

MICHAELS STORES INC
Form 10-Q
December 07, 2009
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended October 31, 2009

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 001-09338

MICHAELS STORES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

75-1943604
(I.R.S. employer
identification number)

8000 Bent Branch Drive

Irving, Texas 75063

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(972) 409-1300

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.* Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). * Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

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As of November 28, 2009, 118,898,939 shares of the Registrant's Common Stock were outstanding.

*The Registrant has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, but is not required to file such reports under such sections.

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MICHAELS STORES, INC.

Part I FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements.

MICHAELS STORES, INC.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(In millions, except share data)

(Unaudited)

| | October 31, 2009 | January 31, 2009 | November 1, 2008 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Current assets: | | | |
| Cash and equivalents | \$ 49 | \$ 33 | \$ 92 |
| Merchandise inventories | 1,039 | 900 | 1,083 |
| Prepaid expenses and other | 83 | 73 | 83 |
| Deferred income taxes | 41 | 41 | 30 |
| Income tax receivable | 12 | 2 | 38 |
| Total current assets | 1,224 | 1,049 | 1,326 |
| Property and equipment, at cost | 1,236 | 1,214 | 1,204 |
| Less accumulated depreciation | (911) | (832) | (802) |
| | 325 | 382 | 402 |
| Goodwill | 94 | 94 | 94 |
| Debt issuance costs, net of accumulated amortization of \$52, \$39, and \$35, respectively | 73 | 86 | 90 |
| Deferred income taxes | 16 | 12 | |
| Other assets | 28 | 2 | |
| | 211 | 194 | 184 |
| Total assets | \$ 1,760 | \$ 1,625 | \$ 1,912 |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS DEFICIT | | | |
| Current liabilities: | | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 274 | \$ 230 | \$ 274 |
| Accrued liabilities and other | 353 | 275 | 336 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | 139 | 173 | 432 |
| Income taxes payable | 1 | 2 | |
| Current liabilities - discontinued operations | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total current liabilities | 768 | 681 | 1,043 |
| Long-term debt | 3,772 | 3,756 | 3,751 |
| Deferred income taxes | | | 5 |
| Other long-term liabilities | 78 | 74 | 76 |
| Long-term liabilities - discontinued operations | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Total long-term liabilities | 3,851 | 3,831 | 3,833 |

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| | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| | 4,619 | 4,512 | 4,876 |
| Commitments and contingencies | | | |
| Stockholders deficit: | | | |
| Common Stock, \$0.10 par value, 220,000,000 shares authorized; 118,387,229 shares issued and outstanding at October 31, 2009; 118,376,402 shares issued and outstanding at January 31, 2009; 118,376,402 shares issued and outstanding at November 1, 2008 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 34 | 27 | 17 |
| Accumulated deficit | (2,911) | (2,931) | (2,996) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| Total stockholders deficit | (2,859) | (2,887) | (2,964) |
| Total liabilities and stockholders deficit | \$ 1,760 | \$ 1,625 | \$ 1,912 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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MICHAELS STORES, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(In millions)

(Unaudited)

| | Quarter Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | October 31, 2009 | November 1, 2008 | October 31, 2009 | November 1, 2008 |
| Net sales | \$ 929 | \$ 906 | \$ 2,588 | \$ 2,549 |
| Cost of sales and occupancy expense | 582 | 584 | 1,640 | 1,623 |
| Gross profit | 347 | 322 | 948 | 926 |
| Selling, general, and administrative expense | 259 | 247 | 737 | 765 |
| Related party expenses | 4 | 4 | 11 | 12 |
| Store pre-opening costs | | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| Operating income | 84 | 68 | 198 | 143 |
| Interest expense | 62 | 77 | 187 | 231 |
| Other (income) and expense, net | (1) | 3 | (21) | 3 |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | 23 | (12) | 32 | (91) |
| Provision (benefit) for income taxes | 8 | 8 | 11 | (21) |
| Net income (loss) | \$ 15 | \$ (20) | \$ 21 | \$ (70) |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**MICHAELS STORES, INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****(In millions)****(Unaudited)**

| | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------|
| | October 31, | November 1, |
| | 2009 | 2008 |
| Operating activities: | | |
| Net income (loss) | \$ 21 | \$ (70) |
| Adjustments: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 86 | 94 |
| Share-based compensation | 6 | 6 |
| Deferred financing costs amortization | 13 | 13 |
| Accretion of subordinated discount notes | 33 | 29 |
| Change in fair value of interest rate cap | (16) | |
| Other | | 1 |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | | |
| Merchandise inventories | (133) | (250) |
| Prepaid expenses and other | (14) | (5) |
| Deferred income taxes and other | (12) | 3 |
| Accounts payable | 54 | 51 |
| Accrued interest | 33 | (9) |
| Accrued liabilities and other | 42 | 13 |
| Income taxes receivable | (11) | (37) |
| Other long-term liabilities | 4 | (5) |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities | 106 | (166) |
| Investing activities: | | |
| Additions to property and equipment | (26) | (66) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (26) | (66) |
| Financing activities: | | |
| Borrowings on asset-based revolving credit facility | 621 | 749 |
| Payments on asset-based revolving credit facility | (655) | (439) |
| Repayments on senior secured term loan facility | (18) | (18) |
| Repurchase of Common Stock | | (1) |
| Payments of capital leases | | (4) |
| Change in cash overdraft | (12) | 9 |
| Other | | (1) |
| Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities | (64) | 295 |
| Net increase in cash and equivalents | 16 | 63 |
| Cash and equivalents at beginning of period | 33 | 29 |
| Cash and equivalents at end of period | \$ 49 | \$ 92 |
| Supplemental Cash Flow Information: | | |
| Cash paid for interest. | \$ 109 | \$ 199 |
| Cash paid for income taxes | \$ 22 | \$ 17 |

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See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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MICHAELS STORES, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Nine Months Ended October 31, 2009

(Unaudited)

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Michaels Stores, Inc. and our wholly-owned subsidiaries. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated. All expressions of the Company, us, we, our, and all similar expressions are references to Michaels Stores, Inc. and our consolidated, wholly-owned subsidiaries, unless otherwise expressly stated or the context otherwise requires.

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and with the instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and notes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. Therefore, these financial statements should be read in conjunction with our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2009. In accordance with the recently issued Accounting Standards Codification (ASC or Codification) 855, *Subsequent Events*, we have evaluated all subsequent events through the issuance of the financial statements, which occurred on December 4, 2009.

The balance sheet at January 31, 2009 has been derived from the audited financial statements at that date but does not include all of the information and notes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. For further information, refer to the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2009.

In the opinion of management, all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring accruals and other items, as disclosed) considered necessary for a fair presentation have been included.

Because of the seasonal nature of our business, the results of operations for the three and nine months ended October 31, 2009 are not indicative of the results to be expected for the entire year.

We report on the basis of a 52 or 53-week fiscal year, which ends on the Saturday closest to January 31. All references herein to fiscal 2009 relate to the 52 weeks ending January 30, 2010, and all references to fiscal 2008 relate to the 52 weeks ended January 31, 2009. In addition, all

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references herein to the third quarter of fiscal 2009 relate to the 13 weeks ended October 31, 2009 and all references to the third quarter of fiscal 2008 relate to the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2008. Finally, all references to the nine months ended October 31, 2009 relate to the 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009, and the nine months ended November 1, 2008 relate to the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2008.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2009, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued ASC 105, *Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*. ASC 105 establishes the Codification as the source of authoritative accounting principles recognized by the FASB to be applied by non-governmental entities in the preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Rules and interpretive releases of the SEC under authority of federal securities laws are also sources of authoritative guidance for SEC registrants. All guidance contained in the Codification carries an equal level of authority. The U.S. GAAP hierarchy will be modified to include two levels of GAAP: authoritative and nonauthoritative. This statement is effective for financial statements issued for interim and annual periods ended after September 15, 2009. We have included references to authoritative accounting literature in accordance with the Codification. There are no other changes to the content of the Company's consolidated financial statements as a result of the adoption.

