

WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL INC

Form 10-Q

November 06, 2008

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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-Q**

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended September 27, 2008

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 No. 001-16769

**WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Virginia** **11-6040273**  
(State or other jurisdiction of **(I.R.S. Employer**  
**incorporation or organization)** **Identification No.)**  
**11 Madison Avenue, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York 10010**  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 589-2700**

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

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 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. (Check one):

Large Accelerated Filer  Accelerated Filer

Non-Accelerated Filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller Reporting Company

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

The number of shares of common stock outstanding as of October 31, 2008 was 76,890,252.

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**WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

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**Table of Contents****PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION****ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS AT****(IN THOUSANDS)**

	<b>September 27, 2008</b>	<b>December 29, 2007</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 57,805	\$ 39,823
Receivables, net	49,002	42,368
Inventories, net	32,121	44,607
Deferred income taxes	23,810	20,104
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	59,253	39,434
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>221,991</b>	<b>186,336</b>
Property and equipment, net	38,994	36,156
Franchise rights acquired	758,048	724,188
Goodwill	51,346	51,364
Trademarks and other intangible assets, net	32,047	29,035
Deferred income taxes		9,917
Deferred financing costs and other noncurrent assets	7,973	9,225
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,110,399</b>	<b>\$ 1,046,221</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' DEFICIT</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Portion of long-term debt due within one year	\$ 141,875	\$ 45,625
Accounts payable	32,932	42,678
Dividend payable	13,841	14,233
Derivative payable	31,138	23,546
VAT liability	60,903	23,428
Accrued liabilities	124,477	130,236
Income taxes payable	3,273	19,296
Deferred revenue	83,301	59,389
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>491,740</b>	<b>358,431</b>
Long-term debt	1,500,625	1,602,500
Deferred income taxes	6,515	1,786
Other	12,347	9,834
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2,011,227</b>	<b>1,972,551</b>
<b>SHAREHOLDERS' DEFICIT</b>		

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Dividend to Artal Luxembourg S.A.	(304,835)	(304,835)
Common stock, \$0 par value; 1,000,000 shares authorized; 111,988 shares issued		
Treasury stock, at cost, 35,110 shares at September 27, 2008 and 32,578 shares at December 29, 2007	(1,685,004)	(1,570,054)
Retained earnings	1,094,072	950,213
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(5,061)	(1,654)
<b>TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS DEFICIT</b>	<b>(900,828)</b>	<b>(926,330)</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS DEFICIT</b>	<b>\$ 1,110,399</b>	<b>\$ 1,046,221</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents****WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS****(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE AMOUNTS)**

	<b>Three Months Ended</b>	
	<b>September 27, 2008</b>	<b>September 29, 2007</b>
Meeting fees, net	\$ 213,206	\$ 204,489
Product sales and other, net	91,748	94,407
Internet revenues	47,664	38,554
Revenues, net	352,618	337,450
Cost of meetings, products and other	149,395	140,873
Cost of Internet revenues	8,798	8,650
Cost of revenues	158,193	149,523
Gross profit	194,425	187,927
Marketing expenses	39,958	39,220
Selling, general and administrative expenses	46,631	42,208
Operating income	107,836	106,499
Interest expense	21,342	28,309
Other expense/(income), net	1,191	(2,315)
Income before income taxes and minority interest	85,303	80,505
Provision for income taxes	33,151	30,994
Income before minority interest	52,152	49,511
Minority interest	518	
Net income	\$ 52,670	\$ 49,511
Earnings per share:		
Basic	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.63
Diluted	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.62
Weighted average common shares outstanding:		
Basic	77,897	79,159
Diluted	78,123	79,608
Dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.18	\$ 0.18

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The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents****WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS****(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE AMOUNTS)**

	<b>Nine Months Ended</b>	
	<b>September 27, 2008</b>	<b>September 29, 2007</b>
Meeting fees, net	\$ 693,572	\$ 672,063
Product sales and other, net	353,523	338,431
Internet revenues	142,564	112,634
Revenues, net	1,189,659	1,123,128
Cost of meetings, products and other	512,699	465,929
Cost of Internet revenues	26,579	23,549
Cost of revenues	539,278	489,478
Gross profit	650,381	633,650
Marketing expenses	186,583	163,591
Selling, general and administrative expenses	138,677	124,524
Operating income	325,121	345,535
Interest expense	68,220	82,558
Other income, net	(1,264)	(2,418)
Early extinguishment of debt		3,021
Income before income taxes and minority interest	258,165	262,374
Provision for income taxes	102,652	101,014
Income before minority interest	155,513	161,360
Minority interest	1,162	
Net income	\$ 156,675	\$ 161,360
Earnings per share:		
Basic	\$ 1.99	\$ 1.99
Diluted	\$ 1.98	\$ 1.98
Weighted average common shares outstanding:		
Basic	78,735	80,985
Diluted	79,011	81,560
Dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.53	\$ 0.53



The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents****WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES****IN SHAREHOLDERS' DEFICIT****(IN THOUSANDS)**

	Common Stock		Treasury Stock		Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss)	Dividend to Artal Luxembourg, S.A.	Retained Earnings	Total
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount				
Balance at December 30, 2006	111,988	\$	14,486	\$ (540,318)	\$ 6,247	\$ (304,835)	\$ 770,539	\$ (68,367)
Comprehensive Income:								
Net income							201,180	201,180
Translation adjustment, net of taxes of (\$4,734)					8,049			8,049
Change in fair value of derivatives accounted for as hedges, net of taxes of \$10,199					(15,950)			(15,950)
Total Comprehensive Income								193,279
Cumulative effect of adoption of FIN 48								
Issuance of treasury stock under stock plans			(967)	3,908			13,453	17,361
Tax benefit of restricted stock units vested and stock options exercised							10,879	10,879
Cash dividends declared							(55,694)	(55,694)
Purchase of treasury stock			19,059	(1,033,644)				(1,033,644)
Compensation expense on share-based awards							11,763	11,763
Balance at December 29, 2007	111,988	\$	32,578	\$ (1,570,054)	\$ (1,654)	\$ (304,835)	\$ 950,213	\$ (926,330)
Comprehensive Income:								
Net income							156,675	156,675
Translation adjustment, net of taxes of \$1,656					(2,280)			(2,280)
Change in fair value of derivatives accounted for as hedges, net of taxes of \$721					(1,127)			(1,127)
Total Comprehensive Income								153,268
Issuance of treasury stock under stock plans								
Tax benefit of restricted stock units vested and stock options exercised			(254)	1,023			6,504	7,527
							13,554	13,554

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Cash dividends declared						(41,196)	(41,196)
Purchase of treasury stock	2,786		(115,973)				(115,973)
Compensation expense on share-based awards						8,322	8,322
Balance at September 27, 2008	111,988	\$	35,110	\$ (1,685,004)	\$	(5,061)	\$ (304,835)
						\$ 1,094,072	\$ (900,828)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

**Table of Contents****WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES****UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****(IN THOUSANDS)**

	<b>Nine Months Ended</b>	
	<b>September 27, 2008</b>	<b>September 29, 2007</b>
Cash provided by operating activities	\$ 234,124	\$ 265,276
Investing activities:		
Capital expenditures	(13,115)	(8,651)
Capitalized software expenditures	(6,313)	(8,664)
Website development expenditures	(4,426)	(3,894)
Cash paid for acquisitions	(39,660)	(16,756)
Other items, net	(210)	(258)
Cash used for investing activities	(63,724)	(38,223)
Financing activities:		
Proceeds from new term loans		1,200,000
Proceeds from borrowings	20,000	
Payments of long-term debt	(25,625)	(362,909)
Proceeds from stock options exercised	8,016	17,803
Tax benefit from restricted stock units vested and stock options exercised	92	10,481
Repurchase of treasury stock	(115,973)	(1,033,644)
Payment of dividends	(41,589)	(44,614)
Deferred financing costs		(5,417)
Investment and advances from minority shareholder	4,843	
Cash used for financing activities	(150,236)	(218,300)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash/cash equivalents and other	(2,182)	2,425
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	17,982	11,178
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	39,823	37,504
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 57,805	\$ 48,682

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.

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**WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**(IN THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE AMOUNTS)**

**1. Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Weight Watchers International, Inc. and all of its subsidiaries. The term "Company" as used throughout this document is used to indicate Weight Watchers International, Inc. and all of its subsidiaries. The term "WWI" as used throughout this document is used to indicate Weight Watchers International, Inc. and all of its subsidiaries other than WeightWatchers.com, Inc. and all of its subsidiaries ("WW.com"). As further discussed in Note 4, effective with its formation in February 2008, the Company consolidates the financial statements of its joint venture entity, Weight Watchers Danone China Limited, and its subsidiaries (the "Joint Venture").

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and include amounts that are based on management's best estimates and judgments. While all available information has been considered, actual amounts could differ from those estimates. The consolidated financial statements are unaudited but, in the opinion of management, reflect all adjustments of a normal recurring nature necessary for a fair statement of the interim results presented.

These statements should be read in conjunction with the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2007, which includes additional information about the Company, its results of operations, its financial position and its cash flows.

**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

For a discussion of the Company's significant accounting policies, see "Summary of Significant Accounting Policies" in the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2007.

**3. Acquisitions**

The acquisitions of certain franchisees have been accounted for under the purchase method of accounting and, accordingly, earnings have been included in the consolidated operating results of the Company since their dates of acquisition. Details of these franchise acquisitions are outlined below.

On June 3, 2007, the Company acquired substantially all of the assets of its British Columbia franchisee, Weight Watchers of British Columbia Inc., for a net purchase price of \$15,282, plus assumed liabilities and transaction costs of \$532. The total purchase price has been allocated to franchise rights acquired (\$15,718), inventory (\$88), fixed assets (\$7) and other current assets (\$1).

On January 31, 2008, the Company acquired substantially all of the assets of its Palm Beach, Florida franchisee, Weight Watchers of Palm Beach County, Inc., for a net purchase price of \$12,936, plus assumed liabilities and transaction costs of \$226. The total purchase price has been allocated to franchise rights acquired (\$12,600), inventory (\$113), fixed assets (\$299) and other current assets (\$150).

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On June 13, 2008, the Company acquired substantially all of the assets of its Wichita, Kansas franchisee, Weight Watchers of Greater Wichita, Inc., for a net purchase price of \$5,734. The total purchase price has been allocated to franchise rights acquired (\$5,676) and prepaid expenses (\$58).

