

UNIFIRST CORP
Form 10-Q
April 09, 2015
Table Of Contents

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended **February 28, 2015**

OR

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number: **001-08504**

UNIFIRST CORPORATION

(Exact name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Massachusetts	04-2103460
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

68 Jonspin Road, Wilmington, MA	01887
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)	(Zip Code)

(978) 658-8888
(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

Edgar Filing: UNIFIRST CORP - Form 10-Q

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes No

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Smaller Reporting Company Non-accelerated filer

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes No

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer’s classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date.

The number of outstanding shares of UniFirst Corporation Common Stock and Class B Common Stock at April 3, 2015 were 15,276,584 and 4,859,519, respectively.

Table Of Contents

UniFirst Corporation

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q

For the Quarter ended February 28, 2015

Table of Contents

Part I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1 – Financial Statements

Consolidated Statements of Income for the Thirteen and Twenty-six Weeks ended February 28, 2015 and March 1, 2014

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income for the Thirteen and Twenty-six Weeks ended February 28, 2015 and March 1, 2014

Consolidated Balance Sheets as of February 28, 2015 and August 30, 2014

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the Twenty-six Weeks ended February 28, 2015 and March 1, 2014

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Item 2 – Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Item 3 – Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Item 4 – Controls and Procedures

Part II – OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1 – Legal Proceedings

Item 1A – Risk Factors

Item 2 – Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

Item 3 – Defaults Upon Senior Securities

Item 4 – Mine Safety Disclosures

Item 5 – Other Information

Item 6 – Exhibits

Signatures

Exhibit Index

Certifications

Ex-31.1 Section 302 Certification of CEO

Ex-31.2 Section 302 Certification of CFO

Ex-32.1 Section 906 Certification of CEO

Ex-32.2 Section 906 Certification of CFO

Table Of Contents**PART I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION****ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries****Consolidated Statements of Income***(Unaudited)*

(In thousands, except per share data)	Thirteen weeks ended		Twenty-six weeks ended	
	February 28, 2015	March 1, 2014	February 28, 2015	March 1, 2014
Revenues	\$361,462	\$343,967	\$731,823	\$690,671
Operating expenses:				
Cost of revenues (1)	223,874	215,560	443,227	423,697
Selling and administrative expenses (1)	77,245	69,853	149,627	135,482
Depreciation and amortization	18,792	17,830	36,829	35,128
Total operating expenses	319,911	303,243	629,683	594,307
Income from operations	41,551	40,724	102,140	96,364
Other (income) expense:				
Interest expense	239	216	427	424
Interest income	(944)	(877)	(1,748)	(1,642)
Foreign exchange loss	880	161	1,251	2
Total other (income) expense	175	(500)	(70)	(1,216)
Income before income taxes	41,376	41,224	102,210	97,580
Provision for income taxes	15,930	15,577	39,351	37,471
Net income	\$25,446	\$25,647	\$62,859	\$60,109
Income per share – Basic:				
Common Stock	\$1.33	\$1.34	\$3.29	\$3.15
Class B Common Stock	\$1.06	\$1.08	\$2.63	\$2.52
Income per share – Diluted:				
Common Stock	\$1.26	\$1.27	\$3.11	\$2.98

Income allocated to – Basic:

Common Stock	\$20,182	\$20,267	\$49,834	\$47,479
Class B Common Stock	\$5,041	\$5,041	\$12,472	\$11,836

Income allocated to – Diluted:

Common Stock	\$25,235	\$25,326	\$62,335	\$59,357
--------------	----------	----------	----------	----------

Weighted average number of shares outstanding – Basic:

Common Stock	15,185	15,077	15,156	15,053
Class B Common Stock	4,741	4,687	4,741	4,690

Weighted average number of shares outstanding – Diluted:

Common Stock	20,065	19,924	20,028	19,897
--------------	--------	--------	--------	--------

Dividends per share:

Common Stock	\$0.0375	\$0.0375	\$0.0750	\$0.0750
Class B Common Stock	\$0.0300	\$0.0300	\$0.0600	\$0.0600

(1) Exclusive of depreciation on the Company's property, plant and equipment and amortization of its intangible assets.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these
Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table Of Contents**UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries****Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income***(Unaudited)*

	Thirteen weeks ended		Twenty-six weeks ended	
	February 28, 2015	March 1, 2014	February 28, 2015	March 1, 2014
(In thousands)				
Net Income	\$25,446	\$25,647	\$62,859	\$60,109
Other comprehensive (loss) income:				
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(10,569)	(4,207)	(16,892)	(4,415)
Pension benefit liabilities, net of income taxes	—	—	(1,266)	—
Change in fair value of derivatives, net of income taxes	(644)	—	(644)	—
Other comprehensive (loss) income	(11,213)	(4,207)	(18,802)	(4,415)
Comprehensive income	\$14,233	\$21,440	\$44,057	\$55,694

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these

Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table Of Contents**UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries****Consolidated Balance Sheets***(Unaudited)*

(In thousands, except share data)	February 28, 2015	August 30, 2014(a)
Assets		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$231,461	\$191,769
Receivables, less reserves of \$7,997 and \$5,114, respectively	159,102	152,523
Inventories	84,817	78,858
Rental merchandise in service	144,839	146,449
Prepaid and deferred income taxes	3,188	13,342
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	15,979	6,349
Total current assets	639,386	589,290
Property, plant and equipment:		
Land, buildings and leasehold improvements	397,004	393,584
Machinery and equipment	529,849	512,842
Motor vehicles	171,049	166,573
Total property, plant and equipment	1,097,902	1,072,999
Less -- accumulated depreciation	602,732	586,717
Total property, plant and equipment, net	495,170	486,282
Goodwill	310,909	303,648
Customer contracts, net	40,124	40,210
Other intangible assets, net	1,325	1,267
Deferred income taxes	1,235	1,403
Other assets	2,418	2,061
Total assets	\$1,490,567	\$1,424,161
Liabilities and shareholders' equity		
Current liabilities:		
Loans payable and current maturities of long-term debt	\$5,637	\$7,704
Accounts payable	57,241	59,177
Accrued liabilities	107,847	100,818
Accrued and deferred income taxes	22,964	23,342
Total current liabilities	193,689	191,041

Long-term liabilities:		
Long-term debt, net of current maturities	—	155
Accrued liabilities	56,899	50,235
Accrued and deferred income taxes	54,516	48,271
Total long-term liabilities	111,415	98,661
Commitments and contingencies (Note 10)		
Shareholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, \$1.00 par value; 2,000,000 shares authorized; no shares issued and outstanding	—	—
Common Stock, \$0.10 par value; 30,000,000 shares authorized; 15,275,679 and 15,189,947 issued and outstanding as of February 28, 2015 and August 30, 2014, respectively	1,528	1,519
Class B Common Stock, \$0.10 par value; 20,000,000 shares authorized; 4,859,519 and 4,860,519 issued and outstanding as of February 28, 2015 and August 30, 2014, respectively	486	486
Capital surplus	67,788	59,415
Retained earnings	1,136,996	1,075,572
Accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income	(21,335)	(2,533)
Total shareholders' equity	1,185,463	1,134,459
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$1,490,567	\$1,424,161

(a) Derived from audited financial statements

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these
Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table Of Contents**UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries****Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows***(Unaudited)*

Twenty-six weeks ended	February 28,	March 1,
(In thousands)	2015	2014
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$62,859	\$60,109
Adjustments to reconcile net income to cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	32,495	30,465
Amortization of intangible assets	4,334	4,663
Amortization of deferred financing costs	104	104
Share-based compensation	3,369	3,388
Accretion on environmental contingencies	302	358
Accretion on asset retirement obligations	316	362
Deferred income taxes	7,040	(190)
Changes in assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions:		
Receivables	(11,048)	(9,545)
Inventories	(6,578)	5,173
Rental merchandise in service	718	(4,960)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(7,187)	(1,504)
Accounts payable	(1,384)	4,340
Accrued liabilities	11,605	6,248
Prepaid and accrued income taxes	10,092	10,094
Net cash provided by operating activities	107,037	109,105
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Acquisition of businesses, net of cash acquired	(15,086)	(681)
Capital expenditures	(45,542)	(44,087)
Other	(202)	401
Net cash used in investing activities	(60,830)	(44,367)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from loans payable and long-term debt	4,937	4,927
Payments on loans payable and long-term debt	(6,887)	(107,620)
Proceeds from exercise of Common Stock options, including excess tax benefits	4,975	2,005
Payment of cash dividends	(1,433)	(1,428)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	1,592	(102,116)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash	(8,107)	(2,859)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	39,692	(40,237)

Edgar Filing: UNIFIRST CORP - Form 10-Q

Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	191,769	197,479
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 231,461	\$ 157,242

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these
Consolidated Financial Statements.