In September 2006, the FASB issued ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements*, which is intended to increase consistency and comparability in fair value measurements by defining fair value, establishing a framework for measuring fair value and expanding disclosures about fair value measurements. ASC 820 was originally effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007, and interim periods within those fiscal years. In November 2007, the FASB placed a one year deferral for the implementation of ASC 820 for nonfinancial assets and liabilities; however, ASC 820 became effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007 for financial assets and liabilities, as well as for any other assets and liabilities that are carried at fair value on a recurring basis in financial statements. On February 3, 2008, we adopted the provisions of ASC 820 related to financial assets

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and liabilities and on February 1, 2009, we adopted the provisions related to nonfinancial assets and liabilities that are not required or permitted to be measured at fair value on a recurring basis. These adoptions had no impact on our consolidated financial statements. See Note 6 for further information regarding fair value measurements. Additionally, in April 2009, the FASB issued ASC 825, *Interim Disclosures About Fair Value of Financial Instruments*, which provides additional guidance and requires additional disclosures regarding determining and reporting fair values for certain assets and liabilities. We adopted ASC 825 in the second quarter of fiscal 2009 as reflected in Note 3.

In December 2007, the FASB issued ASC 805, *Business Combinations* to establish principles and requirements for the recognition and measurement of assets, liabilities and goodwill, including the requirement that most transaction costs and restructuring costs be expensed. In addition, this ASC requires disclosures to enable users to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination. ASC 805 is effective for business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of the first annual reporting period beginning on or after December 15, 2008. We will apply the provisions of ASC 805 to any business combinations occurring on or after February 1, 2009.

In March 2008, the FASB issued ASC 815, *Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*. ASC 815 requires qualitative disclosures about objectives and strategies for using derivatives, quantitative data about the fair value of and gains and losses on derivative contracts, and details of credit-risk-related contingent features in hedged positions. The statement also requires enhanced disclosures regarding how and why entities use derivative instruments, how derivative instruments and related hedged items are accounted for, and how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect entity's financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. ASC 815 is effective for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008. We adopted the new disclosure requirements of ASC 815 in the first quarter of 2009 as reflected in Note 5.

In May 2009, the FASB issued ASC 855, *Subsequent Events*. ASC 855 is intended to establish general standards of accounting for and disclosure of events that occur after the balance sheet date but before the financial statements are issued or available to be issued. The statement sets forth the period after the balance sheet date during which management of a reporting entity should evaluate events or transactions that may occur for potential recognition or disclosure in the financial statements, the circumstances under which an entity should recognize events or transactions occurring after the balance sheet date in its financial statements, and the disclosures that an entity should make about events or transactions that occurred after the balance sheet date. ASC 855 is effective for fiscal years and interim periods ending after June 15, 2009. We adopted ASC 855 during the second quarter of fiscal 2009, but the impact of the adoption in future periods will depend on the nature and the extent of transactions that occur subsequent to our interim and annual reporting periods.

Note 2. Share-Based Compensation

The 2006 Equity Incentive Plan (2006 Plan) provides for the grant of share-based awards exercisable for up to 14.2 million shares of Common Stock. On June 3, 2009, the Company announced an offer to exchange certain employee stock options issued under the 2006 Plan (Exchange Offer) for new stock options granted on a one-for-one basis. On July 2, 2009, employees exchanged 8.0 million outstanding stock options under the following terms:

(1) outstanding vested or unvested options to purchase shares of Common Stock that had an exercise price per share of \$30.00, \$37.50, \$45.00 or \$52.50 for an equal number of new options to purchase shares of Common Stock with an exercise price equal to \$7.50 and a new five-year vesting schedule that commenced on July 2, 2009 and an eight-year term; and

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(2) outstanding options that had an exercise price per share of \$15.00 and \$22.50 were exchanged for an equal number of new options with the same exercise price. A portion of the new options will be vested based on the period of time that the exchanged options had been held in relation to the total term of the option and have identical terms and conditions to the previously issued options, and the remaining options have a new five-year vesting schedule that commenced on July 2, 2009 and an eight-year term.

The fair value for options granted under ASC 718 was estimated at the date of grant using the Black-Scholes-Merton option valuation model. Prior year assumptions are not reflected due to all options being cancelled as part of the Exchange Offer and new options granted. The following assumptions were used to estimate the fair value of options granted during the quarter ended October 31, 2009:

Assumptions (1)

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Risk-free interest rates (2) | 2.4% - 3.3% |
| Expected dividend yield | 0.0% |
| Expected volatility rates of our Common Stock (3) | 41.2% - 45.9% |
| Expected life of options (in years) (4) | 5.5 - 8.0 |
| Weighted average fair value of options granted (5) | \$ 0.93 |

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- (1) Forfeitures were estimated based on historical experience and anticipated events.
- (2) Based on constant maturity interest rates for U.S. Treasury instruments with terms consistent with the expected lives of the awards.
- (3) We considered both the historical volatility as well as implied volatilities from the exchange-traded options on the common stock from a peer group of companies.
- (4) Expected lives were based on an analysis of historical exercise and post-vesting employment termination behavior.
- (5) In determining the fair value of our common stock, the Board of Directors considers factors that it believes are material to the valuation process including the Company's actual and projected financial results, the principal amount of the Company's indebtedness and formal valuations of the Company. Valuations completed rely on projections of our future performance, estimates of our weighted average cost of capital, and metrics based on the performance of a peer group of similar companies, including valuation multiples and stock price volatility. As of the date of the Exchange Offer, the fair value of our Common Stock was determined to be \$4.27.

As of October 31, 2009, there were 9.8 million stock option awards outstanding and up to 3.8 million shares of Common Stock remaining available for grant under the 2006 Plan. The table below sets forth a summary of stock option activity for the nine months ended October 31, 2009.

| | Number of Shares (in millions) | Weighted-Average Exercise Price | Weighted-Average Remaining Contractual Term (in years) |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Outstanding at January 31, 2009 | 10.1 | \$ 26.25 | |
| Grants (1) | 11.3 | 15.55 | |
| Canceled/Forfeited (1) | (11.6) | 25.22 | |
| Outstanding at October 31, 2009 | 9.8 | \$ 15.04 | 7.3 |
| Vested and Exercisable at October 31, 2009 | 1.7 | \$ 18.75 | 5.7 |

-
- (1) The number of options granted and canceled/forfeited includes options granted and canceled in connection with the Exchange Offer.

In addition, as of October 31, 2009, there were a total of 589,204 shares of restricted stock outstanding, of which 77,494 are vested.

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As of October 31, 2009, the total fair value of vested options, subsequent to the Exchange Offer, was \$1.4 million. As of October 31, 2009, there were 8.1 million nonvested options with a weighted average fair value of \$0.96 per share.

Share-based compensation expense was \$2 million for the third quarter of each of fiscal 2009 and 2008, and \$6 million for each of the nine months ended October 31, 2009 and November 1, 2008. As a result of the Exchange Offer, share-based compensation expense is expected to increase by \$2.1 million over the life of the options due to the incremental value ascribed to the new options that were issued at a lower exercise price. Share-based compensation expense for fiscal 2009 is expected to decrease by \$0.5 million as a result of the longer vesting period of the new options compared to the vesting period of the original grants. During the third quarter of fiscal 2009, share-based compensation expense decreased by \$0.2 million as a result of the Exchange Offer.

As of October 31, 2009, compensation cost not yet recognized related to nonvested awards totaled \$19.9 million and is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 4.7 years. To the extent the actual forfeiture rate is different from what we have anticipated, share-based compensation related to these awards will be different from our expectations.

Table of Contents**Note 3. Debt**

Our outstanding debt is detailed in the table below. We were in compliance with the terms and conditions of all debt agreements for all periods presented.

| | October 31, 2009 | January 31, 2009 (in millions) | November 1, 2008 | Interest Rate |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Senior secured term loan | \$ 2,280 | \$ 2,297 | \$ 2,303 | Variable |
| Senior notes | 750 | 750 | 750 | 10.000% |
| Senior subordinated notes | 400 | 400 | 400 | 11.375% |
| Subordinated discount notes | 365 | 332 | 322 | 13.000% |
| Asset-based revolving credit facility | 114 | 148 | 407 | Variable |
| Other | 2 | 2 | 1 | Variable |
| Total debt | 3,911 | 3,929 | 4,183 | |
| Less current portion | 139 | 173 | 432 | |
| Long-term debt | \$ 3,772 | \$ 3,756 | \$ 3,751 | |

Asset-based revolving credit facility

Our senior secured asset-based revolving credit facility, which we entered into on October 31, 2006, with Banc of America, N.A. and other lenders (the "Asset-based revolving credit facility") provides senior secured financing of up to \$1.0 billion, subject to a borrowing base as described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K. As of October 31, 2009, the borrowing base was \$963 million with \$799 million of unused availability.