On June 19, 2008, the Company acquired substantially all of the assets of two of its franchisees, Weight Watchers of Syracuse, Inc. and Dieters of the Southern Tier, Inc., for a combined net purchase price of \$20,935, plus assumed liabilities of \$162. The total purchase price has been allocated to franchise rights acquired (\$20,946), fixed assets (\$36), inventory (\$56) and prepaid expenses (\$59).

The effects of these franchise acquisitions, individually or in the aggregate, were not material to the Company's consolidated financial position, results of operations, or operating cash flows in any of the periods presented.

**4. Joint Venture**

On February 5, 2008, Weight Watchers Asia Holdings Ltd. ( Weight Watchers Asia ), a direct wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, and Danone Dairy Asia, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Groupe DANONE S.A., entered into a joint venture agreement to establish a weight management business in the People's Republic of China. Pursuant to the terms of the joint venture agreement, Weight Watchers Asia and Danone Dairy Asia own 51% and 49%, respectively, of the Joint Venture.

Because the Company has a direct controlling financial interest in the Joint Venture, it began to consolidate this entity in the first quarter of fiscal 2008 under the provisions of Accounting Research Bulletin No. 51, Consolidated Financial Statements.

**5. Goodwill and Intangible Assets**

The Company performs its annual impairment review of goodwill and other indefinite-lived intangible assets, including franchise rights acquired, on the last day of its fiscal year, or more frequently if deemed necessary due to significant events or changes in circumstances that could negatively impact the value of its assets. As of December 29, 2007, the Company determined that no impairment existed. The Company does not believe any events have occurred subsequent to December 29, 2007 that would require it to perform an interim impairment test. Goodwill is due mainly to the acquisition of the Company by the H.J. Heinz Company in 1978 and the acquisition of WW.com in 2005. For the nine months ended September 27, 2008, the change in goodwill is due to foreign currency fluctuations. Franchise rights acquired are due to acquisitions of the Company's franchised territories. For the nine months ended September 27, 2008, the change in franchise rights acquired is due to the acquisition of four franchises during fiscal 2008, as described in Note 3, and foreign currency fluctuations.

Aggregate amortization expense for finite-lived intangible assets was recorded in the amounts of \$2,909 and \$8,067 for the three and nine months ended September 27, 2008, respectively. Aggregate amortization expense for finite-lived intangible assets was recorded in the amounts of \$2,350 and \$5,797 for the three and nine months ended September 29, 2007, respectively.

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The carrying amount of finite-lived intangible assets as of September 27, 2008 and December 29, 2007 was as follows:

	September 27, 2008		December 29, 2007	
	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Amortization
Deferred software costs	\$ 36,734	\$ 16,068	\$ 30,707	\$ 11,663
Trademarks	8,845	8,146	8,540	7,937
Website development costs	24,396	14,741	19,970	11,673
Other	5,741	4,714	5,741	4,650
	<b>\$ 75,716</b>	<b>\$ 43,669</b>	<b>\$ 64,958</b>	<b>\$ 35,923</b>

Estimated amortization expense of existing finite-lived intangible assets for the next five fiscal years is as follows:

Remainder of 2008	\$ 3,097
2009	\$ 11,189
2010	\$ 8,454
2011	\$ 5,992
2012	\$ 1,959

**6. Long-Term Debt***WWI Credit Facility*

WWI's credit agreement, dated as of January 16, 2001, and amended and restated as of January 21, 2004, as supplemented on October 19, 2004 and as amended on June 24, 2005, May 8, 2006 and amended and supplemented on January 26, 2007, consists of a term loan facility consisting of two tranche A facilities, or Term Loan A and Additional Term Loan A, and a tranche B facility, or Term Loan B, in an aggregate amount of \$1,550,000 and a revolving credit facility, or the Revolver, in the amount of up to \$500,000. We refer to the term loan facilities and the Revolver collectively as the WWI Credit Facility. At September 27, 2008, the Company had debt outstanding of \$1,642,500 (including \$315,000 under Term Loan A, \$700,000 under Additional Term Loan A, \$492,500 under Term Loan B and \$135,000 under the Revolver) and had additional availability under the Revolver of \$363,020. The Term Loan A, Additional Term Loan A, Term Loan B and Revolver mature in June 2011, January 2013, January 2014 and June 2011, respectively.

On January 26, 2007, in connection with the Tender Offer (as defined in Note 7) and the share repurchase from Artal (as defined in Note 7), the Company increased its debt capacity by adding an Additional Term Loan A in the amount of \$700,000 and a new Term Loan B in the amount of \$500,000. The Company utilized (a) \$185,784 of these proceeds to pay off the WW.com Credit Facilities (as defined below), (b) \$461,593 to repurchase 8,548 of its shares in the Tender Offer and (c) \$567,617 to repurchase 10,511 of its shares from Artal. In connection with the early extinguishment of the WW.com Credit Facilities, the Company recorded a charge of \$3,021 in the first quarter of 2007 relating to the write-off of the deferred financing costs associated with the WW.com Credit Facilities.

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The Term Loan A, Additional Term Loan A and the Revolver bear interest at an initial rate equal to LIBOR plus 1.25% per annum or, at the Company's option, the alternate base rate (as defined in the WWI Credit Facility agreements). During the first quarter of fiscal 2008, the interest rate on the Term Loan A, Additional Term Loan A and Revolver was reduced to LIBOR plus 1.0% per annum or, at the



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Company's option, the alternate base rate (as defined in the WWI Credit Facility agreements). The Term Loan B bears interest at an initial rate equal to LIBOR plus 1.5% per annum or, at the Company's option, the alternate base rate (as defined in the WWI Credit Facility agreements). In addition to paying interest on outstanding principal under the WWI Credit Facility, the Company is required to pay a commitment fee to the lenders under the Revolver with respect to the unused commitments at an initial rate equal to 0.25% per annum. During the first quarter of fiscal 2008, this commitment fee was reduced to 0.20% per annum.

The WWI Credit Facility contains customary covenants including covenants that, in certain circumstances, restrict the Company's ability to incur additional indebtedness, pay dividends on and redeem capital stock, make other payments, including investments, sell its assets and enter into consolidations, mergers and transfers of all or substantially all of its assets. The WWI Credit Facility also requires the Company to maintain specified financial ratios and satisfy certain financial condition tests. At September 27, 2008, the Company was in compliance with all of the required financial ratios and also met all of the financial condition tests and expects to continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The WWI Credit Facility contains customary events of default. Upon the occurrence of an event of default under the WWI Credit Facility, the lenders thereunder may cease making loans and declare amounts outstanding to be immediately due and payable. The WWI Credit Facility is guaranteed by certain of the Company's existing and future subsidiaries. Substantially all the assets of the Company collateralize the WWI Credit Facility.

On March 20, 2008, Standard & Poor's affirmed its BB+ rating on the WWI Credit Facility. On March 31, 2008, Moody's affirmed its Ba1 rating for the WWI Credit Facility.

*WW.com Credit Facilities*

On December 16, 2005, WW.com borrowed \$215,000 consisting of (i) a five year, senior secured first lien term loan facility in an aggregate principal amount of \$170,000 and (ii) a five and one-half year, senior secured second lien term loan facility in an aggregate principal amount of \$45,000, pursuant to two credit agreements among WW.com, Credit Suisse, as administrative agent and collateral agent, and the participating lenders (the WW.com Credit Facilities). As discussed above, the WW.com Credit Facilities were repaid in full in January 2007.

**7. Treasury Stock**

On October 9, 2003, the Company, at the direction of WWI's Board of Directors, authorized a program to repurchase up to \$250,000 of the Company's outstanding common stock. On each of June 13, 2005 and May 25, 2006, the Company, at the direction of WWI's Board of Directors, authorized adding an additional \$250,000 to this program. The repurchase program allows for shares to be purchased from time to time in the open market or through privately negotiated transactions. No shares will be purchased from Artal under the program.

During the nine months ended September 27, 2008, the Company purchased 2,786 shares of its common stock in the open market under the repurchase program at a total cost of \$115,973. Other than shares repurchased in connection with the Tender Offer and the share repurchase from Artal Holdings Sp. z o.o., an indirect subsidiary of Artal Group, S.A., (Artal Group, S.A., together with its parent and subsidiaries, Artal) referred to below, the Company purchased no shares of its common stock during the nine months ended September 29, 2007.

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On December 18, 2006, the Company commenced a tender offer in which it sought to acquire up to 8,300 shares of its common stock at a price between \$47.00 and \$54.00 per share (the Tender Offer). Prior to the Tender Offer, the Company entered into an agreement with Artal whereby Artal agreed to sell to the Company at the same price as was determined in the Tender Offer the number of its shares necessary to keep its percentage ownership in the Company at substantially the same level after the Tender Offer. Artal also agreed not to participate in the Tender Offer so that it would not affect the determination of the price in the Tender Offer.

The Tender Offer expired at midnight on January 18, 2007, and on January 26, 2007 approximately 8,548 shares were repurchased at a price of \$54.00 per share. The repurchased 8,548 shares consisted of the 8,300 shares the Company offered to purchase and 248 shares purchased pursuant to the Company's right to purchase up to an additional 2% of the outstanding shares as of November 30, 2006. On February 2, 2007, the Company repurchased 10,511 of its shares from Artal at a purchase price of \$54.00 per share pursuant to its prior agreement with Artal. In January 2007, the Company amended and supplemented the WWI Credit Facility to finance these repurchases. See Note 6 for further information on the WWI Credit Facility.

**8. Earnings Per Share**

Basic earnings per share (EPS) computations are calculated utilizing the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the periods presented. Diluted EPS is calculated utilizing the weighted average number of common shares outstanding adjusted for the effect of dilutive common stock equivalents.

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted EPS:

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 27, 2008	September 29, 2007	September 27, 2008	September 29, 2007
<b>Numerator:</b>				
Net income	\$ 52,670	\$ 49,511	\$ 156,675	\$ 161,360
<b>Denominator:</b>				
Weighted-average shares of common stock outstanding	77,897	79,159	78,735	80,985
Effect of dilutive common stock equivalents	226	449	276	575
Weighted-average diluted common shares outstanding	78,123	79,608	79,011	81,560
<b>EPS:</b>				
Basic	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.63	\$ 1.99	\$ 1.99
Diluted	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.62	\$ 1.98	\$ 1.98

The number of anti-dilutive common stock equivalents excluded from the calculation of weighted average shares for diluted EPS was 1,791 and 910 for the three months ended September 27, 2008 and September 29, 2007, respectively, and 1,582 and 1,079 for the nine months ended September 27, 2008 and September 29, 2007, respectively.



