the indices over the life of your notes, the actual index levels on any call observation date or coupon determination date, as well as the coupon payable, if any, on each coupon payment date, may bear little relation to the hypothetical examples shown below or to the historical index levels shown elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. For information about the index levels during recent periods, see The Indices Historical Closing Levels of the Indices on page S-37. Before investing in the notes, you should consult publicly available information to determine the index levels between the date of this prospectus supplement and the date of your purchase of the notes.

Also, the hypothetical examples shown below do not take into account the effects of applicable taxes. Because of the U.S. tax treatment applicable to your notes, tax liabilities could affect the after-tax rate of return on your notes to a comparatively greater extent than the after-tax return on the index stocks.

Table of Contents**Hypothetical Coupon Payments**

The examples below show hypothetical performances of each index as well as the hypothetical coupons, if any, that we would pay on each coupon payment date with respect to each \$1,000 face amount of the notes if the closing level of each index on the applicable coupon determination date were the hypothetical closing levels shown and the coupon trigger levels were 1,043.295 and 590.1795 for the S&P 500® Index and the Russell 2000® Index, respectively.

**Scenario 1**

Hypothetical Coupon Determination Date	Hypothetical Closing Level of the S&P 500® Index	Hypothetical Closing Level of the Russell 2000® Index	Hypothetical Coupon
First	900	1,400	\$0.000
Second	900	800	\$0.000
Third	2,100	500	\$0.000
Fourth	2,000	1,050	\$13.875
Fifth	900	1,000	\$0.000
Sixth	2,000	500	\$0.000
Seventh	2,000	1,000	\$13.875
Eighth	2,100	500	\$0.000
Ninth	2,200	550	\$0.000
Tenth	2,000	500	\$0.000
Eleventh	2,000	500	\$0.000
Twelfth	1,900	500	\$0.000
Thirteenth Fortieth	1,000	550	\$0.000
		<b>Total Hypothetical Coupons</b>	<b>\$27.750</b>

In Scenario 1, the hypothetical closing level of each index increases and decreases by varying amounts on each hypothetical coupon determination date. Because the hypothetical closing levels of both indices on the fourth and seventh hypothetical coupon determination dates are *greater than or equal to* their respective coupon trigger levels, the total of the hypothetical coupons in Scenario 1 is \$27.750. Because the hypothetical closing levels of both indices on the thirteenth through the fortieth hypothetical coupon determination dates are less than their respective coupon trigger levels, no further coupons will be paid, including at maturity.

**Scenario 2**

Hypothetical Coupon Determination Date	Hypothetical Closing Level of the S&P 500® Index	Hypothetical Closing Level of the Russell 2000® Index	Hypothetical Coupon
First	2,100	500	\$0.000
Second	2,200	550	\$0.000
Third	2,000	525	\$0.000
Fourth	1,900	550	\$0.000
Fifth	1,800	500	\$0.000

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<b>Sixth</b>	2,000	550	\$0.000
<b>Seventh</b>	2,100	525	\$0.000
<b>Eighth</b>	2,200	550	\$0.000
<b>Ninth</b>	2,000	500	\$0.000
<b>Tenth</b>	900	1,200	\$0.000
<b>Eleventh</b>	900	1,400	\$0.000
<b>Twelfth</b>	2,000	500	\$0.000
<b>Thirteenth Fortieth</b>	2,100	500	\$0.000
		<b>Total Hypothetical Coupons</b>	<b>\$0.000</b>

In Scenario 2, the hypothetical closing level of each index increases and decreases by varying amounts on each hypothetical coupon determination date. Because in each case the hypothetical closing level of at least one of the indices on the related coupon determination date is *less than* its respective coupon trigger level, you will not receive a coupon payment on the applicable hypothetical coupon payment date. Since this occurs on every hypothetical coupon determination date, the overall return you earn on your notes will be zero or less. Therefore, the total of the hypothetical coupons in Scenario 2 is \$0.00.

**Scenario 3**

<b>Hypothetical Coupon Determination date</b>	<b>Hypothetical Closing Level of the S&amp;P 500® Index</b>	<b>Hypothetical Closing Level of the Russell 2000® Index</b>	<b>Hypothetical Coupon</b>
<b>First</b>	1,000	500	\$0.000
<b>Second</b>	900	550	\$0.000
<b>Third</b>	1,000	500	\$0.000
<b>Fourth</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>\$13.875</b>
		<b>Total Hypothetical Coupons</b>	<b>\$13.875</b>

Table of Contents

In Scenario 3, the hypothetical closing levels of the indices are less than their respective coupon trigger levels on the first three hypothetical coupon determination dates, but increase to levels that are *greater than* their respective initial index levels on the fourth hypothetical coupon determination date. Because the hypothetical closing levels of both indices are *greater than* or *equal to* their respective initial index levels on the fourth hypothetical coupon determination date (which is also the first hypothetical call observation date), your notes will be automatically called.

Therefore, on the corresponding hypothetical call payment date, in addition to the hypothetical coupon of \$13.875, you will receive an amount in cash equal to \$1,000 for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes.

**Hypothetical Payment at Maturity**

If the notes are not called on any call observation date (i.e., on each call observation date the closing level of either index is *less than* its respective initial index level), the cash settlement amount we would deliver for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes on the maturity date will depend on the performance of the lesser performing index on the determination date, as shown in the table below. The table below assumes that **the notes have not been automatically called on a call observation date**, does not include the final coupon, if any, and reflects hypothetical cash settlement amounts that you could receive on the stated maturity date. If the final index level of the lesser performing index (as a percentage of the initial index level) is less than 50.00%, you will not be paid a final coupon at maturity.

The levels in the left column of the table below represent hypothetical final index levels of the lesser performing index and are expressed as percentages of the initial index level of the lesser performing index. The amounts in the right column represent the hypothetical cash settlement amounts, based on the corresponding hypothetical final index level of the lesser performing index (expressed as a percentage of the initial index level of the lesser performing index), and are expressed as percentages of the face amount of a note (rounded to the nearest one-thousandth of a percent). Thus, a hypothetical cash settlement amount of 100.000% means that the value of the cash payment that we would deliver for each \$1,000 of the outstanding face amount of the offered notes on the stated maturity date would equal 100.000% of the face amount of a note, based on the corresponding hypothetical final index level of the lesser performing index (expressed as a percentage of the initial index level of the lesser performing index) and the assumptions noted above.

**The Notes Have Not Been Called**

Hypothetical Final Index Level of the Lesser Performing Index (as Percentage of Initial Index Level)	Hypothetical Cash Settlement Amount at Maturity if the Notes Have <u>Not</u> Been Called on a Call Observation Date (as Percentage of Face Amount)
175.000%	100.000%*
150.000%	100.000%*
125.000%	100.000%*
<b>100.000%</b>	<b>100.000%*</b>
90.000%	100.000%*
75.000%	100.000%*
70.000%	100.000%*
<b>50.000%</b>	<b>100.000%*</b>

10.000%	10.000%
<b>0.000%</b>	<b>0.000%</b>

\*Does not include the final coupon

If, for example, the notes have not been called on a call observation date and the final index level of the lesser performing index were determined to be 25.000% of its initial index level, the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be 25.000% of the face amount of your notes, as shown in the table above. As a result, if you purchased your notes on the original issue date at the face amount and held them to the stated maturity date, you would lose 75.000% of your investment (if you purchased your notes at a premium to face amount you would lose a correspondingly higher percentage of your investment). In addition, if the final index level of the lesser performing index were determined to be 175.000% of its initial index level, the cash settlement amount that we would deliver on your notes at maturity would be limited to 100.000% of each \$1,000 face amount of your notes, as shown in the table above. As a result, if you held your



Table of Contents

notes to the stated maturity date, you would not benefit from any increase in the final index level over the initial index level.

The cash settlement amounts shown above are entirely hypothetical; they are based on market prices for the index stocks that may not be achieved on the determination date and on assumptions that may prove to be erroneous. The actual market value of your notes on the stated maturity date or at any other time, including any time you may wish to sell your notes, may bear little relation to the hypothetical cash settlement amounts shown above, and these amounts should not be viewed as an indication of the financial return on an investment in the offered notes. The hypothetical cash settlement amounts on notes held to the stated maturity date in the examples above assume you purchased your notes at their face amount and have not been adjusted to reflect the actual issue price you pay for your notes. The return on your investment (whether positive or negative) in your notes will be affected by the amount you pay for your notes. If you purchase your notes for a price other than the face amount, the return on your investment will differ from, and may be significantly lower than, the hypothetical returns suggested by the above examples. Please read *Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes – The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors* on page S-11.

Payments on the notes are economically equivalent to the amounts that would be paid on a combination of other instruments. For example, payments on the notes are economically equivalent to a combination of an interest-bearing bond bought by the holder and one or more options entered into between the holder and us (with one or more implicit option premiums paid over time). The discussion in this paragraph does not modify or affect the terms of the notes or the U.S. federal income tax treatment of the notes, as described elsewhere in this prospectus supplement.

*We cannot predict the actual closing levels of the indices on any day, the final index level of the indices or what the market value of your notes will be on any particular trading day, nor can we predict the relationship between the closing levels of the indices and the market value of your notes at any time prior to the stated maturity date. The actual coupon payment, if any, that a holder of the notes will receive on each coupon payment date, the actual amount that you will receive at maturity, if any, and the rate of return on the offered notes will depend on whether or not the notes are called and the actual closing levels of the indices on the coupon determination dates and the actual final index levels determined by the calculation agent as described above. Moreover, the assumptions on which the hypothetical examples are based may turn out to be inaccurate. Consequently, the coupon to be paid in respect of your notes, if any, and the cash amount to be paid in respect of your notes on the stated maturity date, if any, may be very different from the information reflected in the tables and examples above.*

Table of Contents

**ADDITIONAL RISK FACTORS SPECIFIC TO YOUR NOTES**

*An investment in your notes is subject to the risks described below, as well as the risks and considerations described in the accompanying prospectus dated September 15, 2014 and in the accompanying prospectus supplement dated September 15, 2014. You should carefully review these risks and considerations as well as the terms of the notes described herein and in the accompanying prospectus, dated September 15, 2014, as supplemented by the accompanying prospectus supplement, dated September 15, 2014, of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Your notes are a riskier investment than ordinary debt securities. Also, your notes are not equivalent to investing directly in the index stocks, i.e., the stocks comprising the indices to which your notes are linked. You should carefully consider whether the offered notes are suited to your particular circumstances.*

**The Estimated Value of Your Notes At the Time the Terms of Your Notes Are Set On the Trade Date (as Determined By Reference to Pricing Models Used By GS&Co.) Is Less Than the Original Issue Price Of Your Notes**

The original issue price for your notes exceeds the estimated value of your notes as of the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date, as determined by reference to GS&Co.'s pricing models and taking into account our credit spreads. Such estimated value on the trade date is set forth above under Estimated Value of Your Notes ; after the trade date, the estimated value as determined by reference to these models will be affected by changes in market conditions, our creditworthiness and other relevant factors. The price at which GS&Co. would initially buy or sell your notes (if GS&Co. makes a market, which it is not obligated to do), and the value that GS&Co. will initially use for account statements and otherwise, also exceeds the estimated value of your notes as determined by reference to these models. As agreed by GS&Co. and the distribution participants, the amount of this excess will decline on a straight line basis over the period from the date hereof through the applicable date set forth above under Estimated Value of Your Notes . Thereafter, if GS&Co. buys or sells your notes it will do so at prices that reflect the estimated value determined by reference to such pricing models at that time. The price at which GS&Co. will buy or sell your notes at any time also will reflect its then current bid and ask spread for similar sized trades of structured notes.

In estimating the value of your notes as of the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date, as disclosed above under Estimated Value of Your Notes , GS&Co.'s pricing models consider certain variables, including principally our credit spreads, interest rates (forecasted, current and historical rates), volatility, price-sensitivity analysis and the time to maturity of the notes. These pricing models are proprietary and rely in part on certain assumptions about future events, which may prove to be incorrect. As a result, the actual value you would receive if you sold your notes in the secondary market, if any, to others may differ, perhaps materially, from the estimated value of your notes determined by reference to our models due to, among other things, any differences in pricing models or assumptions used by others. See The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors below.

The difference between the estimated value of your notes as of the time the terms of your notes are set on the trade date and the original issue price is a result of certain factors, including principally the underwriting discount and commissions, the expenses incurred in creating, documenting and marketing the notes, and an estimate of the difference between the amounts we pay to GS&Co. and the amounts GS&Co. pays to us in connection with your notes. We pay to GS&Co. amounts based on what we would

pay to holders of a non-structured note with a similar maturity. In return for such payment, GS&Co. pays to us the amounts we owe under your notes.

In addition to the factors discussed above, the value and quoted price of your notes at any time will reflect many factors and cannot be predicted. If GS&Co. makes a market in the notes, the price quoted by GS&Co. would reflect any changes in market conditions and other relevant factors, including any deterioration in our creditworthiness or perceived creditworthiness. These changes may adversely affect the value of your notes, including the price you may receive for your notes in any market making transaction. To the extent that GS&Co. makes a market in the notes, the quoted price will reflect the estimated value determined by reference to GS&Co.'s pricing models at that time, plus or minus its then

Table of Contents

current bid and ask spread for similar sized trades of structured notes (and subject to the declining excess amount described above).

Furthermore, if you sell your notes, you will likely be charged a commission for secondary market transactions, or the price will likely reflect a dealer discount. This commission or discount will further reduce the proceeds you would receive for your notes in a secondary market sale.

There is no assurance that GS&Co. or any other party will be willing to purchase your notes at any price and, in this regard, GS&Co. is not obligated to make a market in the notes. See [Your Notes May Not Have an Active Trading Market](#) below.

**The Notes Are Subject to the Credit Risk of the Issuer**

Although the coupons (if any) and return on the notes will be based on the performance of each index, the payment of any amount due on the notes is subject to our credit risk. The notes are our unsecured obligations. Investors are dependent on our ability to pay all amounts due on the notes, and therefore investors are subject to our credit risk and to changes in the market's view of our creditworthiness. See [Description of the Notes We May Offer](#) [Information About Our Medium-Term Notes, Series D Program](#) [How the Notes Rank Against Other Debt](#) on page S-4 of the accompanying prospectus supplement.

