

LIFETIME BRANDS, INC  
Form 10-K  
March 18, 2010

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

FORM 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 or 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 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: 0-19254

LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

11-2682486  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1000 Stewart Avenue, Garden City, New York 11530  
(Address of principal executive offices, including Zip Code)

(516) 683-6000

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Common Stock, \$.01 par value  
(Title of each class)

The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC  
(Name of each exchange on which registered)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

Yes  No  R

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

Yes  No  R

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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 (§ 232.405 of this chapter) 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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§ 229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Large accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-accelerated filer (do not check if a smaller reporting company)	<input type="checkbox"/>	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

The aggregate market value of 9,612,278 shares of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2009 was approximately \$39,121,971. Directors, executive officers, and trusts controlled by said individuals are considered affiliates for the purpose of this calculation and should not necessarily be considered affiliates for any other purpose.

The number of shares of common stock, par value \$.01 per share, outstanding as of March 17, 2010 was 12,015,273.

#### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Parts of the registrant's definitive proxy statement for the 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 are incorporated by reference in Part III of this Annual Report.

LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.  
FORM 10-K  
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## DISCLOSURE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Annual Report on Form 10-K contains “forward-looking statements” as defined by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements include information concerning Lifetime Brands, Inc.’s (the “Company’s”) plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future events, future revenues, performance, capital expenditures, financing needs and other information that is not historical information. Many of these statements appear, in particular, under the headings Business and Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in Item 1 of Part I and Item 7 of Part II, respectively. When used in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, the words “estimates,” “expects,” “anticipates,” “projects,” “plans,” “intends,” “believes” and variations of such words and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements, including, without limitation, the Company’s examination of historical operating trends, are based upon the Company’s current expectations and various assumptions. The Company believes there is a reasonable basis for its expectations and assumptions, but there can be no assurance that the Company will realize its expectations or that the Company’s assumptions will prove correct.

There are a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause the Company’s actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements contained in this Annual Report. Important factors that could cause the Company’s actual results to differ materially from those expressed as forward-looking statements are set forth in this Annual Report, including the risk factors discussed in Part I, Item 1A under the heading Risk Factors.

Except as may be required by law, the Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise forward-looking statements which may be made to reflect events or circumstances after the date made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

## OTHER INFORMATION

The Company is required to file its annual reports on Forms 10-K and quarterly reports on Forms 10-Q, and other reports and documents as required from time to time with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”). The public may read and copy any materials that the Company files with the SEC at the SEC’s Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Washington, DC 20549. Information may be obtained with respect to the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding the Company’s electronic filings with the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>. The Company also maintains a website at <http://www.lifetimebrands.com> where users can access the Company’s electronic filings free of charge.

## PART I

## Item 1. Business

## OVERVIEW

The Company is one of North America's leading resources for nationally branded food preparation, tabletop and home décor products. The Company does not sell electric products or appliances. The Company either owns or licenses its brands. The Company's licenses generally only permit the Company to sell certain products using the licensed brand name. The Company sells its products to retailers and distributors, and directly to consumers through its Internet websites and mail order catalog operations. The Company markets its products under well-respected and widely-recognized brand names in the U.S. housewares industry. According to the Home Furnishing News Brand Survey for 2009, three of the Company's brands, KitchenAid®, Cuisinart®, and Farberware®, are among the four most recognized brands in the "Kitchen Tool, Cutlery and Gadgets" category. The Company primarily targets moderate to premium price points through every major level of trade and generally markets several lines within each of its product categories under more than one brand. At the heart of the Company is a strong culture of innovation and new product development. The Company introduced over 5,000 new or redesigned products in 2009 and expects to introduce over 5,500 new or redesigned products in 2010.

The Company's three main product categories are Food Preparation, consisting primarily of kitchenware and cutlery, Tabletop, consisting primarily of dinnerware and flatware, and Home Décor, which consists primarily of wall décor, picture frames and decorative shelving products.

The Company sources almost all of its products from suppliers located outside the United States, primarily in the People's Republic of China. The Company produces its sterling silver products at a leased manufacturing facility in San Germán, Puerto Rico and fills spices and assembles spice racks at its owned Winchendon, Massachusetts distribution facility.

The Company's top ten brands and their respective product categories are:

Brand	Licensed/Owned	Product Category
Farberware®	Licensed*	Food Preparation and Tabletop
KitchenAid®	Licensed	Food Preparation
Mikasa®	Owned	Tabletop and Home Décor
Elements®	Owned	Home Décor
Melannco®	Owned	Home Décor
Pfaltzgraff®	Owned	Tabletop and Home Décor
Cuisinart®	Licensed	Food Preparation and Tabletop
Wallace Silversmiths®	Owned	

		Tabletop and Home Décor
Kamenstein®	Owned	Food Preparation
Towle®	Owned	Tabletop and Home Décor

\* The Company has a 185 year royalty free license to utilize the Farberware® brand for kitchenware products.

The Company sells its products wholesale to a diverse customer base including mass merchants, specialty stores, national chains, department stores, warehouse clubs, home centers, supermarkets and off-price retailers.

#### ACQUISITIONS

Since 1976, the Company has expanded its product offerings largely through acquisitions. There were no acquisitions in 2009.

## BUSINESS SEGMENTS

The Company's two reportable segments; the wholesale segment, which is the Company's primary business that designs, markets and distributes its products to retailers and distributors, and the direct-to-consumer segment, through its Pfaltzgraff®, Mikasa® and Lifetime Sterling™ Internet websites and Pfaltzgraff® mail-order catalogs. The Company has segmented its operations in a manner that reflects how management reviews and evaluates the results of its operations. While both segments distribute similar products, the segments are distinct due to the different types of customers and the different methods used to sell, market and distribute the products.

During 2008, the Company also operated retail outlet stores that were included in the direct-to-consumer segment. The operations of these stores ceased by December 31, 2008.

Additional information regarding the Company's reportable segments is included in Note K of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 15.

## CUSTOMERS

The Company's products are sold in North America to a diverse customer base including mass merchants (such as Wal-Mart and Target), specialty stores (such as Bed Bath & Beyond), national chains (such as JC Penney, Kohl's, and Sears), department stores (such as Macy's), warehouse clubs (such as Costco, BJ's Wholesale Club and Sam's Club), home centers (such as Lowe's), supermarkets (such as Stop & Shop and Kroger), off-price retailers (such as TJX and Ross Stores) and Internet retailers (such as Amazon.com).

The Company also operates Internet and catalog operations that sell the Company's products directly to the consumer.

During the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (including Sam's Club) accounted for 18%, 20%, and 21% of sales, respectively. No other customer accounted for 10% or more of the Company's sales during these periods. For the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, the Company's ten largest customers accounted for 64%, 60%, and 62% of sales, respectively.

## DISTRIBUTION

The Company operates the following distribution centers:

Location	Size (square feet)
Fontana, California	753,000
Robbinsville, New Jersey	700,000
Winchendon, Massachusetts	175,000
Medford, Massachusetts	5,590

## SALES AND MARKETING

The Company's sales and marketing staff coordinate directly with its wholesale customers to devise marketing strategies and merchandising concepts and to furnish advice on advertising and product promotion. The Company has developed several promotional programs for use in the ordinary course of business to promote sales throughout the year.

The Company's sales and marketing efforts are supported from its principal offices and showroom in Garden City, New York; as well as showrooms in New York, New York; Medford, Massachusetts; Atlanta, Georgia; Bentonville, Arkansas; and Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.

The Company generally collaborates with its largest wholesale customers and in many instances produces specific versions of the Company's product lines with exclusive designs and packaging for their stores.

## DESIGN AND INNOVATION

At the heart of the Company is a strong culture of innovation and new product development. The Company's in-house design and development team currently consists of 90 professional designers, artists and engineers. Utilizing the latest available design tools, technology and materials, this team creates new products, redesigns products, and creates packaging and merchandising concepts.

## SOURCES OF SUPPLY

The Company sources its products from over 400 suppliers. Most of the Company's suppliers are located in the People's Republic of China. The Company also sources products from suppliers in the United States, Hong Kong, Taiwan, India, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Italy, Korea, Vietnam, Germany, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Canada, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland, Malaysia, Colombia, Turkey, and Mexico. The Company orders products substantially in advance of the anticipated time of their sale. The Company does not have any formal long-term arrangements with any of its suppliers and its arrangements with most manufacturers allow for flexibility in modifying the quantity, composition and delivery dates of orders. All purchase orders issued by the Company are cancelable.

## MANUFACTURING

The Company produces its sterling silver products at its leased manufacturing facility in San Germán, Puerto Rico and fills spices and assembles spice racks at its owned Winchendon, Massachusetts distribution facility.

## COMPETITION

The markets for food preparation, tabletop and home décor products are highly competitive and include numerous domestic and foreign competitors, some of which are larger than the Company. The primary competitive factors in selling such products to retailers are innovative products, brand, quality, aesthetic appeal to consumers, packaging, breadth of product line, distribution capability, prompt delivery and selling price.

## PATENTS

The Company owns 129 design and utility patents on the overall design of some of its products. The Company believes that the expiration of any of its patents would not have a material adverse effect on the Company's business.

## BACKLOG

Backlog is not material to the Company's business because actual confirmed orders from the Company's customers are typically not received until close to the required shipment dates.

## EMPLOYEES

At December 31, 2009, the Company had a total of 979 full-time employees, 147 of whom are located in China. In addition, the Company employed 72 people on a part-time basis, predominately in customer service and sales. None of the Company's employees are represented by a labor union. The Company considers its employee relations to be good.

## REGULATORY MATTERS

The products the Company manufactures are subject to the jurisdiction of various Federal, State and local statutes and regulatory agencies, as well as the scrutiny of consumer groups. The Company's spice container filling operation in Winchendon, Massachusetts is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. The Company's sterling silver manufacturing operations are subject to the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Company's products are also subject to regulation under certain state laws pertaining to product safety and liability.



## Item 1A. Risk Factors

The Company's business, operations, and financial condition are subject to various risks. The risks and uncertainties described below are those that the Company considers material.