Senior secured term loan facility

Borrowings under our senior secured term loan facility, which we entered into on October 31, 2006, with Deutsche Bank A.G. New York Branch and other lenders (the "Senior secured term loan facility") bear interest at a rate per annum equal to, at our option, either (a) a base rate determined by reference to the higher of (1) the prime rate of Deutsche Bank and (2) the federal funds effective rate plus ½ of 1% or (b) a LIBOR rate, subject to certain adjustments, in each case plus an applicable margin. The applicable margin is subject to downward adjustment based on the ratings threshold set forth in the Senior secured term loan facility agreement. At October 31, 2009, the margin was 1.25% with respect to base rate borrowings and 2.25% with respect to LIBOR borrowings.

On November 5, 2009, we entered into an amendment to the credit agreement to the Senior secured term loan facility. See Note 11 for additional information.

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The table below provides the carrying and fair values of our senior and subordinated term loan and notes. The fair value of these debt instruments was determined based on quoted market prices.

| | Carrying Value | | Fair Value | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-------|------------|-------|
| | (in millions) | | | |
| Senior secured term loan | \$ | 2,280 | \$ | 2,045 |
| Senior notes | | 750 | | 751 |
| Senior subordinated notes | | 400 | | 386 |
| Subordinated discount notes | | 365 | | 265 |

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Our comprehensive income (loss), net of related tax, is as follows:

| | Quarter Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | October 31, 2009 | November 1, 2008 | October 31, 2009 | November 1, 2008 |
| | (in millions) | | | |
| Net income (loss) | \$ 15 | \$ (20) | \$ 21 | \$ (70) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | | | |
| Derivative (loss) gain | (1) | 5 | (4) | 7 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment and other | | (12) | 5 | (14) |
| Comprehensive income (loss) | \$ 14 | \$ (27) | \$ 22 | \$ (77) |

Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax, is reflected in the Consolidated Balance Sheets as follows:

| (in millions) | Foreign Currency Translation and Other | Derivative Instruments | Total |
|---|--|------------------------|-------|
| Balance at January 31, 2009 | \$ 1 | \$ 4 | \$ 5 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment | 5 | | 5 |
| Reclassification of hedge instruments to earnings (1) | | (4) | (4) |
| Balance at October 31, 2009 | \$ 6 | \$ | \$ 6 |

(1) The reclassification of hedge instruments to earnings is related to our foreign currency forward contracts that extended through the first quarter of fiscal 2009.

Note 5. Derivative Instruments

We are exposed to fluctuations in interest rates on our Senior secured term loan. During the first quarter of fiscal 2009, we purchased an interest rate cap to mitigate the effects of interest rate fluctuations. The objective of the cap is to hedge the variability of cash flows associated with our interest payments on our Senior secured term loan that result from fluctuations in the three-month LIBOR rate and does not qualify for hedge accounting under ASC 815. The cap limits our interest exposure on a notional value of \$2.0 billion to the lesser of the three-month LIBOR rate or 7.0%. The term of the cap extends to the first quarter of fiscal 2015. The fair value of the cap as of October 31, 2009 was \$25 million and is included in Other assets on the Consolidated Balance Sheet. The change in fair value of the cap for the quarter and nine months ended October 31, 2009, resulted in an income of \$1 million and \$16 million, respectively, and is recorded in Other (income) and expense, net in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

Note 6. Fair Value Measurements

As defined in ASC 820, fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. ASC 820 establishes a three-level valuation hierarchy for fair value measurements. These valuation techniques are based upon observable and unobservable inputs. Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources, while unobservable inputs reflect our market assumptions. These two types of inputs create the following fair value hierarchy:

- Level 1 Quoted prices for *identical* instruments in active markets;
- Level 2 Quoted prices for *similar* instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and model-derived valuations whose significant inputs are observable; and
- Level 3 Instruments whose significant inputs are *unobservable*.

The following table presents net financial assets (liabilities) accounted for at fair value on a recurring basis as of October 31, 2009 (in millions):

| | Level 1 | | Level 2 | | Level 3 | | Total |
|-------------------|---------|---|---------|----|---------|--|-------|
| Cash equivalents | \$ | 5 | \$ | | \$ | | 5 |
| Interest Rate Cap | | | | 25 | | | 25 |

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Cash equivalents consist of highly liquid investments, with a maturity of 90 days or less at the date of purchase, including U.S. Treasury bills, various government obligations, and money market funds. We carry cash equivalents at cost, which approximates fair value.

Derivatives in Level 2 are measured based on a variety of pricing factors, which include the market price of the derivative instrument available in the dealer-market, which have been corroborated with market data. See Note 5 for additional information on our derivative instruments.

We generally apply fair value techniques on a non-recurring basis for the establishment of potential impairment loss related to goodwill pursuant to ASC 350 and determining the fair value of long-lived assets pursuant to ASC 360.

Note 7. Commitments and Contingencies

We are involved in ongoing legal and regulatory proceedings. Other than those described in the following paragraphs, there were no material changes to our disclosures of commitments and contingencies from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2009 and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended May 2, 2009 and August 1, 2009.

Employee Class Action Claims

Cotton Claim

James Cotton, a former store manager of Michaels of Canada, ULC, our wholly-owned subsidiary, and Suzette Kennedy, a former assistant manager of Michaels of Canada, commenced a purported class proceeding, filed in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, against Michaels of Canada and Michaels Stores, Inc. on behalf of themselves and current and former employees employed in Canada, alleging that the defendants violated employment standards legislation in Ontario and other provinces and territories of Canada by failing to pay overtime compensation as required by that legislation and that this conduct was in breach of the contracts of employment of those individuals. Motions for class certification and responses thereto were filed in 2005 and 2006. The parties subsequently agreed that the case should not proceed as a class action and reached a tentative settlement of Cotton's and Kennedy's individual claims. In August 2009 the Court entered an order dismissing the class action subject to notice to purported class members. The individual cases were settled and such settlements did not have a material effect on our business. A Notice of Discontinuance dismissing the matter was filed on November 18, 2009.

DeJoseph Claim

John DeJoseph, a former Michaels store manager in Valencia, California, commenced a purported class action proceeding against Michaels Stores, Inc. on behalf of himself and current and former salaried store managers employed in California from May 10, 2002 to the present, filed in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, alleging that Michaels failed to pay overtime wages, provide meal periods,

accurately record hours worked, provide itemized employee wage statements, that Michaels unlawfully made deductions from employees earnings and additionally alleging that the foregoing conduct was in breach of California's unfair competition law. After originally certifying a portion of the matter as a class action, the Court reconsidered the matter and de-certified the class in March 2009. The case proceeded with the three individual plaintiffs and these cases have been settled and such settlements did not have a material effect on our business.

Note 8. Segments

We consider our Michaels and Aaron Brothers operations to be our operating segments for purposes of determining reportable segments based on the criteria of ASC 280, *Disclosures About Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information*. We determined that our Michaels and Aaron Brothers operating segments have similar economic characteristics and meet the aggregation criteria set forth in ASC 280. Therefore, we combine both operating segments into one reporting segment.

Our chief operating decision makers evaluate historical operating performance, plan and forecast future periods' operating performance based on earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA). We believe EBITDA represents the financial measure that more closely reflects the operating effectiveness of factors over which management has control. As such, an element of base incentive compensation targets for certain management personnel are based on EBITDA. A reconciliation of EBITDA to income (loss) before income taxes is presented below.

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| | Quarter Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | October 31, 2009 | November 1, 2008 | October 31, 2009 | November 1, 2008 |
| | (in millions) | | | |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | \$ 23 | \$ (12) | \$ 32 | \$ (91) |
| Interest expense | 62 | 77 | 187 | 231 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 28 | 31 | 86 | 94 |
| EBITDA | \$ 113 | \$ 96 | \$ 305 | \$ 234 |

Our sales and assets by country are as follows:

| | Net Sales | | Total Assets | |
|--|---------------|----------|--------------|--|
| | (in millions) | | | |
| Quarter ended October 31, 2009: | | | | |
| United States | \$ 850 | \$ 1,657 | | |
| Canada | 79 | 103 | | |
| Consolidated Total | \$ 929 | \$ 1,760 | | |
| Quarter ended November 1, 2008: | | | | |
| United States | \$ 833 | \$ 1,801 | | |
| Canada | 73 | 111 | | |
| Consolidated Total | \$ 906 | \$ 1,912 | | |
| Nine Months ended October 31, 2009: | | | | |
| United States | \$ 2,387 | \$ 1,657 | | |
| Canada | 201 | 103 | | |
| Consolidated Total | \$ 2,588 | \$ 1,760 | | |
| Nine Months ended November 1, 2008: | | | | |
| United States | \$ 2,342 | \$ 1,801 | | |
| Canada | 207 | 111 | | |
| Consolidated Total | \$ 2,549 | \$ 1,912 | | |

We present assets based on their physical, geographic location. Certain assets located in the United States are also used to support our Canadian operations, but we do not allocate these assets to Canada.