Table Of Contents

UniFirst Corporation and Subsidiaries

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

1. Basis of Presentation

These Consolidated Financial Statements of UniFirst Corporation (“Company”) have been prepared, without audit, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Certain information and footnote disclosures normally included in financial statements prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (“US GAAP”) have been condensed or omitted pursuant to such rules and regulations; however, the Company believes that the information furnished reflects all adjustments (consisting only of normal recurring adjustments) which are, in the opinion of management, necessary for a fair statement of results for the interim period.

It is suggested that these Consolidated Financial Statements be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended August 30, 2014. There have been no material changes in the accounting policies followed by the Company during the current fiscal year. Results for an interim period are not indicative of any future interim periods or for an entire fiscal year.

2. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In July 2013, the FASB issued updated accounting guidance on the presentation of unrecognized tax benefits. This update provides that an entity’s unrecognized tax benefits, or a portion of its unrecognized tax benefits, should be presented in its financial statements as a reduction to a deferred tax asset for a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss, or a tax credit carryforward, with one exception. That exception states that, to the extent a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss, or a tax credit carryforward is not available at the reporting date under the tax law of the applicable jurisdiction to settle any additional income taxes that would result from the disallowance of a tax position, or the tax law of the applicable jurisdiction does not require the entity to use, and the entity does not intend to use, the deferred tax asset for such purpose, the unrecognized tax benefit should be presented in the financial statements as a liability and should not be combined with deferred tax assets. This guidance was effective for annual reporting periods, and any interim periods within those annual periods, that begin after December 15, 2013 and was to be applied prospectively, with early adoption permitted. The Company adopted this guidance on August 31, 2014 and the adoption did not have a material impact on its financial statements.

In May 2014, the FASB issued updated accounting guidance on revenue recognition. This update provides a comprehensive new revenue recognition model that requires revenue to be recognized in a manner to depict the transfer of goods or services to a customer at an amount that reflects the consideration expected to be received in exchange for those goods or services. This guidance is effective for annual reporting periods, and any interim periods within those annual periods, that begin after December 15, 2016 and allows for either full retrospective or modified retrospective application, with early adoption not permitted. Accordingly, the standard is effective for the Company on August 27, 2017. The Company is currently evaluating the adoption method it will apply and the impact that this guidance will have on its financial statements and related disclosures.

In February 2015, the FASB issued updated accounting guidance on consolidation requirements. This update changes the guidance with respect to the analysis that a reporting entity must perform to determine whether it should consolidate certain types of legal entities. This guidance is effective for annual periods, and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2015, with early adoption permitted. The Company does not expect adoption of this guidance will have a material impact on its financial statements.

3. Business Acquisitions

During the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015, the Company completed three business acquisitions with an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$15.1 million. The results of operations of these acquisitions have been included in the Company's consolidated financial results since their respective acquisition dates. These acquisitions were not significant in relation to the Company's consolidated financial results and, therefore, pro forma financial information has not been presented.

4. Fair Value Measurements

US GAAP establishes a framework for measuring fair value and establishes disclosure requirements about fair value measurements. Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell 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.

Table Of Contents

The fair value hierarchy prescribed under US GAAP contains three levels as follows:

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

Level 2 – Observable inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1, such as quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets and liabilities in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.

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. This includes certain pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies and similar techniques that use significant unobservable inputs.

All financial assets or liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis (at least annually) have been segregated into the most appropriate level within the fair value hierarchy based on the inputs used to determine the fair value at the measurement date. The assets or liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis are summarized in the tables below (in thousands):

As of February 28, 2015

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Fair Value
Assets:				
Cash equivalents	\$43,463	\$—	\$ —	\$43,463
Pension plan assets	—	4,926	—	4,926
Total assets at fair value	\$43,463	\$4,926	\$ —	\$48,389

Liabilities:

Foreign currency forward contracts	\$—	\$649	\$ —	\$649
Total liabilities at fair value	\$—	\$649	\$ —	\$649

As of August 30, 2014

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Fair Value
Assets:				
Cash equivalents	\$47,552	\$—	\$ —	\$47,552
Pension plan assets	—	5,008	—	5,008
Total assets at fair value	\$47,552	\$5,008	\$ —	\$52,560

The Company's cash equivalents listed above represents money market securities and are classified within Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy because they are valued using quoted market prices. The Company does not adjust the quoted market price for such financial instruments.

The Company's pension plan assets listed above represent guaranteed deposit accounts that are maintained and operated by Prudential Retirement Insurance and Annuity Company ("PRIAC"). All assets are merged with the general assets of PRIAC and are invested predominantly in privately placed securities and mortgages. At the beginning of each calendar year, PRIAC notifies the Company of the annual rates of interest which will be applied to the amounts held in the guaranteed deposit account during the next calendar year. In determining the interest rate to be applied, PRIAC considers the investment performance of the underlying assets of the prior year; however, regardless of the investment performance the Company is guaranteed a minimum rate of return.

The Company's foreign currency forward contracts represent contracts the Company has entered into to exchange Canadian dollars for U.S. dollars at fixed exchange rates in order to manage its exposure related to certain forecasted Canadian dollar denominated sales of one of its subsidiaries. These contracts were included in current accrued liabilities as of February 28, 2015. The fair value of the forward contracts is based on similar exchange traded derivatives and are, therefore, included within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

Table Of Contents

5. Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities

The Company uses derivative financial instruments to mitigate its exposure to fluctuations in foreign currencies on certain forecasted transactions denominated in foreign currencies. US GAAP requires that all our derivative instruments be recorded on the balance sheet at fair value. All subsequent changes in a derivative's fair value are recognized in income, unless specific hedge accounting criteria are met.

Derivative instruments that qualify for hedge accounting are classified as a hedge of the variability of cash flows to be received or paid related to a recognized asset, liability or forecasted transaction. Changes in the fair value of a derivative that is highly effective and designated as a cash flow hedge are recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) until the hedged item or forecasted transaction is recognized in earnings. We perform an assessment at the inception of the hedge and on a quarterly basis thereafter, to determine whether our derivatives are highly effective in offsetting changes in the value of the hedged items. Any changes in the fair value resulting from hedge ineffectiveness are immediately recognized as income or expense.

In January 2015, the Company entered into sixteen forward contracts to exchange Canadian dollars ("CAD") for U.S. dollars at fixed exchange rates in order to manage its exposure related to certain forecasted CAD denominated sales of one of its subsidiaries. The hedged transactions are specified as the first amount of CAD denominated revenues invoiced by one of the Company's domestic subsidiaries each fiscal quarter, beginning in the third fiscal quarter of 2015 and continuing through the second fiscal quarter of 2019. In total, the Company will sell approximately 31.0 million CAD at an average Canadian-dollar exchange rate of 0.7825 over these quarterly periods. The Company concluded that the forward contracts met the criteria to qualify as a cash flow hedge under US GAAP. Accordingly, the Company has reflected all changes in the fair value of the forward contracts in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), a component of shareholders' equity. Once the underlying forecasted transaction affects earnings, the gain or loss on the foreign exchange forward contract will be recorded as an adjustment to revenues.

As of February 28, 2015, the Company had forward contracts with a notional value of approximately 31.0 million CAD outstanding and recorded the fair value of the contracts of \$0.6 million in current accrued liabilities and a corresponding loss of \$0.6 million in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), which was net of the associated tax benefit. The \$0.6 million loss deferred in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) as of February 28, 2015 is expected to be reclassified to revenues prior to its maturity on February 22, 2019.

6. Employee Benefit Plans

Defined Contribution Retirement Savings Plan

The Company has a defined contribution retirement savings plan with a 401(k) feature for all eligible employees not under collective bargaining agreements. The Company matches a portion of the employee's contribution and may make an additional contribution at its discretion. Contributions charged to expense under the plan for the thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015 and March 1, 2014 were \$3.8 million and \$4.1 million, respectively. Contributions charged to expense under the plan for the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 and March 1, 2014 were \$7.9 million and \$8.2 million, respectively.

Pension Plans and Supplemental Executive Retirement Plans

The Company maintains an unfunded Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan for certain eligible employees of the Company, a non-contributory defined benefit pension plan covering union employees at one of its locations, and a frozen pension plan the Company assumed in connection with its acquisition of Textilease Corporation in fiscal 2004. The amounts charged to expense related to these plans for the thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015 and March 1, 2014 were \$0.9 million and \$0.6 million, respectively. The amounts charged to expense related to these plans for the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 and March 1, 2014 were \$1.7 million and \$1.2 million, respectively.