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**9. Stock Plans**

On May 12, 2004 and December 16, 1999, respectively, WWI's shareholders approved the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan (the 2004 Plan) and the 1999 Stock Purchase and Option Plan (the 1999 Plan). On May 6, 2008, the Company's shareholders approved the 2008 Stock Incentive Plan (the 2008 Plan) and together with the 2004 Plan and the 1999 Plan, the Stock Plans. These plans are designed to promote the long-term financial interests and growth of the Company by attracting, motivating and retaining employees with the ability to contribute to the success of the business and aligning compensation for our employees over a multi-year period directly with the interests of the shareholders of the Company. The Board of Directors or a committee thereof administers the Stock Plans.

Under the 2008 Plan, grants may take the following forms at the Compensation and Benefit Committee's discretion: non-qualified stock options, incentive stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock units (RSUs), restricted stock and other equity-based awards. As of its effective date, the maximum number of shares available for grant under the 2008 Plan is 3,000, subject to increase and adjustment as set forth in the 2008 Plan.

Under the 2004 Plan, grants may take the following forms at the Board of Directors' or a committee's sole discretion: non-qualified stock options, incentive stock options, stock appreciation rights, RSUs and other share-based awards. As of its effective date, the maximum number of shares available for grant under the 2004 Plan is 2,500.

Under the 1999 Plan, grants may take the following forms at the Board of Directors' or a committee's sole discretion: non-qualified stock options, incentive stock options, stock appreciation rights, restricted stock, RSUs, purchase stock, dividend equivalent rights, performance units, performance shares and other share-based grants. The maximum number of shares available for grant under this plan was 7,058.

On March 28, 2008, the Company granted 310 options and 86 RSUs from the 2004 Plan to certain members of management. The options and RSUs vest over three years and the options expire 10 years from the date of grant. The options and RSUs had an aggregate estimated grant-date fair value of \$3,565 and \$3,487, respectively.

**10. Income Taxes**

The Company's effective tax rate for the three and nine months ended September 27, 2008 was 38.9% and 39.8%, respectively. The Company's effective tax rate for both the three and nine months ended September 29, 2007 was 38.5%. For the three and nine months ended September 27, 2008, the primary differences between the U.S. federal statutory tax rate and the Company's effective tax rate were comprised of state income taxes, increases in valuation allowances and the U.K. VAT adjustment, which caused a shift in the mix of earnings.

For the three and nine months ended September 29, 2007, the primary differences between the U.S. federal statutory tax rate and the Company's effective tax rate were comprised of state income taxes and increases in valuation allowances, offset by lower statutory rates in certain foreign jurisdictions.

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**11. Legal**

*U.K. VAT Matter*

On July 7, 2006, the Company filed an amended notice of appeal with the U.K. VAT and Duties Tribunal, or VAT Tribunal, appealing a ruling by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, or HMRC, that from April 1, 2005 Weight Watchers meetings fees in the U.K. should be fully subject to 17.5% standard rated value added tax, or VAT. For over a decade prior to April 1, 2005, HMRC had determined that Weight Watchers meetings fees in the U.K. were only partially subject to 17.5% VAT. It is the Company's view that this prior determination by HMRC should remain in effect and this view was further supported on March 8, 2007 when the VAT Tribunal ruled that Weight Watchers meetings in the U.K. should only be partially subject to 17.5% VAT. On May 3, 2007, HMRC appealed to the High Court of Justice Chancery Division, or the High Court, against the VAT Tribunal's ruling in the Company's favor, and the appeal at the High Court was heard in November 2007.

On January 21, 2008, the High Court ruled by denying HMRC's appeal in part by upholding the VAT Tribunal's decision to the extent that, at the first meeting which members attend, meetings fees associated with such meeting are partially subject to 17.5% VAT. However, the High Court allowed HMRC's appeal in relation to meetings subsequent to the first meeting and concluded that meetings fees associated with subsequent meetings are fully subject to 17.5% VAT. On April 1, 2008, the Company filed an appeal to the Court of Appeal in part against the High Court's ruling in relation to meetings subsequent to the first meeting. On April 16, 2008, HMRC filed an appeal to the Court of Appeal in part against the High Court's ruling in relation to the first meeting which members attend. Following a hearing before the Court of Appeal on June 11 and 12, 2008, the Court of Appeal issued a ruling on June 25, 2008 that Weight Watchers meetings fees in the U.K., including fees relating to the first meeting members attend, were fully subject to 17.5% VAT, thus reversing in its entirety the U.K. VAT Tribunal's 2007 decision in the Company's favor.

In light of the Court of Appeal's ruling that Weight Watchers meetings fees in the U.K. were fully subject to 17.5% VAT and in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 5, Accounting for Contingencies (SFAS 5), the Company recorded a charge of approximately \$32,500 as an offset to revenue in the second quarter of fiscal 2008 for possible U.K. VAT liability (including interest) in excess of reserves previously recorded. Beginning in the third quarter of fiscal 2008, in accordance with SFAS 5, the Company recorded VAT charges associated with U.K. meeting fees as earned, consistent with the Court of Appeal's ruling. The Company intends to continue to defend the VAT Tribunal's 2007 ruling and on July 23, 2008 sought permission from the U.K. House of Lords to appeal the Court of Appeal's recent ruling. Although it is possible that the Company's cash flows in a particular fiscal quarter may be adversely affected by this matter, it is the opinion of management that the ultimate disposition of this matter will not have a material impact on the Company's financial position or ongoing results of operations or cash flows.

*U.K. Self-Employment Matter*

On July 27, 2007, HMRC issued to the Company notices of determination and decisions that, for the period April 2001 to April 2007, our leaders and certain other service providers should have been classified as employees for tax purposes and, as such, the Company should have withheld tax from the leaders and certain other service providers pursuant to the PAYE and NIC collection rules and remitted such amounts to the HMRC. As of November 3, 2008, the assessment associated with the notices of determination and decisions is approximately \$26,000. It is the Company's view that the U.K. leaders and other service providers identified by HMRC in its notices and decisions are self-employed and no withholding by the Company was required. On September 3, 2007, the Company appealed HMRC's

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notices and decisions as to these classifications and against any amount of PAYE and NIC liability claimed to be owed by the Company and on July 22, 2008, filed this appeal with the U.K. Special Commissioners. The Company intends to vigorously pursue this appeal and, although there can be no assurances, it believes it will ultimately prevail in its appeal. If such appeal is unsuccessful, it is possible that the Company's cash flows and results of operations in a particular fiscal quarter may be adversely affected by this matter. However, it is the opinion of management that the disposition of this matter will not have a material impact on the Company's financial position or ongoing results of operations or cash flows.

Due to the nature of its activities, the Company is also, at times, subject to pending and threatened legal actions that arise out of the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of management, based in part upon advice of legal counsel, the disposition of all such matters is not expected to have a material effect on the Company's results of operations, financial condition or cash flows.

**12. Derivative Instruments and Hedging**

The Company enters into interest rate swaps to hedge a substantial portion of its variable rate debt. As of September 27, 2008 and September 29, 2007, the Company held contracts for interest rate swaps with notional amounts totaling \$900,000 and \$1,050,000, respectively. The Company is hedging forecasted transactions for periods not exceeding the next four years. At September 27, 2008, given the current configuration of its debt, the Company estimates that no derivative gains or losses reported in accumulated other comprehensive income/(loss) will be reclassified to the statement of operations within the next twelve months.

As of September 27, 2008 and September 29, 2007, cumulative losses for qualifying hedges were reported as a component of accumulated other comprehensive income/(loss) in the amount of \$16,121 (\$26,431 before taxes) and \$3,535 (\$5,794 before taxes), respectively. For the three and nine months ended September 27, 2008 and September 29, 2007, there were no fair value adjustments recorded in the statement of operations since all hedges are considered qualifying.

In March 2008, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 161, Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133. This statement amends and expands the disclosure requirements related to derivative instruments and hedging activities by requiring qualitative disclosures about objectives and strategies for using derivatives, quantitative disclosures about fair value amounts of gains and losses on derivative instruments and disclosures about credit-risk-related contingent features in derivative agreements. The Company is required to adopt the provisions of this statement at the beginning of fiscal 2009, at which time it will amend its disclosures accordingly.

**13. Fair Value Measurements**

On December 30, 2007, the Company adopted the provisions of FASB Statement No. 157, Fair Value Measurements ( SFAS 157 ), which establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. SFAS 157 defines fair value as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. SFAS 157 also establishes a fair value hierarchy, which requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The standard describes three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

Level 1 Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.



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Level 2 Observable inputs other than Level 1 prices, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.

Level 3 Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

*Debt*

The fair value of the Company's debt, which is utilized for annual disclosure purposes only, is determined by utilizing quotes and market interest rates currently available to the Company for issuances of debt with similar terms and remaining maturities.

*Derivative Financial Instruments*

The fair values for the derivative financial instruments are valued using observable current market information such as the prevailing LIBOR interest rate and LIBOR yield curve rates. See Note 12 for disclosures related to derivative financial instruments. The following table presents the aggregate fair value of the Company's derivative financial instruments at September 27, 2008.

	Fair Value Measurements Using:			
	Total Fair Value	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Interest rate swap liability	\$ 31,138		\$ 31,138	

On February 12, 2008, the FASB issued Staff Position No. FAS 157-2, Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 157, which delays the effective date of SFAS 157 to fiscal 2009 for all non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities, except those that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on at least an annual basis. The Company adopted this Staff Position beginning December 30, 2007 and deferred the application of SFAS 157 to goodwill and other intangible assets until the beginning of fiscal 2009.

On December 30, 2007, the Company adopted the provisions of FASB Statement No. 159, The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Liabilities Including an amendment of FASB Statement No. 115 (SFAS 159). SFAS 159 permits companies to make an irrevocable election to measure certain financial assets and liabilities at fair value. Unrealized gains and losses on items for which the fair value option has been elected are required to be recorded in earnings at each subsequent reporting date. Upon adopting SFAS 159, the Company did not elect the fair value option under this standard for any of its financial assets or liabilities.