### General Economic Factors and Political Conditions

The Company's performance is affected by general economic factors and political conditions that are beyond the Company's control. These factors include recession, inflation, deflation, housing markets, consumer credit availability, consumer debt levels, fuel and energy costs, interest rates, tax rates and policy, unemployment trends, the impact of natural disasters and terrorist activities, conditions affecting the retail environment for the home and other matters that influence consumer spending. Unfavorable economic conditions in the United States adversely affected the Company's performance in 2008 and 2009, and could continue to adversely affect the Company's performance. Unstable economic and political conditions, civil unrest and political activism, particularly in Asia, could adversely impact the Company's businesses.

### Liquidity

The Company has substantial indebtedness and depends upon its lenders to finance its liquidity needs. The Company was not in compliance with the terms of its Credit Facility as of December 31, 2008, and, during the first quarter of 2009, operated under a forbearance agreement with its banks. Although the Company has been in compliance with the terms of its Credit Facility since March 30, 2009, the interest rate on its borrowings has increased. Such increases in the cost of funding the Company's operations have adversely affected its performance and will continue to do so. To the extent that the Company's access to credit was to be restricted, the Company would not be able to operate normally.

The Company's Credit Facility matures in January 2011 and its Convertible Notes mature in July 2011. The Company's ability to operate normally would be severely jeopardized if it were unable to refinance its Credit Facility and its Convertible Notes.

### Competition

The markets for the Company's products are intensely competitive and the Company competes with numerous other suppliers, some of which are larger than the Company, have greater financial and other resources or employ brands that are more established, have greater consumer recognition or are more favorably perceived by consumers or retailers than the Company's brands.

The Company believes it possesses certain competitive advantages; however, many factors could erode these competitive advantages or prevent their strengthening. Accordingly, future operating results will depend on the Company's ability to protect or enhance its competitive advantages.

### Customers

The Company's wholesale customers include mass merchants, specialty stores, national chains, department stores, warehouse clubs, home centers, supermarkets, off-price retailers and Internet retailers. Unanticipated changes in purchasing and other practices by its customers, including customers' pricing and other requirements, could adversely affect the Company. In its e-commerce and catalog businesses, the Company sells to individual consumers nationwide.

Many of the Company's wholesale customers are significantly larger than the Company, have greater financial and other resources and also purchase goods directly from vendors in Asia and elsewhere. Decisions by large customers to increase their purchases directly from overseas vendors could have a materially adverse affect on the Company.



The Company is largely dependent on the financial health of its customers. Significant changes or financial difficulties, including consolidations of ownership, restructurings, bankruptcies, liquidations or other events that affect retailers could result in fewer stores selling the Company's products, the Company having to rely on a smaller group of customers, an increase in the risk of extending credit to these customers or limit the Company's ability to collect amounts due from these customers.

In 2009, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (including Sam's Club) accounted for 18% of the Company's sales. A material reduction in purchases by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. could have a significant adverse effect on the Company's business and operating results. In addition, pressures by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. that would cause the Company to materially reduce the price of the Company's products could result in reductions of the Company's operating margin.

#### Supply Chain

The Company sources its products from suppliers located principally in Asia and, to a lesser extent, in Europe and in the United States. The Company's Asia vendors are located primarily in the People's Republic of China. Interruption of supply from any of the Company's suppliers, or the loss of one or more key vendors, could have a negative effect on the Company's business and operating results.

Changes in currency exchange rates might negatively affect the profitability and business prospects of the Company and its overseas vendors. The Company does not have access to its vendors' financial information and is unable to assess its vendors' liquidity.

The Company is subject to risks and uncertainties associated with economic and political conditions in foreign countries, including but not limited to, foreign government regulations, taxes, import and export duties and quotas, anti-dumping regulations, incidents and fears involving security, terrorism and wars, political unrest and other restrictions on trade and travel.

The Company imports its products for delivery to its distribution centers and arranges for its customers to import goods to which title has passed overseas. For purchases that are to be delivered to its distribution centers, the Company arranges for transportation, primarily by sea, from ports in Asia and Europe to ports in the United States, principally Newark/Elizabeth, New Jersey, and Los Angeles/Long Beach, California. Accordingly, the Company is subject to risks incidental to such transportation. These risks include, but are not limited to, increases in fuel costs, the availability of shipping containers, increased security restrictions, work stoppages and carriers' ability to provide delivery services to meet the Company's shipping needs. Transportation disruptions and increased transportation costs could adversely affect the Company's business.

The Company delivers its products to its customers or makes such products available for customer pickup from its distribution centers. Prolonged domestic transportation disruptions, as well as workforce or systems issues related to the Company's distribution centers, could have a negative affect on the Company's ability to deliver goods to its customers.

#### Intellectual Property

Significant portions of the Company's business are dependent on trade names, trademarks and patents, some of which are licensed from third-parties. Several of these license agreements are subject to termination by the licensor. The loss of certain licenses or a material increase in the royalties the Company pays under such licenses upon renewal could have a material adverse affect on the Company's results of operations.



### Regulatory

The Company is subject in the ordinary course of its business, in the United States and elsewhere, to many other statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations that if violated by the Company could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business.

The marketing of certain of the Company's consumer products involve an inherent risk of product liability claims or recalls or other regulatory or enforcement actions initiated by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, by state regulatory authorities or through private causes of action. Any defects in products the Company markets could harm the Company's credibility, adversely affect its relationship with its customers and decrease market acceptance of the Company's products and the strength of the brand names under which the Company markets such products. Potential product liability claims may exceed the amount of the Company's insurance coverage and could materially damage the Company's business and its financial condition.

The Company is subject to significant regulations, including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The Company cannot assure that it will not find material weaknesses in the future or that the Company's independent registered public accounting firm will conclude that the Company's internal control over financial reporting is operating effectively.

The Company is subject to general business regulations and laws, as well as regulations and laws specifically governing the Internet and e-commerce. Such existing and future laws and regulations may impede the growth of the Internet or other online services. These regulations and laws may cover taxation, user privacy, data protection, pricing, content, copyrights, distribution, electronic contracts and other communications, consumer protection, the provision of online payment services, broadband residential Internet access, and the characteristics and quality of products and services. It is not clear how existing laws governing issues such as property ownership, sales and other taxes, and personal privacy apply to the Internet and e-commerce. Unfavorable resolutions of these issues would harm the Company's business. This could, in turn, diminish the demand for the Company's products on the Internet and increase the Company's cost of doing business.

### Technology

The Company relies on several different information technology systems for the operation of its principal business functions, including the Company's enterprise, warehouse management, inventory forecast and re-ordering and call center systems. In the case of the Company's inventory forecast and re-ordering system, most of the Company's orders are received directly through electronic connections with the Company's largest customers. The failure of any one of these systems could have a material adverse effect on the Company's business and results of operations.

The Company has made significant efforts to secure its computer network. However, the Company's computer network could be compromised and confidential information such as customer credit card information could be misappropriated. This could lead to adverse publicity, loss of sales and profits or cause the Company to incur significant costs to reimburse third-parties for damages which could impact profits.

In addition, although the Company has upgraded its systems and procedures to fully comply with Payment Card Industry ("PCI") data security standards, failure by the Company to maintain compliance with the PCI requirements or rectify a security issue could result in fines and the imposition of restrictions on the Company's ability to accept credit cards.

### Personnel

The Company's success depends on its ability to identify, hire and retain skilled personnel. The Company's industry is characterized by a high level of employee mobility and aggressive recruiting among competitors for personnel with successful track records. The Company may not be able to attract and retain skilled personnel or may incur significant costs in order to do so. If Jeffrey Siegel, the Company's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, were to

leave the Company, it would have a material adverse effect on the Company.

## Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments

None

## Item 2. Properties

The following table lists the principal properties at which the Company operates its business at December 31, 2009:

Location	Description	Size (square feet)	Owned/ Leased
Fontana, California	Principal West Coast warehouse and distribution facility	753,000	Leased
Robbinsville, New Jersey	Principal East Coast warehouse and distribution facility	700,000	Leased
Winchendon, Massachusetts	Warehouse and distribution facility, and spice packing line	175,000	Owned
Garden City, New York	Corporate headquarters/main showroom	146,000	Leased
Medford, Massachusetts	Offices, showroom, warehouse and distribution facility	69,000	Leased
San Germán, Puerto Rico	Sterling silver manufacturing facility	55,000	Leased
York, Pennsylvania	Offices	26,000	Leased
Guangzhou, China	Offices	18,000	Leased
New York, New York	Showrooms	11,000	Leased
Atlanta, Georgia	Showrooms	11,000	Leased
Shanghai, China	Offices	11,000	Leased

## Item 3. Legal Proceedings

In March 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) announced that the Company’s San Germán Ground Water Contamination site in Puerto Rico has been added to the Superfund National Priorities List due to contamination present in the local drinking water supply. Wallace Silversmiths de Puerto Rico, Ltd. (“Wallace”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, received a Notice of Potential Liability and Request for Information Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Sections 9607(a) and 9604(e) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act regarding the San Germán Ground Water Contamination Superfund Site, San Germán, Puerto Rico dated May 29, 2008 from the EPA. The EPA requested that Wallace provide information regarding Wallace’s occupation of the facility located in San Germán, Puerto Rico and contamination of the ground water supply. By letter dated June 18, 2008, the Company responded to the EPA’s Request for Information on behalf of Wallace. The Company has engaged environmental consultants to investigate the environmental condition of the property and preliminary discussions with the EPA have been initiated. At this time, it is not possible for the Company to evaluate the outcome.

The Company is, from time to time, involved in other legal proceedings. The Company believes that other current litigation is routine in nature and incidental to the conduct of the Company's business, and that none of this litigation, if determined adversely to it, would have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders

None

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## PART II

## Item 5. Market For The Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

(a) The Company's common stock is traded under the symbol "LCUT" on The NASDAQ Global Select Market ("NASDAQ").

The following table sets forth the quarterly high and low sales prices for the common stock of the Company for the fiscal periods indicated as reported by NASDAQ.

	2009		2008	
	High	Low	High	Low
First quarter	\$ 3.96	\$ 0.97	\$ 13.37	\$ 8.51
Second quarter	4.59	1.38	9.95	6.70
Third quarter	5.95	3.33	10.86	6.94
Fourth quarter	7.40	5.34	10.02	3.00

At December 31, 2009 the Company estimates that there are approximately 2,200 beneficial holders of the Company's common stock.