Table Of Contents**7. Net Income Per Share**

The Company calculates net income per share in accordance with US GAAP, which requires the Company to allocate income to its unvested participating securities as part of its earnings per share (“EPS”) calculations. The following table sets forth the computation of basic earnings per share using the two-class method for amounts attributable to the Company’s shares of Common Stock and Class B Common Stock (in thousands, except per share data):

	Thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015		Twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015	
	1, 2014	1, 2014	1, 2014	1, 2014
Net income	\$25,446	\$25,647	\$62,859	\$60,109
Allocation of net income for Basic:				
Common Stock	\$20,182	\$20,267	\$49,834	\$47,479
Class B Common Stock	5,041	5,041	12,472	11,836
Unvested participating shares	223	339	553	794
	\$25,446	\$25,647	\$62,859	\$60,109
Weighted average number of shares for Basic:				
Common Stock	15,185	15,077	15,156	15,053
Class B Common Stock	4,741	4,687	4,741	4,690
Unvested participating shares	192	288	192	288
	20,118	20,052	20,089	20,031
Earnings per share for Basic:				
Common Stock	\$1.33	\$1.34	\$3.29	\$3.15
Class B Common Stock	\$1.06	\$1.08	\$2.63	\$2.52

The Company is required to calculate diluted EPS for Common Stock using the more dilutive of the following two methods:

- ☐ The treasury stock method; or
- ☐ The two-class method assuming a participating security is not exercised or converted.

Edgar Filing: UNIFIRST CORP - Form 10-Q

For the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015, the Company's diluted EPS assumes the conversion of all vested Class B Common Stock into Common Stock and uses the two-class method for its unvested participating shares as it was the more dilutive of the two methods. The following table sets forth the computation of diluted earnings per share of Common Stock for the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 as follows (in thousands, except per share data):

	Thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015			Twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015		
	Earnings to Common Shareholders	Common Shares	EPS	Earnings to Common Shareholders	Common Shares	EPS
As reported - Basic	\$20,182	15,185	\$ 1.33	\$49,834	15,156	\$ 3.29
Add: effect of dilutive potential common shares						
Share-based awards	—	139		—	131	
Class B Common Stock	5,041	4,741		12,472	4,741	
Add: Undistributed earnings allocated to unvested participating shares	217	—		540	—	
Less: Undistributed earnings reallocated to unvested participating shares	(205)	—		(511)	—	
Diluted EPS – Common Stock	\$25,235	20,065	\$ 1.26	\$62,335	20,028	\$ 3.11

Share-based awards that would result in the issuance of 25,901 shares of Common Stock were excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share for the thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015 because they were anti-dilutive. Share-based awards that would result in the issuance of 11,903 shares of Common Stock were excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share for the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 because they were anti-dilutive.

Table Of Contents

For the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014, the Company's diluted EPS assumes the conversion of all vested Class B Common Stock into Common Stock and uses the two-class method for its unvested participating shares as it was the more dilutive of the two methods. The following table sets forth the computation of diluted earnings per share of Common Stock for the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014 as follows (in thousands, except per share data):

	Thirteen weeks ended March 1, 2014			Twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014		
	Earnings to Common Shareholders		EPS	Earnings to Common Shareholders		EPS
	Shares	EPS		Shares	EPS	
As reported - Basic	\$20,267	15,077	\$1.34	\$47,479	15,053	\$3.15
Add: effect of dilutive potential common shares						
Share-based awards	—	160		—	154	
Class B Common Stock	5,041	4,687		11,836	4,690	
Add: Undistributed earnings allocated to unvested participating shares	329	—		776	—	
Less: Undistributed earnings reallocated to unvested participating shares	(311)	—		(734)	—	
Diluted EPS – Common Stock	\$25,326	19,924	\$1.27	\$59,357	19,897	\$2.98

Share-based awards that would result in the issuance of 3,836 shares of Common Stock were excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share for the thirteen weeks ended March 1, 2014 because they were anti-dilutive. Share-based awards that would result in the issuance of 770 shares of Common Stock were excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share for the twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014 because they were anti-dilutive.

8. Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market value, net of any reserve for excess and obsolete inventory. Judgments and estimates are used in determining the likelihood that new goods on hand can be sold to customers or used in rental operations. Historical inventory usage and current revenue trends are considered in estimating both excess and obsolete inventories. If actual product demand and market conditions are less favorable than those projected by management, additional inventory write-downs may be required. The Company uses the first-in, first-out

(“FIFO”) method to value its inventories.

The components of inventory as of February 28, 2015 and August 30, 2014 were as follows (in thousands):

	February 28,	August 30,
	2015	2014
Raw materials	\$ 20,671	\$19,053
Work in process	3,019	3,759
Finished goods	61,127	56,046
Total inventories	\$ 84,817	\$78,858

9. Asset Retirement Obligations

The Company recognizes asset retirement obligations in the period in which they are incurred if a reasonable estimate of fair value can be made. The associated asset retirement costs are capitalized as part of the carrying amount of the long-lived asset. The Company continues to depreciate, on a straight-line basis, the amount added to property, plant and equipment and recognizes accretion expense in connection with the discounted liability over the various remaining lives which range from approximately six to twenty-nine years.

A rollforward of the Company’s asset retirement liability is as follows (in thousands):

	February 28,
	2015
Beginning balance as of August 30, 2014	\$ 11,675
Accretion expense	316
Effect of exchange rate changes	(480)
Ending balance as of February 28, 2015	\$ 11,511

Table Of Contents

The Company's asset retirement obligations are included in long-term accrued liabilities in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheet.

10. Commitments and Contingencies

The Company and its operations are subject to various federal, state and local laws and regulations governing, among other things, air emissions, wastewater discharges, and the generation, handling, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste and other substances. In particular, industrial laundries use and must dispose of detergent waste water and other residues, and, in the past used perchloroethylene and other dry cleaning solvents. The Company is attentive to the environmental concerns surrounding the disposal of these materials and has, through the years, taken measures to avoid their improper disposal. In the past, the Company has settled, or contributed to the settlement of, actions or claims brought against the Company relating to the disposal of hazardous materials and there can be no assurance that the Company will not have to expend material amounts to remediate the consequences of any such disposal in the future.

US GAAP requires that a liability for contingencies be recorded when it is probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount of the liability can be reasonably estimated. Significant judgment is required to determine the existence of a liability, as well as the amount to be recorded. The Company regularly consults with attorneys and outside consultants in its consideration of the relevant facts and circumstances before recording a contingent liability. Changes in enacted laws, regulatory orders or decrees, management's estimates of costs, risk-free interest rates, insurance proceeds, participation by other parties, the timing of payments, the input of the Company's attorneys and outside consultants or other factual circumstances could have a material impact on the amounts recorded for environmental and other contingent liabilities.

Under environmental laws, an owner or lessee of real estate may be liable for the costs of removal or remediation of certain hazardous or toxic substances located on, or in, or emanating from, such property, as well as related costs of investigation and property damage. Such laws often impose liability without regard to whether the owner or lessee knew of, or was responsible for the presence of such hazardous or toxic substances. There can be no assurances that acquired or leased locations have been operated in compliance with environmental laws and regulations or that future uses or conditions will not result in the imposition of liability upon the Company under such laws or expose the Company to third-party actions such as tort suits. The Company continues to address environmental conditions under terms of consent orders or otherwise negotiated with the applicable environmental authorities with respect to sites located in or related to Woburn, Massachusetts, Somerville, Massachusetts, Springfield, Massachusetts, Uvalde, Texas, Stockton, California, three sites related to former operations in Williamstown, Vermont, as well as sites located in Goldsboro, North Carolina, Wilmington, North Carolina and Landover, Maryland.

The Company has accrued certain costs related to the sites described above as it has been determined that the costs are probable and can be reasonably estimated. The Company has potential exposure related to a parcel of land (the "Central Area") related to the Woburn, Massachusetts site discussed above. Currently, the consent decree for the Woburn site does not define or require any remediation work in the Central Area. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (the "EPA") has provided the Company and other signatories to the consent decree with comments on the design and implementation of groundwater and soil remedies at the Woburn site and investigation of environmental conditions in the Central Area. The Company, and other signatories, have implemented and proposed to do additional work at the Woburn site but many of the EPA's comments remain to be resolved. The Company has accrued costs to perform certain work responsive to EPA's comments. The Company is also in discussions with EPA concerning its invoices for oversight costs with respect to the Woburn site and the Central Area. The Company has implemented mitigation measures and continues to monitor environmental conditions at the Somerville, Massachusetts site. The Company increased its environmental contingency reserves by approximately \$3.6 million during the second fiscal quarter of 2015 due primarily to additional costs it expects to incur associated with the construction of a planned municipal transit station in the area of its Somerville site.

The Company routinely reviews and evaluates sites that may require remediation and monitoring and determines its estimated costs based on various estimates and assumptions. These estimates are developed using its internal sources or by third party environmental engineers or other service providers. Internally developed estimates are based on:

• Management's judgment and experience in remediating and monitoring the Company's sites;

• Information available from regulatory agencies as to costs of remediation and monitoring;

• The number, financial resources and relative degree of responsibility of other potentially responsible parties ("PRPs") who may be liable for remediation and monitoring of a specific site; and

• The typical allocation of costs among PRPs.