Note 9. Related Party Transactions

As previously disclosed, on October 31, 2006, substantially all of the Common Stock of Michaels Stores, Inc. was acquired through a merger transaction (the Merger) by affiliates of Bain Capital Partners, LLC and The Blackstone Group. We pay annual management fees to Bain Capital Partners, LLC and The Blackstone Group (collectively, together with their applicable affiliates, the Sponsors) and Highfields Capital Management LP in the amount of \$12 million and \$1 million, respectively. We recognized \$4 million and \$3 million of expense related to annual management fees during the third quarter of fiscal 2009 and fiscal 2008, respectively, and \$11 million and \$10 million during the nine months ended October 31, 2009 and November 1, 2008, respectively. These expenses are included in related party expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

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Bain Capital owns a majority equity position in an external vendor we utilize to print our circular advertisements. Payments associated with this vendor during the third quarter of each of fiscal 2009 and fiscal 2008 were \$10 million. Payments for the nine months ended October 31, 2009 and November 1, 2008 were \$24 million and \$26 million, respectively. These expenses are included in selling, general and administrative expense on the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

Bain Capital owns a majority equity position in an external vendor we have utilized for non-merchandise supplies. Payments associated with this vendor during the third quarter of fiscal 2008 were \$1 million. Payments for the nine months ended October 31, 2009 and November 1, 2008 were \$1 million and \$2 million, respectively. These expenses are included in selling, general and administrative expense on the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

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The Blackstone Group owns a majority equity position in an external vendor we utilize to count our store inventory. Payments associated with this vendor during the third quarter of fiscal 2009 and 2008 were \$3 million and \$2 million, respectively. Payments for the nine months ended October 31, 2009 and November 1, 2008 were \$7 million and \$5 million, respectively. These expenses are included in selling, general and administrative expense on the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

During fiscal 2008, we began utilizing an external vendor for waste management services that is partially owned by The Blackstone Group. Payments associated with this vendor during the third quarter of fiscal 2009 and fiscal 2008 were \$2 million and \$1 million, respectively, and \$5 million and \$2 million for the nine months ended October 31, 2009 and November 1, 2008, respectively. These expenses are included in selling, general and administrative expense on the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

During the first quarter of fiscal 2008, The Blackstone Group acquired an equity position in an external vendor we utilize for all of the impulse candy-type items in our stores. Payments associated with this vendor during the third quarter of each of fiscal 2009 and fiscal 2008 were \$4 million. Payments for the nine months ended October 31, 2009 and November 1, 2008 were \$13 million and \$12 million, respectively. These expenses are recognized in cost of sales as the sales are incurred.

The Blackstone Group owns a partial equity position in an external vendor we utilize for newspaper advertisements. Payments associated with this vendor were \$1 million during each of the nine months ended October 31, 2009 and November 1, 2008. These expenses are included in selling, general and administrative expense on the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

Our current directors are affiliates of Bain Capital or The Blackstone Group. As such, some or all of our directors may have an indirect material interest in payments with respect to debt securities of the Company that have been purchased by affiliates of Bain Capital and The Blackstone Group. Such affiliates beneficially own approximately \$239 million face amount of our Subordinated Discount Notes due 2016.

The Company periodically provides officers of Michaels Stores, Inc. and its subsidiaries the opportunity to purchase shares of our Common Stock. There were no shares sold to officers during the first nine months of each of fiscal 2009 and fiscal 2008. Also, during the third quarter and first nine months of fiscal 2008, we repurchased 6,000 and 111,334 shares, respectively, from officers who are no longer with the Company. There have been no shares repurchased during the first nine months of fiscal 2009.

In connection with the consummation of the Merger, the Company entered into a Separation Agreement with each of Charles Wyly and Sam Wyly, executive officers and directors of the Company prior to the Merger. Under the Separation Agreements, each of Charles Wyly and Sam Wyly received a lump sum payment of \$3.0 million in exchange for his agreement to adhere to certain non-competition, non-solicitation and confidentiality restrictions. We amortized these Separation Agreements over the two year period ended October 31, 2008. These expenses are included in related party expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

Note 10. Condensed Consolidating Financial Information

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All obligations of Michaels Stores, Inc. under the Senior notes, Senior subordinated notes, Subordinated discount notes, Senior secured term loan, and Asset-based revolving credit facility are guaranteed by each of our subsidiaries other than Aaron Brothers Card Services, LLC and Canada Artistree, Inc. As of October 31, 2009, the financial statements of Aaron Brothers Card Services, LLC and Canada Artistree, Inc. were immaterial. Each subsidiary guarantor is 100% owned by the parent and all guarantees are joint and several.

The following condensed consolidating financial information represents the financial information of Michaels Stores, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiary guarantors, prepared on the equity basis of accounting. The information is presented in accordance with the requirements of Rule 3-10 under the SEC's Regulation S-X. The financial information may not necessarily be indicative of results of operations, cash flows, or financial position had the subsidiary guarantors operated as independent entities.

Table of Contents**Supplemental Condensed Consolidating Balance Sheet**

| | October 31, 2009 | | | | Consolidated |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----|--------------|
| | Parent Company | Guarantor Subsidiaries | Eliminations (in millions) | | |
| ASSETS | | | | | |
| Current assets: | | | | | |
| Cash and equivalents | \$ 37 | \$ 12 | \$ | \$ | 49 |
| Merchandise inventories | 732 | 307 | | | 1,039 |
| Intercompany receivables | | 591 | (591) | | |
| Other | 85 | 51 | | | 136 |
| Total current assets | 854 | 961 | (591) | | 1,224 |
| Property and equipment, net | 244 | 81 | | | 325 |
| Goodwill, net | 94 | | | | 94 |
| Investment in subsidiaries | 663 | | (663) | | |
| Other assets | 96 | 21 | | | 117 |
| Total assets | \$ 1,951 | \$ 1,063 | \$ (1,254) | \$ | 1,760 |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS (DEFICIT) EQUITY | | | | | |
| Current liabilities: | | | | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 22 | \$ 252 | \$ | \$ | 274 |
| Accrued liabilities and other | 267 | 86 | | | 353 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | 139 | | | | 139 |
| Intercompany payable | 591 | | (591) | | |
| Other | (34) | 36 | | | 2 |
| Total current liabilities | 985 | 374 | (591) | | 768 |
| Long-term debt | 3,772 | | | | 3,772 |
| Other long-term liabilities | 53 | 26 | | | 79 |
| Total stockholders (deficit) equity | (2,859) | 663 | (663) | | (2,859) |
| Total liabilities and stockholders (deficit) equity | \$ 1,951 | \$ 1,063 | \$ (1,254) | \$ | 1,760 |

Table of Contents**Supplemental Condensed Consolidating Balance Sheet**

| | January 31, 2009 | | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Parent Company | Guarantor Subsidiaries | Eliminations | Consolidated |
| | (in millions) | | | |
| ASSETS | | | | |
| Current assets: | | | | |
| Cash and equivalents | \$ 26 | \$ 7 | \$ | \$ 33 |
| Merchandise inventories | 627 | 273 | | 900 |
| Intercompany receivables | | 387 | (387) | |
| Other | 62 | 54 | | 116 |
| Total current assets | 715 | 721 | (387) | 1,049 |
| Property and equipment, net | 284 | 98 | | 382 |
| Goodwill, net | 94 | | | 94 |
| Investment in subsidiaries | 488 | | (488) | |
| Other assets | 80 | 20 | | 100 |
| Total assets | \$ 1,661 | \$ 839 | \$ (875) | \$ 1,625 |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS (DEFICIT) EQUITY | | | | |
| Current liabilities: | | | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 15 | \$ 215 | \$ | \$ 230 |
| Accrued liabilities and other | 200 | 75 | | 275 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | 173 | | | 173 |
| Intercompany payable | 387 | | (387) | |
| Other | (32) | 35 | | 3 |
| Total current liabilities | 743 | 325 | (387) | 681 |
| Long-term debt | 3,756 | | | 3,756 |
| Other long-term liabilities | 49 | 26 | | 75 |
| Total stockholders (deficit) equity | (2,887) | 488 | (488) | (2,887) |
| Total liabilities and stockholders (deficit) equity | \$ 1,661 | \$ 839 | \$ (875) | \$ 1,625 |