The Company is authorized to issue 100 shares of Series A Preferred stock and 2,000,000 shares of Series B Preferred stock, none of which were issued or outstanding at December 31, 2009.

The Company paid quarterly cash dividends of \$0.0625 per share, or a total annual cash dividend of \$0.25 per share, on its common stock during 2008. In February 2009, the Company suspended paying cash dividends on its outstanding common shares.

The following table summarizes the Company's equity compensation plan as of December 31, 2009:

Plan category	Number of shares of common stock to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options	Weighted-average exercise price of outstanding options	Number of shares of common stock remaining available for future issuance
Equity compensation plan approved by security holders	1,786,667	\$12.14	1,215,729
Equity compensation plan not approved by security holders			
Total	1,786,667	\$12.14	1,215,729

## PERFORMANCE GRAPH

The following chart compares the cumulative total return on the Company's common stock with the NASDAQ Market Index and the Hemscott Group Index for Housewares & Accessories. The comparisons in this chart are required by the SEC and are not intended to forecast or be indicative of the possible future performance of the Company's common stock.

Date	Lifetime Brands, Inc.	Hemscott Group Index	NASDAQ Market Index
12/31/2004	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
12/31/2005	131.75	98.33	102.20
12/31/2006	105.91	122.09	112.68
12/31/2007	84.78	105.94	124.57
12/31/2008	24.01	45.17	74.71
12/31/2009	48.49	84.09	108.56

Note:

(1) The chart assumes \$100 was invested on December 31, 2004 and dividends were reinvested. Measurement points are at the last trading day of each of the fiscal years ended December 31, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005. The material in this chart is not soliciting material, is not deemed filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is not incorporated by reference in any filing of the Company under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, whether or not made before or after the date of this Annual Report on Form 10-K and irrespective of any general incorporation language in such filing. A list of the companies included in the Hemscott Group Index will be furnished by the Company to any stockholder upon written request to the Chief Financial Officer of the Company.

## Item 6. Selected Financial Data

The selected consolidated statement of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007, and the selected consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, have been derived from the Company's audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K. The selected consolidated statement of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, and the selected consolidated balance sheet data at December 31, 2007, 2006 and 2005, have been derived from the Company's audited consolidated financial statements included in the Company's Annual Reports on Form 10-K for those respective years, which are not included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

This information should be read together with the discussion in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the Company's consolidated financial statements and notes to those statements included elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

	Year ended December 31,				
	2009	2008(2)	2007(2)	2006(2)	2005
<b>STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS DATA (1)</b>	<b>(in thousands, except per share data)</b>				
Net sales	\$415,040	\$487,935	\$493,725	\$457,400	\$307,897
Cost of sales	257,839	303,535	288,997	265,749	178,295
Distribution expenses	43,329	57,695	53,493	49,729	34,539
Selling, general and administrative expenses	95,647	131,226	128,527	112,122	69,891
Goodwill and intangible asset impairment		29,400			
Restructuring expenses	2,616	17,992	1,924		
Income (loss) from operations	15,609	(51,913 )	20,784	29,800	25,172
Interest expense	(13,185 )	(11,577 )	(10,623 )	(5,616 )	(2,489 )
Other income, net			3,935	31	73
Income (loss) before income taxes and equity in earnings of Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B.	2,424	(63,490 )	14,096	24,215	22,756
Income tax benefit (provision)	(1,880 )	14,249	(6,567 )	(9,320 )	(8,647 )
Equity in earnings of Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B., net of taxes	2,171	1,486			
Net income (loss)	\$2,715	\$(47,755 )	\$7,529	\$14,895	\$14,109
Basic income (loss) per common share	\$0.23	\$(3.99 )	\$0.58	\$1.13	\$1.25
Weighted-average shares outstanding – basic	12,009	11,976	12,969	13,171	11,283
Diluted income (loss) per common share	\$0.22	\$(3.99 )	\$0.57	\$1.10	\$1.23
Weighted-average shares outstanding – diluted	12,075	11,976	13,099	14,716	11,506
Cash dividends per common share	\$	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25



BALANCE SHEET DATA (1)	2009	2008(2)	December31, 2007(2) (in thousands)	2006(2)	2005
Current assets	\$173,850	\$232,678	\$228,078	\$231,633	\$155,750
Current liabilities	77,210	149,981	71,283	89,727	69,907
Working capital	96,640	82,697	156,795	141,906	85,843
Total assets	276,723	341,781	371,415	343,064	222,648
Short-term borrowings	24,601	89,300	13,500	21,500	14,500
Long-term debt			55,200	5,000	5,000
Convertible notes	70,527	67,864	65,428	63,203	
Stockholders' equity	104,012	97,509	153,102	168,836	140,487

## Notes:

- (1)The Company acquired the business and certain assets of the following in the respective years noted which affects the comparability of the periods: Pfaltzgraff® in July 2005, Salton in September 2005, Syratech in April 2006, Pomerantz® and Design for Living® in April 2007, Gorham® in July 2007, a 30% interest in Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. in December 2007 and Mikasa® in June 2008.
- (2)Certain amounts have been adjusted in these years to reflect the provisions of ASC Topic No. 470-20 on a retrospective basis. See Note F of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 15 for further information regarding the provisions of ASC Topic No. 470-20.

## Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements for the Company and notes thereto set forth in Item 15. This discussion contains forward-looking statements relating to future events and the future performance of the Company based on the Company's current expectations, assumptions, estimates and projections about it and the Company's industry. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. The Company's actual results and timing of various events could differ materially from those anticipated in such forward-looking statements as a result of a variety of factors, as more fully described in this section and elsewhere in this Annual Report. The Company undertakes no obligation to update publicly any forward-looking statements for any reason, even if new information becomes available or other events occur in the future.

## ABOUT THE COMPANY

The Company is one of North America's leading resources for nationally branded food preparation, tabletop and home décor products. The Company's three major product categories are Food Preparation, Tabletop and Home Décor. The Company markets several product lines within each of these product categories and under each of the Company's brands, primarily targeting moderate to premium price points, through every major level of trade. The Company's competitive advantage is based on availability and use of its brands, an emphasis on innovation and new product development and sourcing capabilities. The Company owns or licenses a number of the leading brands in its industry including Farberware®, KitchenAid®, Cuisinart®, Pfaltzgraff® and Mikasa®. Historically, the Company's sales growth has come from expanding product offerings within the Company's current categories by developing existing brands, and acquiring new brands and product categories. Key factors in the Company's growth strategy have been, and will continue to be, the selective use and management of the Company's brands, and the Company's ability to provide a stream of new products and designs. A significant element of this strategy is the Company's in-house design and development team that creates new products, packaging and merchandising concepts.



#### EFFECTS OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Sales of the Company's products declined in 2008 and 2009 as a result of the global economic recession that began in late 2007. In addition, in 2009, retailers generally decreased overall stock-keeping levels, resulting in lower inventory replenishment. While there are signs that a moderate economic recovery currently is underway, the Company believes that sustainable increases in the demand for its products will not occur until employment levels improve from current levels. A deterioration of economic conditions likely would have an adverse impact on the Company's sales.

#### BUSINESS SEGMENTS

The Company operates in two reportable business segments; the wholesale segment which is the Company's primary business that designs, markets and distributes its products to retailers and distributors, and the direct-to-consumer segment, through its Pfaltzgraff®, Mikasa® and Lifetime Sterling™ Internet websites and Pfaltzgraff® mail-order catalogs. During 2008, the Company also operated retail outlet stores utilizing the Pfaltzgraff® and Farberware® names that were included in the direct-to-consumer segment. However, the Company ceased operating these stores by December 31, 2008.

#### INVESTMENT IN GRUPO VASCONIA, S.A.B.

In December 2007, the Company acquired approximately 30% of the capital stock of Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. ("Vasconia"), a manufacturer and distributor of aluminum disks, cookware and related items. Shares of Vasconia capital stock are traded on the Bolsa Mexicana de Valores, S.A. de C.V., the Mexico Stock Exchange, under the symbol VASCONI.MX. The Company accounts for its investment in Vasconia using the equity method of accounting and has recorded its proportionate share of Vasconia's net income for the years ended 2009 and 2008, net of taxes, as equity in earnings of Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B in the Company's statement of operations.

#### INVENTORY REDUCTION PLAN

The Company has had an inventory reduction plan in effect since 2007. The plan includes reducing the number of individual items offered for sale and to shorten the period between inventory procurement and sale to the customer. Consistent with this plan, the Company has been selling slower moving inventory at lower than regular gross margin levels. The plan was developed to increase efficiency by reducing the capital invested in inventory and substantially reducing third-party warehousing and related expenses. The plan has, in certain cases, negatively impacted the Company's gross margins and may negatively impact the Company's gross margins in the future. The Company believes this plan has been successful and it expects to continue its inventory reduction efforts for the foreseeable future.

#### RESTRUCTURING EXPENSES

During the year ended December 31, 2009, the Company recognized restructuring and non-cash impairment charges of \$2.6 million. The restructuring charges consisted of lease obligations, employee related expenses and other related costs.

The restructuring costs recognized in 2009 and 2008 were incurred in connection with: (i) the Company's closure of its unprofitable retail outlet store operations, (ii) the closure of the Company's York, Pennsylvania distribution center, the operations of which were consolidated with those of the Company's main East Coast and West Coast distribution centers, (iii) the decision to vacate certain excess showroom space, (iv) the realignment of the management structure of certain of the Company's divisions and (v) the elimination of a portion of the workforce at its Puerto Rico sterling silver manufacturing facility.

The restructuring charges in 2009 also reflect adjustments to the restructuring charges recognized in 2008 as the result of decisions by the Company not to vacate certain leased space that the Company had expected to vacate and a decision not to terminate the employment of certain employees, whose employment the Company had expected to terminate.

The Company's restructuring efforts are substantially complete and the Company does not expect any significant restructuring charges in the foreseeable future.