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**14. Comprehensive Income**

Comprehensive income for the Company includes net income, the effects of foreign currency translation adjustments and changes in the fair value of derivative instruments. Comprehensive income is as follows:

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	September 27, 2008	September 29, 2007	September 27, 2008	September 29, 2007
Net income	\$ 52,670	\$ 49,511	\$ 156,675	\$ 161,360
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(2,105)	2,907	(2,280)	7,822
Changes in fair value of derivatives	(628)	(12,473)	(1,127)	(4,490)
Comprehensive income	\$ 49,937	\$ 39,945	\$ 153,268	\$ 164,692

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**15. Segment Data**

The Company has two operating segments, each of which is a reportable segment: WWI and WW.com. These are two separate and distinct businesses for which discrete financial information is available. This discrete financial information is maintained and managed separately and is reviewed regularly by the chief operating decision maker. All intercompany activity is eliminated in consolidation.

Information about the Company's reportable operating segments is as follows:

	<b>Three Months Ended September 27, 2008</b>			
	<b>WWI</b>	<b>WW.com</b>	<b>Intercompany Eliminations</b>	<b>Consolidated</b>
Revenues from external customers	\$ 304,418	\$ 48,200	\$	\$ 352,618
Intercompany revenue	4,556		(4,556)	
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>308,974</b>	<b>48,200</b>	<b>(4,556)</b>	<b>352,618</b>
Depreciation and amortization	4,912	1,704		6,616
<b>Operating income</b>	<b>92,138</b>	<b>15,698</b>		<b>107,836</b>
Interest expense				21,342
Other expense, net				1,191
Provision for income taxes				33,151
<b>Income before minority interest</b>				<b>\$ 52,152</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,248,480</b>	<b>\$ 156,226</b>	<b>\$ (294,307)</b>	<b>\$ 1,110,399</b>

	<b>Three Months Ended September 29, 2007</b>			
	<b>WWI</b>	<b>WW.com</b>	<b>Intercompany Eliminations</b>	<b>Consolidated</b>
Revenues from external customers	\$ 298,366	\$ 39,084	\$	\$ 337,450
Intercompany revenue	3,681	921	(4,602)	
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>302,047</b>	<b>40,005</b>	<b>(4,602)</b>	<b>337,450</b>
Depreciation and amortization	4,829	1,010		5,839
<b>Operating income</b>	<b>92,344</b>	<b>14,155</b>		<b>106,499</b>
Interest expense				28,309
Other income, net				(2,315)

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Provision for income taxes					30,994
Net income					\$ 49,511
Total assets	\$ 1,238,227	\$ 93,832	\$ (294,571)	\$ 1,037,488	

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	<b>Nine Months Ended September 27, 2008</b>			
	<b>WWI</b>	<b>WW.com</b>	<b>Intercompany Eliminations</b>	<b>Consolidated</b>
Revenues from external customers	\$ 1,044,871	\$ 144,788	\$	\$ 1,189,659
Intercompany revenue	13,613	105	(13,718)	
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>1,058,484</b>	<b>144,893</b>	<b>(13,718)</b>	<b>1,189,659</b>
Depreciation and amortization	14,630	4,637		19,267
<b>Operating income</b>	<b>280,693</b>	<b>44,428</b>		<b>325,121</b>
Interest expense				68,220
Other income, net				(1,264)
Provision for income taxes				102,652
<b>Income before minority interest</b>				<b>\$ 155,513</b>
Total assets	\$ 1,248,480	\$ 156,226	\$ (294,307)	\$ 1,110,399

	<b>Nine Months Ended September 29, 2007</b>			
	<b>WWI</b>	<b>WW.com</b>	<b>Intercompany Eliminations</b>	<b>Consolidated</b>
Revenues from external customers	\$ 1,008,486	\$ 114,642	\$	\$ 1,123,128
Intercompany revenue	10,798	2,652	(13,450)	
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>1,019,284</b>	<b>117,294</b>	<b>(13,450)</b>	<b>1,123,128</b>
Depreciation and amortization	12,032	2,871		14,903
<b>Operating income</b>	<b>309,820</b>	<b>35,715</b>		<b>345,535</b>
Interest expense				82,558
Other income, net				(2,418)
Early extinguishment of debt				3,021
Provision for income taxes				101,014
<b>Net income</b>				<b>\$ 161,360</b>
Total assets	\$ 1,238,227	\$ 93,832	\$ (294,571)	\$ 1,037,488

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**16. Other Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements**

In December 2007, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 141 (Revised 2007), *Business Combinations*. This Statement established principles and requirements for how the acquirer (a) recognizes and measures the identifiable assets acquired, liabilities assumed and any non-controlling interest in the acquiree, (b) recognizes and measures the goodwill acquired and (c) determines what information to disclose. This Statement is effective for business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of fiscal 2009. The impact to the Company of adopting this standard will depend on the nature, terms and size of any business combinations completed after the effective date.

In December 2007, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 160, *Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements* an amendment of ARB No. 51. This Statement establishes accounting and reporting standards for noncontrolling interests, sometimes referred to as minority interests. This statement is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning on or after December 15, 2008. The Company does not expect the adoption of this standard to have a material impact on its financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

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**ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

In this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, or Form 10-Q, unless the context indicates otherwise: we, us, our and the Company refers to Weight Watchers International, Inc. and all of its subsidiaries consolidated for purposes of its financial statements, including WeightWatchers.com, Inc. and all of its subsidiaries; Weight Watchers International or WWI refers to Weight Watchers International, Inc. and all of its subsidiaries other than WeightWatchers.com, Inc. and all of its subsidiaries; WeightWatchers.com or WW.com refers to WeightWatchers.com, Inc. and all of its subsidiaries; NACO refers to our North American Company-owned operations; and Artal refers to Artal Group, S.A., together with its parent and subsidiaries.

Our fiscal year ends on the Saturday closest to December 31<sup>st</sup> and consists of either 52- or 53-week periods. In this Form 10-Q:

fiscal 2006 refers to our fiscal year ended December 30, 2006;

fiscal 2007 refers to our fiscal year ended December 29, 2007;

fiscal 2008 refers to our fiscal year ended January 3, 2009;

fiscal 2009 refers to our fiscal year ended January 2, 2010;

fiscal 2010 refers to our fiscal year ended January 1, 2011;

fiscal 2011 refers to our fiscal year ended December 31, 2011; and

fiscal 2012 refers to our fiscal year ended December 29, 2012.

You should read the following discussion in conjunction with our Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2007 that includes additional information about us, our results of operations, our financial position and our cash flows, and with our unaudited consolidated financial statements and related notes included in Item 1 of this Form 10-Q (collectively, the Consolidated Financial Statements). Except for historical information contained herein, this Form 10-Q includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), including, in particular, the statements about our plans, strategies and prospects under the heading Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations. We have used the words may, will, expect, anticipate, believe, estimate, plan, intend, and similar expressions in this Form 10-Q and the documents incorporated by reference in this Form 10-Q to identify forward-looking statements. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current views with respect to future events and financial performance. Actual results could differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions, including, among other things:

competition, including price competition and competition with self-help, pharmaceutical, surgical, dietary supplements and meal replacement products, and other weight-management brands, diets, programs and products;

risks associated with the relative success of our marketing and advertising;

risks associated with the continued attractiveness of our plans;



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risks associated with general economic conditions and consumer confidence; and

the other factors discussed under Item 1A. Risk Factors of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2007.

You should not put undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. You should understand that many important factors, including those discussed herein, could cause our results to differ materially from those expressed or suggested in any forward-looking statements. Except as required by law, we do not undertake any obligation to publicly release any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that occur after the date of this Form 10-Q or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

## **NON-GAAP FINANCIAL MEASURES**

To supplement our consolidated results presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, or GAAP, we have disclosed non-GAAP measures of operating results that exclude certain items. Net revenues and net income, as well as global meeting fees, international meeting fees, gross profit and margin, operating income and margin and effective tax rate are discussed in this Form 10-Q both as reported (on a GAAP basis) and excluding the impact of the recent adverse U.K. VAT ruling against us. See Note 11 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further details on this ruling. Selling, general and administrative expenses and operating income and margin are discussed in this Form 10-Q both as reported (on a GAAP basis) and excluding the expenses of our China joint venture. See Note 4 to the Consolidated Financial Statements for further details on our China joint venture. Our management believes these non-GAAP financial measures provide useful supplemental information to investors regarding the performance of our business and are useful for period-over-period comparisons of the performance of our business. While we believe that these financial measures are useful in evaluating our business, this information should be considered as supplemental in nature and is not meant to be considered in isolation, or as a substitute for the related financial information prepared in accordance with GAAP. In addition, these non-GAAP financial measures may not be the same as similarly entitled measures reported by other companies. See Results of Operations for the Three Months ended September 27, 2008 compared to the Three Months ended September 29, 2007 and Results of Operations for the Nine Months ended September 27, 2008 compared to the Nine Months ended September 29, 2007 in this Form 10-Q for reconciliations of these non-GAAP financial measures to the related GAAP measures.

## **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

For a discussion of the critical accounting policies affecting us, see Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Critical Accounting Policies of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2007. Our critical accounting policies have not changed since the end of fiscal 2007.



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**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 27, 2008 COMPARED TO THE THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 29, 2007**

Certain key metrics were negatively affected by an offset to revenue recorded in the third quarter 2008 resulting from the adverse U.K. VAT ruling received by the Company during the second quarter 2008 with respect to the imposition of value added tax, or VAT, on meeting fees collected by our U.K. subsidiary. We discuss the U.K. VAT ruling further in Note 11 of our Consolidated Financial Statements. After accounting for the aforementioned U.K. VAT ruling, our reported revenues for the third quarter of 2008 were \$352.6 million, an increase of \$15.1 million, or 4.5%, from the prior year quarter. Our global meeting fees were \$213.2 million, an increase of \$8.7 million, or 4.3%, from the prior year quarter, and our international meeting fees were \$66.9 million, an increase of \$7.7 million, or 13.0%, from the prior year quarter. Our gross profit margin of 55.1% was also affected by the offset to revenue resulting from the U.K. VAT ruling, decreasing 60 basis points from the prior year's margin of 55.7%. Our operating income margin was similarly affected, declining from 31.6% to 30.6%. Our operating income for the third quarter of 2008 was \$107.8 million, an increase of \$1.3 million from the prior year quarter. Our effective tax rate in the third quarter 2008 was also affected by the U.K. VAT ruling, increasing from 38.5% last year to 38.9% this year, due mainly to a shift in the mix of our earnings.