Table of Contents**Supplemental Condensed Consolidating Balance Sheet**

| | November 1, 2008 | | | | Consolidated |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----|--------------|
| | Parent Company | Guarantor Subsidiaries | Eliminations (in millions) | | |
| ASSETS | | | | | |
| Current assets: | | | | | |
| Cash and equivalents | \$ 86 | \$ 6 | \$ | \$ | 92 |
| Merchandise inventories | 776 | 307 | | | 1,083 |
| Intercompany receivables | | 410 | (410) | | |
| Other | 97 | 54 | | | 151 |
| Total current assets | 959 | 777 | (410) | | 1,326 |
| Property and equipment, net | 294 | 108 | | | 402 |
| Goodwill, net | 94 | | | | 94 |
| Investment in subsidiaries | 517 | | (517) | | |
| Other assets | 76 | 14 | | | 90 |
| Total assets | \$ 1,940 | \$ 899 | \$ (927) | \$ | 1,912 |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS (DEFICIT) EQUITY | | | | | |
| Current liabilities: | | | | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 30 | \$ 244 | \$ | \$ | 274 |
| Accrued liabilities and other | 258 | 78 | | | 336 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | 432 | | | | 432 |
| Intercompany payable | 410 | | (410) | | |
| Other | (39) | 40 | | | 1 |
| Total current liabilities | 1,091 | 362 | (410) | | 1,043 |
| Long-term debt | 3,751 | | | | 3,751 |
| Other long-term liabilities | 62 | 20 | | | 82 |
| Total stockholders (deficit) equity | (2,964) | 517 | (517) | | (2,964) |
| Total liabilities and stockholders (deficit) equity | \$ 1,940 | \$ 899 | \$ (927) | \$ | 1,912 |

Supplemental Condensed Consolidating Statement of Operations

| | Quarter Ended October 31, 2009 | | | | Consolidated |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----|--------------|
| | Parent Company | Guarantor Subsidiaries | Eliminations (in millions) | | |
| Net sales | \$ 818 | \$ 625 | \$ (514) | \$ | 929 |
| Cost of sales and occupancy expense | 566 | 530 | (514) | | 582 |
| Gross profit | 252 | 95 | | | 347 |
| Selling, general, and administrative expense | 226 | 33 | | | 259 |
| Related party expenses | 4 | | | | 4 |
| Store pre-opening costs | | | | | |
| Operating income | 22 | 62 | | | 84 |
| Interest expense | 62 | | | | 62 |
| Other (income) and expense, net | (1) | | | | (1) |
| Intercompany charges (income) | 22 | (22) | | | |
| Equity in earnings of subsidiaries | 84 | | (84) | | |
| Income before income taxes | 23 | 84 | (84) | | 23 |

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| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|------|----|----|
| Provision for income taxes | | 8 | | 29 | | (29) | | 8 |
| Net income | \$ | 15 | \$ | 55 | \$ | (55) | \$ | 15 |

Table of Contents**Supplemental Condensed Consolidating Statement of Operations**

| | Parent Company | Quarter Ended November 1, 2008 | | | Consolidated |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | Guarantor Subsidiaries | Eliminations | (in millions) | |
| Net sales | \$ 796 | \$ 618 | \$ (508) | \$ 906 | |
| Cost of sales and occupancy expense | 554 | 538 | (508) | 584 | |
| Gross profit | 242 | 80 | | 322 | |
| Selling, general, and administrative expense | 221 | 26 | | 247 | |
| Related party expenses | 4 | | | 4 | |
| Store pre-opening costs | 2 | 1 | | 3 | |
| Operating income | 15 | 53 | | 68 | |
| Interest expense | 77 | | | 77 | |
| Other (income) and expense, net | | 3 | | 3 | |
| Intercompany charges (income) | 23 | (23) | | | |
| Equity in earnings of subsidiaries | 73 | | (73) | | |
| (Loss) income before income taxes | (12) | 73 | (73) | (12) | |
| Provision for income taxes | 8 | 28 | (28) | 8 | |
| Net (loss) income | \$ (20) | \$ 45 | \$ (45) | \$ (20) | |

Supplemental Condensed Consolidating Statement of Operations

| | Parent Company | Nine Months Ended October 31, 2009 | | | Consolidated |
|--|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | Guarantor Subsidiaries | Eliminations | (in millions) | |
| Net sales | \$ 2,287 | \$ 1,575 | \$ (1,274) | \$ 2,588 | |
| Cost of sales and occupancy expense | 1,587 | 1,327 | (1,274) | 1,640 | |
| Gross profit | 700 | 248 | | 948 | |
| Selling, general, and administrative expense | 645 | 92 | | 737 | |
| Related party expenses | 11 | | | 11 | |
| Store pre-opening costs | 2 | | | 2 | |
| Operating income | 42 | 156 | | 198 | |
| Interest expense | 187 | | | 187 | |
| Other (income) and expense, net | (16) | (5) | | (21) | |
| Intercompany charges (income) | 55 | (55) | | | |
| Equity in earnings of subsidiaries | 216 | | (216) | | |
| Income before income taxes | 32 | 216 | (216) | 32 | |
| Provision for income taxes | 11 | 74 | (74) | 11 | |
| Net income | \$ 21 | \$ 142 | \$ (142) | \$ 21 | |

Table of Contents**Supplemental Condensed Consolidating Statement of Operations**

| | Nine Months Ended November 1, 2008 | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Parent Company | Guarantor Subsidiaries | Eliminations | Consolidated |
| | (in millions) | | | |
| Net sales | \$ 2,227 | \$ 1,554 | \$ (1,232) | \$ 2,549 |
| Cost of sales and occupancy expense | 1,546 | 1,309 | (1,232) | 1,623 |
| Gross profit | 681 | 245 | | 926 |
| Selling, general, and administrative expense | 673 | 92 | | 765 |
| Related party expenses | 12 | | | 12 |
| Store pre-opening costs | 5 | 1 | | 6 |
| Operating (loss) income | (9) | 152 | | 143 |
| Interest expense | 231 | | | 231 |
| Other (income) and expense, net | | 3 | | 3 |
| Intercompany charges (income) | 57 | (57) | | |
| Equity in earnings of subsidiaries | 206 | | (206) | |
| (Loss) income before income taxes | (91) | 206 | (206) | (91) |
| (Benefit) provision for income taxes | (21) | 47 | (47) | (21) |
| Net (loss) income | \$ (70) | \$ 159 | \$ (159) | \$ (70) |

Supplemental Condensed Consolidating Statement of Cash Flows

| | Nine Months Ended October 31, 2009 | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Parent Company | Guarantor Subsidiaries | Eliminations | Consolidated |
| | (in millions) | | | |
| Operating activities: | | | | |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | \$ 100 | \$ 90 | \$ (84) | \$ 106 |
| Investing activities: | | | | |
| Cash paid for property and equipment | (25) | (1) | | (26) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (25) | (1) | | (26) |
| Financing activities: | | | | |
| Net borrowings of long-term debt | (52) | | | (52) |
| Intercompany dividends | | (84) | 84 | |
| Other financing activities | (12) | | | (12) |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (64) | (84) | 84 | (64) |
| Increase in cash and equivalents | 11 | 5 | | 16 |
| Beginning cash and cash equivalents | 26 | 7 | | 33 |
| Ending cash and cash equivalents | \$ 37 | \$ 12 | \$ | \$ 49 |

Table of Contents**Supplemental Condensed Consolidating Statement of Cash Flows**

| | Nine Months Ended November 1, 2008 | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Parent Company | Guarantor Subsidiaries | Eliminations | Consolidated |
| | (in millions) | | | |
| Operating Activities: | | | | |
| Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities | \$ (176) | \$ 113 | \$ (103) | \$ (166) |
| Investing Activities: | | | | |
| Cash paid for property and equipment | (59) | (7) | | (66) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (59) | (7) | | (66) |
| Financing Activities: | | | | |
| Net borrowings of long-term debt | 292 | | | 292 |
| Intercompany dividends | | (103) | 103 | |
| Other financing activities | 3 | | | 3 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | 295 | (103) | 103 | 295 |
| Increase in cash and equivalents | 60 | 3 | | 63 |
| Beginning cash and cash equivalents | 26 | 3 | | 29 |
| Ending cash and equivalents | \$ 86 | \$ 6 | \$ | \$ 92 |

Note 11. Subsequent Event

On November 5, 2009, we entered into a Fourth Amendment to Credit Agreement (the Fourth Amendment) to our \$2.4 billion Senior secured term loan facility. The Fourth Amendment amended the Senior secured term loan facility to extend \$1.0 billion of existing term loans (the B-2 Term Loans) to July 31, 2016, with the remaining \$1.28 billion of existing term loans (the B-1 Term Loans) keeping the original maturity date of October 31, 2013.