The Company has not accounted for the retail outlet store operations as discontinued operations pursuant to the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) Topic No. 205-20, Presentation of Financial Statements- Discontinued Operations, since the Company determined that the operations and cash flows of the retail outlet store operations would not be eliminated from the on-going operations of the Company. Specifically, the Company also determined that the migration of customers from the Company’s retail outlet stores to the Company’s Internet, catalog and wholesale businesses would not be insignificant. For this purpose, the Company concluded that the migration of sales from the retail outlet stores to the Internet, catalog and wholesale businesses of greater than 5% would be significant.

#### SEASONALITY

The Company’s business and working capital needs are highly seasonal, with a majority of sales occurring in the third and fourth quarters. In 2009, 2008 and 2007, net sales for the third and fourth quarters accounted for 58%, 61%, and 61% of total annual net sales, respectively. In anticipation of the pre-holiday shipping season, inventory levels increase primarily in the June through October time period.

#### EFFECT OF ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLE

Effective January 1, 2009, the Company adopted the provisions of the FASB ASC Topic No. 470-20, Debt with Conversion and Other Options, on a retrospective basis. ASC Topic No. 470-20 requires the issuer of certain convertible debt instruments that may be settled in cash, or other assets, on conversion (including partial cash settlement), to separately account for the liability (debt) and equity (conversion option) components in a manner that reflects the issuer’s non-convertible debt borrowing rate with the resulting debt discount amortized as additional non-cash interest expense over the life of the convertible debt. Accordingly, the December 31, 2008 consolidated balance sheet and December 31, 2008 and 2007 consolidated statements of operations and cash flows have been adjusted to reflect the application of the provisions of ASC Topic No. 470-20.

#### RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following table sets forth statement of operations data of the Company as a percentage of net sales for the periods indicated below.

	Year Ended December 31,					
	2009		2008 (as adjusted)		2007 (as adjusted)	
Net sales	100.0	%	100.0	%	100.0	%
Cost of sales	62.1		62.2		58.5	
Distribution expenses	10.4		11.8		10.8	
Selling, general and administrative expenses	23.0		26.9		26.0	
Goodwill and intangible asset impairment			6.0			
Restructuring expenses	0.6		3.7		0.4	
Income (loss) from operations	3.9		(10.6	)	4.3	
Interest expense	(3.2	)	(2.4	)	(2.1	)
Other income, net					0.8	
Income (loss) before income taxes and equity in earnings for Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B.	0.7		(13.0	)	3.0	
Income tax benefit (provision)	(0.5	)	2.9		(1.3	)
Equity in earnings for Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B., net of taxes	0.5		0.3			



Net income (loss)	0.7	%	(9.8	) %	1.7	%
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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

2009 COMPARED TO 2008

Net Sales

Net sales for the year were \$415.0 million, a decrease of 14.9% compared to net sales of \$487.9 million in 2008.

Net sales for the wholesale segment in 2009 were \$389.0 million, a decrease of \$14.6 million or 3.6% compared to net sales of \$403.6 million in 2008. On a comparable basis, adjusting 2009 net sales of Mikasa®, which was acquired on June 6, 2008, to reflect net sales only for the period after June 6, 2009, the same post acquisition period as 2008, net sales for the Company's wholesale segment were \$374.4 million for 2009, a decrease of \$29.2 million or 7.2% compared to net sales for 2008. Net sales for the Company's Food Preparation product category decreased approximately \$14.8 million. The decrease was primarily attributable to changes in the Company's key customers' sourcing patterns and product mix, and the liquidation of a significant customer in 2008. Net sales for the Company's Tabletop product category, excluding Mikasa®, decreased approximately \$12.9 million primarily as the result of lower sales of flatware and giftware which management attributes to the weak economy and its negative impact on consumer spending habits, particularly for luxury items. Net sales for the Company's Home Décor product category decreased approximately \$4.3 million due primarily to the elimination of certain low margin business in 2009. Net sales of other wholesale products increased by \$2.8 million due to the addition of a product line in 2009.

Net sales for the direct-to-consumer segment in 2009 were \$26.0 million compared to \$84.3 million for 2008. On a comparable basis, excluding (a) 2009 net sales related to Mikasa® of \$1.4 million to reflect net sales for the same post acquisition period as 2008, and (b) 2008 net sales of \$55.8 million attributable to the retail outlet stores that the Company closed by the end of 2008, net sales for the direct-to-consumer segment were \$24.6 million for 2009 compared to \$28.5 million in 2008, a decrease of \$3.9 million. During 2009, the Company de-emphasized its catalog business due to low profitability which, together with the weak retail sales environment, contributed to the decline.

Cost of sales

Cost of sales for 2009 was \$257.8 million compared to \$303.5 million for 2008. Cost of sales as a percentage of net sales was 62.1% for 2009 compared to 62.2% for 2008.

Cost of sales as a percentage of net sales for the wholesale segment was 64.3% for 2009 compared to 64.0% for 2008. The decrease in gross margin, primarily attributable to a shift in customer mix, was substantially offset by lower in-bound freight costs and lower minimum royalties during 2009.

Cost of sales as a percentage of net sales for the direct-to-consumer segment decreased to 29.4% in 2009 from 53.4% in 2008. On a comparable basis, excluding 2008 cost of sales attributable to the retail outlet stores that the Company closed by the end of 2008, cost of sales as a percentage of net sales for the direct-to-consumer segment were 31.8% for 2008. The increase in gross margin was primarily attributable to selective price increases and less promotional free shipping in 2009.

#### Distribution expenses

Distribution expenses for 2009 were \$43.3 million compared to \$57.7 million for 2008. Distribution expenses as a percentage of net sales were 10.4% in 2009 and 11.8% for 2008.

Distribution expenses as a percentage of net sales for the wholesale segment decreased to 8.7% in 2009 from 11.0% in 2008. The decrease was primarily attributable to the elimination of duplicative costs incurred while the Company consolidated its West Coast distribution centers in 2008 and distribution services for Mikasa® provided by the seller and additional costs to integrate the Mikasa® inventory into the Company's existing distribution centers in 2008, collectively which accounted for approximately 1.3% of the decrease in distribution expenses as a percentage of net sales. The balance of the decrease was primarily attributable to improved labor efficiencies realized in 2009.

Distribution expenses as a percentage of net sales for the direct-to-consumer segment were 35.3% for 2009 compared to 15.9% for 2008. On a comparable basis, excluding 2008 distribution expenses for the retail outlet stores that the Company closed by the end of 2008, distribution expenses as a percentage of net sales for the direct-to-consumer segment were 39.6% for 2008. The decrease was due primarily to the benefit of the Company's closure of its York, Pennsylvania distribution center.

#### Selling, general and administrative expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses for 2009 were \$95.6 million, a decrease of 27.1% compared to \$131.2 million for 2008.

Selling, general and administrative expenses for 2009 for the wholesale segment were \$73.5 million, a decrease of \$9.5 million or 11.4% compared to \$83.0 million in 2008. As a percentage of net sales, selling, general and administrative expenses were 18.9% for 2009 compared to 20.6% for 2008. The decrease in selling, general and administrative expenses was primarily attributable to the Company's expense reduction efforts and the non-recurrence of the costs incurred in 2008 for transitional services related to Mikasa®. The decrease as a percentage of net sales was offset in part due to the lower sales volume in 2009.

Selling, general and administrative expenses for 2009 for the direct-to-consumer segment were \$10.8 million compared to \$37.3 million for 2008. On a comparable basis, excluding 2008 selling, general and administrative expenses for the retail outlet stores that the Company closed by the end of 2008, selling, general and administrative expenses for the direct-to-consumer segment were \$12.7 million for 2008. The decrease was primarily attributable to reductions in postage and catalog production costs as a result of the Company's de-emphasis of its catalog channel.

Unallocated corporate expenses for 2009 and 2008 were \$11.3 million and \$10.9 million, respectively. The increase was primarily attributable to an increase in short-term incentive compensation expense offset by a decrease in professional fees and stock option expense.

#### Restructuring expenses

During 2009, the Company recorded restructuring expenses and non-cash impairment charges of \$2.6 million related to the Company's 2008 restructuring initiative, the realignment of the management structure of certain divisions and the elimination of a portion of the workforce at its Puerto Rico sterling silver manufacturing facility. The restructuring expenses consisted principally of charges for lease obligations, employee related expenses and other related costs. The restructuring charges in 2009 also reflect adjustments reducing the restructuring charges recognized in 2008 by \$1.9 million as the result of decisions by the Company not to vacate certain leased space that the Company had expected to vacate and a decision not to terminate the employment of certain employees, whose employment the Company had expected to terminate.



#### Interest expense

Interest expense for 2009 was \$13.2 million compared to \$11.6 million for 2008. The increase in interest expense was primarily attributable to higher interest rates in 2009 primarily as the result of an increase in the applicable margin rates under the Company's Credit Facility and a reclassification from other comprehensive loss to interest expense as a result of the de-designation of a cash flow hedge. The increase was offset in part by lower average borrowings during 2009.

#### Income tax benefit (provision)

The income tax provision for 2009 was \$1.9 million compared to a benefit of \$14.2 million for 2008. The Company's effective tax rate for 2009 primarily reflects state taxes and deferred taxes related to basis differences in certain assets.

### 2008 COMPARED TO 2007

#### Net Sales

Net sales for the year were \$487.9 million, a decrease of 1.2% over net sales of \$493.7 million in 2007.

Net sales for the wholesale segment in 2008 were \$403.6 million, a decrease of \$13.3 million or 3.2% over net sales of \$416.9 million for 2007. Excluding Mikasa® net sales of \$32.8 million, net sales for the wholesale segment were \$370.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2008, a decrease of \$46.1 million or 11.1% compared to the 2007 period. The decrease is the result of volume declines in most of the Company's product categories. Management attributes these declines primarily to the economic slowdown's effect on consumer spending.

Net sales for the direct-to-consumer segment in 2008 were \$84.3 million compared to \$76.8 million for 2007. The increase was primarily due to the going-out-of-business sales at the Company's retail stores that were closed by December 31, 2008 and, to a lesser extent, an increase in Internet sales as a result of the acquisition of Mikasa®.

#### Cost of sales

Cost of sales for 2008 was \$303.5 million compared to \$289.0 million for 2007. Cost of sales as a percentage of net sales was 62.2% for 2008 compared to 58.5% for 2007.