**You May Lose Your Entire Investment in the Notes**

You can lose your entire investment in the notes. Assuming your notes are not automatically called, the cash settlement amount on your notes, if any, on the stated maturity date will be based on the performance of the lesser performing of the S&P 500® Index and the Russell 2000® Index as measured from their initial index levels to the closing level of the lesser performing index on the determination date. If the index return of either index is *less than* -50.00%, you will have a loss for each \$1,000 of the face amount of your notes equal to the *product* of the lesser performing index return *times* \$1,000. Thus, you may lose your entire investment in the notes, which would include any premium to face amount you paid when you purchased the notes.

Also, the market price of your notes prior to a call payment date or the stated maturity date, as the case may be, may be significantly lower than the purchase price you pay for your notes. Consequently, if you sell your notes before the stated maturity date, you may receive far less than the amount of your investment in the notes.

**You May Not Receive a Coupon on Any Coupon Payment Date**

If the closing level of either index on the related coupon determination date is *less than* its respective coupon trigger level, you will not receive a coupon payment on the applicable coupon payment date. If this occurs on every coupon determination date, the overall return you earn on your notes will be zero or less and such return will be less than you would have earned by investing in a note that bears interest at the prevailing market rate.

Although you will receive a coupon if the closing levels of both of the indices on the related coupon determination date are greater than or equal to their respective coupon trigger levels, the coupon paid on the corresponding coupon payment date will be equal to \$13.875. You should be aware that, with respect to prior coupon determination dates that did not result in the payment of a coupon, you will not be compensated for any opportunity cost implied by inflation and other factors relating to the time value of money. Further, there is no guarantee that you will receive any coupon payment with respect to the notes at any time and you may lose your entire investment in the notes.

#### **Your Notes Are Subject to Automatic Redemption**

We will automatically call and redeem all, but not part, of your notes on a call payment date if, as measured on any call observation date, the closing levels of both indices are greater than or equal to their respective initial index levels. Therefore, the term for your notes may be reduced to approximately one year after the original issue date. You will not receive any additional coupon payments after the notes are automatically called and you may not be able to reinvest the proceeds from an investment in the notes at a comparable return for a similar level of risk in the event the notes are called prior to maturity.

Table of Contents

**The Coupon Does Not Reflect the Actual Performance of the Indices from the Trade Date to Any Coupon Determination Date or from Coupon Determination Date to Coupon Determination Date**

The coupon for each quarterly coupon payment date is different from, and may be less than, a coupon determined based on the percentage difference of the closing levels of the indices between the trade date and any coupon determination date or between two coupon determination dates. Accordingly, the coupons, if any, on the notes may be less than the return you could earn on another instrument linked to the indices that pay coupons based on the performance of the indices from the trade date to any coupon determination date or from coupon determination date to coupon determination date.

**The Cash Settlement Amount Will Be Based Solely on the Lesser Performing Index**

If the notes are not automatically called, the cash settlement amount will be based on the lesser performing index without regard to the performance of the other index. As a result, you could lose all or some of your initial investment if the lesser performing index return is negative, even if there is an increase in the level of the other index. This could be the case even if the other index increased by an amount greater than the decrease in the lesser performing index.

**The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors**

When we refer to the market value of your notes, we mean the value that you could receive for your notes if you chose to sell them in the open market before the stated maturity date. A number of factors, many of which are beyond our control, will influence the market value of your notes, including:

- the levels of the indices;
- the volatility i.e., the frequency and magnitude of changes in the closing levels of the indices;
- the dividend rates of the index stocks;
- economic, financial, legislative, regulatory, political, military and other events that affect stock markets generally and the stocks underlying the indices, and which may affect the closing levels of the indices;

- interest rates and yield rates in the market;
- the time remaining until your notes mature; and
- our creditworthiness, whether actual or perceived, and including actual or anticipated upgrades or downgrades in our credit ratings or changes in other credit measures.

These factors, and many other factors, will influence the price you will receive if you sell your notes before maturity, including the price you may receive for your notes in any market making transaction. If you sell your notes before maturity, you may receive less than the face amount of your notes.

You cannot predict the future performance of the indices based on their historical performance. The actual performance of the indices over the life of the offered notes, the cash settlement amount paid on a call payment date or the stated maturity date, as the case may be, as well as the coupon payable, if any, on each coupon payment date, may bear little or no relation to the historical closing levels of the indices or to the hypothetical examples shown elsewhere in this prospectus supplement.

**If You Purchase Your Notes at a Premium to Face Amount, the Return on Your Investment Will Be Lower Than the Return on Notes Purchased at Face Amount and the Impact of Certain Key Terms of the Notes Will Be Negatively Affected**

The cash settlement amount you will be paid for your notes on the stated maturity date, if any, or the amount you will be paid on a call payment date will not be adjusted based on the issue price you pay for the notes. If you purchase notes at a price that differs from the face amount of the notes, then the return on your investment in such notes held to a call payment date or the stated maturity date will differ from, and may be substantially less than, the return on notes purchased at face amount. If you purchase your notes at a premium to face amount and hold them to a call payment date or the stated maturity date, the return on your investment in the notes will be lower than it would have been had you purchased the notes at face amount or a discount to face amount.

Table of Contents

**If the Levels of the Indices Change, the Market Value of Your Notes May Not Change in the Same Manner**

The price of your notes may move differently than the performance of the indices. Changes in the levels of the indices may not result in a comparable change in the market value of your notes. Even if the closing level of each index is greater than or equal to its initial index level during some portion of the life of the notes, the market value of your notes may not reflect this. We discuss some of the reasons for this disparity under [The Market Value of Your Notes May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors](#) above.

**Anticipated Hedging Activities by Goldman Sachs or Our Distributors May Negatively Impact Investors in the Notes and Cause Our Interests and Those of Our Clients and Counterparties to be Contrary to Those of Investors in the Notes**

Goldman Sachs expects to hedge The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.'s obligations under the notes by purchasing futures and/or other instruments linked to the indices. Goldman Sachs also expects to adjust the hedge by, among other things, purchasing or selling any of the foregoing, and perhaps other instruments linked to the indices or the stocks underlying the indices, which we refer to as index stocks, at any time and from time to time, and to unwind the hedge by selling any of the foregoing on or before the determination date for your notes. Alternatively, Goldman Sachs may hedge all or part of our obligations under the notes with unaffiliated distributors of the notes which we expect will undertake similar market activity. Goldman Sachs may also enter into, adjust and unwind hedging transactions relating to other index-linked notes whose returns are linked to changes in the levels of the indices or the index stocks, as applicable.

In addition to entering into such transactions itself, or distributors entering into such transactions, Goldman Sachs may structure such transactions for its clients or counterparties, or otherwise advise or assist clients or counterparties in entering into such transactions. These activities may be undertaken to achieve a variety of objectives, including: permitting other purchasers of the notes or other securities to hedge their investment in whole or in part; facilitating transactions for other clients or counterparties that may have business objectives or investment strategies that are inconsistent with or contrary to those of investors in the notes; hedging the exposure of Goldman Sachs to the notes including any interest in the notes that it reacquires or retains as part of the offering process, through its market-making activities or otherwise; enabling Goldman Sachs to comply with its internal risk limits or otherwise manage firmwide, business unit or product risk; and/or enabling Goldman Sachs to take directional views as to relevant markets on behalf of itself or its clients or counterparties that are inconsistent with or contrary to the views and objectives of the investors in the notes.

Any of these hedging or other activities may adversely affect the levels of the indices directly or indirectly by affecting the price of the index stocks and therefore the market value of your notes and the amount we will pay on your notes, if any, at maturity. In addition, you should expect that these transactions will cause Goldman Sachs or its clients, counterparties or distributors to have economic interests and incentives that do not align with, and that may be directly contrary to, those of an investor in the notes. Neither Goldman Sachs nor any distributor will have any obligation to take, refrain from taking or cease taking any action with respect to these transactions based on the potential effect on an investor in the notes, and may receive substantial returns on hedging or other activities while the value of your notes declines. In addition, if the distributor from which you purchase notes is to conduct hedging activities in connection with the notes, that distributor may otherwise profit in connection with such hedging activities and such profit, if any, will be in addition to the compensation that the distributor receives for the sale of the notes to you. You should be aware that the potential to earn fees in connection with hedging activities may create a further incentive for the distributor to sell the notes to you in addition to the compensation they would receive for the sale of the notes.



**Goldman Sachs Trading and Investment Activities for its Own Account or for its Clients, Could Negatively Impact Investors in the Notes**

Goldman Sachs is a global investment banking, securities and investment management firm that provides a wide range of financial services to a substantial and diversified client base that includes corporations, financial institutions, governments and high-net-worth individuals. As such, it acts as an investor, investment banker, research provider, investment manager, investment advisor, market maker, trader, prime broker and lender. In those and other capacities, Goldman Sachs purchases, sells or holds a broad array of investments, actively trades securities, derivatives, loans, commodities, currencies, credit

S-12

Table of Contents

default swaps, indices, baskets and other financial instruments and products for its own account or for the accounts of its customers, and will have other direct or indirect interests, in the global fixed income, currency, commodity, equity, bank loan and other markets. Any of Goldman Sachs' financial market activities may, individually or in the aggregate, have an adverse effect on the market for your notes, and you should expect that the interests of Goldman Sachs or its clients or counterparties will at times be adverse to those of investors in the notes.

Goldman Sachs regularly offers a wide array of securities, financial instruments and other products into the marketplace, including existing or new products that are similar to your notes, or similar or linked to the indices or index stocks. Investors in the notes should expect that Goldman Sachs will offer securities, financial instruments, and other products that will compete with the notes for liquidity, research coverage or otherwise.

**Goldman Sachs' Market-Making Activities Could Negatively Impact Investors in the Notes**

Goldman Sachs actively makes markets in and trades financial instruments for its own account and for the accounts of customers. These financial instruments include debt and equity securities, currencies, commodities, bank loans, indices, baskets and other products. Goldman Sachs' activities include, among other things, executing large block trades and taking long and short positions directly and indirectly, through derivative instruments or otherwise. The securities and instruments in which Goldman Sachs takes positions, or expects to take positions, include securities and instruments of an index or index stocks, securities and instruments similar to or linked to the foregoing or the currencies in which they are denominated. Market making is an activity where Goldman Sachs buys and sells on behalf of customers, or for its own account, to satisfy the expected demand of customers. By its nature, market making involves facilitating transactions among market participants that have differing views of securities and instruments. As a result, you should expect that Goldman Sachs will take positions that are inconsistent with, or adverse to, the investment objectives of investors in the notes.

If Goldman Sachs becomes a holder of any securities of the indices or index stocks in its capacity as a market-maker or otherwise, any actions that it takes in its capacity as securityholder, including voting or provision of consents, will not necessarily be aligned with, and may be inconsistent with, the interests of investors in the notes.

**You Should Expect That Goldman Sachs Personnel Will Take Research Positions, or Otherwise Make Recommendations, Provide Investment Advice or Market Color or Encourage Trading Strategies That Might Negatively Impact Investors in the Notes**

Goldman Sachs and its personnel, including its sales and trading, investment research and investment management personnel, regularly make investment recommendations, provide market color or trading ideas, or publish or express independent views in respect of a wide range of markets, issuers, securities and instruments. They regularly implement, or recommend to clients that they implement, various investment strategies relating to these markets, issuers, securities and instruments. These strategies include, for example, buying or selling credit protection against a default or other event involving an issuer or financial instrument. Any of these recommendations and views may be negative with respect to the indices or index stocks or other securities or instruments similar to or linked to the foregoing or result in trading strategies that have a negative impact on the market for any such securities or instruments, particularly in illiquid markets. In addition, you should expect that personnel in the trading and investing businesses of Goldman Sachs will have or develop independent views of the indices or index stocks, the relevant industry or other market trends, which may not be aligned with the views and objectives of investors in the notes.

**Goldman Sachs Regularly Provides Services to, or Otherwise Has Business Relationships with, a Broad Client Base, Which May Include the Sponsors of an Index or the Issuers of the Index Stocks or Other Entities That Are Involved in the Transaction**

Goldman Sachs regularly provides financial advisory, investment advisory and transactional services to a substantial and diversified client base, and you should assume that Goldman Sachs will, at present or in the future, provide such services or otherwise engage in transactions with, among others, the sponsors of each index or the issuers of the index stocks, or transact in securities or instruments or with parties that are directly or indirectly related to the foregoing. These services could include making loans to or equity

s-13

Table of Contents

investments in those companies, providing financial advisory or other investment banking services, or issuing research reports. You should expect that Goldman Sachs, in providing such services, engaging in such transactions, or acting for its own account, may take actions that have direct or indirect effects on the indices or index stocks, as applicable, and that such actions could be adverse to the interests of investors in the notes. In addition, in connection with these activities, certain Goldman Sachs personnel may have access to confidential material non-public information about these parties that would not be disclosed to Goldman Sachs employees that were not working on such transactions as Goldman Sachs has established internal information barriers that are designed to preserve the confidentiality of non-public information. Therefore, any such confidential material non-public information would not be shared with Goldman Sachs employees involved in structuring, selling or making markets in the notes or with investors in the notes.

In this offering, as well as in all other circumstances in which Goldman Sachs receives any fees or other compensation in any form relating to services provided to or transactions with any other party, no accounting, offset or payment in respect of the notes will be required or made; Goldman Sachs will be entitled to retain all such fees and other amounts, and no fees or other compensation payable by any party or indirectly by holders of the notes will be reduced by reason of receipt by Goldman Sachs of any such other fees or other amounts.

**The Offering of the Notes May Reduce an Existing Exposure of Goldman Sachs or Facilitate a Transaction or Position That Serves the Objectives of Goldman Sachs or Other Parties**

A completed offering may reduce Goldman Sachs' existing exposure to the indices or index stocks, securities and instruments similar to or linked to the foregoing or the currencies in which they are denominated, including exposure gained through hedging transactions in anticipation of this offering. An offering of notes will effectively transfer a portion of Goldman Sachs' exposure (and indirectly transfer the exposure of Goldman Sachs' hedging or other counterparties) to investors in the notes.

The terms of the offering (including the selection of the indices or index stocks, and the establishment of other transaction terms) may have been selected in order to serve the investment or other objectives of Goldman Sachs or another client or counterparty of Goldman Sachs. In such a case, Goldman Sachs would typically receive the input of other parties that are involved in or otherwise have an interest in the offering, transactions hedged by the offering, or related transactions. The incentives of these other parties would normally differ from and in many cases be contrary to those of investors in the notes.