As a result of the Fourth Amendment, the applicable margins for the B-2 Term Loans under the Senior secured term loan facility will be 3.50% with respect to base rate borrowings and 4.50% with respect to LIBOR borrowings. Further, the interest period for the B-2 LIBOR borrowings may be for three or six months. The B-2 Term Loans are subject to (i) a springing maturity date of July 31, 2014 unless either (x) our Senior Notes are refinanced 91 days prior to the maturity of such Senior Notes or (y) we can meet a fixed charge coverage ratio of 3.25x; and (ii) a minimum increase in interest rates on the B-2 loans in connection with any future extensions of term loans to the extent any such extension has an increase in effective yield in excess of 0.25%.

Borrowings for the B-1 Term Loans under the Senior secured term loan facility are subject to an applicable margin of 1.25% with respect to base rate borrowings and 2.25% with respect to LIBOR borrowings. In addition, the one- and two-month LIBOR options have been eliminated for the B-1 Term Loans.

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The Senior secured term loan facility requires us to prepay outstanding loans to the extent we have excess cash, as fully described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2009. As a result of the Fourth Amendment, any required prepayments must be allocated evenly between the B-1 and B-2 Term Loans. The Fourth Amendment had no impact on the affirmative and negative covenants contained in the Senior secured term loan facility.

In the fourth quarter of fiscal 2009, we will record an expense of \$3 million related to the Fourth Amendment in accordance with ASC 470. The Company will also record \$1 million in debt issuance costs that will be amortized as interest expense over the life of the B-2 Term Loans. The unamortized debt issuance costs related to the Senior secured term loan facility will be allocated between the B-1 and B-2 Term Loans. The costs allocated to the B-2 Term Loans will be amortized over the revised life through July 31, 2014.

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Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

All expressions of the Company, us, we, our, and all similar expressions are references to Michaels Stores, Inc. and its consolidated wholly-owned subsidiaries, unless otherwise expressly stated or the context otherwise requires.

Disclosure Regarding Forward-Looking Information

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q. The following discussion, as well as other portions of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, contains forward-looking statements that reflect our plans, estimates, and beliefs. Any statements contained herein (including, but not limited to, statements to the effect that Michaels or its management anticipates, plans, estimates, expects, believes, and other similar expressions) that are not statements of historical fact should be considered forward-looking statements and should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2009. Such forward-looking statements are based upon management's current knowledge and assumptions about future events and involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from anticipated results, prospects, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to:

- risks related to general economic conditions; if the worldwide economic downturn continues or deteriorates further, it could continue to adversely affect consumer confidence and retail spending, decreasing demand for our merchandise and adversely impact our results of operations, cash flows and financial condition;
- risks related to our substantial indebtedness, as our leverage could adversely affect our ability to raise additional capital to fund our operations, limit our ability to react to changes in the economy or our industry, expose us to interest rate risk to the extent of our variable rate debt and prevent us from meeting our obligations under our notes and credit facilities;
- restrictions in our debt agreements that limit our flexibility in operating our business, as our senior secured credit facilities and the indentures governing our notes contain various covenants that limit our ability to engage in specified types of transactions and require that we maintain specified financial ratios upon the occurrence of certain events;
- our ability to open new stores, as our growth depends on our strategy of increasing our number of stores and if we are unable to continue this strategy, our ability to increase our sales, profitability, and cash flow could be impaired;

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- how well we manage our business;
- changes in customer demand could materially adversely affect our sales, operating results, and cash flow;
- unexpected or unfavorable consumer responses to our promotional or merchandising programs could materially adversely affect our sales, operating results, and cash flow;
- changes in newspaper subscription rates may result in reduced exposure to our circular advertisements and adversely affect our sales, operating results and cash flow;
- improvements to our supply chain may not be fully successful;
- our suppliers may fail us;
- our reliance on foreign suppliers increases our risk of obtaining adequate, timely, and cost-effective product supplies;
- risks associated with the vendors from whom our products are sourced, including our vendors' ability to finance their own operations, could materially adversely affect our revenue and gross profit;
- product recalls and/or product liability, as well as changes in product safety and other consumer protection laws, may adversely impact our operations, merchandise offerings, reputation and financial position;
- significant increases in inflation or commodity prices such as petroleum, natural gas, electricity, steel and paper may adversely affect our costs, including cost of merchandise;
- we are co-sourcing certain of our information technology, accounts payable, payroll, accounting, and human resources functions, and may co-source other administrative functions, making us more dependent upon third parties;
- our information systems may prove inadequate;

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- we may fail to optimize or adequately maintain our perpetual inventory and automated replenishment systems;
- failure to adequately maintain the security of our electronic and other confidential information could materially adversely affect our financial condition and operating results;
- if proposed labor relations legislation is adopted, allowing third party involvement or interruptions to our business, our business could be impacted as a result;
- a weak fourth quarter would materially adversely affect our annual operating results;
- competition could negatively impact our operations; and
- the interests of our controlling stockholders may conflict with the interests of our creditors.

For more details on factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from such forward-looking statements, please see Item 1A. Risk Factors of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2009, and other reports from time to time filed with or furnished to the SEC. We do not intend to, and undertake no obligation to, update or revise any forward-looking statement.

General

Given the current soft macroeconomic and retail environments, sales declines could adversely affect operating income due to a deleveraging of operating expenses. As a result, our historical trends may not be indicative of future results.

We continue to evaluate all options available to us for our Aaron Brothers concept, which range from refining the concept to possible store rationalization. Certain of these options, if enacted, may result in material charges to our consolidated statement of operations in future periods.

We report on the basis of a 52 or 53-week fiscal year, which ends on the Saturday closest to January 31. All references herein to fiscal 2009 relate to the 52 weeks ending January 30, 2010 and all references to fiscal 2008 relate to the 52 weeks ended January 31, 2009. In addition, all references herein to the third quarter of fiscal 2009 relate to the 13 weeks ended October 31, 2009 and all references to the third quarter of fiscal

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2008 relate to the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2008. Finally, all references to the nine months ended October 31, 2009 relate to the 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009, and the nine months ended November 1, 2008 relate to the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2008, respectively.

The following table sets forth certain of our unaudited operating data:

| | Quarter Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | October 31, 2009 | November 1, 2008 | October 31, 2009 | November 1, 2008 |
| Michaels stores: | | | | |
| Retail stores open at beginning of period | 1,023 | 991 | 1,009 | 963 |
| Retail stores opened during the period | 4 | 22 | 18 | 50 |
| Retail stores opened (relocations) during the period | 1 | 3 | 5 | 9 |
| Retail stores closed during the period | | | | |
| Retail stores closed (relocations) during the period | (1) | (3) | (5) | (9) |
| Retail stores open at end of period | 1,027 | 1,013 | 1,027 | 1,013 |
| Aaron Brothers stores: | | | | |
| Retail stores open at beginning of period | 155 | 164 | 161 | 166 |
| Retail stores opened during the period | | | | |
| Retail stores opened (relocations) during the period | | | | 1 |
| Retail stores closed during the period | (3) | (1) | (9) | (3) |
| Retail stores closed (relocations) during the period | | | | (1) |
| Retail stores open at end of period | 152 | 163 | 152 | 163 |
| Total store count at end of period | 1,179 | 1,176 | 1,179 | 1,176 |
| Other operating data: | | | | |
| Average inventory per Michaels store (in thousands) (1) | \$ 971 | \$ 1,022 | \$ 971 | \$ 1,022 |
| Comparable store sales (2) | 1.3% | (6.5)% | (0.5)% | (4.1)% |

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- (1) Average inventory per Michaels store calculation excludes our Aaron Brothers stores.
- (2) Comparable store sales increase (decrease) represents the increase (decrease) in net sales for stores open the same number of months in the indicated period and the comparable period of the previous year, including stores that were relocated or expanded during either period. A store is deemed to become comparable in its 14th month of operation in order to eliminate grand opening sales distortions. A store temporarily closed more than 2 weeks due to a catastrophic event is not considered comparable during the month it closed. If a store is closed longer than 2 weeks but less than 2 months, it becomes comparable in the month in which it reopens, subject to a mid-month convention. A store closed longer than 2 months becomes comparable in its 14th month of operation after its reopening.