Cost of sales as a percentage of net sales for the wholesale segment was 64.0% for 2008 compared to 62.1% for 2007. The reduction in gross margin was due primarily to the Company's continued effort to reduce inventory levels.

Cost of sales as a percentage of net sales for the direct-to-consumer segment increased to 53.4% in 2008 from 39.1% in 2007. The increase was due to lower margins as a result of the going-out-of-business sales at the Company's retail stores.

#### Distribution expenses

Distribution expenses for 2008 were \$57.7 million compared to \$53.5 million for 2007. Distribution expenses as a percentage of net sales were 11.8% in 2008 and 10.8% for 2007.

Distribution expenses as a percentage of net sales for the wholesale segment increased to 11.0% in 2008 from 9.5% for 2007. The increase in distribution expenses as a percentage of net sales was due primarily to transitional service expenses related to Mikasa® acquired in June 2008, duplicative expenses related to the consolidation of the Company's West Coast distribution centers and lower sales volume, partially offset by improved labor efficiency.

Distribution expenses as a percentage of net sales for the direct-to-consumer segment were 15.9% for the year ended December 31, 2008 compared to 17.8% for 2007. The decrease was due primarily to reduced third-party warehouse costs as a result of planned decreases in inventory levels, improved labor efficiency and the effects of higher sales volume.

#### Selling, general and administrative expenses

Selling, general and administrative expenses for 2008 were \$131.2 million, an increase of 2.1% over the \$128.5 million in 2007.

Selling, general and administrative expenses for 2008 for the wholesale segment were \$83.0 million, an increase of \$7.8 million or 10.4% over the \$75.2 million in 2007. As a percentage of net sales, selling, general and administrative expenses were 20.6% for 2008 compared to 18.0% for 2007. The increase was primarily due to transitional services and an increase in compensation as a result of the Mikasa® acquisition, the full-year effect of depreciation expense on 2007 capital expenditures and higher provisions for doubtful accounts.

Selling, general and administrative expenses for 2008 for the direct-to-consumer segment were \$37.3 million compared to \$41.2 million for 2007. The decrease was due to operating fewer stores during 2008 compared to 2007.

Unallocated corporate expenses for 2008 and 2007 were \$10.9 million and \$12.2 million, respectively. Higher expenses in 2007 were primarily due to a charge related to the termination of a licensing agreement.

#### Goodwill and intangible asset impairment

In 2008, the Company recorded a non-cash goodwill impairment charge of \$27.4 million and a non-cash impairment charge related to certain of its other intangible assets of \$2.0 million in accordance with ASC Topic No. 350, Intangibles- Goodwill and Other.

#### Restructuring expenses

In 2008, in connection with the cessation of its retail store operations and the plans to vacate its distribution facility in York, Pennsylvania, the Company recorded a \$3.9 million non-cash fixed asset impairment charge and \$14.1 million in restructuring related expenses consisting of lease obligations, consulting fees, employee related expenses, and other incremental costs.

#### Interest expense

Interest expense for 2008 was \$11.6 million compared to \$10.6 million for 2007. The increase in interest expense was attributable to higher average borrowings outstanding under the Company's Credit Facility during 2008. The increase was offset in part by lower average interest rates in 2008.

#### Other income, net

Other income, net was zero in 2008 and \$3.9 million in 2007. In 2007, the Company recognized a gain on the sale of its former corporate headquarters and a gain on a foreign currency forward contract.



#### Income tax benefit (provision)

The income tax benefit for 2008 was \$14.2 million compared to a provision of \$6.6 million for 2007. The Company's effective income tax rate was 22.4% for 2008 and 46.6% for 2007. The decrease in the effective tax rate in 2008 was due to valuation allowances the Company recorded against certain deferred tax assets.

### CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations discusses the Company's consolidated financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and with the instructions to Form 10-K and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. On an on-going basis, management evaluates its estimates and judgments based on historical experience and on various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The Company evaluates these estimates including those related to revenue recognition, allowances for doubtful accounts, reserves for sales returns and allowances and customer chargebacks, inventory mark-down provisions, impairment of tangible and intangible assets, including goodwill, stock option expense, derivative valuation and accruals related to the Company's tax positions. Actual results may differ from these estimates using different assumptions and under different conditions. The Company's significant accounting policies are more fully described in Note A of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 15. The Company believes that the following discussion addresses its most critical accounting policies, which are those that are most important to the portrayal of the Company's consolidated financial condition and results of operations and require management's most difficult, subjective and complex judgments.

#### Inventory

Inventory consists principally of finished goods sourced from third-party suppliers. Inventory also includes finished goods, work in process and raw materials related to the Company's manufacture of sterling silver products. Inventory is priced by the lower of cost (first-in, first-out basis) or market method. The Company estimates the selling price of its inventory on a product by product basis based on the current selling environment and considering the various available channels of distribution (e.g. wholesale: specialty store, off-price retailers etc. or the Internet and catalog). If the estimated selling price is lower than the inventory's cost, the Company reduces the value of inventory to the estimated selling price. If the Company is inaccurate in its estimates of selling prices, it could report material fluctuations in gross margin. Historically, the Company's adjustments to inventory have been appropriate and have not resulted in material unexpected charges.

#### Receivables

The Company periodically reviews the collectibility of its accounts receivable and establishes allowances for estimated losses that could result from the inability of its customers to make required payments. A considerable amount of judgment is required to assess the ultimate realization of these receivables including assessing the initial and on-going creditworthiness of the Company's customers. The Company also maintains an allowance for anticipated customer deductions. The allowances for deductions are primarily based on contracts the Company has with its customers. However, in certain cases the Company does not have a formal contract and/or customer deductions are non-contractual. To evaluate the reasonableness of non-contractual customer deductions, the Company analyzes currently available information and historical trends of deductions. If the financial conditions of the Company's customers or economic conditions were to deteriorate, resulting in an impairment of their ability to make payments or sell the Company's products at reasonable sales prices, or the Company's estimate of non-contractual deductions was determined to be inaccurate, revisions to allowances may be required, which could adversely affect the Company's

financial condition. Historically, the Company's allowances have been appropriate and have not resulted in material unexpected charges.

#### Intangible assets and long-lived assets

Intangible assets deemed to have indefinite lives are not amortized but instead are subject to an annual impairment assessment in accordance with the provisions of ASC Topic No. 350, Intangibles- Goodwill and Other. Based on the results of the Company's 2009 assessment, no impairment of the Company's indefinite-lived intangible assets was identified for the year ended December 31, 2009.

Long-lived assets, including intangible assets deemed to have finite lives, are reviewed for impairment in accordance with ASC Topic No. 360, Property, Plant and Equipment, whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that such assets may have been impaired. Impairment indicators include, among other conditions, cash flow deficits, historic or anticipated declines in revenue or operating profit or material adverse changes in the business climate that indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may be impaired. When impairment indicators are present, the Company compares the carrying value of the assets to the estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated by the assets. If the assets are considered to be impaired, the impairment to be recognized is measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the assets exceeds the fair value of the assets. The Company considered indicators of impairment of its long-lived assets and determined that no such indicators were present at December 31, 2009.

#### Revenue recognition

The Company sells products wholesale, to retailers and distributors, and retail, direct to the consumer through the Company's factory and outlet store, catalog and Internet operations. Wholesale sales are recognized when title passes and the risks and rewards of ownership have transferred to the customer. The retail store sales in 2008 were recognized at the time of sale. Catalog and Internet sales are recognized upon delivery to the customer. Shipping and handling fees that are billed to customers in sales transactions are recorded in net sales. Net sales exclude taxes that are collected from customers and remitted to the taxing authorities.

#### Employee stock options

The Company accounts for its stock options in accordance with ASC Topic No. 718-20, Awards Classified as Equity, which requires the measurement of compensation expense for all share-based compensation granted to employees and non-employee directors at fair value on the date of grant and recognition of compensation expense over the related service period for awards expected to vest. The Company uses the Black-Scholes option valuation model to estimate the fair value of its stock options. The Black-Scholes option valuation model requires the input of highly subjective assumptions including the expected stock price volatility of the Company's common stock. Changes in these subjective input assumptions can materially affect the fair value estimate of the Company's stock options.

#### Income taxes

The Company applies the provisions of ASC Topic No. 740, Income Taxes, for the financial statement recognition, measurement and disclosure of uncertain tax positions recognized in the Company's financial statements. Tax positions must meet a more-likely-than-not recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken.

#### Derivatives

The Company accounts for derivative instruments in accordance with ASC Topic No. 815, Derivatives and Hedging, which requires that all derivative instruments be recognized on the balance sheet at fair value as either an asset or a liability. Changes in the fair value of derivatives that qualify as hedges and have been designated as part of a hedging relationship for accounting purposes have no net impact on earnings to the extent the derivative is considered perfectly effective in achieving offsetting changes in fair value or cash flows attributable to the risk being hedged, until the hedged item is recognized in earnings. For derivatives that do not qualify or are not designated as hedging instruments for accounting purposes, changes in fair value are recorded in operations.



## LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

The Company's principal sources of cash to fund liquidity needs are: (i) cash provided by operating activities and (ii) borrowings available under the Credit Facility. The Company's primary uses of funds consist of working capital requirements, capital expenditures and payment of principal and interest on its debt.

At December 31, 2009, the Company had cash and cash equivalents of \$682,000 compared to \$3.5 million at December 31, 2008, working capital was \$96.6 million at December 31, 2009 compared to \$82.7 million at December 31, 2008 and the current ratio was 2.25 to 1 at December 31, 2009 compared to 1.55 to 1 at December 31, 2008.

Borrowings under the Company's Credit Facility decreased to \$24.6 million at December 31, 2009 compared to \$89.3 million at December 31, 2008. The decrease was primarily attributable to an increase in cash from operations that was used to pay down the amounts outstanding under the Credit Facility due to the Company's inventory reduction efforts, receipt of an income tax refund, reduction of discretionary expenses and other expense reduction efforts.