The table below shows our consolidated results for the three months ended September 27, 2008 as compared to the three months ended September 29, 2007 on both a GAAP basis and as adjusted to give effect to the U.K. VAT ruling. See Non-GAAP Financial Measures above. As a result of the adverse U.K. VAT ruling, our consolidated results for the three months ended September 27, 2008 include a negative adjustment of \$1.8 million to revenues, offset by a tax benefit of \$0.6 million.

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	(In millions, except per share amounts)		
	Three Months Ended	Three Months Ended	Increase/ (Decrease)
	September 27, 2008	September 29, 2007	
Revenues, net (as adjusted) <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 354.4	\$ 337.5	\$ 16.9
VAT ruling impact on Q3 2008 <sup>(1)</sup>	(1.8)		(1.8)
Revenues, net of VAT ruling (as reported)	352.6	337.5	15.1
Cost of revenues	158.2	149.6	8.6
Gross profit	194.4	187.9	6.5
Marketing expenses	40.0	39.2	0.8
Selling, general and administrative expenses	46.6	42.2	4.4
Operating income	107.8	106.5	1.3
Interest expense, net	21.3	28.3	(7.0)
Other expense/(income), net	1.2	(2.3)	3.5
Income before income taxes and minority interest	85.3	80.5	4.8
Provision for income taxes	33.1	31.0	2.1
Income before minority interest	52.2	49.5	2.7
Minority interest	0.5		0.5
Net income	\$ 52.7	\$ 49.5	\$ 3.2
Weighted average diluted shares outstanding	78.1	79.6	
Diluted EPS	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.62	\$ 0.05

(1) With respect to the three months ended September 27, 2008, revenues, net (as adjusted) is a non-GAAP financial measure that adjusts net revenues to exclude the impact of the U.K. VAT adjustment. See **Non-GAAP Financial Measures** above for an explanation of our use of non-GAAP financial measures.

As noted above, net revenues for the three months ended September 27, 2008 were \$352.6 million, an increase of \$15.1 million, or 4.5%, from \$337.5 million for the three months ended September 29, 2007. Excluding the impact of the U.K. VAT ruling on third quarter 2008 results, net revenues of \$354.4 million were up \$16.9 million, or 5.0%, versus the third quarter of last year. This includes a 0.6% benefit from favorable foreign currency exchange rates.

For the three months ended September 27, 2008, reported global meeting fees were \$213.2 million, an increase of \$8.7 million, or 4.3%, from the prior year quarter. Excluding the third quarter 2008 adjustment for the U.K. VAT ruling of \$1.8 million, global meeting fees totaled \$215.0 million in the third quarter of 2008 versus \$204.5 million for the comparable prior year period, an increase of \$10.5 million, or 5.1%, despite a 5.7% decline in global attendance volumes. Global attendance was 13.1 million in the third quarter of 2008 as compared to 13.9 million in the comparable prior year quarter, a 0.8 million decline. The increase in adjusted global meeting fees is attributable to the Monthly Pass commitment plan, or Monthly Pass. In addition to the U.S., we now have Monthly Pass internationally, in the U.K., Germany, and Australia, each of which launched in third quarter 2007, and in France, which launched during the second quarter of 2008. Monthly Pass drove third quarter 2008 paid weeks in the global meeting business to 21.1 million, a 7.3% increase versus the third quarter of 2007, and resulted in a 10.8% increase in the average meeting fee per attendee versus the prior year quarter on a constant currency basis.

In NACO, meeting fees for the three months ended September 27, 2008 were \$146.3 million, up \$1.0 million, or 0.7%, from \$145.3 million for the three months ended September 29, 2007. Attendances declined 6.3% versus the prior year quarter to 8.1 million including the impact of acquisitions, and



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declined 8.5% without the benefit of acquisitions. Paid weeks rose 1.0% as a result of the continued success of Monthly Pass, outpacing attendance and thereby driving a 7.0% increase in the average meeting fee per attendee versus the prior year period. In the U.S., the third quarter of 2008 marks the second anniversary of the launch of Monthly Pass.

Our reported international meeting fees were \$66.9 million, an increase of \$7.7 million, or 13.0%, from the prior year quarter. Excluding the adjustment for the U.K. VAT ruling, our international meeting fees were \$68.7 million in the third quarter 2008, an increase of \$9.5 million, or 16.0%, from \$59.2 million in the comparable prior year period. On a local currency basis, adjusted international meeting fees rose 13.7% from the prior year period. Total paid weeks in our international meeting business increased 23.5% versus the prior year period, with the U.K. up 22.2% and Continental Europe up 27.7%, despite a 4.8% decline in international attendance. The drivers of meeting fee revenue and paid weeks growth were Monthly Pass, introduced in the U.K. and Germany in the third quarter of 2007, and in France in the second quarter of 2008, and concurrent price increases taken in the U.K. and France.

Global product sales for the three months ended September 27, 2008 were \$68.6 million, down \$3.6 million, or 5.0%, from \$72.2 million for the three months ended September 29, 2007. International product sales increased to \$34.4 million, up \$0.9 million, or 2.7% above the prior year quarter in current dollars and 0.6% in local currencies, driven by increases in product sales per attendee. In NACO, product sales declined in the third quarter 2008, by 11.6%, or \$4.5 million, to \$34.2 million, primarily a result of the decline in attendance, coupled with lower sales per attendee of our more expensive one-time purchased products, such as starter kits and electronics.

Internet revenues, which include subscription revenue from sales of Weight Watchers Online and Weight Watchers eTools, as well as Internet advertising revenue, grew \$9.1 million, or 23.6%, for the three months ended September 27, 2008, to \$47.7 million, up from \$38.6 million for the three months ended September 29, 2007. End-of-period active Weight Watchers Online subscribers increased 24.0%, from 609,000 at September 29, 2007 to 755,000 at September 27, 2008, partially as a result of increasing our investment in television advertising. Strong signup volumes in all geographies, combined with the launch of Weight Watchers Online in France and the Netherlands, drove this growth.

Other revenue, comprised primarily of licensing revenues and our publications, was \$19.8 million for the three months ended September 27, 2008, an increase of \$1.4 million, or 7.6%, from \$18.4 million for the three months ended September 29, 2007. Licensing revenues increased \$1.6 million globally, or 11.0%, primarily driven by our dairy product licenses in the U.S.

Third quarter 2008 franchise royalties were \$2.2 million in North America and \$1.1 million internationally. Total franchise royalties were \$3.3 million, down 13.2% from \$3.8 million in the prior year quarter. Excluding lost commissions resulting from our recent franchise acquisitions, franchise royalties declined 5.2%.

Cost of revenues was \$158.2 million for the three months ended September 27, 2008, an increase of \$8.6 million, or 5.7%, from \$149.6 million for the three months ended September 29, 2007. Partially as a result of the offset to revenue resulting from the U.K. VAT ruling, our reported gross profit margin dropped 60 basis points, from 55.7% in the third quarter 2007 to 55.1% in the third quarter 2008. Excluding the adjustment for the U.K. VAT ruling, our gross profit was \$196.2 million, an increase of \$8.3 million, but our gross margin percentage declined 30 basis points to 55.4% from 55.7%. The decline was in the meeting business and was due to two factors: Monthly Pass ramp-up costs in Europe and lower product sales margins in NACO, driven by higher product and transport costs. The WeightWatchers.com business, which carries a structurally higher gross margin, experienced gross margin expansion and partially offset the meeting business decline.

Marketing expenses for the three months ended September 27, 2008 increased \$0.8 million, or 2.0%, to \$40.0 million, from \$39.2 million for the three months ended September 29, 2007. We invested

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in online and television marketing for WW.com, which proved successful in driving business, and increased advertising in Continental Europe. These increases were almost completely offset by lower spending in our U.S. and U.K. markets. Third quarter 2008 marketing expenses were 11.3% of revenues as compared to 11.6% in the same period last year.

Selling, general and administrative expenses were \$46.6 million for the three months ended September 27, 2008 as compared to \$42.2 million for the three months ended September 29, 2007, an increase of \$4.4 million, or 10.4%. Foreign currency exchange rates represent 1.1% of this increase. Information technology costs remain the significant driver of the increase, a result of ongoing upgrades to our systems infrastructure. Higher expense in this area added approximately 5.4% to selling, general and administrative expense in the third quarter 2008 and reflects the combined impact of increased depreciation as we brought new information technology systems online, and higher maintenance costs related to new systems already put in service. Our reported selling, general and administrative expenses included \$1.3 million of expense related to our China joint venture and were 13.2% of revenues for the third quarter 2008. Excluding the expenses associated with our China joint venture, selling, general and administrative expenses increased slightly, to 12.8% in the third quarter 2008 as compared to 12.5% in the same period last year.

Our reported operating income for the third quarter of 2008 was \$107.8 million, an increase of \$1.3 million from the prior year period. Our reported operating income margin declined 1.0% from 31.6% in the third quarter of 2007 to 30.6% in the third quarter 2008. Excluding the \$1.8 million adjustment for the U.K. VAT ruling and \$1.7 million of expenses of our China joint venture, our operating income for the third quarter 2008 was \$111.3 million, as compared to \$106.5 million in the third quarter of 2007, an increase of \$4.8 million, or 4.5%. The adjusted operating income margin excluding the adjustment for the U.K. VAT ruling and expenses of our China joint venture was 31.4% in this year's third quarter, a slight decrease versus 31.6% for the comparable period last year.

Interest expense was \$21.3 million for the 2008 third quarter, a decrease of \$7.0 million from \$28.3 million in the third quarter 2007, due to a decrease of \$111.3 million in our average debt outstanding and lower effective interest rates. The average effective interest rate for the 2008 third quarter declined to 5.10%, versus 6.38% in the prior year period, both as a result of a decline in LIBOR and the 0.25% reduction in our interest rate spread over LIBOR for the Term Loan A, Additional Term Loan A and Revolver, which took effect at the end of February 2008.

For the third quarter 2008, we reported other expense of \$1.2 million, as compared to other income of \$2.3 million in the third quarter of 2007. The change is primarily the result of the impact of foreign currency exchange rates on intercompany transactions.

The effective tax rate on our reported results for the third quarter of 2008 was 38.9%, as compared to 38.5% in the third quarter of 2007. Excluding the adjustment for the U.K. VAT ruling, our effective tax rate for the three months ended September 27, 2008 was 38.7%.