**Other Investors in the Notes May Not Have the Same Interests as You**

Other investors in the notes are not required to take into account the interests of any other investor in exercising remedies or voting or other rights in their capacity as security holders or in making requests or recommendations to Goldman Sachs as to the establishment of other transaction terms. The interests of other investors may, in some circumstances, be adverse to your interests. For example, certain investors may take short positions (directly or indirectly through derivative transactions) on assets that are the same or similar to your notes, index, index stocks or other similar securities, which may adversely impact the market for or value of your notes.

**The Policies of an Index Sponsor and Changes that Affect an Index or the Index Stocks Comprising an Index, Could Affect the Coupons Payable on Your Notes, if Any, the Cash Settlement Amount If the Notes Are Called on any Call Observation Date or the Cash Settlement Amount on the Stated Maturity Date and the Market Value of Your Notes**

The policies of an applicable index sponsor concerning the calculation of the level of an index, additions, deletions or substitutions of the index stocks comprising such index, and the manner in which changes affecting such index stocks or their issuers, such as stock dividends, reorganizations or mergers, are reflected in such index level, could affect the level of such index and, therefore, whether the notes are called, the coupon payable on your notes, if any, on any coupon payment date and the market value of your notes before that date. Whether the notes are called, the coupons payable on your notes, if any, and their market value could also be affected if an index sponsor changes these policies, for example, by changing the manner in which it calculates the index level, or if an index sponsor discontinues or suspends calculation or publication of such index level, in which case it may become difficult to determine the market value of your notes. If events such as these occur, the calculation agent which initially will be GS&Co., our affiliate may determine the applicable index levels on any such date and thus the amount payable

Table of Contents

on any coupon payment date, if any, or the cash settlement amount if the notes are called on any call observation date or the cash settlement amount on the stated maturity date, as applicable in a manner it considers appropriate, in its sole discretion. We describe the discretion that the calculation agent will have in determining the applicable index levels on any trading day, a coupon determination date, a call observation date or the determination date and the coupons payable on your notes, if any, or the cash settlement amount more fully under Specific Terms of Your Notes Discontinuance or Modification of an Index and Role of Calculation Agent below.

**The Return on Your Notes Will Not Reflect Any Dividends Paid on the Index Stocks**

The applicable index sponsor calculates the level of an index by reference to the prices of the stocks included in such index, which we refer to as index stocks, without taking account of the value of dividends paid on those stocks. Therefore, the return on your notes will not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned the stocks included in each index and received the dividends paid on those stocks. You will not receive any dividends that may be paid on any of the index stocks by the index stock issuers. See You Have No Shareholder Rights or Rights to Receive Any Index Stock below for additional information.

**You Have No Shareholder Rights or Rights to Receive Any Index Stock**

Investing in your notes will not make you a holder of any of the index stocks. Neither you nor any other holder or owner of your notes will have any voting rights, any right to receive dividends or other distributions or any other rights with respect to the index stocks. Your notes will be paid in cash, as will any coupon payments, and you will have no right to receive delivery of any index stocks.

**Past Index Performance is No Guide to Future Performance**

The actual performance of the indices over the life of the notes, as well as the amount payable on any coupon payment date, call payment date or at maturity, if any, may bear little relation to the historical closing levels of the indices or to the hypothetical examples set forth elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. We cannot predict the future performance of the indices.

**As Calculation Agent, GS&Co. Will Have the Authority to Make Determinations that Could Affect the Value of Your Notes**

As calculation agent for your notes, GS&Co. will have discretion in making certain determinations that affect your notes, including determining the closing levels of the indices on any coupon determination date, which we will use to determine the coupon, if any, we will pay on any applicable coupon payment date; determining whether your notes will be automatically called; determining the final index level of the lesser performing index on the determination date, which we will use to determine the amount we must pay on the stated maturity date; determining whether to postpone a coupon determination date or the determination date because of a market disruption event or a non-trading day; the coupon determination dates; the coupon payment dates; the call observation dates;

the call payment dates and the stated maturity date. The calculation agent also has discretion in making certain adjustments relating to a discontinuation or modification of the indices. See *Specific Terms of Your Notes* *Discontinuance or Modification of an Index* below. The exercise of this discretion by GS&Co. could adversely affect the value of your notes and may present GS&Co. with a conflict of interest. We may change the calculation agent at any time without notice and GS&Co. may resign as calculation agent at any time upon 60 days' written notice to Goldman Sachs.

**Your Notes May Not Have an Active Trading Market**

Your notes will not be listed or displayed on any securities exchange or included in any interdealer market quotation system, and there may be little or no secondary market for your notes. Even if a secondary market for your notes develops, it may not provide significant liquidity and we expect that transaction costs in any secondary market would be high. As a result, the difference between bid and asked prices for your notes in any secondary market could be substantial.

**The Calculation Agent Can Postpone a Coupon Determination Date or the Determination Date, as the Case May Be, If a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day Occurs or is Continuing**

If the calculation agent determines that, on a date that would otherwise be a coupon determination date or the determination date, a market disruption event has occurred or is continuing with respect to either index or that day is not a trading day with respect to either index, such coupon determination date or the

Table of Contents

determination date will be postponed as provided under Specific Terms of Your Notes Coupon Determination Dates and Specific Terms of Your Notes Determination Date , as applicable. In no case, however, will the coupon determination date or the determination date be postponed by more than five scheduled trading days for all indices from the originally scheduled coupon determination date or the originally scheduled determination date, as applicable. Moreover, if a coupon determination date or the determination date, as applicable, is postponed to the last possible day, but the market disruption event has not ceased by that day or that day is not a trading day, that day will nevertheless be the coupon determination date or the determination date, as applicable, for the corresponding coupon payment date or stated maturity date. In such a case, the calculation agent will determine the applicable closing levels or final index levels for such coupon determination date or the determination date based on the procedures described under Specific Terms of Your Notes Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day below.

**We May Sell an Additional Aggregate Face Amount of the Notes at a Different Issue Price**

At our sole option, we may decide to sell an additional aggregate face amount of the notes subsequent to the date of this prospectus supplement. The issue price of the notes in the subsequent sale may differ substantially (higher or lower) from the issue price you paid as provided on the cover of this prospectus supplement.

**Except to the Extent The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Is One of the Companies Whose Common Stock Comprises the S&P 500® Index, There Is No Affiliation Between the Index Stock Issuers or the Index Sponsors and Us, and We Are Not Responsible For Any Disclosure By the Index Stock Issuers or the Index Sponsors**

The common stock of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. is one of the index stocks comprising the S&P 500® Index. We are not otherwise affiliated with the issuers of the index stocks or the index sponsors. As we have told you above, however, we or our affiliates may currently or from time to time in the future own securities of, or engage in business with the index sponsors or the index stock issuers. Nevertheless, neither we nor any of our affiliates assumes any responsibility for the accuracy or the completeness of any information about the indices or any of the other index stock issuers. You, as an investor in your notes, should make your own investigation into the indices and the index stock issuers. See The Indices below for additional information about each index.

Neither the index sponsors nor any of the other index stock issuers are involved in the offering of your notes in any way and none of them have any obligation of any sort with respect to your notes. Thus, neither the index sponsors nor any of the other index stock issuers have any obligation to take your interests into consideration for any reason, including in taking any corporate actions that might affect the market value of your notes.

**Certain Considerations for Insurance Companies and Employee Benefit Plans**



Any insurance company or fiduciary of a pension plan or other employee benefit plan that is subject to the prohibited transaction rules of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, which we call "ERISA", or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, including an IRA or a Keogh plan (or a governmental plan to which similar prohibitions apply), and that is considering purchasing the offered notes with the assets of the insurance company or the assets of such a plan, should consult with its counsel regarding whether the purchase or holding of the offered notes could become a prohibited transaction under ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code or any substantially similar prohibition in light of the representations a purchaser or holder in any of the above categories is deemed to make by purchasing and holding the offered notes. This is discussed in more detail under "Employee Retirement Income Security Act" below.

**The Tax Consequences of an Investment in Your Notes Are Uncertain**

The tax consequences of an investment in your notes are uncertain, both as to the timing and character of any inclusion in income in respect of your notes.

The Internal Revenue Service announced on December 7, 2007 that it is considering issuing guidance regarding the tax treatment of an instrument such as your notes, and any such guidance could adversely affect the value and the tax treatment of your notes. Among other things, the Internal Revenue Service may

Table of Contents

decide to require the holders to accrue ordinary income on a current basis and recognize ordinary income on payment at maturity, and could subject non-U.S. investors to withholding tax. Furthermore, in 2007, legislation was introduced in Congress that, if enacted, would have required holders that acquired instruments such as your notes after the bill was enacted to accrue interest income over the term of such notes. It is not possible to predict whether a similar or identical bill will be enacted in the future, or whether any such bill would affect the tax treatment of such notes. We describe these developments in more detail under

Supplemental Discussion of Federal Income Tax Consequences United States Holders Possible Change in Law below. You should consult your tax advisor about this matter. Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. intends to continue treating the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes in accordance with the treatment described under

Supplemental Discussion of Federal Income Tax Consequences on page S-41 below unless and until such time as Congress, the Treasury Department or the Internal Revenue Service determine that some other treatment is more appropriate. Please also consult your tax advisor concerning the U.S. federal income tax and any other applicable tax consequences to you of owning your notes in your particular circumstances.

**Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding May Apply to Payments on Your Notes, Including as a Result of the Failure of the Bank or Broker Through Which You Hold the Notes to Provide Information to Tax Authorities**

Please see the discussion under United States Taxation Taxation of Debt Securities Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding in the accompanying prospectus for a description of the applicability of FATCA to payments made on your notes.

Table of Contents

**SPECIFIC TERMS OF YOUR NOTES**

*We refer to the notes we are offering by this prospectus supplement as the offered notes or the notes . Please note that in this prospectus supplement, references to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. , we , our and us mean only The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and do not include its consolidated subsidiaries. Also, references to the accompanying prospectus mean the accompanying prospectus, dated September 15, 2014, as supplemented by the accompanying prospectus supplement, dated September 15, 2014, relating to Medium-Term Notes, Series D, of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Please note that in this section entitled Specific Terms of Your Notes , references to holders mean those who own notes registered in their own names, on the books that we or the trustee maintain for this purpose, and not those who own beneficial interests in notes registered in street name or in notes issued in book-entry form through The Depository Trust Company. Please review the special considerations that apply to owners of beneficial interests in the accompanying prospectus, under Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance .*

The offered notes are part of a series of debt securities, entitled Medium-Term Notes, Series D , that we may issue under the indenture from time to time as described in the accompanying prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus. The offered notes are also indexed debt securities , as defined in the accompanying prospectus.

This prospectus supplement summarizes specific financial and other terms that apply to the offered notes, including your notes; terms that apply generally to all Series D medium-term notes are described in Description of Notes We May Offer in the accompanying prospectus supplement. The terms described here supplement those described in the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and, if the terms described here are inconsistent with those described there, the terms described here are controlling.

In addition to those terms described on the under Summary Information in this prospectus supplement, the following terms will apply to your notes:

**Specified currency:**

- U.S. dollars ( \$ )

**Form of note:**

- global form only: yes, at DTC
- non-global form available: no

**Denominations:** each note registered in the name of a holder must have a face amount of \$1,000 or integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof

**Defeasance applies as follows:**

- full defeasance: no
- covenant defeasance: no

**Other terms:**

- the default amount will be payable on any acceleration of the maturity of your notes as described under **Special Calculation Provisions** below
- a business day for your notes will not be the same as a business day for our other Series D medium-term notes, as described under **Special Calculation Provisions** below

Table of Contents

- a trading day for your notes will be as described under Special Calculation Provisions below

Please note that the information about the settlement or trade date, issue price, discount or commission and net proceeds to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. on the front cover page or elsewhere in this prospectus supplement relates only to the initial issuance and sale of the offered notes. We may decide to sell additional notes on one or more dates after the date of this prospectus supplement, at issue prices and with underwriting discounts and net proceeds that differ from the amounts set forth on the front cover page or elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. If you have purchased your notes in a market-making transaction after the initial issuance and sale of the offered notes, any such relevant information about the sale to you will be provided in a separate confirmation of sale.

We describe the terms of your notes in more detail below.

#### **Index, Index Sponsor and Index Stocks**

In this prospectus supplement, when we refer to an index, we mean either the S&P 500® Index or the Russell 2000® Index specified on the front cover page, or any successor index, as each may be modified, replaced or adjusted from time to time as described under Discontinuance or Modification of an Index below. When we refer to an index sponsor as of any time, we mean the entity, including any successor sponsor, that determines and publishes the applicable index as then in effect. When we refer to the index stocks as of any time, we mean the stocks that comprise each index as then in effect, after giving effect to any additions, deletions or substitutions.

#### **Automatic Call Feature**

If, as measured on any call observation date, the closing levels of both indices are *greater than or equal to* their respective initial index levels, your notes will be automatically called; if your notes are automatically called on any call observation date, on the corresponding call payment date, in addition to the coupon then due, you will receive an amount in cash equal to \$1,000 for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes.

#### **Payment of a Contingent Coupon**

Subject to the automatic call feature, on each coupon payment date, for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes, we will pay you an amount in cash equal to:

- if the closing levels of both indices on the related coupon determination date are *greater than or equal to* their respective coupon trigger levels, \$13.875; or
- if the closing level of either index on the related coupon determination date is *less than* its respective coupon trigger level, \$0.00

The coupon trigger level is equal to 1,043.295 with respect to the S&P 500® Index and 590.1795 with respect to the Russell 2000® Index (in each case, 50.00% of its initial index level).

#### Payment of Principal on Stated Maturity Date

If your notes are not automatically called, for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes, we will pay you on the stated maturity date an amount in cash equal to:

- if the index return of both indices is *greater than or equal to* -50.00%, \$1,000 plus the related coupon; or
- if the index return of either index is *less than* -50.00%, the *sum* of (i) \$1,000 *plus* (ii) the *product* of (a) the lesser performing index return *times* (b) \$1,000. **You will receive less than 50.00% of the face amount of your note and no coupon.**

With respect to each index, the index return is calculated by *subtracting* the initial index level from the final index level and *dividing* the result by the initial index level, with the quotient expressed as a percentage.