There is usually a range of reasonable estimates of the costs associated with each site. In accordance with US GAAP, the Company's accruals reflect the amount within the range that it believes is the best estimate or the low end of a range of estimates if no point within the range is a better estimate. Where it believes that both the amount of a particular liability and the timing of the payments are reliably determinable, the Company adjusts the cost in current dollars using a rate of 3% for inflation until the time of expected payment and discounts the cost to present value using current risk-free interest rates. As of February 28, 2015, the risk-free interest rates utilized by the Company ranged from 2.0% to 2.6%.

Table Of Contents

For environmental liabilities that have been discounted, the Company includes interest accretion, based on the effective interest method, in selling and administrative expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Income. The changes to the Company's environmental liabilities for the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 are as follows (in thousands):

	February 28, 2015
Beginning balance as of August 30, 2014	\$ 19,846
Payments made for which reserves had been provided	(1,683)
Insurance proceeds received	65
Interest accretion	302
Revision in estimates	3,025
Change in discount rates	946
Balance as of February 28, 2015	\$ 22,501

Anticipated payments and insurance proceeds of currently identified environmental remediation liabilities as of February 28, 2015, for the next five fiscal years and thereafter, as measured in current dollars, are reflected below.

(In thousands)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Thereafter	Total
Estimated costs – current dollars	\$3,536	\$4,940	\$1,663	\$745	\$863	\$ 12,406	\$24,153
Estimated insurance proceeds	(107)	(159)	(173)	(159)	(173)	(1,430)	(2,201)
Net anticipated costs	\$3,429	\$4,781	\$1,490	\$586	\$690	\$ 10,976	\$21,952
Effect of inflation							7,377
Effect of discounting							(6,828)
Balance as of February 28, 2015							\$22,501

Estimated insurance proceeds are primarily received from an annuity received as part of a legal settlement with an insurance company. Annual proceeds of approximately \$0.3 million are deposited into an escrow account which funds remediation and monitoring costs for three sites related to former operations in Williamstown, Vermont. Annual proceeds received but not expended in the current year accumulate in this account and may be used in future years for costs related to this site through the year 2027. As of February 28, 2015, the balance in this escrow account, which is held in a trust and is not recorded in the Company's accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheet, was approximately \$2.9 million. Also included in estimated insurance proceeds are amounts the Company is entitled to receive pursuant to legal settlements as reimbursements from three insurance companies for estimated costs at the site in Uvalde, Texas.

The Company's nuclear garment decontamination facilities are licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC"), or, in certain cases, by the applicable state agency, and are subject to regulation by federal, state and local authorities. There can be no assurance that such regulation will not lead to material disruptions in the Company's garment decontamination business.

From time to time, the Company is also subject to legal proceedings and claims arising from the conduct of its business operations, including personal injury claims, customer contract matters, employment claims and environmental matters as described above. During the thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015, the Company recorded higher legal expenses and reserves related to miscellaneous legal matters, including NECC, which were largely offset by the recording of the expected insurance recovery of defense costs associated with the NECC matter.

While it is impossible to ascertain the ultimate legal and financial liability with respect to contingent liabilities, including lawsuits and environmental contingencies, the Company believes that the aggregate amount of such liabilities, if any, in excess of amounts covered by insurance have been properly accrued in accordance with US GAAP. It is possible, however, that the future financial position or results of operations for any particular period could be materially affected by changes in the Company's assumptions or strategies related to these contingencies or changes out of the Company's control.

As previously disclosed, the Company is a defendant in hundreds of lawsuits relating to New England Compounding Center's ("NECC") highly-publicized compounding and sale of tainted methylprednisolone acetate, which reportedly resulted in a widespread outbreak of fungal meningitis and other infections. It has been reported that over 60 people died and another approximately 700 people were allegedly seriously injured as a result of this outbreak. These suits against the Company relate to the limited, once-a-month cleaning services the Company provided to portions of NECC's cleanroom facilities.

Table Of Contents

In February 2013, suits against NECC were transferred to a multi-district litigation (“MDL”) proceeding in federal court in Boston, Massachusetts. The MDL court appointed the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee (“PSC”) for the NECC litigation.

NECC is in bankruptcy and on December 3, 2014 its Chapter 11 Trustee (the “Chapter 11 Trustee”) proposed a Chapter 11 Plan for NECC (the “Plan”). On December 16, 2014, the United States indicted 14 former owners, managers, employees and affiliates of NECC, alleging a number of crimes, including second-degree murder and racketeering.

On February 23, 2015, the Company entered into a Settlement and Release Agreement with the Chapter 11 Trustee and the Company’s insurers, which is supported by the PSC and the creditors’ committee (the “Settlement Agreement”). Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, the Company’s insurers will pay the full settlement amount of \$30.5 million to the Chapter 11 Trustee for the benefit of creditors and other parties under the Plan. The Settlement Agreement provides that the Company will receive the benefit of the releases and injunction set forth in the Plan, which bar all persons from asserting any claims against the Company relating to the NECC matter. The effectiveness of the Settlement Agreement is conditioned on the bankruptcy court’s issuance of a confirmation order confirming the Plan on terms that do not adversely change the terms or scope of the releases and injunction set forth in the Plan. In addition, \$30 million of the settlement amount will be held in escrow pending the exhaustion of all appeals that may be taken with respect to such confirmation order. Upon the exhaustion of all such appeals, if a court has not adversely changed the terms or scope of the releases and injunction set forth in the Plan, then this settlement amount will be released from escrow and the settlement will be final.

If either the bankruptcy court’s confirmation order or any resulting appeal adversely affects the releases or injunction as provided for in the Plan, then we or our insurers may terminate the Settlement Agreement, in which case the litigation would resume. If the litigation were to resume based on the information currently available, the Company believes that a loss with respect to this matter would be neither probable nor remote and the Company is unable to reasonably assess an estimate or range of estimates of any potential losses. However, if the Company is found to be liable with respect to litigation relating to NECC that is not covered by the Company’s insurance or exceeds such insurance coverage, the Company may incur liabilities that are material to its financial condition and operating results.

11. Income Taxes

The Company’s effective income tax rate was 38.5% for both the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015, as compared to 37.8% and 38.4% for the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014. The Company recognizes interest and penalties related to uncertain tax positions as a component of income tax expense which is consistent with the recognition of these items in prior reporting periods. During the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015, there were no material changes in the amount of unrecognized tax benefits or the amount accrued for interest and penalties.

U.S. and Canadian federal income tax statutes have lapsed for filings up to and including fiscal years 2010 and 2007, respectively, and the Company recently concluded an audit of U.S. federal income taxes for 2010 and 2011. With a few exceptions, the Company is no longer subject to state and local income tax examinations for periods prior to fiscal 2009. The Company is not aware of any tax positions for which it is reasonably possible that the total amounts of unrecognized tax benefits will change significantly in the next 12 months.

12. Long-Term Debt

On May 5, 2011, the Company entered into a \$250.0 million unsecured revolving credit agreement (the “Credit Agreement”) with a syndicate of banks, which matures on May 4, 2016. Under the Credit Agreement, the Company is able to borrow funds at variable interest rates based on, at the Company’s election, the Eurodollar rate or a base rate, plus in each case a spread based on the Company’s consolidated funded debt ratio. Availability of credit requires compliance with certain financial and other covenants, including a maximum consolidated funded debt ratio and minimum consolidated interest coverage ratio as defined in the Credit Agreement. The Company tests its compliance with these financial covenants on a fiscal quarterly basis. At February 28, 2015, the interest rates applicable to the Company’s borrowings under the Credit Agreement would be calculated as LIBOR plus 75 basis points at the time of the respective borrowing. As of February 28, 2015, the Company had no outstanding borrowings, outstanding letters of credit amounting to \$53.2 million and \$196.8 million available for borrowing under the Credit Agreement.

On September 14, 2006, the Company issued \$100.0 million of floating rates notes (“Floating Rate Notes”) pursuant to a Note Purchase Agreement, which bore interest at LIBOR plus 50 basis points. On September 14, 2013, the Floating Rate Notes matured and were repaid in full from the Company’s cash reserves.

As of February 28, 2015, the Company was in compliance with all covenants under the Credit Agreement.