**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 27, 2008 COMPARED TO THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 29, 2007**

Certain key metrics were significantly negatively affected by an offset to revenue recorded in the second and third quarters of 2008 resulting from the adverse U.K. VAT ruling received by the Company during the second quarter 2008 with respect to the imposition of VAT on meeting fees collected by our U.K. subsidiary. We discuss the U.K. VAT ruling in Note 11 of our Consolidated Financial Statements. After accounting for the aforementioned U.K. VAT ruling, our reported revenues for the nine months ended September 27, 2008 were \$1,189.7 million, an increase of \$66.6 million, or 5.9%, from the prior year period. Our global meeting fees were \$693.6 million, an increase of \$21.5 million, or 3.2%, from the prior year period, and our international meeting fees were \$212.4 million, an increase of \$1.5 million, or

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0.7%, from the prior year period. Our gross profit margin of 54.7% was also affected by the offset to revenue resulting from the U.K. VAT ruling, decreasing 170 basis points from the prior year's margin of 56.4%. Our operating income margin was similarly affected, declining from 30.8% to 27.3%. Our operating income for the nine months ended September 27, 2008 was \$325.1 million, a decrease of \$20.4 million, or 5.9%, from the prior year period. Our effective tax rate was also affected by the U.K. VAT ruling, increasing from 38.5% for the nine months ended September 29, 2007 to 39.8% for the nine months ended September 27, 2008, due mainly to a shift in the mix of our earnings.

The table below shows our consolidated results for the nine months ended September 27, 2008 as compared to the nine months ended September 29, 2007 on both a GAAP basis and as adjusted to give effect to the U.K. VAT ruling. See **Non-GAAP Financial Measures** above. As a result of the adverse U.K. VAT ruling, our consolidated results for the nine months ended September 27, 2008 include a negative aggregate adjustment of \$34.2 million to revenues (including interest), offset by a tax benefit of \$11.0 million.

	(In millions, except per share amounts)		
	Nine Months Ended September 27, 2008	Nine Months Ended September 29, 2007	Increase/ (Decrease)
Revenues, net (as adjusted) <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 1,223.9	\$ 1,123.1	\$ 100.8
VAT ruling impact on Q1-Q3 2008 <sup>(1)</sup>	(6.3)		(6.3)
VAT ruling impact on prior years 2005-2007 <sup>(1)</sup>	(27.9)		(27.9)
Revenues, net of VAT ruling (as reported)	1,189.7	1,123.1	66.6
Cost of revenues	539.3	489.5	49.8
Gross profit	650.4	633.6	16.8
Marketing expenses	186.6	163.6	23.0
Selling, general and administrative expenses	138.7	124.5	14.2
Operating income	325.1	345.5	(20.4)
Interest expense, net	68.2	82.6	(14.4)
Other income, net	(1.3)	(2.5)	1.2
Early extinguishment of debt		3.0	(3.0)
Income before income taxes and minority interest	258.2	262.4	(4.2)
Provision for income taxes	102.7	101.0	1.7
Income before minority interest	155.5	161.4	(5.9)
Minority interest	1.2		1.2
Net income	\$ 156.7	\$ 161.4	\$ (4.7)
Weighted average diluted shares outstanding	79.0	81.6	
Diluted EPS	\$ 1.98	\$ 1.98	\$

(1) With respect to the nine months ended September 27, 2008, revenues, net (as adjusted) is a non-GAAP financial measure that adjusts net revenues to exclude the impact of the U.K. VAT adjustment. See **Non-GAAP Financial Measures** above or an explanation of our use of non-GAAP financial measures.

As noted above, net revenues for the nine months ended September 27, 2008 were \$1,189.7 million, an increase of \$66.6 million, or 5.9%, from \$1,123.1 million for the nine months ended September 29, 2007. Excluding the full impact of the U.K. VAT ruling on current and prior year periods, net revenues of \$1,223.9 million increased \$100.8 million, or 9.0%, versus the nine months ended September 29, 2007. This includes a \$29.1 million, or 2.6%, benefit from favorable foreign currency exchange rates.



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The U.K. VAT ruling as it currently stands will negatively impact net revenues on an ongoing basis. For 2008, we estimate an annualized impact to net revenues of \$8.0 million. The table above shows that \$6.3 million of the total charge related to the U.K. VAT ruling pertained specifically to the first nine months of 2008. Earned net revenues in the first nine months of 2008, reduced for this \$6.3 million portion of the U.K. VAT charge, were \$1,217.6 million.

For the nine months ended September 27, 2008, reported global meeting fees were \$693.6 million, an increase of \$21.5 million, or 3.2%, from the prior year. Excluding the aggregate adjustment for the U.K. VAT ruling of \$34.2 million, global meeting fees totaled \$727.8 million in the first nine months of 2008 versus \$672.1 million for the comparable prior year period, an increase of \$55.7 million, or 8.3%, including the favorable impact of foreign currency translation. Global attendance was 47.2 million in the first nine months of 2008 as compared to 49.7 million in the comparable prior year period, a 2.5 million, or 5.0%, decline. The increase in global meeting fees is attributable to Monthly Pass. We now have Monthly Pass outside the U.S., in the U.K., Germany, and Australia, each of which launched in third quarter 2007, and in France, which launched during the second quarter of 2008. Monthly Pass drove paid weeks in the global meeting business to 69.8 million in the first nine months of 2008, a 7.7% increase versus the first nine months of 2007, and resulted in an 11.3% increase in the average meeting fee per attendee versus the prior year period on a constant currency basis.

In NACO, meeting fees for the nine months ended September 27, 2008 were \$481.2 million, up \$20.0 million, or 4.3%, from \$461.2 million for the nine months ended September 29, 2007. Attendances declined 5.0% versus the prior year period to 28.6 million including the impact of acquisitions, and declined 6.8% without the benefit of acquisitions. Paid weeks rose 4.9% as a result of the continued success of Monthly Pass, outpacing attendance and thereby driving a 9.9% increase in the average meeting fee per attendee.

Our reported international meeting fees were \$212.4 million for the nine months ended September 27, 2008, an increase of \$1.5 million, or 0.7%, from the prior year period. Excluding the adjustment for the U.K. VAT ruling, our international meeting fees were \$246.6 million for the nine months ended September 27, 2008, an increase of \$35.7 million, or 16.9%, from \$210.9 million for the nine months ended September 29, 2007. On a local currency basis, international meeting fees rose 9.6% compared to the prior year period. Total paid weeks in our international meeting business increased 14.0% versus the prior year period, with the U.K. up 16.5% and Continental Europe up 14.6%. The introduction of Monthly Pass in the U.K. and Germany in the third quarter of 2007, coupled with a concurrent price increase in the U.K., drove international meeting fee revenue growth in the first nine months of 2008, despite a 5.0% decline in attendances.

Global product sales for the nine months ended September 27, 2008 were \$276.6 million, up \$9.7 million, or 3.6%, from \$266.9 million for the nine months ended September 29, 2007, driven by an increase in product sales per attendee across all of our markets. A regular strategy of new product launches, rotation of product offerings, and updating our enrollment products has resulted in the continuing trend of growth in product sales per attendee. Internationally, product sales were strong, increasing 11.1%, or \$13.5 million, from the nine months ended September 29, 2007 to \$135.3 million for the nine months ended September 27, 2008. In local currencies, international product sales rose 3.6%, as compared with the prior year period. In NACO, product sales declined 2.6%, or \$3.8 million, to \$141.3 million in the first nine months of 2008.

Internet revenues, which include subscription revenue from sales of Weight Watchers Online and Weight Watchers eTools, as well as Internet advertising revenue, grew \$30.0 million, or 26.6%, to \$142.6 million for the nine months ended September 27, 2008 from \$112.6 million for the nine months ended September 29, 2007. End-of-period active Weight Watchers Online subscribers increased 24.0%, from 609,000 at September 29, 2007 to 755,000 at September 27, 2008. Strong signup volumes in all geographies, combined with the launch of Weight Watchers Online in France and the Netherlands, contributed to this growth.



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Other revenue, comprised primarily of licensing revenues and our publications, was \$63.8 million for the nine months ended September 27, 2008, an increase of \$5.8 million, or 10.0%, from \$58.0 million for the nine months ended September 29, 2007. Licensing revenues increased \$6.2 million globally, or 14.0%, as a result of higher royalties on our existing ice cream and yogurt licenses and new product licenses in the U.S. as well as higher royalties on various other products in the U.K.

Franchise royalties in the first nine months of 2008 were \$8.8 million in North America and \$4.3 million internationally. Total franchise royalties were \$13.1 million in the first nine months of 2008, and were \$0.4 million lower than the prior year period; however, excluding lost commissions resulting from our recent franchise acquisitions, franchise royalties rose 3.4%.

Cost of revenues was \$539.3 million for the first nine months of 2008, an increase of \$49.8 million, or 10.2%, from \$489.5 million for the first nine months of 2007. Primarily as a result of the offset to revenue resulting from the U.K. VAT ruling, our reported gross profit margin dropped 170 basis points, from 56.4% in the first nine months of 2007 to 54.7% in the first nine months of 2008. Excluding the adjustment for the U.K. VAT ruling, our gross margin was 55.9% for the first nine months of 2008. While gross profit in absolute dollars increased \$51.0 million to \$684.6 million, our adjusted gross profit margin declined 50 basis points. The decline was primarily in the meeting business and was due to start-up costs for Monthly Pass in Europe; lower product sales margins in NACO driven by product mix and higher transport costs; and lower meeting averages in some of our countries. The impact of this decline was partially offset by the continued growth of the WW.com business, which carries a structurally higher gross margin.

Marketing expenses for the first nine months of 2008 rose \$23.0 million, or 14.1%, to \$186.6 million, from \$163.6 million for the first nine months of 2007, with foreign currency exchange rates accounting for \$5.4 million of the increase. We made significant marketing investments in the WW.com business during the first nine months of 2008 which proved successful, including using television advertising for the first time in the U.K. and Germany, and increasing our online advertising in all WeightWatchers.com geographies. In the meeting business, our international geographies experienced an increase in marketing as well, driven by a combination of more expensive primetime television media coupled with additional television advertising in Continental Europe, partially to support the launch of our new programs there. On a reported basis, marketing expenses for the first nine months of 2008 were 15.7% of revenues. Excluding the adjustment to revenues for the U.K. VAT ruling, our marketing expenses were 15.2% of revenues for the nine months ended September 27, 2008, as compared to 14.6% in the same period last year.