The Company believes that availability under the Credit Facility and cash flows from operations is sufficient to fund the Company's operations. However, due to the tightening of the credit markets, the Company believes that if needed other available sources of liquidity could be limited. If circumstances were to adversely change, the Company would seek to improve its liquidity by taking actions such as to further lower its inventory and reduce expenses. However, there can be no assurance that any such efforts would be successful or that the results of any such efforts would be adequate. Finally, the combined effects of the economic downturn and credit crisis have had a significant impact on the Company's retail partners and in certain cases resulted in bankruptcies and eventual liquidation. The Company closely monitors the creditworthiness of its customers. Based upon the evaluation of changes in customers' creditworthiness, the Company may modify credit limits and/or terms of sale. The Company has not been materially affected by the bankruptcy or liquidation of any of its customers to date. However, notwithstanding the Company's efforts to monitor its customers' financial condition, the Company may be materially affected in the future.

In 2009, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (including Sam's Club) accounted for 18% of the Company's sales. A material reduction of product orders by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. could have significant adverse effects on the Company's business and operating results and ultimately the Company's liquidity, including the loss of predictability and volume production efficiencies associated with such a large customer.

### Credit facility

The Company has a \$130.0 million secured credit facility that matures on January 31, 2011 (the "Credit Facility"). Borrowings under the Credit Facility are secured by all assets of the Company. On March 31, 2009, the Company entered into a waiver and amendment to the Credit Facility (the "Amendment"). Pursuant to the Amendment, the Company's lenders waived the Company's non-compliance with the financial covenants required by the Credit Facility at December 31, 2008. The Amendment modified the Credit Facility in certain ways including, as follows: (i) changed the maturity date to January 31, 2011, (ii) added certain asset categories to the borrowing base, (iii) increased the applicable margin rates (including a minimum LIBOR of 1.75%), (iv) revised the minimum Consolidated EBITDA (as defined in the Credit Facility) and fixed charge coverage covenants and added both a minimum net sales for 2009 only and maximum capital expenditures covenant, (v) eliminated the requirement of maximum leverage and minimum interest coverage ratios, (vi) eliminated the \$50.0 million accordion feature, (vii) revised the minimum excess availability amount and (viii) placed restrictions on dividends and acquisitions. The Amendment also provided for a lock-box arrangement with the collateral agent for the benefit of its lenders; as such, the Company classified the indebtedness as a current liability in its consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2009 and 2008.

On October 13, 2009, the Company entered into an agreement with its lenders to reduce the minimum net sales requirement for the quarter ended September 30, 2009 from \$114.8 million to \$107.0 million.



On October 30, 2009, the Company entered into an agreement with its lenders to amend the Credit Facility to, among other things: (i) reduce the minimum required availability to \$15.0 million for all fiscal quarters beginning with the fiscal quarter ended September 30, 2009, (ii) eliminate the orderly liquidation value of the Company's trademarks from the borrowing base and (iii) reduce the total commitment to \$130.0 million.

On February 12, 2010, the Company entered into an agreement with its lenders to amend the Credit Facility to, among other things: (i) permit the Company to purchase, from time to time, in the aggregate, up to \$15.0 million principal amount of the Company's 4.75% Convertible Notes and (ii) eliminate the requirement for the Company to obtain a consent from the lenders prior to consummating a Permitted Acquisition (as defined in the Credit Facility).

At December 31, 2009, the Company had \$1.2 million of open letters of credit and \$24.6 million of borrowings outstanding under the Credit Facility. Interest rates on outstanding borrowings at December 31, 2009 ranged from 5.75% to 6.25%. Availability under the Credit Facility at December 31, 2009 was \$49.9 million (net of \$15.0 million of minimum required availability). The Company has interest rate swap and collar agreements with an aggregate notional amount of \$55.2 million at December 31, 2009. The Company entered into these agreements to effectively fix the interest rate on a portion of its borrowings under the Credit Facility.

The Company was in compliance with its financial covenants at December 31, 2009. The Company's Consolidated EBITDA (as defined by the Credit Facility) for the year ended December 31, 2009 was \$33.3 million compared to the minimum Consolidated EBITDA required by the Credit Facility of \$25.5 million. Capital expenditures for the year ended December 31, 2009 were \$2.3 million compared to the maximum capital expenditures permitted by the Credit Facility of \$6.0 million. Net sales for the three months ended December 31, 2009 were \$128.1 million compared to the minimum net sales required by the Credit Facility of \$116.9 million. The fixed charge coverage ratio was 3.29 to 1.00 compared to the minimum fixed charge coverage ratio of 1.40 to 1.00.

The borrowing base at December 31, 2009 under the Credit facility is determined as the sum of (1) 85% of eligible receivables and 85% of the orderly liquidation value of eligible inventory, less (2) reserves.

#### Non-GAAP financial measure

Consolidated EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure within the meaning of Regulation G promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The following is a reconciliation of the net income (loss) as reported to Consolidated EBITDA:

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Year Ended December 31,	
	2009	2008	2009	2008
	(in thousands)			
Net income (loss) as reported	\$ 5,048	\$ (36,795 )	\$ 2,715	\$ (47,755 )
Add back:				
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	1,311	(5,993 )	1,880	(14,249 )
Interest expense	4,124	3,371	13,185	11,577
Depreciation and amortization	4,855	2,829	13,511	10,782
Restructuring expenses	143	10,410	(56 )	17,992
Goodwill and intangible asset impairment		29,400		29,400
Stock option expense	611	957	2,099	2,800
Consolidated EBITDA	\$ 16,092	\$ 4,179	\$ 33,334	\$ 10,547



### Convertible Notes

The Company has outstanding \$75.0 million aggregate principal amount of 4.75% Convertible Senior Notes due on July 2011 (the "Notes"). The Notes are convertible into shares of the Company's common stock at a conversion price of \$28.00 per share, subject to adjustment in certain events. The Notes bear interest at 4.75% per annum, payable semiannually in arrears on January 15 and July 15 of each year, and are unsubordinated except with respect to the Company's debt outstanding under its Credit Facility. The Company may not redeem the Notes at any time prior to maturity. The Notes are convertible at the option of the holder anytime prior to the close of business on the business day prior to the maturity date. Upon conversion, the Company may elect to deliver either shares of the Company's common stock, cash or a combination of cash and shares of the Company's common stock in satisfaction of the Company's obligations upon conversion of the Notes. If the Notes are not converted prior to the maturity date the Company is required to pay the holders of the Notes the principal amount of the Notes in cash upon maturity.

### Dividends

In February 2009, the Company suspended paying cash dividends on its outstanding common shares.

### Operating activities

Cash provided by operating activities was \$64.0 million in 2009 compared to \$6.9 million in 2008. The increase was primarily attributable to improved operating results and working capital during the 2009 period and the income tax refund related to the carry-back of fiscal 2008 losses. The increase in working capital was primarily attributable to a reduction of inventory and accounts receivable in 2009 compared to the 2008 period.

### Investing activities

Cash used in investing activities was \$1.9 million in 2009 compared to \$24.8 million in 2008. In 2009, investing activities included capital expenditures of \$2.3 million. In 2008, investing activities included cash paid by the Company of \$16.3 million to acquire the business and certain assets of Mikasa® and capital expenditures of \$8.9 million related primarily to the Company's new West Coast distribution center located in Fontana, California and the Company's new office space in Medford, Massachusetts. The Company's 2010 planned capital expenditures are estimated not to exceed \$8.0 million.

### Financing activities

Cash used in financing activities was \$64.8 million in 2009 compared to cash provided by financing activities of \$17.2 million in 2008. In 2009, net repayments under the Company's Credit Facility were \$64.7 million. In 2008, the Company received net cash proceeds from borrowings under the Credit Facility of \$20.6 million.

### Contractual obligations

As of December 31, 2009, the Company's contractual obligations were as follows (in thousands):

	Total	Payment due by period			
		Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years
Operating leases	\$ 117,607	\$ 12,476	\$ 24,643	\$ 24,567	\$ 55,921
Long-term debt	75,000		75,000		
Minimum royalty payments	19,259	6,463	11,130	606	1,060
Interest on long-term debt	7,126	3,563	3,563		
Post retirement benefits	3,296	148	296	296	2,556
Capitalized leases	263	169	94		

Total	\$ 222,551	\$ 22,819	\$ 114,726	\$ 25,469	\$ 59,537
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## Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Market risk represents the risk of loss that may impact the consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows of the Company. The Company is exposed to market risk associated with changes in interest rates. The Company's Credit Facility bears interest at variable rates and, therefore, the Company is subject to increases and decreases in interest expense resulting from fluctuations in interest rates. The Company has entered into interest rate swap agreements with an aggregate notional amount of \$50.0 million and interest rate collar agreements with an aggregate notional amount of \$40.2 million to manage interest rate exposure in connection with these variable interest rate borrowings. There have been no changes in interest rates that would have a material impact on the consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2009.

## Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

The Company's Consolidated Financial Statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009 in Item 15 commencing on page F-1 are incorporated herein by reference.

The following table sets forth certain unaudited consolidated quarterly statement of operations data for the eight quarters ended December 31, 2009. This information is unaudited, but in the opinion of management, it has been prepared substantially on the same basis as the audited consolidated financial statements appearing elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and all necessary adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments, have been included in the amounts stated below to present fairly the unaudited consolidated quarterly results of operations. The consolidated quarterly data should be read in conjunction with the Company's audited consolidated financial statements and the notes to such statements appearing elsewhere in this Annual Report. The results of operations for any quarter are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations for any future period:

	Year ended December 31, 2009			
	First quarter(1)	Second quarter(1)	Third quarter(1)	Fourth quarter(1)
	(in thousands, except per share data)			
Net sales	\$ 90,214	\$ 85,334	\$ 111,422	\$ 128,070
Gross profit	32,066	32,228	41,644	51,263
Income (loss) from operations	(3,373 )	1,434	7,599	9,949
Net income (loss)	(5,959 )	(1,253 )	4,879	5,048
Basic income (loss) per common share	\$ (0.50 )	\$ (0.10 )	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.42
Diluted income (loss) per common share	\$ (0.50 )	\$ (0.10 )	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.41

	Year ended December 31, 2008(3)			
	First quarter(2)	Second quarter	Third quarter(2)	Fourth quarter(2)
	(in thousands, except per share data)			
Net sales	\$ 98,194	\$ 92,399	\$ 140,624	\$ 156,718
Gross profit	38,589	37,111	54,528	54,172
Income (loss) from operations	(8,784 )	(6,945 )	3,365	(39,549 )
Net loss	(6,357 )	(3,552 )	(1,051 )	(36,795 )
Basic and diluted loss per common share	\$ (0.53 )	\$ (0.30 )	\$ (0.09 )	\$ (3.07 )

Notes:

- (1) The Company recognized restructuring and fixed asset impairment expenses of \$824,000, \$(663,000), \$671,000 and \$1.8 million in the first, second, third and fourth quarters of 2009, respectively.
- (2) The Company recognized restructuring expenses of \$2.9 million, \$4.6 million and \$10.5 million in the first, third and fourth quarters of 2008, respectively, and a non-cash goodwill and intangible asset impairment of \$29.4 million in the fourth quarter of 2008.
- (3) Certain amounts have been adjusted in 2008 to reflect the provisions of ASC Topic No. 470-20 on a retrospective basis. See Note F of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 15 for further information regarding the provisions of ASC Topic No. 470-20.

Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure

None

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures

(a) Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

The Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer of the Company (its principal executive officer and principal financial and accounting officer, respectively) have concluded, based on their evaluation as of December 31, 2009, that the Company's controls and procedures are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in the reports filed by it under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms, and include controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in such reports is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the Company, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

(b) Changes in Internal Controls

There were no changes in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the Company's most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for performing an assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009. Internal control over financial reporting is defined in Rule 13a-15(f) or 15d-15(f) promulgated under the Exchange Act as a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the Company's principal executive and principal financial officers and effected by the Company's Board of Directors, management and other personnel, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the Company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the Company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the Company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the Company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Because of the inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate. Accordingly, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation.

Management performed an assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 using the criteria set forth in the Internal Control Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on this assessment, management has

determined that the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 is effective.

The effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of Lifetime Brands, Inc.

We have audited Lifetime Brands Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (the COSO criteria). Lifetime Brands Inc.'s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, Lifetime Brands, Inc. maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of Lifetime Brands, Inc. as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009 of Lifetime Brands, Inc. and our report dated March 17, 2010 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

Jericho, New York  
March 17, 2010



Item 9B. Other Information

Not applicable

PART III

Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14

The information required under these items is contained in the Company's 2010 Proxy Statement, which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission within 120 days after the close of the Company's fiscal year covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K and is herein incorporated by reference.

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PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

(a) See list of Financial Statements and Financial Statement Schedule on page F-1.

(b) Exhibits\*:

Exhibit

No. Description

3.1 Second Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Company (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2005)\*\*

3.2 Amended and Restated By-Laws of the Company (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated November 1, 2007)\*\*

4.1 Indenture dated as of June 27, 2006, Lifetime Brands, Inc. as issuer, and HSBC Bank USA, National Association as trustee, \$75,000,000 4.75% Convertible Senior Notes due 2011 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's registration statement No. 333-137575 on Form S-3)\*\*

10.1 License agreement dated December 14, 1989 between the Company and Farberware, Inc. (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's registration statement No. 33-40154 on Form S-1)\*\*

10.2 Evan Miller employment agreement dated July 1, 2003 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 10-Q dated September 30, 2003)\*\*

10.3 Employment agreement dated May 2, 2006 between Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Jeffrey Siegel (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated May 2, 2006)\*\*

10.4 Lease agreement dated as of May 10, 2006 between AG Metropolitan Endo, L.L.C and Lifetime Brands, Inc. for the property located at 1000 Stewart Avenue in Garden City, New York (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated May 10, 2006)\*\*

10.5 Amended 2000 Long-Term Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated June 8, 2006)\*\*

10.6 Amended 2000 Incentive Bonus Compensation Plan (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated June 8, 2006)\*\*

10.7 Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement among Lifetime Brands, Inc., Lenders party thereto, Citibank, N.A. and Wachovia Bank, National Association, as Co-Documentation Agents, JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Syndication Agent, and HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Administrative Agent (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated October 31, 2006)\*\*

10.8 First Amendment to the Lease Agreement dated as of May 10, 2006 between AG Metropolitan Endo, L.L.C and Lifetime Brands, Inc. for the property located at 1000 Stewart Avenue in Garden City, New York (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 10-Q dated September 30, 2006)\*\*

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10.9 Employment agreement dated June 28, 2007 between Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Laurence Winoker (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated July 3, 2007)\*\*

10.10 Shares Subscription Agreement by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., Ekco, S.A.B. and Mr. José Ramón Elizondo Anaya and Mr. Miguel Ángel Huerta Pando, dated as of June 8, 2007 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated June 11, 2007)\*\*

- 10.11 Lease Agreement between Granite Sierra Park LP and Lifetime Brands, Inc. dated June 29, 2007 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated June 29, 2007)\*\*
- 10.12 Evan Miller Amendment of Employment Agreement dated June 29, 2007 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated June 29, 2007)\*\*
- 10.13 Amendment No.1 dated September 5, 2007 to the Shares Subscription Agreement by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., Ekco, S.A.B. and Mr. José Ramón Elizondo Anaya and Mr. Miguel Ángel Huerta Pando, dated as of June 8, 2007 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008)\*\*
- 10.14 Amendment to the Lifetime Brands, Inc. 2000 Long-Term Incentive Plan dated November 1, 2007 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated November 1, 2007)\*\*
- 10.15 Amendment No. 2 to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., Lenders party hereto, Citibank, N.A. and Wachovia Bank, National Association, as Co-Documentation Agents, JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Syndication Agent, and HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Administrative Agent (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K/A dated April 17, 2008)\*\*
- 10.16 Asset Purchase Agreement between Mikasa, Inc. and Lifetime Brands, Inc. dated June, 6 2008 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 10-Q dated June 30, 2008)\*\*
- 10.17 Amendment No. 2 dated September 25, 2008 to the Shares Subscription Agreement by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., Ekco, S.A.B. and Mr. José Ramón Elizondo Anaya and Mr. Miguel Ángel Huerta Pando, dated as of June 8, 2007 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008)\*\*
- 10.18 Amendment to the Company's Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, Amendment No. 3, dated September 29, 2008 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated September 29, 2008)\*\*
- 10.19 Forbearance Agreement and Amendment No. 4, dated as of February 12, 2009, by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., the several financial institutions party hereto and HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Administrative Agent for the Lenders (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated February 12, 2009)\*\*
- 10.20 Amendment to Forbearance Agreement and Amendment No. 4, dated as of March 6, 2009, by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., the several financial institutions party hereto and HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Administrative Agent for the Lenders (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated March 6, 2009)\*\*
- 10.21 Waiver and Amendment No. 5 to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of March 31, 2009, by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., the several financial institutions party hereto and HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Administrative Agent for the Lenders (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008)\*\*
- 10.22 Amendment of the Lifetime Brands, Inc. 2000 Long-Term Incentive Plan dated June 11, 2009 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated June 11, 2009)\*\*
- 10.23

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Amended and Restated Employment Agreement, dated August 10, 2009 by and between Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Ronald Shiftan (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated August 10, 2009)\*\*

10.24 Amendment of Employment Agreement, dated August 10, 2009 by and between Lifetime Brands, Inc. and Jeffrey Siegel (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated August 10, 2009)\*\*

10.25 Waiver to the Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of October 13, 2009, by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., the several financial institutions party hereto and HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Administrative Agent and Co-Collateral Agent for the Lenders (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated October 13, 2009)\*\*

- 10.26 Amendment No. 6 to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of October 30, 2009, by and among Lifetime Brands, Inc., the several financial institutions party hereto and HSBC Bank USA, National Association, as Administrative Agent for the Lenders (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated October 30, 2009)\*\*
- 10.27 Termination of Lease and Sublease Agreement Dated December 1, 2009 by and between Crispus Attucks Association of York, Pennsylvania, Inc. and Lifetime Brands, Inc. (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated December 1, 2009)\*\*
- 14.1 Code of Conduct dated March 25, 2004, as amended on June 7, 2007 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 8-K dated June 7, 2007)\*\*
- 18.1 Letter from Ernst & Young LLP stating an acceptable change in accounting method for the impairment of goodwill dated October 28, 2008 (incorporated by reference to the Registrant's Form 10-Q dated September, 30 2008)\*\*
- 21.1 Subsidiaries of the registrant\*\*\*
- 23.1 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP\*\*\*
- 31.1 Certification by Jeffrey Siegel, Chief Executive Officer and President, pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002\*\*\*
- 31.2 Certification by Laurence Winoker, Senior Vice President – Finance, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002\*\*\*
- 32.1 Certification by Jeffrey Siegel, Chief Executive Officer and President, and Laurence Winoker, Senior Vice President – Finance, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002\*\*\*\*
- 99.1 Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. (formerly Ekco, S.A.B.), Report of Independent Registered Accounting Firm \*\*\*

Notes to exhibits:

\*The Company will furnish a copy of any of the exhibits listed above upon payment of \$5.00 per exhibit to cover the cost of the Company furnishing the exhibit.

\*\* Incorporated by reference.

\*\*\* Filed herewith.

\*\*\*\* This exhibit is being “furnished” pursuant to Item 601(b)(32) of SEC Regulation S-K and is not deemed “filed” with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is not incorporated by reference in any filing of the Company under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

(c) Financial Statement Schedules — the response to this portion of Item 15 is submitted as a separate section of this report.



## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) 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.

Lifetime Brands, Inc.

/s/ Jeffrey Siegel  
 Jeffrey Siegel  
 Chairman of the Board of Directors,  
 Chief Executive Officer, President  
 and Director

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ Jeffrey Siegel Jeffrey Siegel	Chairman of the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer, President and Director	March 17, 2010
/s/ Ronald Shiftan Ronald Shiftan	Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Chief Operating Officer and Director	March 17, 2010
/s/ Laurence Winoker Laurence Winoker	Senior Vice President – Finance, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	March 17, 2010
/s/ Craig Phillips Craig Phillips	Senior Vice-President – Distribution, and Director	March 17, 2010
/s/ David Dangoor David Dangoor	Director	March 17, 2010
/s/ Michael Jeary Michael Jeary	Director	March 17, 2010
/s/ John Koegel John Koegel	Director	March 17, 2010
/s/ Cherrie Nanninga Cherrie Nanninga	Director	March 17, 2010

/s/ William  
Westerfield  
William Westerfield

Director

March 17, 2010

Item 15

LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.