The initial index level is 2,086.59 with respect to the S&P 500® Index and 1,180.359 with respect to the Russell 2000® Index. With respect to each index, the calculation agent will determine the final index level,

Table of Contents

which will be the closing level of such index on the determination date as calculated and published by the applicable index sponsor. However, the calculation agent will have discretion to adjust the closing level on any call observation date or the determination date or to determine it in a different manner as described under Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day and Discontinuance or Modification of an Index below.

The lesser performing index is the index with the lowest index return. The lesser performing index return is the index return of the lesser performing index.

***Stated Maturity Date***

The stated maturity date is December 9, 2025, unless that day is not a business day, in which case the stated maturity date will be the next following business day. If the determination date is postponed as described under Determination Date below, such postponement of the determination date will not postpone the stated maturity date.

***Determination Date***

The determination date is November 24, 2025, unless the calculation agent determines that, with respect to either index, a market disruption event occurs or is continuing on that day or that day is not otherwise a trading day. In the event the originally scheduled determination date is a non-trading day with respect to either index, the determination date will be the first day thereafter that is a trading day for both indices (the first qualified trading day) provided that no market disruption event occurs or is continuing with respect to an index on that day. If a market disruption event with respect to an index occurs on the originally scheduled determination date or the first qualified trading day, the determination date will be the first following trading day on which the calculation agent determines that each index has had at least one trading day (from and including the originally scheduled determination date or the first qualified trading day, as applicable) on which no market disruption event has occurred or is continuing and the closing level of each index will be determined on or prior to the postponed determination date as set forth under Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day below. (In such case, the determination date may differ from the date on which the level of an index is determined for the purpose of the calculations to be performed on the determination date.) In no event, however, will the determination date be postponed by more than five scheduled trading days for all indices from the originally scheduled determination date either due to the occurrence of serial non-trading days or due to the occurrence of one or more market disruption events. (For the avoidance of doubt, a day that is a scheduled trading day for only one index will not count as one of the five scheduled trading days for this purpose.) On such last possible determination date, if a market disruption event occurs or is continuing with respect to an index that has not yet had such a trading day on which no market disruption event has occurred or is continuing or if such last possible day is not a trading day with respect to such index, that day will nevertheless be the determination date.

***Coupon and Coupon Payment Dates***

The coupons will be calculated and paid as described in this prospectus supplement.

The coupons on the offered notes will be paid on the coupon payment dates (the tenth business day after each coupon determination date to and including the stated maturity date, provided, however, that any postponement of the coupon determination date will not postpone the applicable coupon payment date).

***Coupon Determination Dates***

The coupon determination dates are the 23rd day of each February, May, August and November, commencing in February 2016 and ending in November 2025 (provided that the coupon determination date in November 2025 will be November 24, 2025), unless the calculation agent determines that, with respect to any index, a market disruption event occurs or is continuing on that day or that day is not otherwise a trading day. In the event the originally scheduled coupon determination date is a non-trading day with respect to either index, the coupon determination date will be the first day thereafter that is a trading day for both indices (the first qualified coupon trading day ) provided that no market disruption event occurs for an index



Table of Contents

on that day. If a market disruption event with respect to an index occurs on the originally scheduled coupon determination date or the first qualified coupon trading day, the coupon determination date will be the first following trading day on which the calculation agent determines that each index has had at least one trading day (from and including the originally scheduled coupon determination date or the first qualified coupon trading date, as applicable) on which no market disruption event has occurred or is continuing and the closing level of each index for that coupon determination date will be determined on or prior to the postponed coupon determination date as set forth under *Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day* below. (In such case, the coupon determination date may differ from the date on which the level of an index is determined for the purpose of the calculations to be performed on the coupon determination date.) In no event, however, will the coupon determination date be postponed by more than five scheduled trading days for all indices from the originally scheduled coupon determination date either due to the occurrence of serial non-trading days or due to the occurrence of one or more market disruption events. (For the avoidance of doubt, a day that is a scheduled trading day for only one index will not count as one of the five scheduled trading days for this purpose). On such last possible coupon determination date applicable to the relevant coupon payment date, if a market disruption event occurs or is continuing with respect to an index that has not yet had such a trading day on which no market disruption event has occurred or is continuing or if such last possible day is not a trading day with respect to such index, that day will nevertheless be the coupon determination date.

***Call Observation Dates***

The call observation dates are each coupon determination date commencing in November 2016 and ending in August 2025, subject to adjustment as described under *Coupon Determination Dates* above.

***Call Payment Dates***

If your notes are automatically called on any call observation date, on the corresponding call payment date (the tenth business day after each call observation date, provided, however, that any postponement of the call observation date will not postpone the applicable call payment date) you will receive an amount in cash equal to \$1,000 for each \$1,000 face amount of your notes in addition to the coupon then due.

***Consequences of a Market Disruption Event or a Non-Trading Day***

With respect to either index, if a market disruption event occurs or is continuing on a day that would otherwise be a coupon determination date or the determination date, or such day is not a trading day, then such coupon determination date or the determination date will be postponed as described under *Coupon Determination Dates* or *Determination Date* above. If any coupon determination date or the determination date is postponed to the last possible date due to the occurrence of serial non-trading days, the level of each index will be the calculation agent's assessment of such level, in its sole discretion, on such last possible postponed coupon determination date or determination date, as applicable. If any coupon determination date or the determination date is postponed due to a market disruption event with respect to either index, the closing level of each index with respect to such coupon determination date or the final index level with respect to the determination date, as applicable, will be calculated based on (i) for any index that is not affected by a market disruption event on (A) the applicable originally scheduled coupon determination date or the first qualified coupon trading day thereafter (if applicable) or (B) the originally scheduled determination date or the first qualified trading day thereafter (if applicable), the closing level of the index on that date, (ii) for any

index that is affected by a market disruption event on (A) the applicable originally scheduled coupon determination date or the first qualified coupon trading day thereafter (if applicable) or (B) the originally scheduled determination date or the first qualified trading day thereafter (if applicable), the closing level of the index on the first following trading day on which no market disruption event exists for such index and (iii) the calculation agent's assessment, in its sole discretion, of the level of any index on the last possible postponed coupon determination date or determination date, as applicable, with respect to such index as to which a market disruption event continues through the last possible postponed coupon determination date or determination date. As a result, this could result in the closing level on any coupon determination date or final index level on the determination date of each index being determined on different calendar dates. For the avoidance of doubt, once the closing level for an index is

s-21

Table of Contents

determined for a coupon determination date or determination date, the occurrence of a later market disruption event or non-trading day will not alter such calculation.

***Discontinuance or Modification of an Index***

If an index sponsor discontinues publication of an index and such index sponsor or anyone else publishes a substitute index that the calculation agent determines is comparable to such index, then the calculation agent will determine the coupon payable, if any, on the relevant coupon payment date or the cash settlement amount on the call payment date or the maturity date, as applicable, by reference to the substitute index. We refer to any substitute index approved by the calculation agent as a successor index.

If the calculation agent determines on a coupon determination date or the determination date, as applicable, that the publication of an index is discontinued and there is no successor index, the calculation agent will determine the coupon or the cash settlement amount, as applicable, on the related coupon payment date or the stated maturity date, as applicable, by a computation methodology that the calculation agent determines will as closely as reasonably possible replicate such index.

If the calculation agent determines that an index, the index stocks or the method of calculating an index is changed at any time in any respect including any split or reverse split and any addition, deletion or substitution and any reweighting or rebalancing of an index or of the index stocks and whether the change is made by an index sponsor under its existing policies or following a modification of those policies, is due to the publication of a successor index, is due to events affecting one or more of the index stocks or their issuers or is due to any other reason then the calculation agent will be permitted (but not required) to make such adjustments in such index or the method of its calculation as it believes are appropriate to ensure that the levels of such index used to determine the coupon or cash settlement amount, as applicable, on the related coupon payment date or the stated maturity date, as applicable, is equitable.

All determinations and adjustments to be made by the calculation agent with respect to an index may be made by the calculation agent in its sole discretion. The calculation agent is not obligated to make any such adjustments.

**Default Amount on Acceleration**

If an event of default occurs and the maturity of your notes is accelerated, we will pay the default amount in respect of the principal of your notes at the maturity, instead of the amount payable on the stated maturity date as described earlier. We describe the default amount under **Special Calculation Provisions** below.

For the purpose of determining whether the holders of our Series D medium-term notes, which include your notes, are entitled to take any action under the indenture, we will treat the outstanding face amount of each of your notes as the outstanding principal amount of that note. Although the terms of your notes differ from those of the

other Series D medium-term notes, holders of specified percentages in principal amount of all Series D medium-term notes, together in some cases with other series of our debt securities, will be able to take action affecting all the Series D medium-term notes, including your notes, except with respect to certain Series D medium-term notes if the terms of such notes specify that the holders of specified percentages in principal amount of all of such notes must also consent to such action. This action may involve changing some of the terms that apply to the Series D medium-term notes, accelerating the maturity of the Series D medium-term notes after a default or waiving some of our obligations under the indenture. In addition, certain changes to the indenture and the notes that only affect certain debt securities may be made with the approval of holders of a majority in principal amount of such affected debt securities. We discuss these matters in the accompanying prospectus under **Description of Debt Securities We May Offer** **Default, Remedies and Waiver of Default** and **Modification of the Debt Indentures and Waiver of Covenants**.

s-22

Table of Contents

**Manner of Payment**

Any payment or delivery on your note at maturity will be made to an account designated by the holder of your note and approved by us, or at the office of the trustee in New York City, but only when your note is surrendered to the trustee at that office. We also may make any payment or delivery in accordance with the applicable procedures of the depositary.

**Modified Business Day**

As described in the accompanying prospectus, any payment on your notes that would otherwise be due on a day that is not a business day may instead be paid on the next day that is a business day, with the same effect as if paid on the original due date. For your notes, however, the term business day may have a different meaning than it does for other Series D medium-term notes. We discuss this term under [Special Calculation Provisions](#) below.

**Role of Calculation Agent**

The calculation agent in its sole discretion will make all determinations regarding each index, the coupon determination dates, the coupon payment dates, the regular record dates, the coupon, if any, on each coupon payment date, each index return, the closing levels of the indices on each coupon determination date, each final index level, the determination date, the call observation dates, call payment dates, business days, trading days, adjustment of a coupon payment date, a call payment date or the stated maturity date and the amount of cash payable on your notes at maturity. Absent manifest error, all determinations of the calculation agent will be final and binding on you and us, without any liability on the part of the calculation agent.

Please note that GS&Co., our affiliate, is currently serving as the calculation agent as of the date of this prospectus supplement. We may change the calculation agent for your notes at any time after the date of this prospectus supplement without notice and GS&Co. may resign as calculation agent at any time upon 60 days' written notice to Goldman Sachs.

**Special Calculation Provisions**

***Business Day***

When we refer to a business day with respect to your notes, we mean a day that is a New York business day as described under Description of Debt Securities We May Offer Calculations of Interest on Debt Securities Business Days on page 19 in the accompanying prospectus.

***Trading Day***

When we refer to a trading day with respect to an index, we mean a day on which the respective principal securities markets for all of the index stocks are open for trading, the index sponsor is open for business and such index is calculated and published by the index sponsor. A day is a scheduled trading day with respect to an index if, as of the trade date, the respective index sponsor is scheduled to be open for business, such index is expected to be calculated and published and the respective principal securities markets for all of its index stocks are scheduled to be open for trading on such day.

***Closing Level***

When we refer to the closing level of the Russell 2000® Index on any trading day, we mean the closing level of that index or any successor index reported by Bloomberg Financial Services, or any successor reporting service we may select, on such trading day for that index. Currently, whereas the index sponsor publishes the official closing level of the Russell 2000® Index to six decimal places, Bloomberg Financial Services reports the closing level of the Russell 2000® Index to fewer decimal places. As a result, the closing level of the Russell 2000® Index reported by Bloomberg Financial Services generally may be lower or higher than the official closing level of the Russell 2000® Index published by the index sponsor.

Table of Contents

When we refer to the closing level for the S&P 500® Index on any trading day, we mean the official closing level of the index or any successor index published by the index sponsor on such trading day for such index.

**Default Amount**

The default amount for your notes on any day (except as provided in the last sentence under **Default Quotation Period** below), will be an amount in the specified currency for the face amount of your notes, equal to the cost of having a qualified financial institution, of the kind and selected as described below, expressly assume all of our payment and other obligations with respect to your notes as of that day and as if no default or acceleration had occurred, or to undertake other obligations providing substantially equivalent economic value to you with respect to your notes. That cost will equal:

- the lowest amount that a qualified financial institution would charge to effect this assumption or undertaking, *plus*
- the reasonable expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred by the holder of your notes in preparing any documentation necessary for this assumption or undertaking.

During the default quotation period for your notes, which we describe below, the holder and/or we or the calculation agent may request a qualified financial institution to provide a quotation of the amount it would charge to effect this assumption or undertaking. If either party obtains a quotation, it must notify the other party in writing of the quotation. The amount referred to in the first bullet point above will equal the lowest or, if there is only one, the only quotation obtained, and as to which notice is so given, during the default quotation period. With respect to any quotation, however, the party not obtaining the quotation may object, on reasonable and significant grounds, to the assumption or undertaking by the qualified financial institution providing the quotation and notify the other party in writing of those grounds within two business days after the last day of the default quotation period, in which case that quotation will be disregarded in determining the default amount.

**Default Quotation Period**

The default quotation period is the period beginning on the day the default amount first becomes due and ending on the third business day after that day, unless:

- no quotation of the kind referred to above is obtained, or

- every quotation of that kind obtained is objected to within five business days after the day the default amount first becomes due.

If either of these two events occurs, the default quotation period will continue until the third business day after the first business day on which prompt notice of a quotation is given as described above. If that quotation is objected to as described above within five business days after that first business day, however, the default quotation period will continue as described in the prior sentence and this sentence.

In any event, if the default quotation period and the subsequent two business day objection period have not ended before the determination date, then the default amount will equal the principal amount of your notes.

***Qualified Financial Institutions***

For the purpose of determining the default amount at any time, a qualified financial institution must be a financial institution organized under the laws of any jurisdiction in the United States of America, Europe or Japan, which at that time has outstanding debt obligations with a stated maturity of one year or less from the date of issue and that is, or whose securities are, rated either:

- A-1 or higher by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services or any successor, or any other comparable rating then used by that rating agency, or



Table of Contents

- P-1 or higher by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. or any successor, or any other comparable rating then used by that rating agency.