Selling, general and administrative expenses were \$138.7 million for the first nine months of 2008, as compared to \$124.5 million for the first nine months of 2007, an increase of \$14.2 million, or 11.4%. Information technology costs remain the significant driver of the increase, representing our ongoing investment to upgrade our systems infrastructure. Higher expense in this area resulted from a combination of increased depreciation as we brought new information technology systems online, and higher maintenance costs related to new systems already put in service. Foreign currency exchange rates as well as expenses of our China joint venture also contributed to the increase. On a reported basis, selling, general and administrative expenses for the first nine months of 2008 were 11.7% of revenues. Excluding the adjustment to revenues for the U.K. VAT ruling, selling, general and administrative expenses were up slightly versus last year as a percentage of net revenues, at 11.3% for the nine months ended September 27, 2008, versus 11.1% in the same period of 2007.

Our reported operating income for the nine months ended September 27, 2008 was \$325.1 million, a decrease of \$20.4 million, or 5.9%, as compared to the prior year period. Our reported operating income

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margin declined from 30.8% for the nine months ended September 29, 2007 to 27.3% for the nine months ended September 27, 2008. Excluding the adjustment for the U.K. VAT ruling, our operating income was \$359.3 million for the first nine months of 2008 as compared to \$345.5 million in the prior year period, an increase of \$13.8 million, or 4.0%. The adjusted operating income margin for the nine months ended September 27, 2008 was 29.4%, a decrease of 140 basis points from 30.8% in the comparable period last year. This reduction in margin was the result of the decline in gross margin coupled with higher marketing expense.

Interest expense was \$68.2 million for the nine months ended September 27, 2008, a decrease of \$14.4 million, or 17.4%, from \$82.6 million for the nine months ended September 29, 2007, due to lower effective interest rates and a \$48.9 million decrease in our average debt outstanding. The average effective interest rate for the nine months ended September 27, 2008 declined significantly to 5.43%, versus 6.42% in the comparable prior year period, as a result of a decline in LIBOR and the 0.25% reduction in our interest rate spread over LIBOR for the Term Loan A, Additional Term Loan A and the Revolver, which took effect at the end of February 2008.

For the nine months ended September 27, 2008, we reported other income of \$1.3 million, as compared to \$2.5 million in the comparable prior year period. The decrease is primarily the result of the impact of foreign currency exchange rates on intercompany transactions.

In the first quarter of 2007, we recorded a charge of \$3.0 million for early extinguishment of debt. This charge reflected the write-off of deferred financing costs associated with the WW.com Credit Facilities, which were paid down during that period (as further explained in Note 6 to the Consolidated Financial Statements).

The effective tax rate on our reported results for the first nine months of 2008 was 39.8%, as compared to 38.5% in the first nine months of 2007. Excluding the adjustment for the U.K. VAT ruling, our effective tax rate for the nine months ended September 27, 2008 was 38.9%.

## **LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

### *Sources and Uses of Cash*

For the nine months ended September 27, 2008, cash and cash equivalents were \$57.8 million, an increase of \$18.0 million from the end of fiscal 2007. Cash flows provided by operating activities were \$234.1 million, exceeding the period's \$156.7 million net income by \$77.4 million. The excess of cash over net income arose from changes in our working capital, as described below, and differences between book and cash taxes. Funds used for investing and financing activities combined totaled \$213.9 million. Investing activities utilized \$63.7 million, including \$39.7 million for franchise acquisitions and \$23.9 million for capital spending. Cash used for financing activities totaled \$150.2 million, including \$116.0 million used to repurchase 2.8 million shares of our common stock, dividend payments of \$41.6 million and net long-term debt payments of \$5.6 million.

For the nine months ended September 29, 2007, cash and cash equivalents were \$48.7 million, an increase of \$11.2 million from the end of fiscal 2006. Cash flows provided by operating activities were \$265.3 million. The cash provided by operations exceeded our net income of \$161.4 million, with the excess arising from changes in our working capital, in particular a significant increase in deferred revenues, and differences between book and cash taxes. Funds used for investing and financing activities combined totaled \$256.5 million. Investing activities utilized \$38.2 million, primarily for acquisitions of \$16.8 million, and capital spending of \$21.3 million. Cash used for financing activities totaled \$218.3 million. This included the repurchase of 19.1 million shares of our common stock for \$1,033.6 million in connection with our Tender Offer and share repurchase from Artal (as further explained in *Liquidity and Capital Resources - Stock Transactions*) and dividend payments of \$44.6 million, financed primarily by net proceeds from borrowings of \$837.1 million.

**Table of Contents***Balance Sheet*

Comparing our balance sheet at September 27, 2008 with that at December 29, 2007, our cash balance increased by \$18.0 million. Our working capital deficit at September 27, 2008 was \$269.7 million, including \$57.8 million of cash (as discussed above), as compared to \$172.1 million at December 29, 2007, including \$39.8 million of cash. Excluding the change in cash, the working capital deficit increased by \$115.6 million during the first nine months of 2008.

Of the \$115.6 million increase in negative working capital, \$96.3 million represented increases in the current portion of our long-term debt, \$7.6 million represented an increase in our derivative payable due to changes in the interest rate yield curve and \$37.5 million represented the increase in the U.K. VAT liability. Negative working capital decreased \$3.7 million as a result of higher deferred taxes. The remaining \$22.1 million related to operational items and is in keeping with the normal seasonality of the business, notably a \$12.5 million reduction in inventory and a \$23.9 million increase in deferred revenue for the growth in member prepayments associated with our commitment plans, notably Monthly Pass. These changes were partially offset by a \$51.9 million increase in net payables and accrued expenses and \$6.6 million growth in our receivables balance.

*Long-Term Debt*

As of September 27, 2008, our credit facilities consisted of Term Loan A, Additional Term Loan A, Term Loan B, and the Revolver, collectively, the WWI Credit Facility. At September 27, 2008, we had debt of \$1,642.5 million and had additional availability under our \$500.0 million Revolver of \$363.0 million.

At September 27, 2008 and December 29, 2007, our debt consisted entirely of variable-rate instruments. The average interest rate on our debt was approximately 4.0% and 6.5% per annum at September 27, 2008 and December 29, 2007, respectively.

The following schedule sets forth our long-term debt obligations and interest rates at September 27, 2008:

**Long-Term Debt****At September 27, 2008****(Balances in millions)**

	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Interest Rate</b>
Revolver due 2011	\$ 135.0	3.92%
Term Loan A due 2011	315.0	3.81%
Additional Term Loan A due 2013	700.0	3.81%
Term Loan B due 2014	492.5	4.31%
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>1,642.5</b>	
Less Current Portion	141.9	
<b>Total Long-Term Debt</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.6</b>	

The Term Loan A, Additional Term Loan A and the Revolver bear interest at an initial rate equal to LIBOR plus 1.25% per annum or, at our option, the alternate base rate (as defined in the WWI Credit Facility agreements). During the first quarter of fiscal 2008, the interest rate on the Term Loan A,

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Additional Term Loan A and the Revolver was reduced to LIBOR plus 1.0% per annum or, at our option, the alternate base rate (as defined in the WWI Credit Facility agreements). The Term Loan B bears interest at an initial rate equal to LIBOR plus 1.5% per annum or, at our option, the alternate base rate (as defined in the WWI Credit Facility agreements). In addition to paying interest on outstanding principal under the WWI Credit Facility, we are required to pay a commitment fee to the lenders under the Revolver with respect to the unused commitments at an initial rate equal to 0.25% per year. During the first quarter of fiscal 2008, this commitment fee was reduced to 0.20% per annum.

The WWI Credit Facility contains customary covenants, including covenants that, in certain circumstances, restrict our ability to incur additional indebtedness, pay dividends on and redeem capital stock, make other payments, including investments, sell our assets and enter into consolidations, mergers and transfers of all or substantially all of our assets. The WWI Credit Facility also requires us to maintain specified financial ratios and satisfy certain financial condition tests. At September 27, 2008, we were in compliance with all of the required financial ratios and also met all of the financial condition tests and we expect to continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The WWI Credit Facility contains customary events of default. Upon the occurrence of an event of default under the WWI Credit Facility, the lenders thereunder may cease making loans and declare amounts outstanding to be immediately due and payable. The WWI Credit Facility is guaranteed by certain of our existing and future subsidiaries. Substantially all of our assets collateralize the WWI Credit Facility.

On March 20, 2008, Standard & Poor's affirmed its BB+ rating on the WWI Credit Facility. On March 31, 2008, Moody's affirmed its Ba1 rating for the WWI Credit Facility.

The following schedule sets forth our debt obligations by fiscal year:

<b>Total Debt Obligation</b>	
<b>(Including Current Portion)</b>	
<b>As of September 27, 2008</b>	
(in millions)	
Remainder of 2008	\$ 20.0
2009	162.5
2010	215.0
2011	490.0
2012	229.0
Thereafter	526.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,642.5</b>

Debt obligations due to be repaid in the next 12 months are expected to be satisfied with operating cash flows. We believe that cash flows from operating activities, together with borrowings available under our Revolver, will be sufficient for the next 12 months to fund currently anticipated capital expenditure requirements, debt service requirements and working capital requirements.

*Dividends*

We have issued a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.175 per share every quarter beginning with the first quarter of fiscal 2006. Prior to these dividends, we had not declared or paid any cash dividends on our common stock since our acquisition by Artal in 1999.

Any decision to declare and pay dividends in the future will be made at the discretion of our Board of Directors, after taking into account our financial results, capital requirements and other factors they may deem relevant. Our Board of Directors may decide at any time to increase or decrease the amount of dividends or discontinue the payment of dividends based on these factors. The WWI Credit Facility also contains restrictions on our ability to pay dividends on our common stock. The WWI Credit Facility

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provides that we are permitted to pay dividends and extraordinary dividends so long as we are not in default under our credit agreement. However, payment of extraordinary dividends shall not exceed \$150 million in any fiscal year if net debt to EBITDA (as defined in the WWI Credit Facility agreements) is greater than 3.75:1 and investment grade rating date (as defined in the WWI Credit Facility agreements) has not occurred. We do not expect this restriction to impair our ability to pay dividends, but it could do so. See Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Liquidity and Capital Resources Long-Term Debt for further description of the WWI Credit Facility.

### *Stock Transactions*

On December 18, 2006, we commenced a Tender Offer in which we sought to acquire up to 8.3 million shares of our common stock at a price between \$47.00 and \$54.00 per share. Prior to the Tender Offer, we entered into an agreement with Artal whereby Artal agreed to sell to us at the same price as was determined in the Tender Offer the number of our shares necessary to keep its percentage ownership in us at substantially the same level after the Tender Offer. Artal also agreed not to participate in the Tender Offer so that it would not affect the determination of the price in the Tender Offer.