Table Of Contents**13. Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss) Income**

The changes in each component of accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income, net of tax, are as follows (in thousands):

	Foreign Currency Translation	Pension- related	Derivative Financial Instruments	Total Accumulated Other Comprehensive (Loss) Income
Balance as of August 30, 2014	\$ 2,711	\$ (5,244)	\$ —	\$ (2,533)
Other comprehensive (loss) income before reclassification	(16,892)	(1,417)	(644)	(18,953)
Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss	—	151	—	151
Net current period other comprehensive (loss) income	(16,892)	(1,266)	(644)	(18,802)
Balance as of February 28, 2015	\$ (14,181)	\$ (6,510)	\$ (644)	\$ (21,335)

Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive income, net of tax, for the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 and March 1, 2014 are as follows (in thousands):

	Thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015	Thirteen weeks ended March 1, 2014	Twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015	Twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014
--	---	---	---	---

Pension benefit liabilities, net:

Actuarial losses	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 151 (a)	\$ —
Total, net of tax	—	—	151	—

(a) Amounts included in selling and administrative expenses in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Income.

14. Segment Reporting

Operating segments are identified as components of an enterprise for which separate discrete financial information is available for evaluation by the chief operating decision-maker, or decision-making group, in making decisions on how to allocate resources and assess performance. The Company's chief operating decision maker is the Company's chief executive officer. The Company has six operating segments based on the information reviewed by its chief executive officer: US Rental and Cleaning, Canadian Rental and Cleaning, Manufacturing ("MFG"), Corporate, Specialty Garments Rental and Cleaning ("Specialty Garments") and First Aid. The US Rental and Cleaning and Canadian Rental and Cleaning operating segments have been combined to form the US and Canadian Rental and Cleaning reporting segment, and as a result, the Company has five reporting segments.

The US and Canadian Rental and Cleaning reporting segment purchases, rents, cleans, delivers and sells, uniforms and protective clothing and non-garment items in the United States and Canada. The laundry locations of the US and Canadian Rental and Cleaning reporting segment are referred to by the Company as "industrial laundries" or "industrial laundry locations."

The MFG operating segment designs and manufactures uniforms and non-garment items primarily for the purpose of providing these goods to the US and Canadian Rental and Cleaning reporting segment. MFG revenues are generated when goods are shipped from the Company's manufacturing facilities, or its subcontract manufacturers, to other Company locations. These revenues are recorded at a transfer price which is typically in excess of the actual manufacturing cost. Manufactured products are carried in inventory until placed in service at which time they are amortized at this transfer price. On a consolidated basis, intercompany revenues and income are eliminated and the carrying value of inventories and rental merchandise in service is reduced to the manufacturing cost. Income before income taxes from MFG net of the intercompany MFG elimination offsets the merchandise amortization costs incurred by the US and Canadian Rental and Cleaning reporting segment as the merchandise costs of this reporting segment are amortized and recognized based on inventories purchased from MFG at the transfer price which is above the Company's manufacturing cost.

Table Of Contents

The Corporate operating segment consists of costs associated with the Company's distribution center, sales and marketing, information systems, engineering, materials management, manufacturing planning, finance, budgeting, human resources, other general and administrative costs and interest expense. The revenues generated from the Corporate operating segment represent certain direct sales made by the Company directly from its distribution center. The products sold by this operating segment are the same products rented and sold by the US and Canadian Rental and Cleaning reporting segment. In the table below, no assets or capital expenditures are presented for the Corporate operating segment because no assets are allocated to this operating segment in the information reviewed by the chief executive officer. However, depreciation and amortization expense related to certain assets are reflected in income from operations and income before income taxes for the Corporate operating segment. The assets that give rise to this depreciation and amortization are included in the total assets of the US and Canadian Rental and Cleaning reporting segment as this is how they are tracked and reviewed by the Company. The majority of expenses accounted for within the Corporate segment relate to costs of the US and Canadian Rental and Cleaning segment, with the remainder of the costs relating to the Specialty Garment and First Aid segments.

The Specialty Garments operating segment purchases, rents, cleans, delivers and sells, specialty garments and non-garment items primarily for nuclear and cleanroom applications and provides cleanroom cleaning services at limited customer locations. The First Aid operating segment sells first aid cabinet services and other safety supplies as well as maintains wholesale distribution and pill packaging operations.

Table Of Contents

The Company refers to the US and Canadian Rental and Cleaning, MFG, and Corporate reporting segments combined as its “Core Laundry Operations,” which is included as a subtotal in the following tables (in thousands):

Thirteen weeks ended	US and Canadian Rental and Cleaning		Net Interco		Subtotal Core Laundry Operations	Specialty		Total
	MFG		MFG Elim	Corporate		Garments	First Aid	
February 28, 2015								
Revenues	\$ 327,950	\$ 50,844	\$ (50,844)	\$ 4,118	\$ 332,068	\$ 18,661	\$ 10,733	\$ 361,462
Income (loss) from operations	\$ 51,691	\$ 17,003	\$ (443)	\$ (27,327)(a)	\$ 40,924	\$ (435)	\$ 1,062	\$ 41,551
Interest (income) expense, net	\$ (901)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 196	\$ (705)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ (705)
Income (loss) before taxes	\$ 52,605	\$ 17,054	\$ (443)	\$ (27,654)	\$ 41,562	\$ (1,248)	\$ 1,062	\$ 41,376
March 1, 2014								
Revenues	\$ 309,342	\$ 42,101	\$ (42,101)	\$ 3,839	\$ 313,181	\$ 20,406	\$ 10,380	\$ 343,967
Income (loss) from operations	\$ 46,794	\$ 14,299	\$ 362	\$ (22,012)	\$ 39,443	\$ 312	\$ 969	\$ 40,724
Interest (income) expense, net	\$ (865)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 204	\$ (661)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ (661)
Income (loss) before taxes	\$ 47,640	\$ 14,270	\$ 362	\$ (22,266)	\$ 40,006	\$ 249	\$ 969	\$ 41,224
Twenty-six weeks ended								
February 28, 2015								

Edgar Filing: UNIFIRST CORP - Form 10-Q

Revenues	\$ 658,851	\$ 102,672	\$ (102,672)	\$ 9,064	\$ 667,915	\$ 41,137	\$ 22,771	\$ 731,823
Income (loss) from operations	\$ 114,990	\$ 35,234	\$ (2,132)	\$ (50,295)(a)	\$ 97,797	\$ 1,833	\$ 2,510	\$ 102,140
Interest (income) expense, net	\$ (1,671)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 350	\$ (1,321)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ (1,321)
Income (loss) before taxes	\$ 116,689	\$ 35,326	\$ (2,132)	\$ (50,901)	\$ 98,982	\$ 718	\$ 2,510	\$ 102,210
March 1, 2014								
Revenues	\$ 617,784	\$ 86,334	\$ (86,334)	\$ 7,403	\$ 625,187	\$ 44,849	\$ 20,635	\$ 690,671
Income (loss) from operations	\$ 105,153	\$ 29,873	\$ (902)	\$ (42,309)	\$ 91,815	\$ 3,071	\$ 1,478	\$ 96,364
Interest (income) expense, net	\$ (1,595)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 377	\$ (1,218)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ (1,218)
Income (loss) before taxes	\$ 106,727	\$ 29,763	\$ (902)	\$ (42,735)	\$ 92,853	\$ 3,249	\$ 1,478	\$ 97,580

The Company increased its environmental contingency reserves during its second fiscal quarter of 2015 by \$3.6 million. This increase was due mainly to additional costs the Company expects to incur associated with the (a) construction of a planned municipal transit station in the area of its Somerville site. To a lesser extent, the Company's reserves also were increased due to the effect of lower interest rates on the discounting of its environmental liabilities.

Table Of Contents

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

SAFE HARBOR FOR FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

This Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and any documents incorporated by reference contain forward looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. Forward looking statements contained in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and any documents incorporated by reference are subject to the safe harbor created by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward looking statements may be identified by words such as “estimates,” “anticipates,” “projects,” “plans,” “expects,” “intends,” “believes,” “seeks,” “could,” “should,” “may,” “will,” or variations thereof, and similar expressions and by the context in which they are used. Such forward looking statements are based upon our current expectations and speak only as of the date made. Such statements are highly dependent upon a variety of risks, uncertainties and other important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those reflected in such forward looking statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to, uncertainties caused by the continuing adverse worldwide economic conditions, uncertainties regarding our ability to consummate and successfully integrate acquired businesses, uncertainties regarding any existing or newly-discovered expenses and liabilities related to environmental compliance and remediation, any adverse outcome of pending or future contingencies or claims, including suits related to the New England Compound Center matter, our ability to compete successfully without any significant degradation in our margin rates, seasonal and quarterly fluctuations in business levels, our ability to preserve positive labor relationships and avoid becoming the target of corporate labor unionization campaigns that could disrupt our business, the effect of currency fluctuations on our results of operations and financial condition, our dependence on third parties to supply us with raw materials, any loss of key management or other personnel, increased costs as a result of any future changes in federal or state laws, rules and regulations or governmental interpretation of such laws, rules and regulations, uncertainties regarding the price levels of natural gas, electricity, fuel and labor, the negative effect on our business from sharply depressed oil prices, the impact of the current worldwide economic malaise and other adverse economic conditions and the current tight credit markets on our customers and such customers’ workforces, the level and duration of workforce reductions by our customers, the continuing increase in domestic healthcare costs, including the ultimate impact of the Affordable Care Act, demand and prices for our products and services, rampant criminal activity and instability in Mexico where our principal garment manufacturing plants are located, our ability to properly and efficiently design, construct, implement and operate our new customer relationship management (“CRM”) computer system, interruptions or failures of our information technology systems, including as a result of cyber-attacks, additional professional and internal costs necessary for compliance with recent and proposed future changes in Securities and Exchange Commission, New York Stock Exchange and accounting rules, strikes and unemployment levels, our efforts to evaluate and potentially reduce internal costs, economic and other developments associated with the war on terrorism and its impact on the economy, general economic conditions and other factors described under “Item 1A. Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 30, 2014, under “Item 1A. Risk Factors” in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, and in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We undertake no obligation to update any forward looking statements to reflect events or circumstances arising after the date on which such statements are made.