**Market Disruption Event**

With respect to any given trading day, any of the following will be a market disruption event with respect to an index:

- a suspension, absence or material limitation of trading in index stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the index on their respective primary markets, in each case for more than two consecutive hours of trading or during the one half hour before the close of trading in that market, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion,
- a suspension, absence or material limitation of trading in option or futures contracts relating to the index or to index stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of such index in the respective primary markets for those contracts, in each case for more than two consecutive hours of trading or during the one-half hour before the close of trading in that market, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion, or
- index stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the index, or option or futures contracts, if available, relating to the index or to index stocks constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the index are not trading on what were the respective primary markets for those index stocks or contracts, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion,

*and*, in the case of any of these events, the calculation agent determines in its sole discretion that the event could materially interfere with the ability of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or any of its affiliates or a similarly situated party to unwind all or a material portion of a hedge that could be effected with respect to the notes. For more information about hedging by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and/or any of its affiliates, see [Use of Proceeds](#) and [Hedging](#) below.

The following events will not be market disruption events:

- a limitation on the hours or numbers of days of trading, but only if the limitation results from an announced change in the regular business hours of the relevant market, and
- a decision to permanently discontinue trading in option or futures contracts relating to an index or to any index stock.

For this purpose, an absence of trading in the primary securities market on which an index stock, or on which option or futures contracts relating to an index or an index stock are traded will not include any time when that market is itself closed for trading under ordinary circumstances. In contrast, a suspension or limitation of trading in an index stock or in option or futures contracts, if available, relating to an index or an index stock in the primary market for that stock or those contracts, by reason of:

- a price change exceeding limits set by that market,
- an imbalance of orders relating to that index stock or those contracts, or
- a disparity in bid and ask quotes relating to that index stock or those contracts,

will constitute a suspension or material limitation of trading in that stock or those contracts in that market.

A market disruption event with respect to one index will not, by itself, constitute a market disruption event for the other unaffected index.

As is the case throughout this prospectus supplement, references to the index in this description of market disruption events includes any successor index as it may be modified, replaced or adjusted from time to time.

Table of Contents

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We will use the net proceeds we receive from the sale of the offered notes for the purposes we describe in the accompanying prospectus under Use of Proceeds .

**HEDGING**

In anticipation of the sale of the offered notes, we and/or our affiliates have entered into or expect to enter into hedging transactions involving purchases of futures and other instruments linked to either index on or before the trade date. In addition, from time to time after we issue the offered notes, we and/or our affiliates may enter into additional hedging transactions and to unwind those we have entered into, in connection with the offered notes and perhaps in connection with other index-linked notes we issue, some of which may have returns linked to either index or the index stocks. Consequently, with regard to your notes, from time to time, we and/or our affiliates:

- expect to acquire, or dispose of positions in listed or over-the-counter options, futures or other instruments linked to either index or some or all of the index stocks,
- may take or dispose of positions in the securities of the index stock issuers themselves,
- may take or dispose of positions in listed or over-the-counter options or other instruments based on indices designed to track the performance of the stock exchanges or other components of the equity markets, and /or
- may take short positions in the index stocks or other securities of the kind described above i.e., we and/or our affiliates may sell securities of the kind that we do not own or that we borrow for delivery to purchaser.

We and/or our affiliates may acquire a long or short position in securities similar to your notes from time to time and may, in our or their sole discretion, hold or resell those securities.

In the future, we and/or our affiliates expect to close out hedge positions relating to the offered notes and perhaps relating to other notes with returns linked to either index or the index stocks. We expect these steps to involve sales of instruments linked to any index on or shortly before the final coupon determination date. These steps may also involve sales and/or purchases of some or all of the index stocks, or listed or over-the-counter options, futures or other instruments linked to any index, some or all of the index stocks or indices designed to track the performance of the U.S., European, Asian or other stock exchanges or other components of the U.S., European, Asian or other equity markets or other components of such markets.

*The hedging activity discussed above may adversely affect the market value of your notes from time to time and the amount we will pay on your notes at maturity. See Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes above for a discussion of these adverse effects.*

Table of Contents

**THE INDICES**

**The S&P 500® Index**

The S&P 500® Index includes a representative sample of 500 companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy. The 500 companies are not the 500 largest companies listed on the NYSE and not all 500 companies are listed on the NYSE. S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC ( S&P ) chooses companies for inclusion in the S&P 500® Index with an aim of achieving a distribution by broad industry groupings that approximates the distribution of these groupings in the common stock population of the U.S. equity market. The S&P 500® Index is calculated, maintained and published by S&P and is part of the S&P Dow Jones Indices family of indices. Additional information is available on the following website: <http://www.spindices.com/indices/equity/sp-500>. We are not incorporating this website or any material included on such website into this prospectus supplement.

S&P intends for the S&P 500® Index to provide a performance benchmark for the large-cap U.S. equity markets. Constituent changes are made on an as-needed basis and there is no schedule for constituent reviews. Constituent changes are generally announced one to five business days prior to the change. Relevant criteria for additions to the S&P 500® Index that are employed by S&P include: the company proposed for addition should have an unadjusted market capitalization of \$5.3 billion or more; the ratio of annual dollar value traded in the proposed constituent to float adjusted market capitalization of that company should be 1.00 or greater; the company should trade a minimum of 250,000 shares in each of the six months leading up to the evaluation date; the company must be a U.S. company (characterized as a Form 10-K filer, a company whose U.S. portion of fixed assets and revenues constitutes a plurality of the total, a company with a primary listing of the common stock on the NYSE (including NYSE Arca and NYSE MKT), the NASDAQ Global Select Market, the NASDAQ Select Market or the NASDAQ Capital Market and a corporate governance structure consistent with U.S. practice); the proposed constituent has a public float of 50% or more of its stock; the inclusion of the company will contribute to sector balance in the index relative to sector balance in the market as a whole; financial viability (the sum of the most recent four consecutive quarters as-reported earnings should be positive as should the most recent quarter and operationally justifiable leverage for the proposed constituent s industry and business model); and, for IPOs, a seasoning period of six to twelve months. Certain types of securities are always excluded, including business development companies (BDCs), limited partnerships, master limited partnerships, OTC bulletin board issues, closed-end funds, ETFs, ETNs, royalty trusts, tracking stocks, preferred and convertible preferred stock, unit trusts, equity warrants, convertible bonds, investment trusts, rights, American depositary receipts (ADRs), American depositary shares (ADSs) and master limited partnership investment trust units. Stocks are deleted from the S&P 500® Index when they are involved in mergers, acquisitions or significant restructurings such that they no longer meet the inclusion criteria, and when they substantially violate one or more of the addition criteria. Companies that experience a trading halt may be retained or deleted in S&P s discretion. S&P evaluates additions and deletions with a view to maintaining S&P 500® Index continuity.

Effective with the September 2015 rebalance, consolidated share class lines are no longer included in the S&P 500® Index. Each share class line is subject to public float and liquidity criteria individually, but a company's total market capitalization is used to evaluate each share class line. This may result in one listed share class line of a company being included in the S&P 500® Index while a second listed share class line of the same company is excluded.

As of November 23, 2015, the 500 companies included in the S&P 500® Index were divided into ten Global Industry Classification Sectors. The Global Industry Classification Sectors include (with the approximate percentage currently included in such sectors indicated in parentheses): Consumer Discretionary (13.17%), Consumer Staples (9.56%), Energy (6.96%), Financials (16.56%), Health Care (14.62%), Industrials (10.18%), Information Technology (20.93%), Materials (2.84%), Telecommunication Services (2.31%) and Utilities (2.87%). (Sector designations are determined by the index sponsor using criteria it has selected or developed. Index sponsors may use very different standards for determining sector designations. In addition, many companies operate in a number of sectors, but are listed in only one sector and the basis on which that sector is selected may also differ. As a result, sector comparisons

Table of Contents

between indices with different index sponsors may reflect differences in methodology as well as actual differences in the sector composition of the indices.)

*Calculation of the S&P 500® Index*

The S&P 500® Index is calculated using a base-weighted aggregate methodology. The value of the S&P 500® Index on any day for which an index value is published is determined by a fraction, the numerator of which is the aggregate of the market price of each stock in the S&P 500® Index times the number of shares of such stock included in the S&P 500® Index, and the denominator of which is the divisor, which is described more fully below. The market value of any index stock is the *product* of the market price per share of that stock *times* the number of the then outstanding shares of such index stock that are then included in the S&P 500® Index.

The S&P 500® Index is also sometimes called a base-weighted index because of its use of a divisor. The divisor is a value calculated by S&P that is intended to maintain conformity in index values over time and is adjusted for all changes in the index stocks share capital after the base date as described below. The level of the S&P 500® Index reflects the total market value of all index stocks relative to the index's base date of 1941-43.

In addition, the S&P 500® Index is float-adjusted, meaning that the share counts used in calculating the S&P 500® Index reflect only those shares available to investors rather than all of a company's outstanding shares. S&P seeks to exclude shares held by certain shareholders concerned with the control of a company, a group that generally includes the following: officers and directors, private equity, venture capital, special equity firms, publicly traded companies that hold shares in another company, strategic partners, holders of restricted shares, employee stock ownership plans, employee and family trusts, foundations associated with the company, holders of unlisted share classes of stock, government entities at all levels (except government retirement or pension funds) and any individual person who controls a 5% or greater stake in a company as reported in regulatory filings (collectively, control holders). To this end, S&P excludes all share-holdings (other than mutual funds, exchange-traded fund providers, asset managers, pension plans and other institutional investors) with a position greater than 5% of the outstanding shares of a company from the float-adjusted share count to be used in S&P 500® Index calculations. Although global consistency is preferred wherever possible, in jurisdictions where companies report holdings of higher than 5% and no holdings data at the 5% threshold is available, the float calculation will be based on the reporting level required in the non-U.S. jurisdiction.

The exclusion is accomplished by calculating an Investable Weight Factor (IWF) for each stock that is part of the numerator of the float-adjusted index fraction described above:

IWF = (available float shares)/(total shares outstanding)

where available float shares is defined as total shares outstanding less shares held by control holders. In most cases, an IWF is reported to the nearest one percentage point.

*Maintenance of the S&P 500® Index*

In order to keep the S&P 500® Index comparable over time S&P engages in an index maintenance process. The S&P 500® Index maintenance process involves changing the constituents as discussed above, and also involves maintaining quality assurance processes and procedures, adjusting the number of shares used to calculate the S&P 500® Index, monitoring and completing the adjustments for company additions and deletions, adjusting for stock splits and stock dividends and adjusting for other corporate actions. In addition to its daily governance of indices and maintenance of the S&P 500® Index methodology, at least once within any 12 month period, the S&P Index Committee reviews the S&P 500® Index methodology to ensure the S&P 500® Index continues to achieve the stated objective, and that the data and methodology remain effective. The S&P Index Committee may at times consult with investors, market participants, security issuers included in or potentially included in the S&P 500® Index, or investment and financial experts.



## Table of Contents

### Divisor Adjustments

The two types of adjustments primarily used by S&P are divisor adjustments and adjustments to the number of shares (including float adjustments) used to calculate the S&P 500® Index. Set forth below is a table of certain corporate events and their resulting effect on the divisor and the share count. If a corporate event requires an adjustment to the divisor, that event has the effect of altering the market value of the affected index stock and consequently of altering the aggregate market value of the index stocks following the event. In order that the level of the S&P 500® Index not be affected by the altered market value (which could be an increase or decrease) of the affected index stock, S&P derives a new divisor by dividing the post-event market value of the index stocks by the pre-event index value, which has the effect of reducing the S&P 500® Index's post-event value to the pre-event level.

### *Changes to the Number of Shares of a Constituent*

The index maintenance process also involves tracking the changes in the number of shares included for each of the index companies. The timing of adjustments to the number of shares depends on the type of event causing the change, public availability of data, local market practice, and whether the change represents more than 5% of the float-adjusted share count. Changes as a result of mergers or acquisitions are implemented when the transaction occurs, regardless of the size of the change to the number of shares. At S&P's discretion, however, de minimis merger and acquisition changes may be accumulated and implemented with the updates made at the quarterly share updates as described below. Changes in a constituent's float-adjusted shares of 5% or more due to public offerings, tender offers, Dutch auctions or exchange offers are implemented as soon as reasonably possible. Other changes of 5% or more are made weekly and are announced after the market close on Fridays for implementation after the close of trading on the following Friday. For smaller changes, on the third Friday of the last month in each calendar quarter, S&P updates the share totals of companies in the S&P 500® Index as required by any changes in the float-adjusted number of shares outstanding. S&P implements a share freeze the week leading to the effective date of the quarterly share count updates. During this frozen period, shares are not changed except for certain corporate action events (merger activity, stock splits, rights offerings and certain share dividend payable events). After the float-adjusted share count totals are updated, the divisor is adjusted to compensate for the net change in the total market value of the S&P 500® Index. In addition, any changes over 5% in the current common shares outstanding for the index companies are carefully reviewed by S&P on a weekly basis, and when appropriate, an immediate adjustment is made to the divisor.

### *Adjustments for Corporate Actions*

There is a large range of corporate actions that may affect companies included in the S&P 500® Index. Certain corporate actions require S&P to recalculate the share count or the float adjustment or to make an adjustment to the divisor to prevent the value of the S&P 500® Index from changing as a result of the corporate action. This helps ensure that the movement of the S&P 500® Index does not reflect the corporate actions of individual companies in the S&P 500® Index. Several types of corporate actions, and their related adjustments, are listed in the table below.

s-29

Table of Contents

<b>Corporate Action</b>	<b>Share Count Revision Required?</b>	<b>Divisor Adjustment Required?</b>
Stock split	Yes share count is revised to reflect new count	No share count and price changes are off-setting
Change in shares outstanding (secondary issuance, share repurchase and/or share buy-back)	Yes share count is revised to reflect new count	Yes divisor adjustment reflects change in market capitalization
Spin-off if spun-off company is not being added to the S&P 500® Index	No	Yes divisor adjustment reflects decline in index market value (i.e. value of the spun-off unit)
Spin-off if spun-off company is being added to the S&P 500® Index and no company is being removed	No	No
Spin-off if spun-off company is being added to the S&P 500® Index and another company is being removed	No	Yes divisor adjustment reflects deletion
Special dividends	No	Yes calculation assumes that share price drops by the amount of the dividend; divisor adjustment reflects this change in index market value
Change in IWF	No	Yes divisor change reflects the change in market value caused by the change to an IWF
Company added to or deleted from the S&P 500® Index	No	Yes divisor is adjusted by the net change in market value
Rights Offering	No	Yes divisor adjustment reflects increase in market capitalization (calculation assumes that offering is fully subscribed at the set price)

*Recalculation Policy*

S&P reserves the right to recalculate and republish the S&P 500® Index under certain limited circumstances. S&P may recalculate and republish the S&P 500® Index if it determines that the S&P 500® Index is incorrect or inconsistent within two trading days of the publication of the index level because of an incorrect or revised closing price, missed corporate event, late announcement of a corporate event, incorrect application of corporate action or index methodology or for such other extraordinary circumstances that the S&P Index Committee determines is necessary to reduce or avoid a possible market impact or disruption.