The Tender Offer expired at midnight on January 18, 2007, and on January 26, 2007 we repurchased approximately 8.5 million shares at a price of \$54.00 per share. The repurchased 8.5 million shares consisted of the 8.3 million shares we offered to purchase and 0.2 million shares purchased pursuant to our right to purchase up to an additional 2% of the outstanding shares as of November 30, 2006. On February 2, 2007, we repurchased 10.5 million of our shares from Artal at a purchase price of \$54.00 per share pursuant to our prior agreement with Artal.

On October 9, 2003, our Board of Directors authorized a program to repurchase up to \$250.0 million of our outstanding common stock. On each of June 13, 2005 and May 25, 2006, our Board of Directors authorized adding an additional \$250.0 million to this plan. The repurchase program allows for shares to be purchased from time to time in the open market or through privately negotiated transactions. No shares will be purchased from Artal under the program. During the nine months ended September 27, 2008, we purchased 2.8 million shares of our common stock in the open market under the repurchase program at a total cost of \$116.0 million. Other than the aforementioned Tender Offer and share repurchase from Artal, we purchased no shares of our common stock during the nine months ended September 29, 2007.

### *Factors Affecting Future Liquidity*

Any future acquisitions, joint ventures or other similar transactions could require additional capital and we cannot be certain that any additional capital will be available on acceptable terms or at all. Our ability to fund our capital expenditure requirements, interest, principal and dividend payment obligations and working capital requirements and to comply with all of the financial covenants under our debt agreements depends on our future operations, performance and cash flow. These are subject to prevailing economic conditions and to financial, business and other factors, some of which are beyond our control.

## **OFF-BALANCE SHEET TRANSACTIONS**

As part of our ongoing business, we do not participate in transactions that generate relationships with unconsolidated entities or financial partnerships established for the purpose of facilitating off-balance sheet arrangements or other contractually narrow or limited purposes, such as entities often referred to as structured finance or special purpose entities.

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### **SEASONALITY**

Our business is seasonal, with revenues generally decreasing at year end and during the summer months. Our advertising schedule supports the three key enrollment-generating seasons of the year: winter, spring and fall, with winter having the highest concentration of advertising spending. The timing of certain holidays, particularly Easter, which precedes the spring marketing campaign and occurs between March 22 and April 25, may affect our results of operations and the year-to-year comparability of our results. For example, in 2008, Easter fell on March 23, which means that our spring marketing campaign began in the first quarter of fiscal 2008 as opposed to the second quarter of fiscal 2007. Our operating income for the first half of the year is generally the strongest. While WW.com experiences similar seasonality in terms of new subscriber signups, its revenue tends to be less seasonal because it amortizes subscription revenue over the related subscription period.

### **RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS**

In March 2008, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 161, *Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities* an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133. This statement amends and expands the disclosure requirements related to derivative instruments and hedging activities by requiring qualitative disclosures about objectives and strategies for using derivatives, quantitative disclosures about fair value amounts of gains and losses on derivative instruments and disclosures about credit-risk-related contingent features in derivative agreements. We are required to adopt the provisions of this statement at the beginning of fiscal 2009 and we do not expect this adoption to have a material impact on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In December 2007, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 160, *Noncontrolling Interest in Consolidated Financial Statements* an amendment of ARB No. 51. This statement establishes accounting and reporting standards for noncontrolling interests, sometimes referred to as minority interests. This statement is effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those fiscal years, beginning on or after December 15, 2008. We do not expect the adoption of this standard to have a material impact on our financial position, results of operations or ongoing cash flows.

In December 2007, the FASB issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 141 (Revised 2007), *Business Combinations*. This statement established principles and requirements for how the acquirer (a) recognizes and measures the identifiable assets acquired, liabilities assumed and any non-controlling interest in the acquiree, (b) recognizes and measures the goodwill acquired and (c) determines what information to disclose. This statement is effective for business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of fiscal 2009. The impact to us of adopting this standard will depend on the nature, terms and size of any business combinations completed after the effective date.

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**ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

We are exposed to foreign currency fluctuations and interest rate changes. Since 100% of our debt is variable rate-based, any changes in market interest rates will cause a direct proportional change in our interest expense associated with our long-term debt. Accordingly, we have entered into interest rate swaps to hedge a substantial portion of our variable rate debt, which mitigate a substantial portion of the associated market risk.

For a more detailed discussion of our quantitative and qualitative disclosures about market risks that affect us, see Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2007. Our exposure to market risks has not changed materially since the end of fiscal 2007.

**ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

We maintain disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in our reports under 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 that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures. Any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives. Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based upon that evaluation and subject to the foregoing, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that the design and operation of our disclosure controls were effective at the reasonable assurance level.

In addition, there was no change in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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**PART II OTHER INFORMATION**

**ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

*U.K. VAT Matter*

On July 7, 2006, we filed an amended notice of appeal with the U.K. VAT and Duties Tribunal, or VAT Tribunal, appealing a ruling by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, or HMRC, that from April 1, 2005 Weight Watchers meetings fees in the U.K. should be fully subject to 17.5% standard rated value added tax, or VAT. For over a decade prior to April 1, 2005, HMRC had determined that Weight Watchers meetings fees in the U.K. were only partially subject to 17.5% VAT. It is our view that this prior determination by HMRC should remain in effect and this view was further supported on March 8, 2007 when the VAT Tribunal ruled that Weight Watchers meetings in the U.K. should only be partially subject to 17.5% VAT. On May 3, 2007, HMRC appealed to the High Court of Justice Chancery Division, or the High Court, against the VAT Tribunal's ruling in our favor, and the appeal at the High Court was heard in November 2007.

On January 21, 2008, the High Court ruled by denying HMRC's appeal in part by upholding the VAT Tribunal's decision to the extent that, at the first meeting which members attend, meetings fees associated with such meeting are partially subject to 17.5% VAT. However, the High Court allowed HMRC's appeal in relation to meetings subsequent to the first meeting and concluded that meetings fees associated with subsequent meetings are fully subject to 17.5% VAT. On April 1, 2008, we filed an appeal to the Court of Appeal in part against the High Court's ruling in relation to meetings subsequent to the first meeting. On April 16, 2008, HMRC filed an appeal to the Court of Appeal in part against the High Court's ruling in relation to the first meeting which members attend. Following a hearing before the Court of Appeal on June 11 and 12, 2008, the Court of Appeal issued a ruling on June 25, 2008 that Weight Watchers meetings fees in the U.K., including fees relating to the first meeting members attend, were fully subject to 17.5% VAT, thus reversing in its entirety the U.K. VAT Tribunal's 2007 decision in our favor.

In light of the Court of Appeal's ruling that Weight Watchers meetings fees in the U.K. were fully subject to 17.5% VAT and in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 5, Accounting for Contingencies (SFAS 5), we recorded a charge of approximately \$32.5 million as an offset to revenue in the second quarter of fiscal 2008 for possible U.K. VAT liability (including interest) in excess of reserves previously recorded. Beginning in the third quarter of fiscal 2008, in accordance with SFAS 5, we recorded VAT charges associated with U.K. meeting fees as earned, consistent with the Court of Appeal's ruling. We intend to continue to defend the VAT Tribunal's 2007 ruling and on July 23, 2008 sought permission from the U.K. House of Lords to appeal the Court of Appeal's recent ruling. Although it is possible that our cash flows in a particular fiscal quarter may be adversely affected by this matter, it is the opinion of management that the ultimate disposition of this matter will not have a material impact on our financial position or ongoing results of operations or cash flows.

*U.K. Self-Employment Matter*

On July 27, 2007, HMRC issued to us notices of determination and decisions that, for the period April 2001 to April 2007, our leaders and certain other service providers should have been classified as employees for tax purposes and, as such, we should have withheld tax from the leaders and certain other service providers pursuant to the PAYE and NIC collection rules and remitted such amounts to the HMRC. As of November 3, 2008, the assessment associated with the notices of determination and decisions is approximately \$26 million. It is our view that the U.K. leaders and other service providers identified by HMRC in its notices and decisions are self-employed and no withholding by us was required. On September 3, 2007, we appealed HMRC's notices and decisions as to these classifications and against any amount of PAYE and NIC liability claimed to be owed by us and on July 22, 2008, filed this appeal with the U.K. Special Commissioners. We intend to vigorously pursue this appeal and, although there can be no assurances, we believe we will ultimately prevail in our appeal. If such appeal is unsuccessful, it is possible that our cash flows and results of operations in a particular fiscal quarter may



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be adversely affected by this matter. However, it is the opinion of management that the disposition of this matter will not have a material impact on our financial position or ongoing results of operations or cash flows.

Due to the nature of its activities, we are also, at times, subject to pending and threatened legal actions that arise out of the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of management, based in part upon advice of legal counsel, the disposition of all such matters is not expected to have a material effect on our results of operations, financial condition or cash flows.

**ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS**

There have been no material changes in the risk factors at September 27, 2008 from those detailed in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC for fiscal 2007.

**ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS**

	Total Number of Shares Purchased	Average Price Paid per Share	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs (1)	Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs
June 29 - August 2		\$		\$ 162,983,634
August 3 - August 30	931,100	39.31	931,100	126,386,144
August 31 - September 27	662,100	39.14	662,100	100,473,445
Total	1,593,200	\$ 39.24	1,593,200	100,473,445

(1) For a discussion of the Company's program to repurchase its common stock, see Note 7 to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

**ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES**

Nothing to report under this item.

**ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS**

Nothing to report under this item.

**ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION**

Nothing to report under this item.

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**ITEM 6. EXHIBITS**

<u>Exhibit 10.1</u>	Intellectual Property License Agreement, dated as of July 7, 2008, by and between Weight Watchers International, Inc. and Weight Watchers Danone China Limited.
<u>Exhibit 31.1</u>	Certification pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a) under the Exchange Act.
<u>Exhibit 31.2</u>	Certification pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) and Rule 15d-14(a) under the Exchange Act.
<u>Exhibit 32.1</u>	Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350.
<u>Exhibit 32.2</u>	Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350.

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**SIGNATURES**

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

WEIGHT WATCHERS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Date: November 6, 2008

By: /s/ DAVID P. KIRCHHOFF  
David P. Kirchhoff  
President, Chief Executive Officer and Director  
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: November 6, 2008

By: /s/ ANN M. SARDINI  
Ann M. Sardini  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

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