Results of Operations

The following table sets forth the percentage relationship to net sales of each line item of our unaudited consolidated statements of operations. This table should be read in conjunction with the following discussion and with our consolidated financial statements, including the related notes, contained herein.

| | Quarter Ended | | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | October 31, 2009 | November 1, 2008 | October 31, 2009 | November 1, 2008 |
| Net sales | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Cost of sales and occupancy expense | 62.7 | 64.5 | 63.4 | 63.7 |
| Gross profit | 37.3 | 35.5 | 36.6 | 36.3 |
| Selling, general, and administrative expense | 27.9 | 27.3 | 28.5 | 30.0 |
| Related party expenses | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| Store pre-opening costs | | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Operating income | 9.0 | 7.5 | 7.6 | 5.6 |
| Interest expense | 6.7 | 8.5 | 7.2 | 9.0 |
| Other (income) and expense, net | (0.2) | 0.3 | (0.8) | 0.1 |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | 2.5 | (1.3) | 1.2 | (3.5) |
| Income tax provision (benefit) | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.4 | (0.8) |
| Net income (loss) | 1.6% | (2.2)% | 0.8% | (2.7)% |

Quarter Ended October 31, 2009 Compared to the Quarter Ended November 1, 2008

Net Sales Net sales increased for the third quarter of fiscal 2009 by \$23 million, or 2.6%, over the third quarter of fiscal 2008. Comparable store sales increased 1.3% primarily due to an increase in customer transactions of 4.7% and a positive impact of 0.1% related to the change in deferred custom framing revenue, partially offset by a decrease in the average ticket of 3.5%. The fluctuation in the exchange rates between the United States and Canadian dollars positively impacted the average ticket by 20 basis points. Sales at 26 Michaels stores that were opened during the 13-month period ended October 31, 2009, provided incremental revenue of \$12 million.

Cost of Sales and Occupancy Expense Cost of sales and occupancy expense decreased \$2 million or 0.3% to \$582 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2009 from \$584 million in the third quarter of fiscal 2008 primarily due to lower distribution and freight costs. This improvement was partially offset by an increase in occupancy costs due in part to an increase in the average number of stores open in the period. As a percentage of net sales, cost of sales and occupancy expense decreased approximately 180 basis points driven by a 170 basis point reduction in cost of sales

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related primarily to improved management of clearance markdowns and lower fuel and distribution costs.

Selling, General, and Administrative Expense Selling, general, and administrative expense was \$259 or 27.9% of net sales, in the third quarter of fiscal 2009 compared to \$247 million, or 27.3% of net sales, in the third quarter of fiscal 2008. Selling, general, and administrative expense increased \$12 million, or 60 basis points, primarily due to a \$20 million increase in performance based bonus expense, which was partially offset by lower payroll and advertising expense. In the third quarter of fiscal 2008, we reversed bonus expense accruals of approximately \$15 million as a result of changes in expected company performance in fiscal 2008.

Related Party Expenses Related party expenses were \$4 million in each of the third quarters of fiscal 2009 and fiscal 2008. These costs consist primarily of approximately \$3 million of management fees and associated expenses paid to our Sponsors and Highfields Capital Management L.P. (Highfields). Also included in the related party expenses in fiscal 2008 is approximately \$1 million of amortization expense related to the Separation Agreements as more fully described in Note 9 to the consolidated financial statements.

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Interest Expense Interest expense for the quarter decreased \$15 million to \$62 million as a result of a lower average interest rate related to our variable-rate debt and lower average debt levels.

Other (Income) and Expense, net Other income in the third quarter of fiscal 2009 related primarily to a \$1 million favorable change in the fair value of the interest rate cap as more fully described in Note 5 to the consolidated financial statements. For fiscal 2008, other expense included \$3 million related to foreign exchange losses.

Provision for Income Taxes During the third quarter of fiscal 2009, we recorded a tax provision of \$8 million at an effective tax rate of 33.2%. During the third quarter of fiscal 2008, we recorded a tax provision of \$8 million, despite a loss before taxes. The tax provision recorded in fiscal 2008 was primarily related to a projected annual tax rate decrease due to changes in our results of operations and our limited ability to recognize foreign tax credits related to our profitable Canadian operations.

Nine Months Ended October 31, 2009 Compared to the Nine Months Ended November 1, 2008

Net Sales Net sales increased for the first nine months of fiscal 2009 by \$39 million, or 1.6%, over the first nine months of fiscal 2008. Comparable store sales decreased 0.5% primarily due to a decrease in the average ticket of 5.1% and an adverse impact of 0.1% related to the change in deferred custom framing revenue, partially offset by an increase in customer transactions of 4.7%. The fluctuation in the exchange rates between the United States and Canadian dollars adversely impacted the average ticket by 80 basis points. The decrease in comparable store sales was more than offset by sales from non-comparable new stores. Sales at our new stores that were opened during the 13-month period ended October 31, 2009, provided incremental revenue of \$52 million.

Cost of Sales and Occupancy Expense Cost of sales and occupancy expense increased \$17 million or 1.1% to \$1,640 million for the first nine months of fiscal 2009 from \$1,623 million for the first nine months of fiscal 2008 primarily due to sales from new stores. As a percentage of net sales, cost of sales decreased approximately 30 basis points largely driven by lower fuel and distribution costs, while occupancy costs were flat as a percentage of sales.

Selling, General, and Administrative Expense Selling, general, and administrative expense was \$737 million, or 28.5% of net sales, for the first nine months of fiscal 2009 compared to \$765 million, or 30.0% of net sales, for the first nine months of fiscal 2008. Selling, general and administrative expense decreased \$28 million, or 150 basis points, primarily due to lower payroll, severance, depreciation advertising and supplies expense. Additionally, prior year amounts include consulting expenses for studies related to consumer insights and other strategic initiatives. These reductions were partially offset by an increase in performance based bonus expense.

Related Party Expenses Related party expenses were \$11 million and \$12 million for the first nine months of fiscal 2009 and fiscal 2008, respectively, consisting primarily of \$10 million of management fees and associated expenses paid to our Sponsors and Highfields. Also included in the related party expenses in fiscal 2008 was approximately \$2 million of amortization expense related to the Separation Agreements as more fully described in Note 9 to the consolidated financial statements.

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Interest Expense Interest expense decreased \$44 million in the nine months ended October 31, 2009 compared to the nine months ended November 1, 2008, primarily due to a lower average interest rate on our variable-rate debt and lower average debt levels.

Other (Income) and Expense, net Other income for the first nine months of fiscal 2009 related primarily to a \$16 million favorable change in the fair value of the interest rate cap as more fully described in Note 5 to the consolidated financial statements and \$5 million related to foreign exchange gains. In 2008, other expense related primarily to foreign exchange losses.

Provision (Benefit) for Income Taxes For the nine months ended October 31, 2009, we recorded an income tax provision of \$11 million at an effective tax rate of 34.2%. The rate is lower than the federal tax rate due to the expected reversal of prior year's limitations on our ability to recognize foreign tax credits related to its profitable Canadian operations. For the nine months ended November 1, 2008, we recorded a tax benefit of \$21 million at an effective tax rate of 23.0%. For the first nine months of fiscal 2008, the lower effective tax rate was a result of our limited ability to recognize foreign tax credits related to our profitable Canadian operations.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

We require cash principally for day-to-day operations, to finance capital investments, inventory for new stores, and inventory replenishment for existing stores, to service our outstanding debt, and seasonal working capital needs. We and our subsidiaries, affiliates, and significant shareholders may from time to time seek to retire or purchase our outstanding debt (including publicly issued debt) through cash purchases and/or exchanges, in open market purchases, privately negotiated transactions, by tender offer or otherwise. Such repurchases or exchanges, if any, will depend on prevailing market conditions, liquidity requirements, contractual restrictions and other factors. We expect that our available cash, cash flow generated from operating activities, and funds available under our Asset-based revolving credit facility will be sufficient to fund planned capital expenditures, working capital requirements, debt repayments, debt service requirements and future growth for the foreseeable future.

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On November 5, 2009, we entered into an amendment to the credit agreement to the Senior secured term loan facility. See Note 11 for additional information.

Cash Flow from Operating Activities

Cash flow provided by operating activities during the first nine months of fiscal 2009 was \$106 million compared to cash used in operating activities of \$166 million during the first nine months of fiscal 2008. The \$272 million change was primarily due to an increase in net income, a smaller increase in merchandise inventories, and a favorable impact from accrued interest. The change in accrued interest was primarily attributable to the timing of payments and a lower average interest rate.

Average inventory per Michaels store (including supporting distribution centers) decreased 5.0% from \$1,022,000 at November 1, 2008 to \$971,000 at October 31, 2009 primarily due to a planned reduction of store inventory levels. We anticipate average inventory per Michaels store at the end of fiscal 2009 to be down compared to the end of fiscal 2008.