Business Overview

UniFirst Corporation, together with its subsidiaries, hereunder referred to as “we”, “our”, the “Company”, or “UniFirst”, is one of the largest providers of workplace uniforms and protective work wear clothing in the United States. We design, manufacture, personalize, rent, clean, deliver, and sell a wide range of uniforms and protective clothing, including shirts, pants, jackets, coveralls, lab coats, smocks, aprons and specialized protective wear, such as flame resistant and high visibility garments. We also rent and sell industrial wiping products, floor mats, facility service products and other non-garment items, and provide restroom and cleaning supplies and first aid cabinet services and other safety supplies, to a variety of manufacturers, retailers and service companies.

We serve businesses of all sizes in numerous industry categories. Typical customers include automobile service centers and dealers, delivery services, food and general merchandise retailers, food processors and service operations, light manufacturers, maintenance facilities, restaurants, service companies, soft and durable goods wholesalers, transportation companies, and others who require employee clothing for image, identification, protection or utility purposes. We also provide our customers with restroom and cleaning supplies, including air fresheners, paper products and hand soaps.

At certain specialized facilities, we also decontaminate and clean work clothes and other items that may have been exposed to radioactive materials and service special cleanroom protective wear and facilities. Typical customers for these specialized services include government agencies, research and development laboratories, high technology companies and utilities operating nuclear reactors.

We continue to expand into additional geographic markets through acquisitions and organic growth. We currently service over 275,000 customer locations in the United States, Canada and Europe from over 225 customer service, distribution and manufacturing facilities.

As discussed and described in Note 14 to the Consolidated Financial Statements, we have five reporting segments: US and Canadian Rental and Cleaning, Manufacturing (“MFG”), Corporate, Specialty Garments Rental and Cleaning (“Specialty Garments”) and First Aid. We refer to the laundry locations of the US and Canadian Rental and Cleaning reporting segment as “industrial laundries” or “industrial laundry locations”, and to the US and Canadian Rental and Cleaning, MFG, and Corporate reporting segments combined as our “Core Laundry Operations.”

Table Of Contents**Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

The discussion of our financial condition and results of operations is based upon the Consolidated Financial Statements, which have been prepared in conformity with United States generally accepted accounting principles (“US GAAP”). As such, management is required to make certain estimates, judgments and assumptions that are believed to be reasonable based on the information available. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, revenues and expenses, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

Critical accounting policies are defined as those that are reflective of significant judgments and uncertainties, the most important and pervasive accounting policies used and areas most sensitive to material changes from external factors. See Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended August 30, 2014 for additional discussion regarding our application of these and other accounting policies.

Results of Operations

The following table presents certain selected financial data, including the percentage of revenues represented by each item, for the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 and the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014. Cost of revenues presented in the table below include the amortization of rental merchandise in service and merchandise costs related to direct sales as well as labor and other production, service and delivery costs, and distribution costs associated with operating our Core Laundry Operations, Specialty Garments facilities and First Aid locations. Selling and administrative costs include costs related to our sales and marketing functions as well as general and administrative costs associated with our corporate offices, non-operating environmental sites and operating locations including information systems, engineering, materials management, manufacturing planning, finance, budgeting, and human resources.

(In thousands, except percentages)	Thirteen weeks ended					Twenty-six weeks ended				
	February 28, 2015	% of Rev.	March 1, 2014	% of Rev.	% Change	February 28, 2015	% of Rev.	March 1, 2014	% of Rev.	% Change
Revenues	\$361,462	100.0%	\$343,967	100.0%	5.1 %	\$731,823	100.0%	\$690,671	100.0%	6.0 %
Operating expenses:										
	223,874	61.9	215,560	62.7	3.9	443,227	60.6	423,697	61.3	4.6

Edgar Filing: UNIFIRST CORP - Form 10-Q

Cost of revenues (1)											
Selling and administrative expenses (1)	77,245	21.4	69,853	20.3	10.6	149,627	20.4	135,482	19.6	10.4	
Depreciation and amortization	18,792	5.2	17,830	5.2	5.4	36,829	5.0	35,128	5.1	4.8	
Total operating expenses	319,911	88.5	303,243	88.2	5.5	629,683	86.0	594,307	86.0	6.0	
Income from operations	41,551	11.5	40,724	11.8	2.0	102,140	14.0	96,364	14.0	6.0	
Other expense (income)	175	0.0	(500)	(0.1)	(135.0)	(70)	0.0	(1,216)	(0.2)	(94.2)	
Income before income taxes	41,376	11.4	41,224	12.0	0.4	102,210	14.0	97,580	14.1	4.7	
Provision for income taxes	15,930	4.4	15,577	4.5	2.3	39,351	5.4	37,471	5.4	5.0	
Net income	\$25,446	7.0 %	\$25,647	7.5 %	(0.8)%	\$62,859	8.6 %	\$60,109	8.7 %	4.6 %	

(1) Exclusive of depreciation on our property, plant and equipment and amortization on our intangible assets.

General

We derive our revenues through the design, manufacture, personalization, rental, cleaning, delivering, and selling of a wide range of uniforms and protective clothing, including shirts, pants, jackets, coveralls, lab coats, smocks and aprons and specialized protective wear, such as flame resistant and high visibility garments. We also rent industrial wiping products, floor mats, facility service products, other non-garment items, and provide restroom and cleaning supplies and first aid cabinet services and other safety supplies, to a variety of manufacturers, retailers and service companies. We have five reporting segments, US and Canadian Rental and Cleaning, Manufacturing (“MFG”), Corporate, Specialty Garments Rental and Cleaning (“Specialty Garments”), and First Aid. We refer to the US and Canadian Rental and Cleaning, MFG, and Corporate reporting segments combined as our “Core Laundry Operations.”

Table Of Contents

Cost of revenues include the amortization of rental merchandise in service and merchandise costs related to direct sales as well as labor and other production, service and delivery costs, and distribution costs associated with operating our Core Laundry Operations, Specialty Garments facilities, and First Aid locations. Selling and administrative costs include costs related to our sales and marketing functions as well as general and administrative costs associated with our corporate offices, non-operating environmental sites and operating locations including information systems, engineering, materials management, manufacturing planning, finance, budgeting, and human resources.

We have a substantial number of plants and conduct a significant portion of our business in energy producing regions in the U.S and Canada. The price of oil has declined dramatically over the past several months. If the price remains depressed, it is likely that our customers in the oil industry will curtail their level of operations. This contraction will negatively impact our garment and merchandise rental revenues from them. In addition, a decline in the oil industry will also likely adversely affect our customers in businesses which service or supply the oil industry as well as our customers in unrelated businesses located in areas which have benefited from the economic expansion generated by the robust growth driven by the higher oil prices. On the other hand, we benefit from lower costs of the gasoline used to fuel our vehicles and the natural gas used to operate our plants. Since there are substantial uncertainties regarding the extent, timing and effect of lower oil prices, it is difficult to quantify the positive and negative impacts on our financial results from lower oil prices. Nevertheless, we believe that the benefits from lower energy costs would be outweighed by the revenues and profits we may lose as a result of cutbacks by our customers in the oil industry and other affected businesses.

The cost of healthcare that we provide to our employees has grown over the last few years at a rate in excess of our revenue growth and as a result, has negatively impacted our operating results. In fiscal 2015, the Affordable Care Act (“ACA”) has required us to modify one of the healthcare plans we provide to our employees. In addition, we will incur additional costs related to ACA transitional reinsurance fees that will be paid in fiscal years 2015, 2016 and 2017. We expect that the required modifications to our healthcare plan and the incurrence of such fees will increase our cost of providing healthcare to our employees. There remains considerable uncertainty as to how significant the increase to the healthcare costs will be, including the effect of the plan modifications on the behavior of our employees as well as the potential for increased enrollment in our plans. Although uncertainty exists, we anticipate that our future operating results will continue to be further adversely impacted by increasing healthcare costs.