*Calculations and Pricing Disruptions*

Closing levels for the S&P 500® Index are calculated by S&P based on the closing price of the individual constituents of the index as set by their primary exchange. Closing prices are received by S&P from one of its third party vendors and verified by comparing them with prices from an alternative vendor. The vendors receive the closing price from the primary exchanges. Real-time intraday prices are calculated similarly without a second verification. If there is a failure or interruption on one or more exchanges, real time

calculations switch to the Composite Tape for all securities listed on the affected exchange and an announcement is published on the S&P Dow Jones Indices website at [www.spdji.com](http://www.spdji.com). If the interruption is not resolved before the market close and the exchange(s) in question publishes a list of closing prices, those prices are used. If no list is published, the last trade as of 4 p.m. Eastern Time on the Composite Tape is used (or the previous close adjusted for corporate actions if no intraday trades were reported). A notice is published on the S&P website at [www.spdji.com](http://www.spdji.com) indicating any changes to the prices used in S&P 500® Index calculations. In extreme circumstances, S&P may decide to delay index adjustments or not publish the S&P 500® Index. Real-time indices are not restated.

*Unscheduled Market Closures*

In situations where an exchange is forced to close early due to unforeseen events, such as computer or electric power failures, weather conditions or other events, S&P will calculate the closing price of the S&P

Table of Contents

500® Index based on (1) the closing prices published by the exchange, or (2) if no closing price is available, the last regular trade reported for each stock before the exchange closed. If the exchange fails to open due to unforeseen circumstances, S&P treats this closure as a standard market holiday. The S&P 500® Index will use the prior day's closing prices and shifts any corporate actions to the following business day. If all exchanges fail to open or in other extreme circumstances, S&P may determine not to publish the S&P 500® Index for that day.

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s-31

Table of Contents

**The Russell 2000® Index**

The Russell 2000® Index is an index calculated, published and disseminated by Russell Investment Group ( Russell ) that measures the composite price performance of stocks of 2,000 companies in the U.S. equity market. It is generally considered to be a small-cap index. Additional information about the Russell 2000® Index is available on the following website: [http://www.russell.com/Indexes/data/fact\\_sheets/us/Russell\\_2000\\_Index.asp](http://www.russell.com/Indexes/data/fact_sheets/us/Russell_2000_Index.asp). We are not incorporating by reference the website or any material it includes in this prospectus supplement.

As of November 5, 2015, the 2,000 companies included in the Russell 2000® Index were divided into nine Russell Global Sectors. The Russell Global Sectors include (with the approximate percentage currently included in such sectors indicated in parentheses): Consumer Discretionary (14.48%), Consumer Staples (3.17%), Financial Services (26.70%), Health Care (15.54%), Materials & Processing (5.80%), Other Energy (2.71%), Producer Durables (12.17%), Technology (14.58%) and Utilities (4.86%). (Sector designations are determined by the index sponsor using criteria it has selected or developed. Index sponsors may use very different standards for determining sector designations. In addition, many companies operate in a number of sectors, but are listed in only one sector and the basis on which that sector is selected may also differ. As a result, sector comparisons between indices with different index sponsors may reflect differences in methodology as well as actual differences in the sector composition of the indices.)

The index includes approximately 2,000 of the smallest securities that form the Russell 3000® Index. The Russell 3000® Index is comprised of the 3,000 largest companies, or 98% based on market capitalization, of the investable U.S. equity market. The Russell 2000® Index represents approximately 10% of the total market capitalization of the Russell 3000® Index. The Russell 2000® Index is designed to track the performance of the small capitalization segment of the U.S. equity market.

*Selection of Constituent Stocks of the Russell 2000® Index*

The Russell 2000® Index is a sub-index of the Russell 3000® Index. To be eligible for inclusion in the Russell 3000® Index, and, consequently, the Russell 2000® Index, a company's stocks must be listed on the last trading day of May of a given year and Russell must have access to documentation verifying the company's eligibility for inclusion. Eligible initial public offerings are added to Russell U.S. Indices at the end of each calendar quarter, based on total market capitalization rankings within the market-adjusted capitalization breaks established during the most recent reconstitution. To be added to any Russell U.S. index during a quarter outside of reconstitution, initial public offerings must meet additional eligibility criteria.

A company is included in the U.S. equity markets and is eligible for inclusion in the Russell 3000® Index, and consequently, the Russell 2000® Index, if that company incorporates in, has its headquarters in and also trades in the United States. If a company does not satisfy all of the above criteria, it can still be included in the U.S. equity market if any one of the following home country indicators is in the United States: (i) country of incorporation, (ii) country of headquarters and (iii) country in which the company trades with the highest liquidity (as defined by a two-year average daily dollar trading volume from all exchanges within the country), and the primary location of that company's assets or its revenue, based on an average of two years of assets or revenues data, is also in the United States. In addition, if there is insufficient information to assign a company to the U.S. equity markets based on its assets or revenue, the company may nonetheless be assigned to the U.S. equity markets if the headquarters of the company is located in the United States or if the headquarters of the company is located in certain benefit-driven incorporation countries, or BDIs, and that company's most liquid stock exchange is in the United States. The BDI countries are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Cook Islands, Curaçao, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Liberia, Marshall Islands, Panama, Saba, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten and Turks and Caicos Islands. ADRs and ADSs are not eligible for inclusion in the Russell 2000® Index.

*Exclusions from the Russell 2000® Index*

Russell specifically excludes the following companies and securities from the Russell 2000® Index: (i) preferred and convertible preferred stock, redeemable shares, participating preferred stock, warrants, rights and trust receipts; (ii) royalty trusts, U.S. limited liability companies, closed-end investment



## Table of Contents

companies, business development companies, blank check companies, special-purpose acquisition companies and limited partnerships; (iii) companies with a total market capitalization less than \$30 million; (iv) companies with only a small portion of their shares available in the marketplace (companies with 5% or less float); (v) bulletin board, pink sheets or over-the-counter traded securities; and (vi) real estate investment trusts and publicly traded partnerships that generate, or have historically generated, unrelated business taxable income and have not taken steps to block their unrelated business taxable income to equity holders.

### Initial List of Eligible Securities

The primary criterion Russell uses to determine the initial list of securities eligible for the Russell 3000® Index and, consequently, the Russell 2000® Index, is total market capitalization, which is calculated by multiplying the total outstanding shares for a company by the market price as of the last trading day in May for those securities being considered at annual reconstitution. IPOs may be added between constitutions as noted below. All common stock share classes are combined in determining market capitalization. If multiple share classes have been combined, the price of the primary vehicle (usually the most liquid) is used in the calculations. In cases where the common stock share classes act independently of each other (e.g., tracking stocks), each class is considered for inclusion separately. Stocks must trade at or above \$1.00 on their primary exchange on the last trading day of May of each year to be eligible for inclusion in the Russell 2000® Index. In order to reduce unnecessary turnover, if an existing member's closing price is less than \$1.00 on the last trading day of May, it will be considered eligible if the average of the daily closing prices from their primary exchange during the month of May is equal to or greater than \$1.00.

Russell will evaluate multiple share classes of a company independently for inclusion in the Russell 2000® Index. In order for a share class to be included independently of the company's primary vehicle, it must meet market capitalization, average daily dollar trading value and float requirements. Where an additional share class does not meet the requirements, the shares will be aggregated with the primary vehicle. If a company distributes an additional share class to existing shareholders through a mandatory corporate action or to the public through an IPO, the additional share class will be reviewed for independent inclusion at the time of distribution and if the share class is not eligible at the time of distribution, it will be reviewed again for independent inclusion at the next reconstitution.

### Annual Reconstitution

The Russell 2000® Index is reconstituted annually by Russell to reflect changes in the marketplace. The list of companies is ranked based on total market capitalization on the last trading day in May, with the actual reconstitution effective on the first trading day following the final Friday of June each year, unless the final Friday in June is the 29th or 30th, in which case reconstitution will be effective on the preceding Friday. A full calendar for reconstitution is made available each spring. Changes in the constituents are preannounced and subject to change if any corporate activity occurs or if any new information is received prior to release.

*Index Calculation and Capitalization Adjustments*

As a capitalization-weighted index, the Russell 2000® Index reflects changes in the capitalization, or market value, of the index stocks relative to the capitalization on a base date. This discussion describes the price return calculation of the Russell 2000® Index. The current Russell 2000® Index value is the compounded result of the cumulative daily (or monthly) return percentages, where the starting value of the index is equal to the base value (100) and base date (December 31, 1978). Returns between any two dates can then be derived by dividing the ending period index value ( $IV_1$ ) by the beginning period ( $IV_0$ ) index value, so that the return equals  $[(IV_1 / IV_0) - 1] * 100$ . The ending period index value, for purposes of calculating the Russell 2000® Index value, on any date is determined by adding the market values of the index stocks, which are derived by multiplying the price of each stock by the number of available shares, to arrive at the total market capitalization of the 2,000 stocks. To calculate the Russell 2000® Index, last sale prices will be used for exchange-traded and NASDAQ stocks. In the event of a market disruption resulting in

Table of Contents

any index stock price to be unavailable, Russell will generally use the last reported price for such index stock for the purpose of performance calculation.

Constituent stocks of the index are weighted in the Russell 2000® Index by their free-float market capitalization, which is calculated by multiplying the primary closing price by the number of free-float shares. Free-float shares are shares that are available to the public for purchase as determined by Russell. Russell determines shares available to the public for purchase based on information recorded in corporate filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission and other reliable sources in the event of missing or questionable data. Adjustments to shares are reviewed at reconstitution and for major corporate actions such as mergers. Russell removes the following types of shares from total market capitalization to arrive at free-float market capitalization:

*Corporate cross-owned shares* shares of a company in the index that are held by another company that is included in any other Russell index;

*Large private and corporate holdings* shares held by an individual, a group of individuals acting together (e.g., the officers/directors group) or another listed corporation (that is not included in the index) if such shareholdings constitute 10% or more of the shares outstanding. Institutional holdings, including investment companies, partnerships, insurance companies, mutual funds, banks or venture capital firms, are not excluded unless the firm has a direct relationship to the company, such as board representation, in which case they are considered strategic holdings and included with the officers/directors group in calculating the 10% threshold;

*ESOP or LESOP shares* shares held by employee stock ownership plans and leveraged employee stock ownership plans that comprise 10% or more of a company's outstanding shares;

*Unlisted share classes* classes of common stock that are not traded on a U.S. securities exchange;

*Initial public offering lock-ups* shares locked-up during an initial public offering are not available to the public and will be excluded from the market value at the time the initial public offering enters the index; and

*Government holdings* shareholdings listed as government of . Shares held by government investment boards and/or investment arms are treated like shares held by large private shareholdings and are excluded if the number of shares is greater than 10% of outstanding shares. Shares held by a government pension plan

are considered institutional holdings and will not be excluded.

*Corporate Actions Affecting the Index*

Russell adjusts the index on a daily basis in response to certain corporate actions and events. Therefore, a company's membership in the index and its weight in the index can be impacted by these corporate actions. The adjustment is applied based on sources of public information, including press releases and Securities and Exchange Commission filings. Prior to the completion of a corporate action or event, Russell estimates the effective date. Russell will then adjust the anticipated effective date based on public information until the date is considered final. Depending on the time on a given day that an action is determined to be final, Russell will generally either (1) apply the action before the open on the ex-date or (2) apply the action after providing appropriate notice to its clients regarding the impact of the action and the effective date. If Russell has confirmed the completion of a corporate action, scheduled to become effective subsequent to a rebalance, the event may be implemented in conjunction with the rebalance to limit turnover, provided appropriate notice can be given. Russell applies the following methodology guidelines when adjusting the index in response to corporate actions and events:

*No Replacement Rule* Securities that are deleted from the Index between reconstitution dates, for any reason (e.g., mergers, acquisitions or other similar corporate activity) are not replaced. Thus, the number of securities in the Index over the past year will fluctuate according to corporate activity.

Table of Contents

*Mergers and Acquisitions*

Adjustments due to mergers and acquisitions are applied to the index after the action is determined to be final. Deletions due to cash acquisitions may not require delisting confirmation from the exchange, provided all other conditions (regulatory & shareholder) have been achieved.

*Between constituents:* When mergers and acquisitions take place between companies that are both constituents of a Russell index, the target company is deleted and its market capitalization simultaneously moves to the acquiring company's stock. Russell categorizes the surviving entity based on a weighted average of the market value of the two companies prior to the merger using market values as of the day immediately before Russell determines that the action or event is final. Given sufficient market hours after confirmation, Russell effects this action after the close on the last day of trade of the target company.

*Between a constituent and a non-constituent:* If the target company is a member of the Russell 2000® Index, it is deleted from the index after Russell determines that the action or event is final. If the acquiring company is a member of the Russell 2000® Index, its shares are adjusted by adding the target company's market capitalization. If the target company is not a member of a Russell index, Russell will also analyze the transaction to determine whether it constitutes a reverse merger. A reverse merger occurs when the acquiring company is a private, non-publicly traded company or OTC company, and the acquisition results in a transaction whereby a new publicly traded company is created that meets all of the requirements for inclusion in a Russell index based on market capitalization using the opening price on the day after the merger or acquisition is considered final. In such a case, the newly formed entity will be placed in the Russell 2000® Index, if appropriate, and the target company will be simultaneously removed from the Russell 2000® Index, after the close of the market on the day after the merger is considered final. If the event does not qualify as a reverse merger, the target company is deleted after the action is determined to be final.

*Reincorporation* Members of a Russell U.S. index, like the Russell 2000® Index, that reincorporate to another country and continue to trade in the United States and companies that reincorporate to the United States during the year are analyzed for assignment by Russell during annual reconstitution. Members that reincorporate in another country and no longer trade in the United States are immediately deleted from the Russell U.S. indices.