Cash Flow used in Investing Activities

Cash flow used in investing activities was primarily the result of the following capital expenditure activities:

| | Nine Months Ended | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| | October 31, 2009 | November 1, 2008 |
| | (in millions) | |
| New and relocated stores and stores not yet opened (1) | \$ 10 | \$ 23 |
| Existing stores | 8 | 17 |
| Distribution system expansion | 1 | 3 |
| Information systems | 6 | 21 |
| Corporate and other | 1 | 2 |
| | \$ 26 | \$ 66 |

- (1) In the first nine months of fiscal 2009, we incurred capital expenditures related to the opening of 18 Michaels and the relocation of five Michaels stores. In the first nine months of fiscal 2008, we incurred capital expenditures related to the opening of 50 Michaels stores and the relocation of nine Michaels stores and one Aaron Brothers store.

Given the current soft macroeconomic environment, we have taken a more conservative view on capital expenditures and postponed or cancelled non-essential spending during fiscal 2009.

Cash Flow from Financing Activities

Cash flows used in financing activities are related primarily to repayments in excess of borrowings under our Asset-based revolving credit facility. The Asset-based revolving credit facility provides senior secured financing of up to \$1.0 billion, subject to a borrowing base. As of October 31, 2009, the borrowing base was \$963 million with \$799 million of unused availability.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2009, the FASB issued ASC 105, *Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*. ASC 105 establishes the Codification as the source of authoritative accounting principles recognized by the FASB to be applied by non-governmental entities in the preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Rules and interpretive releases of the SEC under authority of federal securities laws are also sources of authoritative guidance for SEC registrants. All guidance contained in the Codification carries an equal level of authority. The U.S. GAAP hierarchy will be modified to include two levels of GAAP: authoritative and nonauthoritative. This statement is effective for financial statements issued for interim and annual periods ended after September 15, 2009. We have included references to authoritative accounting literature in accordance with the Codification. There are no other changes to the content of the Company's consolidated financial statements as a result of the adoption.

In September 2006, the FASB issued ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements*, which is intended to increase consistency and comparability in fair value measurements by defining fair value, establishing a framework for measuring fair value and expanding disclosures about fair value measurements. ASC 820 was originally effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007, and interim periods within those fiscal years. In November 2007, the FASB placed a one year deferral for the implementation of ASC 820 for nonfinancial assets and liabilities; however, ASC 820 became effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007 for financial assets and liabilities, as well as for any other assets and liabilities that are carried at fair value on a recurring basis in financial statements. On February 3, 2008, we adopted the provisions of ASC 820 related to financial assets

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and liabilities and on February 1, 2009, we adopted the provisions related to nonfinancial assets and liabilities that are not required or permitted to be measured at fair value on a recurring basis. These adoptions had no impact on our consolidated financial statements. See Note 6 for further information regarding fair value measurements. Additionally, in April 2009, the FASB issued ASC 825, *Interim Disclosures About Fair Value of Financial Instruments*, which provides additional guidance and requires additional disclosures regarding determining and reporting fair values for certain assets and liabilities. We adopted ASC 825 in the second quarter of fiscal 2009 as reflected in Note 3.

In December 2007, the FASB issued ASC 805, *Business Combinations* to establish principles and requirements for the recognition and measurement of assets, liabilities and goodwill, including the requirement that most transaction costs and restructuring costs be expensed. In addition, this ASC requires disclosures to enable users to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination. ASC 805 is effective for business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of the first annual reporting period beginning on or after December 15, 2008. We will apply the provisions of ASC 805 to any business combinations occurring on or after February 1, 2009.

In March 2008, the FASB issued ASC 815, *Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*. ASC 815 requires qualitative disclosures about objectives and strategies for using derivatives, quantitative data about the fair value of and gains and losses on derivative contracts, and details of credit-risk-related contingent features in hedged positions. The statement also requires enhanced disclosures regarding how and why entities use derivative instruments, how derivative instruments and related hedged items are accounted for, and how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect entity's financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. ASC 815 is effective for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008. We adopted the new disclosure requirements of ASC 815 in the first quarter of 2009 as reflected in Note 5.

In May 2009, the FASB issued ASC 855, *Subsequent Events*. ASC 855 is intended to establish general standards of accounting for and disclosure of events that occur after the balance sheet date but before the financial statements are issued or available to be issued. The statement sets forth the period after the balance sheet date during which management of a reporting entity should evaluate events or transactions that may occur for potential recognition or disclosure in the financial statements, the circumstances under which an entity should recognize events or transactions occurring after the balance sheet date in its financial statements, and the disclosures that an entity should make about events or transactions that occurred after the balance sheet date. ASC 855 is effective for fiscal years and interim periods ending after June 15, 2009. We adopted ASC 855 during the second quarter of fiscal 2009, but the impact of the adoption in future periods will depend on the nature and the extent of transactions that occur subsequent to our interim and annual reporting periods.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

During the first quarter of fiscal 2009, we purchased an interest rate cap to hedge the variability of cash flows associated with our interest payments on our Senior secured term loan that result from fluctuations in the three-month LIBOR rate. The cap limits our interest exposure on a notional value of \$2.0 billion to the lesser of the three-month LIBOR rate or 7.0%. The term of the cap is from April 15, 2009 through April 15, 2015. The fair value of the cap as of October 31, 2009 was \$25 million and is included in Other assets on the Consolidated Balance Sheet. The change in fair value of the cap for the quarter and nine months ended October 31, 2009 resulted in an income of \$1 million and \$16 million, respectively, and is recorded in Other (income) and expense, net in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

We have market risk exposure arising from changes in interest rates on our Senior secured term loan facility. The interest rates on our Senior Credit Facilities will reprice periodically, which will impact our earnings and cash flow. The interest rates on our Notes issued in connection with the Merger are fixed. Based on our overall interest rate exposure to variable rate debt outstanding as of October 31, 2009, a 1% increase or decrease in interest rates would increase or decrease pre-tax earnings by \$24 million. A 1% increase in interest rates would decrease the fair

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value of our long-term fixed rate debt by approximately \$52 million. A 1% decrease in interest rates would increase the fair value of our long-term fixed rate debt by approximately \$55 million. A change in interest rates would not materially affect the fair value of our Senior secured term loan facility as the debt reprices periodically.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures.

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

We maintain a set of disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) promulgated by the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that are designed to provide reasonable assurance that information, which is required to be timely disclosed, is accumulated and communicated to management in a timely fashion. We note that the design of any system of controls is based in part upon certain assumptions about the likelihood of future events, and there can be no assurance that any design will succeed in achieving its stated goals under all potential future conditions.

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An evaluation was carried out under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls are effective to provide reasonable assurance that information required to be disclosed in the reports that we file or submit under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 is accumulated and communicated to management, including our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure and are effective to provide reasonable assurance that such information is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified by the SEC's rules and forms.

Change in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

There has not been any change in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) as promulgated by the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) during the quarter covered by this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q that materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

MICHAELS STORES, INC.

Part II OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings.

Information regarding legal proceedings is incorporated herein by reference from Note 7 to our Consolidated Financial Statements.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

Information regarding our risk factors appear in Item 1A. Risk Factors disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2009

There have been no material changes to the risk factors previously disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2009 other than the risk factor set forth below:

Healthcare reform legislation could adversely impact us.

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The U.S. Congress, supported by President Obama, is debating health care reform that could have a significant impact on our employment benefits and related costs. The discussion centers around universal coverage, revenue sources to keep it deficit neutral and changes to Medicare that could significantly impact our associates and the benefits and costs of our benefit plans. Until legislation is final, the impact is impossible to predict.

Item 6. Exhibits.

(a) Exhibits:

| Exhibit Number | Description of Exhibit |
|---------------------------|--|
| 10.1 | Fourth Amendment to Credit Agreement, dated as of November 5, 2009, to the Credit Agreement, dated as of October 31, 2006, among Michaels Stores, Inc., Deutsche Bank AG New York Branch, as administrative agent, the other lenders named therein, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as syndication agent, and Bank of America, N.A. and Credit Suisse, as co-documentation agents, and Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. and Banc of America Securities LLC as co-lead arrangers and joint bookrunners (previously filed as Exhibit 10.1 to Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed November 5, 2009). |
| 31.1 | Certifications of John B. Menzer pursuant to §302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (filed herewith). |
| 31.2 | Certifications of Elaine D. Crowley pursuant to §302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (filed herewith). |
| 32.1 | Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §1350, as adopted pursuant to §906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (filed herewith). |

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MICHAELS STORES, INC.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

MICHAELS STORES, INC.

By:

/s/ Elaine D. Crowley
Elaine D. Crowley
Executive Vice President - Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

Dated: December 4, 2009

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INDEX TO EXHIBITS

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|---------------------------|--|
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