We are currently undertaking a company-wide initiative to update our customer relationship management systems. As of February 28, 2015, we have capitalized \$39.4 million related to our CRM project (“Unity 20/20”). Although we do not currently anticipate deployment of this system during fiscal 2015, we continue to make investments in IT infrastructure, including headcount, to help support this and other technology initiatives. In addition, future years will be impacted by the eventual depreciation of our Unity 20/20 investment.

During fiscal 2014, there was an increase in the amount of new garments placed in service to meet the day-to-day needs of our existing wearer base. As a result, we project that our fiscal 2015 merchandise amortization will be higher as a percentage of revenues compared to fiscal 2014.

A portion of our sales is derived from international markets, including Canada. Revenues denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar represented approximately 8.5% and 8.8% of total consolidated revenues for the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015, respectively. Revenues denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar represented approximately 9.6% and 9.8% of total consolidated revenues for the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014, respectively. The operating results of our international subsidiaries are translated into U.S. dollars and such results are affected by movements in foreign currencies relative to the U.S. dollar. During the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015, foreign currency fluctuations negatively impacted our consolidated revenues by 1.0% and 0.8%, respectively. During the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014, foreign currency fluctuations negatively impacted our consolidated revenues by 0.7% and 0.6%, respectively. These impacts were primarily driven by unfavorable fluctuations in the Canadian dollar. Our operating results in future years could be negatively impacted by any further devaluation, as compared to the U.S. dollar, of the Canadian dollar or any of the currencies of the other countries in which we operate.

In January 2015, we entered into sixteen forward contracts to exchange Canadian dollars (“CAD”) for U.S. dollars at fixed exchange rates in order to manage its exposure related to certain forecasted CAD denominated sales of one of our subsidiaries. The hedged transactions are specified as the first amount of CAD denominated revenues invoiced by one of our domestic subsidiaries each fiscal quarter, beginning in the third fiscal quarter of 2015 and continuing through the second fiscal quarter of 2019. In total, we will sell approximately 31.0 million CAD at an average Canadian-dollar exchange rate of 0.7825 over these quarterly periods. We concluded that the forward contracts met the criteria to qualify as a cash flow hedge under US GAAP. Accordingly, we have reflected all changes in the fair value of the forward contracts in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), a component of shareholders’ equity. Once the underlying forecasted transaction affects earnings, the gain or loss on the foreign exchange forward contract will be recorded as an adjustment to revenues.

Table Of Contents

As of February 28, 2015, we had forward contracts with a notional value of approximately 31.0 million CAD outstanding and recorded the fair value of the contracts of \$0.6 million in current accrued liabilities and a corresponding loss of \$0.6 million in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), which was net of the associated tax benefit. The \$0.6 million loss deferred in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) as of February 28, 2015 is expected to be reclassified to revenues prior to its maturity on February 22, 2019.

The current worldwide economic uncertainty may negatively impact our revenues and operating performance in fiscal 2015 and beyond due to the impact on spending plans and employment levels of our customers and sales prospects.

Thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015 compared with thirteen weeks ended March 1, 2014*Revenues*

(In thousands, except percentages)	February 28, 2015	March 1, 2014	Dollar Change	Percent Change	
Core Laundry Operations	\$332,068	\$313,181	\$18,887	6.0	%
Specialty Garments	18,661	20,406	(1,745)	(8.6))
First Aid	10,733	10,380	353	3.4	
Consolidated total	\$361,462	\$343,967	\$17,495	5.1	%

For the thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015, our consolidated revenues increased by \$17.5 million from the comparable period in fiscal 2014, or 5.1%. This increase was primarily due to an \$18.9 million increase in revenues from our Core Laundry Operations. Core Laundry Operations' revenues increased to \$332.1 million for the thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015 from \$313.2 million for the comparable period of fiscal 2014, or 6.0%. Core Laundry Operations' revenues grew 6.1% organically. Organic growth excludes the effect of acquisitions and a weaker Canadian dollar and consists primarily of new sales, price increases, and net changes in the wearer levels at our existing customers, offset by lost accounts. During the quarter, our revenues began to be affected by decreases in the net wearer counts at our existing customers. As anticipated, these reductions are primarily at customers that directly or indirectly support energy production, oil in particular

Specialty Garments' revenues decreased to \$18.7 million in the second fiscal quarter of 2015 from \$20.4 million in the comparable period of fiscal 2014, a decrease of \$1.7 million or 8.6%. This decrease was primarily the result of

reduced power reactor business in North America compared to a year ago as well as the impact of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations. This segment's results are often affected by the timing and length of its customers' power reactor outages as well as its project-based activities. First Aid revenues increased to \$10.7 million in the second quarter of 2015 from \$10.4 million in the comparable period of fiscal 2014, an increase of \$0.4 million or 3.4%.

Cost of Revenues

Cost of revenues decreased as a percentage of revenues from 62.7% of revenues, or \$215.6 million, for the thirteen weeks ended March 1, 2014 to 61.9% of revenues, or \$223.9 million, for the thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015. This decrease as a percentage of revenues was primarily due to lower fuel costs associated with our fleet of delivery vehicles. Higher merchandise costs during the quarter as a percentage of revenues were largely offset by decreases in other miscellaneous costs of revenues. In addition, cost of revenues for the Specialty Garments segment increased as a percentage of revenues due to the revenue contraction that segment experienced in the thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015 compared to the prior year.

Selling and Administrative Expense

For the thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015, selling and administrative expenses increased to 21.4% of revenues, or \$77.2 million, from 20.3% of revenues, or \$69.9 million, for the thirteen weeks ended March 1, 2014. This increase was primarily due to an increase in our reserve for environmental contingencies of \$3.6 million. During the thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015, the Company also recorded higher legal expenses and reserves related to miscellaneous legal matters, including NECC, which were largely offset by the recording of the expected insurance recovery of defense costs associated with the NECC matter.

Table Of Contents*Depreciation and Amortization*

Our depreciation and amortization expense was \$18.8 million, or 5.2% of revenues, for the thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015 compared to \$17.8 million, or 5.2% of revenues, for the thirteen weeks ended March 1, 2014. The increase in depreciation and amortization expense was due to capital expenditure and acquisition activity in earlier periods.

Income from Operations

For the thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015 and March 1, 2014, changes in our revenues and costs as discussed above resulted in the following changes in our income from operations:

	February 28, 2015	March 1, 2014	Dollar Change	Percent Change	
(In thousands, except percentages)					
Core Laundry Operations	\$ 40,924	\$39,443	\$ 1,481	3.8	%
Specialty Garments	(435)	312	(747)	(239.1)	
First Aid	1,062	969	93	9.5	
Consolidated total	\$ 41,551	\$40,724	\$ 827	2.0	%

Other Expense (Income)

Other expense (income), which includes interest expense, interest income and exchange rate loss, was \$0.2 million of expense in the thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015 compared to income of \$0.5 million of income in the thirteen weeks ended March 1, 2014. This change was due to the weakening of the Canadian dollar and Euro against the US dollar, which resulted in foreign currency losses of \$0.9 million during the thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015 compared to foreign currency losses of \$0.2 million in the same period a year ago.

Provision for Income Taxes

Our effective income tax rate was 38.5% for the thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015, compared to 37.8% for the thirteen weeks ended March 1, 2014.

Twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 compared with Twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014

Revenues

(In thousands, except percentages)	February 28, 2015	March 1, 2014	Dollar Change	Percent Change	
Core Laundry Operations	\$667,915	\$625,187	\$42,728	6.8	%
Specialty Garments	41,137	44,849	(3,712)	(8.3)
First Aid	22,771	20,635	2,136	10.4	
Consolidated total	\$731,823	\$690,671	\$41,152	6.0	%

For the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015, our consolidated revenues increased by \$41.2 million from the comparable period in fiscal 2014, or 6.0%. Core Laundry Operations' revenues increased to \$667.9 million for the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 from \$625.2 million for the comparable period of fiscal 2014, an increase of 6.8%. Excluding the effect of acquisitions and a weaker Canadian dollar, Core Laundry Operations' revenues grew 7.0% organically. Organic growth consists primarily of new sales, price increases, and net changes in the wearer levels at our existing customers, offset by lost accounts. Organic growth in the first half of fiscal 2015 benefited from stronger new account sales as well as certain annual price adjustments. During the first half of fiscal 2015, our revenues began to be affected by decreases in the net wearer counts at our existing customers. As anticipated, these reductions are primarily at customers that directly or indirectly support energy production, oil in particular.