*Rights Offerings* Rights offered to shareholders are reflected in the index only if the subscription price of the rights is at a discount to the market price. Provided that Russell has been alerted to the rights offer prior to the ex-date, it will adjust the price of the stock for the value of the rights and increased shares according to the terms of the offering before the open on the ex-date. If Russell is unable to provide prior notice, it will delay the price adjustment until the appropriate notice has been given. This treatment applies for both transferable and non-transferable rights. Rights issued as part of a poison pill arrangement or entitlements that give shareholders the right to purchase ineligible securities such as convertible debt are excluded from

this treatment.

*Spin-offs* Spun-off companies are added to the parent company's index if the spun-off company meets all the eligibility requirements of the index and its total market capitalization is greater than the market-adjusted total market capitalization of the smallest company in the Russell 3000E Index at the latest reconstitution. Spun-off companies are added to the index at the same time as they are spun-off from their parent company, which is on the completion date of the spin-off. The parent company's market value will be reduced simultaneously on the Russell effective date.

*Initial Public Offerings* Eligible initial public offerings are added to the Russell 2000® Index at the end of each calendar quarter based on total market capitalization ranking within the market-adjusted capitalization breaks established at the most recent annual reconstitution, except that fourth quarter IPO additions will be processed after the close on the third Friday of each December.

Once IPO additions have been announced, an IPO may be added to the index prior to the previously announced schedule, if a corporate action has deemed this to be appropriate and notice can be provided (e.g. an index member automatically receives shares via a stock distribution into a projected IPO add).

Table of Contents

*Tender Offers* A company acquired as a result of a tender offer is removed when (i) the tender offer period completes; (ii) shareholders have validly tendered, not withdrawn, and the shares have been accepted for payment; (iii) all regulatory requirements have been fulfilled; and (iv) the acquiring company is able to finalize the acquisition via a short-form merger, top-up option or other compulsory mechanism. In the case where all the above requirements have been fulfilled except for the acquiring company being able to finalize the acquisition through a compulsory mechanism, Russell will make a share adjustment to the target company's shares, on a date pre-announced by Russell, in cases where the float-adjusted shares have decreased by 30% or more and the tender offer has fully completed and closed. If the acquiring company is issuing stock as part of the tender offer, the float-adjusted shares of that company will be increased concurrently with the decrease in the target company's float-adjusted shares.

*Delisted and Halted Stocks* When stocks are deleted from the index as a result of exchange de-listing or reconstitution, the price used will be the closing primary exchange price on the day the action is final (t), or the following day (t+1) using the closing OTC bulletin board price. Halted securities are not removed from the index until the time they are actually delisted from the exchange. If a security is halted, it remains in the index at the most recent closing price until the security resumes trading or is officially delisted. If, however, a stock is (i) halted due to financial difficulty/debt or cash flow issues for a period longer than 40 calendar days or (ii) suspended due to exchange listing rules or legal regulatory issues longer than one calendar quarter, Russell will review for removal on a case-by-case basis. Determinations will be made based upon reasonable likelihood of trade resumption and likelihood of residual value returned to equity holders. If removal is deemed appropriate, Russell will remove the stock at zero value at the end of the month. Stocks that are scheduled for changes but are halted or suspended prior to reconstitution will have their scheduled updates postponed and will be monitored for trade resumption. Once trading resumes, the securities changes will be announced and their positions will be updated accordingly. Usually, notification for these changes will be made on the same day as these changes are made. If sufficient notice is not possible, the updates will be delayed by one day. Securities will be removed from the index using the closing price on the primary exchange of the securities.

Shares acquired in a partial acquisition or tender offer will be reviewed at annual reconstitution for inclusion in free float. Shares that are issued as a result of a partial acquisition or tender offer will be reviewed at month-end for inclusion (if greater than 5%). If a partial acquisition or tender offer includes a corporate action impacting all shareholders, Russell will give effect to the mandatory element of the event.

*Bankruptcy and Voluntary Liquidations* Companies that file for a Chapter 7 liquidation bankruptcy or have filed a liquidation plan will be removed from the index at the time of the bankruptcy filing (except when shareholder approval is required to finalize the liquidation plan, in which case the company will be removed once shareholder approval has been granted); whereas companies filing for a Chapter 11 reorganization bankruptcy will remain a member of the index, unless the company is de-listed from the primary exchange, in which case normal de-listing rules apply. If a company files for bankruptcy, is delisted and it can be confirmed that it will not trade OTC, Russell may remove the stock at a nominal price of \$0.0001.

*Stock Distributions* A price adjustment for stock distributions is applied on the ex-date of the distribution. When the number of shares for the distribution is fixed, Russell increases the number of shares on the ex-date. When the number of shares is an undetermined amount based on future earnings and profits, Russell increases the number of shares on the pay-date.

*Dividends* Russell includes gross dividends in the daily total return calculation of the index on the basis of their ex-dates. If a dividend is payable in stock and cash and the stock rate cannot be determined by the ex-date, the dividend is treated as all cash. If the number of shares to be issued as a stock dividend is announced subsequently, Russell will give effect to the share change with appropriate notice. Regular cash dividends are reinvested across the index at the close on the dividend ex-date, while special cash dividends are subtracted from the price of the stock before the open on the ex-date.

*Updates to Share Capital* Changes to shares outstanding due to buybacks (including Dutch auctions), secondary offerings, merger activity with a non-index member and other potential changes are generally updated at the end of the month in which the change is reflected in vendor-supplied updates. Russell verifies this information using publicly available information filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Russell only applies such changes if the aggregate change in the number of shares



Table of Contents

outstanding is greater than 5%. The float factor determined during the most recent annual reconstitution is applied to this figure, and only the available shares will be added to the index. No such changes are made in June due to the most recent annual reconstitution. Month-end changes in November and December will be processed as one event after the close on the third Friday of each December.

License Agreement

Frank Russell Company doing business as Russell Investment Group ( Russell ) and Goldman Sachs International have entered into a non-exclusive license agreement, granting The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. ( GS Group ), in exchange for a fee, permission to use the Russell 2000® Index in connection with the offer and sale of the notes. GS Group is not affiliated with Russell; the only relationship between Russell and GS Group is the licensing of the use of the Russell 2000® Index (a trademark of Russell) and trademarks relating to the Russell 2000® Index.

GS Group does not accept any responsibility for the calculation, maintenance or publication of the Russell 2000® Index or any successor index.

The notes are not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by Russell. Russell makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, to the owners of the notes or any member of the public regarding the advisability of investing in securities generally or in the notes particularly or the ability of the Russell 2000® Index to track general stock market performance or a segment of the same. Russell's publication of the Russell 2000® Index in no way suggests or implies an opinion by Russell as to the advisability of investment in any or all of the securities upon which the Russell 2000® Index is based. Russell's only relationship to GS Group is the licensing of certain trademarks and trade names of Russell and of the Russell 2000® Index which is determined, composed and calculated by Russell without regard to GS Group or the notes. Russell is not responsible for and has not reviewed the notes nor any associated literature or publications and Russell makes no representation or warranty express or implied as to their accuracy or completeness, or otherwise. Russell reserves the right, at any time and without notice, to alter, amend, terminate or in any way change the Russell 2000® Index. Russell has no obligation or liability in connection with the administration, marketing or trading of the notes.

RUSSELL DOES NOT GUARANTEE THE ACCURACY AND/OR THE COMPLETENESS OF THE RUSSELL 2000® INDEX OR ANY DATA INCLUDED THEREIN AND RUSSELL SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY FOR ANY ERRORS, OMISSIONS, OR INTERRUPTIONS THEREIN. RUSSELL MAKES NO WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AS TO RESULTS TO BE OBTAINED BY GS GROUP, INVESTORS, OWNERS OF THE NOTES, OR ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY FROM THE USE OF THE RUSSELL 2000® INDEX OR ANY DATA INCLUDED THEREIN. RUSSELL MAKES NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE WITH RESPECT TO THE RUSSELL 2000® INDEX OR ANY DATA INCLUDED THEREIN. WITHOUT LIMITING ANY OF THE FOREGOING, IN NO EVENT SHALL RUSSELL HAVE ANY LIABILITY FOR ANY SPECIAL, PUNITIVE, INDIRECT, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES

(INCLUDING LOST PROFITS), EVEN IF NOTIFIED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.

### **Historical Closing Levels of the Indices**

The closing levels of the indices have fluctuated in the past and may, in the future, experience significant fluctuations. Any historical upward or downward trend in the closing level of either index during the period shown below is not an indication that such index is more or less likely to increase or decrease at any time during the life of your notes.

**You should not take the historical closing levels of an index as an indication of the future performance of an index. We cannot give you any assurance that the future performance of either index or the index stocks will result in you receiving any coupon payments or receiving the outstanding face amount of your notes on the stated maturity date.**

Neither we nor any of our affiliates make any representation to you as to the performance of the indices. Before investing in the offered notes, you should consult publicly available information to determine the relevant index levels between the date of this prospectus supplement and the date of your purchase of the

Table of Contents

offered notes. The actual performance of an index over the life of the offered notes, as well as the cash settlement amount at maturity may bear little relation to the historical levels shown below.

The graphs below show the daily historical closing levels of each index from November 23, 2005 through November 23, 2015. We obtained the levels in the graphs below from Bloomberg Financial Services, without independent verification. Although the official closing levels of the Russell 2000® Index are published to six decimal places by the index sponsor, Bloomberg Financial Services reports the levels of the Russell 2000® Index to fewer decimal places.

s-38

Table of Contents

s-39

Table of Contents

s-40

Table of Contents

**SUPPLEMENTAL DISCUSSION OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES**

The following section supplements the discussion of U.S. federal income taxation in the accompanying prospectus.

The following section is the opinion of Sidley Austin LLP, counsel to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. In addition, it is the opinion of Sidley Austin LLP that the characterization of the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes that will be required under the terms of the notes, as discussed below, is a reasonable interpretation of current law.

This section does not apply to you if you are a member of a class of holders subject to special rules, such as:

- a dealer in securities or currencies;
  
- a trader in securities that elects to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for your securities holdings;
  
- a bank;
  
- a life insurance company;
  
- a regulated investment company;
  
- a tax exempt organization;
  
- a partnership;
  
- a person that owns a note as a hedge or that is hedged against interest rate risks;

- a person that owns a note as part of a straddle or conversion transaction for tax purposes; or
- a United States holder (as defined below) whose functional currency for tax purposes is not the U.S. dollar.

Although this section is based on the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, its legislative history, existing and proposed regulations under the Internal Revenue Code, published rulings and court decisions, all as currently in effect, no statutory, judicial or administrative authority directly discusses how your notes should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and as a result, the U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in your notes are uncertain. Moreover, these laws are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis.

*You should consult your tax advisor concerning the U.S. federal income tax and other tax consequences of your investment in the notes, including the application of state, local or other tax laws and the possible effects of changes in federal or other tax laws.*

#### **United States Holders**

This section applies to you only if you are a United States holder that holds your notes as a capital asset for tax purposes. You are a United States holder if you are a beneficial owner of a note and you are:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a domestic corporation;
- an estate whose income is subject to U.S. federal income tax regardless of its source; or

Table of Contents

- a trust if a United States court can exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more United States persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

*Tax Treatment.* You will be obligated pursuant to the terms of the notes in the absence of a change in law, an administrative determination or a judicial ruling to the contrary to characterize your notes for all tax purposes as income-bearing pre-paid derivative contracts in respect of the indices. Except as otherwise stated below, the discussion below assumes that the notes will be so treated.

Coupon payments that you receive should be included in ordinary income at the time you receive the payment or when the payment accrues, in accordance with your regular method of accounting for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Upon the sale, exchange, redemption or maturity of your notes, you should recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale, exchange, redemption or maturity (excluding any amounts attributable to accrued and unpaid coupon payments, which will be taxable as described above) and your tax basis in your notes. Your tax basis in your notes will generally be equal to the amount that you paid for the notes. Such capital gain or loss should generally be short-term capital gain or loss if you hold the notes for one year or less, and should be long-term capital gain or loss if you hold the notes for more than one year. Short-term capital gains are generally subject to tax at the marginal tax rates applicable to ordinary income.

**No statutory, judicial or administrative authority directly discusses how your notes should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, the U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in the notes are uncertain and alternative characterizations are possible. Accordingly, we urge you to consult your tax advisor in determining the tax consequences of an investment in your notes in your particular circumstances, including the application of state, local or other tax laws and the possible effects of changes in federal or other tax laws.**

*Alternative Treatments.* There is no judicial or administrative authority discussing how your notes should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Therefore, the Internal Revenue Service might assert that a treatment other than that described above is more appropriate. For example, the Internal Revenue Service could treat your notes as a single debt instrument subject to special rules governing contingent payment debt instruments.

Under those rules, the amount of interest you are required to take into account for each accrual period would be determined by constructing a projected payment schedule for the notes and applying rules similar to those for accruing original issue discount on a hypothetical noncontingent debt instrument with that projected payment schedule. This method is applied by first determining the comparable yield i.e., the yield at which we would issue a noncontingent fixed rate debt instrument with terms and conditions similar to your notes and then determining a payment schedule as of the applicable original issue date that would produce the comparable yield. These rules may have the effect of requiring you to include interest in income in respect of your notes prior to your receipt of cash attributable to that income.



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If the rules governing contingent payment debt instruments apply, any income you recognize upon the sale, exchange, redemption or maturity of your notes would be treated as ordinary interest income. Any loss you recognize at that time would be treated as ordinary loss to the extent of interest you included as income in the current or previous taxable years in respect of your notes, and, thereafter, as capital loss.

If the rules governing contingent payment debt instruments apply, special rules would apply to persons who purchase a note at other than the adjusted issue price as determined for tax purposes.

It is possible that the Internal Revenue Service could assert that your notes should generally be characterized as described above, except that (1) the gain you recognize upon the sale, exchange, redemption or maturity of your notes should be treated as ordinary income or (2) you should not include the coupon payments in income as you receive them but instead you should reduce your basis in your notes by the amount of coupon payments that you receive. It is also possible that the Internal Revenue Service could

s-42

Table of Contents

seek to characterize your notes in a manner that results in tax consequences to you different from those described above.

It is also possible that the Internal Revenue Service could seek to characterize your notes as notional principal contracts. It is also possible that the coupon payments would not be treated as either ordinary income or interest for U.S. federal income tax purposes, but instead would be treated in some other manner.