LIST OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULE

The following consolidated financial statements of Lifetime Brands, Inc. are filed as part of this report under Item 8 – Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	F-2
Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2009 and 2008	F-3
Consolidated Statements of Operations for the Years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007	F-4
Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the Years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007	F-5
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Years ended December 31, 2009, 2008 and 2007	F-6
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	F-7

The following consolidated financial statement schedule of Lifetime Brands, Inc. required pursuant to Item 15(a) is submitted herewith:

Schedule II – Valuation and Qualifying Accounts	S-1
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All other financial schedules are not required under the related instructions or are inapplicable, and therefore have been omitted.

The unaudited supplementary data regarding quarterly results of operations are incorporated by reference to the information set forth in Item 8 – Financial Statements and Supplementary Data.

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of Lifetime Brands, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Lifetime Brands, Inc. (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders’ equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009. Our audits also included the financial statement schedule listed in the Index at Item 15(a). These financial statements and schedule are the responsibility of the Company’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and schedule based on our audits. The financial statements of Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. and Subsidiaries (a corporation in which the Company has a 30.12% interest), have been audited by other auditors whose report has been furnished to us, and our opinion on the consolidated financial statements, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. and Subsidiaries, is based solely on the report of the other auditors. In the consolidated financial statements, the Company’s investment in Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. and Subsidiaries is stated at \$20.3 million at December 31, 2009 and the Company’s equity in the net income of Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. and Subsidiaries is stated at \$2.2 million for the year then ended.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits and the report of other auditors provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, based on our audits and the report of other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Lifetime Brands, Inc. at December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Also, in our opinion, the related financial statement schedule, when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole, presents fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

As discussed in Notes A and F to the consolidated financial statements, the Company adopted the provisions of the Financial Accounting Standards Board Accounting Standards Codification Topic No. 470-20, Debt with Conversion and Other Options, effective January 1, 2009.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), Lifetime Brands, Inc.’s internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, based on criteria established in Internal Control – Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated March 17, 2010 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

Jericho, New York  
March 17, 2010



LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.  
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS  
(in thousands-except share data)

ASSETS	December 31,	
	2009	2008 (as adjusted see Note F)
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 682	\$ 3,478
Accounts receivable, less allowances of \$16,557 at 2009 and \$14,651 at 2008	61,552	67,562
Inventory (Note N)	103,931	141,612
Income taxes receivable (Note J)		11,597
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	7,685	8,429
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>173,850</b>	<b>232,678</b>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, net (Note N)</b>		
	41,623	49,908
<b>OTHER INTANGIBLES, net (Note D)</b>		
	37,641	38,420
<b>INVESTMENT IN GRUPO VASCONIA, S.A.B. (Note C)</b>		
	20,338	17,784
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
	3,271	2,991
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 276,723</b>	<b>\$ 341,781</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Short-term borrowings (Note E)	\$ 24,601	\$ 89,300
Accounts payable	21,895	24,151
Accrued expenses (Note N)	29,827	35,902
Deferred income tax liabilities (Note J)	207	403
Income taxes payable (Note J)	680	225
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>77,210</b>	<b>149,981</b>
<b>DEFERRED RENT &amp; OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES (Note N)</b>		
	20,527	23,054
<b>DEFERRED INCOME TAXES (Note J)</b>		
	4,447	3,373
<b>CONVERTIBLE NOTES (Note F)</b>		
	70,527	67,864
<b>STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Common stock, \$.01 par value, shares authorized: 25,000,000; shares issued and outstanding: 12,015,273 in 2009 and 11,989,724 in 2008	120	120
Paid-in capital	129,655	127,497
Accumulated deficit	(18,949 )	(21,515 )
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(6,814 )	(8,593 )
<b>TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>104,012</b>	<b>97,509</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 276,723</b>	<b>\$ 341,781</b>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS  
(in thousands – except per share data)

	Year ended December 31,		
	2009	2008 (as adjusted see Note F)	2007 (as adjusted see Note F)
Net sales	\$415,040	\$487,935	\$493,725
Cost of sales	257,839	303,535	288,997
Distribution expenses	43,329	57,695	53,493
Selling, general and administrative expenses	95,647	131,226	128,527
Goodwill and intangible asset impairment (Note D)		29,400	
Restructuring expenses (Note B)	2,616	17,992	1,924
Income (loss) from operations	15,609	(51,913 )	20,784
Interest expense	(13,185 )	(11,577 )	(10,623 )
Other income, net			3,935
Income (loss) before income taxes and equity in earnings of Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B.	2,424	(63,490 )	14,096
Income tax benefit (provision) (Note J)	(1,880 )	14,249	(6,567 )
Equity in earnings of Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B., net of taxes (Note C)	2,171	1,486	
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$2,715</b>	<b>\$(47,755 )</b>	<b>\$7,529</b>
<b>BASIC INCOME (LOSS) PER COMMON SHARE (Note I)</b>	<b>\$0.23</b>	<b>\$(3.99 )</b>	<b>\$0.58</b>
<b>DILUTED INCOME (LOSS) PER COMMON SHARE (Note I)</b>	<b>\$0.22</b>	<b>\$(3.99 )</b>	<b>\$0.57</b>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY  
(in thousands)

	Common stock		Paid-in capital	Retained earnings	Accumulated other comprehensive income	Total
	Shares	Amount		(accumulated deficit)	(loss)	
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2006	13,283	\$ 133	\$ 111,165	\$ 50,235	\$ 78	\$ 161,611
Adoption of accounting principle (Note F)			7,862	(637 )		7,225
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2006 (as adjusted)	13,283	133	119,027	49,598	78	168,836
Comprehensive income:						
Net income (as adjusted see Note F)				7,529		7,529
Derivative fair value adjustment, net of taxes of \$170 (Note G)					(203 )	(203 )
Total comprehensive income						7,326
Tax benefit on exercise of stock options			161			161
Stock option expense (Note H)			2,197			2,197
Purchase and retirement of common stock	(1,363 )	(14 )		(22,658 )		(22,672 )
Exercise of stock options	32	1	244			245
Stock issued for acquisition	5		133			133
Shares issued to directors	7		95			95
Dividends				(3,219 )		(3,219 )
BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2007	11,964	120	121,857	31,250	(125 )	153,102
Comprehensive loss:						
Net loss (as adjusted see Note F)				(47,755 )		(47,755 )
Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. translation adjustment (Note C)					(6,587 )	(6,587 )
Derivative fair value adjustment (Note G)					(1,881 )	(1,881 )
Total comprehensive loss						(56,223 )

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Tax benefit on exercise of stock options			7			7
Stock option expense (Note H)			2,800			2,800
Exercise of stock options	2		10			10
Shares issued to directors	24		57			57
Tax valuation allowance (Note F)			2,766	(2,766 )		-
Dividends				(2,244 )		(2,244 )
<b>BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2008</b>	<b>11,990</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>127,497</b>	<b>(21,515 )</b>	<b>(8,593 )</b>	<b>97,509</b>
Comprehensive income:						
Net income				2,715		2,715
Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B. translation adjustment (Note C)					456	456
Derivative hedge de-designation (Note G)					780	780
Derivative fair value adjustment (Note G)					543	543
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>						<b>4,494</b>
Stock option expense (Note H)			2,099			2,099
Exercise of stock options	46		59			59
Retirement of shares (Note H)	(21 )			(149 )		(149 )
<b>BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2009</b>	<b>12,015</b>	<b>\$ 120</b>	<b>\$ 129,655</b>	<b>\$ (18,949 )</b>	<b>\$ (6,814 )</b>	<b>\$ 104,012</b>

See notes to consolidated financial statements.

LIFETIME BRANDS, INC.  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(in thousands)

	Year ended December 31,		
	2009	2008 (as adjusted see Note F)	2007 (as adjusted see Note F)
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Net income (loss)	\$2,715	\$(47,755 )	\$7,529
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Provision for doubtful accounts	(420 )	1,458	79
Depreciation and amortization	11,472	10,782	9,659
Amortization of debt discount	2,663	2,435	2,226
Deferred rent	673	1,999	1,060
Deferred income taxes	734	(3,554 )	1,908
Stock compensation expense	2,099	2,857	2,292
Undistributed earnings of Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B.	(1,953 )	(1,132 )	
Gain on sale of property			(3,760 )
Goodwill and intangible asset impairment		29,400	
Fixed asset impairment	789	3,912	1,635
Changes in operating assets and liabilities (excluding the effects of business acquisitions)			
Accounts receivable	6,430	(3,990 )	(4,593 )
Inventory	37,680	26,154	19,925
Prepaid expenses, other current assets and other assets	(271 )	(908 )	1,220
Accounts payable, accrued expenses and other liabilities	(10,324 )	1,142	(5,270 )
Income taxes receivable	11,263	(11,597 )	
Income taxes payable	438	(4,295 )	(2,343 )
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>63,988</b>	<b>6,908</b>	<b>31,567</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Purchases of property and equipment, net	(2,344 )	(8,859 )	(19,023 )
Business acquisitions		(16,312 )	(10,543 )
Investment in Grupo Vasconia, S.A.B.			(22,950 )
Net proceeds from sale of property	408	362	8,832
<b>NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(1,936 )</b>	<b>(24,809 )</b>	<b>(43,684 )</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Proceeds (repayments) from borrowings, net	(64,699 )	20,600	42,200
Cash dividends paid		(2,995 )	(3,303 )
Payment of capital lease obligations	(225 )	(414 )	(456 )
Proceeds from the exercise of stock options	59	10	245
Excess tax benefits from stock option expense	17	6	125
Purchases of common stock			(22,672 )
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(64,848 )</b>	<b>17,207</b>	<b>16,139</b>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>(2,796 )</b>	<b>(694 )</b>	<b>4,022</b>

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Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	3,478	4,172	150
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	\$682	\$3,478	\$4,172

See notes to consolidated financial statements.