You should consult your tax advisor as to possible alternative characterizations of your notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

***Possible Change in Law***

In 2007, legislation was introduced in Congress that, if enacted, would have required holders that acquired instruments such as your notes after the bill was enacted to accrue interest income over the term of such notes. It is not possible to predict whether a similar or identical bill will be enacted in the future, or whether any such bill would affect the tax treatment of such notes.

In addition, on December 7, 2007, the Internal Revenue Service released a notice stating that the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department are actively considering issuing guidance regarding the proper U.S. federal income tax treatment of an instrument such as the offered notes including whether the holders should be required to accrue ordinary income on a current basis and whether gain or loss should be ordinary or capital. It is not possible to determine what guidance they will ultimately issue, if any. It is possible, however, that under such guidance, holders of the notes will ultimately be required to accrue income currently and this could be applied on a retroactive basis. The Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department are also considering other relevant issues, including whether foreign holders of such instruments should be subject to withholding tax on any deemed income accruals, and whether the special constructive ownership rules of Section 1260 of the Internal Revenue Code might be applied to such instruments. Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. intends to continue treating the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes in accordance with the treatment described above unless and until such time as Congress, the Treasury Department or the Internal Revenue Service determine that some other treatment is more appropriate.

It is impossible to predict what any such legislation or administrative or regulatory guidance might provide, and whether the effective date of any legislation or guidance will affect notes that were issued before the date that such legislation or guidance is issued. You are urged to consult your tax advisor as to the possibility that any legislative or administrative action may adversely affect the tax treatment of your notes.

**United States Alien Holders**

This section applies to you only if you are a United States alien holder. You are a United States alien holder if you are the beneficial owner of the notes and are, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- a nonresident alien individual;
- a foreign corporation; or
- an estate or trust that in either case is not subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis on income or gain from the notes.

Because the U.S. federal income tax treatment (including the applicability of withholding) of the coupon payments on the notes is uncertain, in the absence of further guidance, we intend to withhold on the coupon payments made to you at a 30% rate or at a lower rate specified by an applicable income tax treaty under an "other income" or similar provision. We will not make payments of any additional amounts. To claim a reduced treaty rate for withholding, you generally must provide a valid Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN, Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN-E or an acceptable substitute form upon which you certify, under penalty of perjury, your status as a United States alien holder and your entitlement to the

Table of Contents

lower treaty rate. Payments will be made to you at a reduced treaty rate of withholding only if such reduced treaty rate would apply to any possible characterization of the payments (including, for example, if the coupon payments were characterized as contract fees). Withholding also may not apply to coupon payments made to you if: (i) the coupon payments are effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States and are includable in your gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (ii) the coupon payments are attributable to a permanent establishment that you maintain in the United States, if required by an applicable tax treaty, and (iii) you comply with the requisite certification requirements (generally, by providing an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8ECI). If you are eligible for a reduced rate of United States withholding tax, you may obtain a refund of any amounts withheld in excess of that rate by filing a refund claim with the Internal Revenue Service.

Effectively connected payments includable in your United States gross income are generally taxed at rates applicable to United States citizens, resident aliens, and domestic corporations; if you are a corporate United States alien holder, effectively connected payments may be subject to an additional branch profits tax under certain circumstances.

You will also be subject to generally applicable information reporting and backup withholding requirements with respect to payments on your notes at maturity and, notwithstanding that we do not intend to treat the notes as debt for tax purposes, we intend to backup withhold on such payments with respect to your notes unless you comply with the requirements necessary to avoid backup withholding on debt instruments (in which case you will not be subject to such backup withholding) as set forth under United States Taxation Taxation of Debt Securities United States Alien Holders in the accompanying prospectus.

Furthermore, on December 7, 2007, the Internal Revenue Service released Notice 2008-2 soliciting comments from the public on various issues, including whether instruments such as your notes should be subject to withholding. It is therefore possible that rules will be issued in the future, possibly with retroactive effects, that would cause payments on your notes at maturity to be subject to withholding, even if you comply with certification requirements as to your foreign status.

As discussed above, alternative characterizations of the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes are possible. Should an alternative characterization of the notes, by reason of a change or clarification of the law, by regulation or otherwise, cause payments at maturity with respect to the notes to become subject to withholding tax, we will withhold tax at the applicable statutory rate and we will not make payments of any additional amounts. Prospective United States alien holders of the notes should consult their tax advisors in this regard.

**Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding**

Pursuant to Treasury regulations, Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) withholding (as described in United States Taxation Taxation of Debt Securities Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding in the accompanying prospectus) will generally apply to obligations that are issued on or after July 1, 2014; therefore, the notes will generally be subject to FATCA withholding. However, according to published guidance, the withholding tax described above will not apply to payments of gross proceeds from the sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition of the notes made before January 1, 2019.

Table of Contents

**EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT**

*This section is only relevant to you if you are an insurance company or the fiduciary of a pension plan or an employee benefit plan (including a governmental plan, an IRA or a Keogh Plan) proposing to invest in the notes.*

The U.S. Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ( ERISA ) and the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code ), prohibit certain transactions ( prohibited transactions ) involving the assets of an employee benefit plan that is subject to the fiduciary responsibility provisions of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code (including individual retirement accounts, Keogh plans and other plans described in Section 4975(e)(1) of the Code) (a Plan ) and certain persons who are parties in interest (within the meaning of ERISA) or disqualified persons (within the meaning of the Code) with respect to the Plan; governmental plans may be subject to similar prohibitions unless an exemption applies to the transaction. The assets of a Plan may include assets held in the general account of an insurance company that are deemed plan assets under ERISA or assets of certain investment vehicles in which the Plan invests. Each of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and certain of its affiliates may be considered a party in interest or a disqualified person with respect to many Plans, and, accordingly, prohibited transactions may arise if the notes are acquired by or on behalf of a Plan unless those notes are acquired and held pursuant to an available exemption. In general, available exemptions are: transactions effected on behalf of that Plan by a qualified professional asset manager (prohibited transaction exemption 84-14) or an in-house asset manager (prohibited transaction exemption 96-23), transactions involving insurance company general accounts (prohibited transaction exemption 95-60), transactions involving insurance company pooled separate accounts (prohibited transaction exemption 90-1), transactions involving bank collective investment funds (prohibited transaction exemption 91-38) and transactions with service providers under Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code where the Plan receives no less and pays no more than adequate consideration (within the meaning of Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(f)(10) of the Code). The person making the decision on behalf of a Plan or a governmental plan shall be deemed, on behalf of itself and the plan, by purchasing and holding the notes, or exercising any rights related thereto, to represent that (a) the plan will receive no less and pay no more than adequate consideration (within the meaning of Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(f)(10) of the Code) in connection with the purchase and holding of the notes, (b) none of the purchase, holding or disposition of the notes or the exercise of any rights related to the notes will result in a nonexempt prohibited transaction under ERISA or the Code (or, with respect to a governmental plan, under any similar applicable law or regulation), and (c) neither The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. nor any of its affiliates is a fiduciary (within the meaning of Section 3(21) of ERISA) or, with respect to a governmental plan, under any similar applicable law or regulation) with respect to the purchaser or holder in connection with such person's acquisition, disposition or holding of the notes, or as a result of any exercise by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or any of its affiliates of any rights in connection with the notes, and no advice provided by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or any of its affiliates has formed a primary basis for any investment decision by or on behalf of such purchaser or holder in connection with the notes and the transactions contemplated with respect to the notes.

*If you are an insurance company or the fiduciary of a pension plan or an employee benefit plan (including a governmental plan, an IRA or a Keogh plan), and propose to invest in the notes, you should consult your legal counsel.*

s-45

Table of Contents

**SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. has agreed to sell to GS&Co., and GS&Co. has agreed to purchase from The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., the aggregate face amount of the offered notes specified on the front cover of this prospectus supplement. GS&Co. proposes initially to offer the notes to the public at the original issue prices set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, and to certain securities dealers at such prices less a concession not in excess of 3.50% of the face amount.

In the future, GS&Co. or other affiliates of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. may repurchase and resell the offered notes in market-making transactions, with resales being made at prices related to prevailing market prices at the time of resale or at negotiated prices. The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. estimates that its share of the total offering expenses, excluding underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$20,000. For more information about the plan of distribution and possible market-making activities, see Plan of Distribution in the accompanying prospectus.

We will deliver the notes against payment therefor in New York, New York on November 27, 2015, which is the third scheduled business day following the date of this prospectus supplement and of the pricing of the notes.

We have been advised by GS&Co. that it intends to make a market in the notes. However, neither GS&Co. nor any of our other affiliates that makes a market is obligated to do so and any of them may stop doing so at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity or trading market for the notes.

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State ) with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date ) an offer of the offered notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement in relation thereto may not be made to the public in that Relevant Member State except that, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, an offer of such offered notes may be made to the public in that Relevant Member State:

(a) at any time to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;

(b) at any time to fewer than 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), subject to obtaining the prior consent of the relevant dealer or dealers nominated by the Issuer for any such offer; or

(c) at any time in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive,

provided that no such offer of offered notes shall require us or any dealer to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of notes to the public in relation to any notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the notes, as the same may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State. The expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended, including by Directive 2010/73/EU) and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

GS&Co. has represented and agreed that:

(a) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the FSMA) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the offered notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.; and

(b) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.



Table of Contents

No advertisement, invitation or document relating to the notes may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), if such advertisement, invitation or document is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to the offered notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside of Hong Kong or only to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

The offered notes have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act of Japan (Act No. 25 of 1948, as amended) or the FIEA. The offered notes may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to or for the benefit of any resident of Japan (including any person resident in Japan or any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan) or to others for reoffering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to or for the benefit of any resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of the FIEA and otherwise in compliance with any relevant laws and regulations of Japan.

This prospectus supplement, along with the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus have not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the offered notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor (as defined in Section 274A of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA)), (ii) to a relevant person (as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA) pursuant to Section 275(1) of the SFA, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A) of the SFA, and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA, in each case subject to conditions set forth in the SFA.

Where the offered notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor, the securities (as defined in Section 239(1) of the SFA) of that corporation shall not be transferred except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person (as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA), (2) where such transfer arises from an offer in that corporation's securities pursuant to Section 275(1A) of the SFA, (3) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer, (4) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA, or (5) as specified in Regulation 32 of the Securities and Futures (Offers of Investments) (Shares and Debentures) Regulations 2005 of Singapore ( Regulation 32 ).

Where the offered notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an accredited investor, the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferable for six months after that trust has acquired the offered notes under Section 275 of the SFA except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person (as defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA), (2) where such transfer arises from an offer that is made on terms that such rights or interest are acquired at a consideration of not less than S\$200,000 (or its equivalent in a foreign currency) for each transaction (whether such amount is to be paid for in cash or by exchange of securities or other assets), (3) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer, (4) where the

transfer is by operation of law, (5) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA, or (6) as specified in Regulation 32.

**Conflicts of Interest**

GS&Co. is an affiliate of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and, as such, will have a conflict of interest in this offering of notes within the meaning of Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA) Rule 5121. Consequently, this offering of notes will be conducted in compliance with the provisions of FINRA Rule 5121. GS&Co. will not be permitted to sell notes in this offering to an account over which it exercises discretionary authority without the prior specific written approval of the account holder.

s-47

Table of Contents

**VALIDITY OF THE NOTES**

In the opinion of Sidley Austin LLP, as counsel to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., when the notes offered by this prospectus supplement have been executed and issued by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and authenticated by the trustee pursuant to the indenture, and delivered against payment as contemplated herein, such notes will be valid and binding obligations of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., enforceable in accordance with their terms, subject to applicable bankruptcy, insolvency and similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally, concepts of reasonableness and equitable principles of general applicability (including, without limitation, concepts of good faith, fair dealing and the lack of bad faith), provided that such counsel expresses no opinion as to the effect of fraudulent conveyance, fraudulent transfer or similar provision of applicable law on the conclusions expressed above. This opinion is given as of the date hereof and is limited to the Federal laws of the United States, the laws of the State of New York and the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware as in effect on the date hereof. In addition, this opinion is subject to customary assumptions about the trustee's authorization, execution and delivery of the indenture and the genuineness of signatures and certain factual matters, all as stated in the letter of such counsel dated September 15, 2014, which has been filed as Exhibit 5.5 to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.'s registration statement on Form S-3 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 15, 2014.

Table of Contents

We have not authorized anyone to provide any information or to make any representations other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is an offer to sell only the notes offered hereby, but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus supplement the accompanying prospectus is current only as of the respective dates of such documents.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<u>Summary Information</u>	S-2
<u>Hypothetical Examples</u>	S-5
<u>Additional Risk Factors Specific to Your Notes</u>	S-9
<u>Specific Terms of Your Notes</u>	S-18
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-26
<u>Hedging</u>	S-26
<u>The Indices</u>	S-27
<u>Supplemental Discussion of Federal Income Tax Consequences</u>	S-41
<u>Employee Retirement Income Security Act Supplemental Plan of Distribution</u>	S-45
<u>Conflicts of Interest</u>	S-46
<u>Validity of the Notes</u>	S-47
	S-48

**The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.**

Prospectus Supplement dated September 15, 2014

Use of Proceeds	S-2
Description of Notes We May Offer	S-3
Considerations Relating to Indexed Notes	S-19
United States Taxation	S-22
Employee Retirement Income Security Act Supplemental Plan of Distribution	S-23
Validity of the Notes	S-24
	S-26

Prospectus dated September 15, 2014

Autocallable Contingent Coupon Index-Linked Notes due 2025

Available Information	2
Prospectus Summary	4
Use of Proceeds	8
Description of Debt Securities We May Offer	9
Description of Warrants We May Offer	39
Description of Purchase Contracts We May Offer	56
Description of Units We May Offer	61
Description of Preferred Stock We May Offer	67
Description of Capital Stock of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.	75
Legal Ownership and Book-Entry Issuance	80
Considerations Relating to Floating Rate Securities	85
Considerations Relating to Indexed Securities	87
Considerations Relating to Securities Denominated or Payable in or Linked to a Non-U.S. Dollar Currency	88
United States Taxation	91
Plan of Distribution	114

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Conflicts of Interest	117
Employee Retirement Income Security Act	118
Validity of the Securities	119
Experts	119
Review of Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements by Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	120
Cautionary Statement Pursuant to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995	120

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Goldman, Sachs & Co.