Table Of Contents

Specialty Garments' revenues decreased to \$41.1 million in the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 from \$44.8 million in the comparable period of 2014, a decrease of 8.3%. This decrease was primarily the result of reduced power reactor business in North America compared to a year ago as well as the impact of foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations. This segment's results are often affected by the timing and length of its customers' power reactor outages as well as its project-based activities. First Aid's revenues increased to \$22.8 million for the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 from \$20.6 million for the comparable period of fiscal 2014, an increase of 10.4%. This increase was primarily due to strong new sales in both its van-based business, where it sells first aid cabinet services and other safety supplies, as well as its wholesale distribution and pill packaging operations.

Cost of Revenues

For the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015, cost of revenues decreased as a percentage of revenues to 60.6% of revenues, or \$443.2 million, from 61.3% of revenues, or \$423.7 million, for the twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014. This decrease as a percentage of revenues was primarily due to lower fuel costs associated with our fleet of delivery vehicles. In addition, we also benefited from lower production payroll and payroll-related costs in the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 compared to the same period in the prior year. These lower costs were partially offset by slightly higher merchandise costs in the first half of fiscal 2015 compared to the comparable period in fiscal 2014. In addition, cost of revenues for the Specialty Garments segment increased as a percentage of revenues due to the revenue contraction that segment experienced in the first half of fiscal 2015 compared to the same period in the prior year.

Selling and Administrative Expense

Our selling and administrative expenses increased as a percentage of revenues to 20.4% of revenues, or \$149.6 million, for the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 from 19.6% of revenues, or \$135.5 million, for the twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014. This increase was primarily due to an increase in our reserve for environmental contingencies of \$3.6 million in our second fiscal quarter of 2015. During the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015, the Company also recorded higher legal expenses and reserves related to miscellaneous legal matters, including NECC, which were largely offset by the recording of the expected insurance recovery of defense costs associated with the NECC matter.

Depreciation and Amortization

Our depreciation and amortization expense was \$ 36.8 million, or 5.0% of revenues, for the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 compared to \$35.1 million, or 5.1% of revenues, for the twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014.

Depreciation and amortization expense increased due to capital expenditure and acquisition activity in earlier periods.

Income from Operations

For the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 and March 1, 2014, the revenue growth in our operations, as well as the change in our costs as discussed above, resulted in the following changes in our income from operations:

(In thousands, except percentages)	February 28, 2015	March 1, 2014	Dollar Change	Percent Change	
Core Laundry Operations	\$97,797	\$91,815	\$5,982	6.5	%
Specialty Garments	1,833	3,071	(1,238)	(40.3))
First Aid	2,510	1,478	1,032	69.8	
Consolidated total	\$102,140	\$96,364	\$5,776	6.0	%

Other (Income) Expense

Other (income) expense, which includes interest expense, interest income and foreign currency exchange loss, was a gain of \$0.1 million for the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 as compared to a gain of \$1.2 million for the twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014. This decrease was primarily the result of foreign currency losses of approximately \$1.3 million in the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 compared to a nominal loss in the first half of fiscal 2014.

Provision for Income Taxes

Our effective income tax rate was 38.5% for the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015, as compared to 38.4% for the twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014.

Table Of Contents

Liquidity and Capital Resources

General

Cash and cash equivalents totaled \$231.5 million as of February 28, 2015, an increase of \$39.7 million from August 30, 2014 when the amount totaled \$191.8 million. Our working capital was \$445.7 million as of February 28, 2015 compared to \$398.2 million as of August 30, 2014. In addition, we generated \$107.0 million and \$194.6 million in cash from operating activities in the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 and the full fiscal year ended August 30, 2014, respectively. We believe that our current cash and cash equivalent balances, our cash generated from future operations and amounts available under our Credit Agreement (defined below) will be sufficient to meet our current anticipated working capital and capital expenditure requirements for at least the next 12 months.

We have accumulated \$58.0 million in cash outside the United States that is expected to be invested indefinitely in our foreign subsidiaries. If these funds were distributed to the U.S. in the form of dividends, we would likely be subject to additional U.S. income taxes. However, we do not believe that any resulting taxes payable would have a material impact on our liquidity.

Cash flows provided by operating activities have historically been the primary source of our liquidity. We generally use these cash flows to fund most, if not all, of our operations, capital expenditure and acquisition activities as well as dividends on our common stock. We may also use cash flows provided by operating activities, as well as proceeds from loans payable and long-term debt, to fund growth and acquisition opportunities, as well as other cash requirements.

Cash Provided by Operating Activities

Cash provided by operating activities for the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 was \$107.0 million, a decrease of \$2.1 million from the twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014 when cash provided by operating activities was \$109.1 million. This net decrease was primarily driven by the following factors:

A decrease in cash flows of \$13.6 million generated by changes in working capital primarily due to the timing of our vendor payments as well as changes in our inventories and receivables;

An increase in cash flows of \$11.6 million generated by higher net income, adjusted for non-cash items.

Cash Used in Investing Activities

Cash used in investing activities for the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 was \$60.8 million, an increase of \$16.5 million from the twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014 when cash used in investing activities was \$44.4 million. The net increase in cash used in investing activities was primarily driven by an increase in cash outflows of \$14.4 million for the acquisition of businesses as well as an increase in cash outflows of \$1.5 million for capital expenditures during the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 compared to the same period in the prior year.

Cash (Used in) Provided by Financing Activities

Cash provided by financing activities for the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 was \$1.6 million compared to cash used in financing activities of \$102.1 million for the twenty-six weeks ended March 1, 2014. This change was primarily due to the repayment of \$100.0 million of Floating Rate Notes (defined below) that came due in September 2013.

Long-Term Debt and Borrowing Capacity

On May 5, 2011, we entered into a \$250.0 million unsecured revolving credit agreement (the "Credit Agreement") with a syndicate of banks, which matures on May 4, 2016. Under the Credit Agreement, we are able to borrow funds at variable interest rates based on, at our election, the Eurodollar rate or a base rate, plus in each case a spread based on our consolidated funded debt ratio. Availability of credit requires compliance with certain financial and other covenants, including a maximum consolidated funded debt ratio and minimum consolidated interest coverage ratio as defined in the Credit Agreement. We test our compliance with these financial covenants on a fiscal quarterly basis. At February 28, 2015, the interest rates applicable to our borrowings under the Credit Agreement would be calculated as LIBOR plus 75 basis points at the time of the respective borrowing. As of February 28, 2015, we had no outstanding borrowings, letters of credit amounting to \$53.2 million and \$196.8 million available for borrowing under the Credit Agreement.

On September 14, 2006, we issued \$100.0 million of floating rates notes ("Floating Rate Notes") pursuant to a Note Purchase Agreement, which bore interest at LIBOR plus 50 basis points. On September 14, 2013, the Floating Rate Notes matured and were repaid in full from our cash reserves.

As of February 28, 2015, we were in compliance with all covenants under the Credit Agreement.

Table Of Contents

Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities

In January 2015, we entered into sixteen forward contracts to exchange Canadian dollars (“CAD”) for U.S. dollars at fixed exchange rates in order to manage its exposure related to certain forecasted CAD denominated sales of one of our subsidiaries. The hedged transactions are specified as the first amount of CAD denominated revenues invoiced by one of our domestic subsidiaries each fiscal quarter, beginning in the third fiscal quarter of 2015 and continuing through the second fiscal quarter of 2019. In total, we will sell approximately 31.0 million CAD at an average Canadian-dollar exchange rate of 0.7825 over these quarterly periods. We concluded that the forward contracts met the criteria to qualify as a cash flow hedge under US GAAP. Accordingly, we have reflected all changes in the fair value of the forward contracts in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), a component of shareholders’ equity. Once the underlying forecasted transaction affects earnings, the gain or loss on the foreign exchange forward contract will be recorded as an adjustment to revenues.

As of February 28, 2015, we had forward contracts with a notional value of approximately 31.0 million CAD outstanding and recorded the fair value of the contracts of \$0.6 million in current accrued liabilities and a corresponding loss of \$0.6 million in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), which was net of the associated tax benefit. The \$0.6 million loss deferred in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) as of February 28, 2015 is expected to be reclassified to revenues prior to its maturity on February 22, 2019.

Commitments and Contingencies

We are subject to various federal, state and local laws and regulations governing, among other things, air emissions, wastewater discharges, and the generation, handling, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes and other substances. In particular, industrial laundries currently use and must dispose of detergent waste water and other residues, and, in the past, used perchloroethylene and other dry cleaning solvents. We are attentive to the environmental concerns surrounding the disposal of these materials and have, through the years, taken measures to avoid their improper disposal. Over the years, we have settled, or contributed to the settlement of, actions or claims brought against us relating to the disposal of hazardous materials and there can be no assurance that we will not have to expend material amounts to remediate the consequences of any such disposal in the future.

US GAAP requires that a liability for contingencies be recorded when it is probable that a liability has been incurred and the amount of the liability can be reasonably estimated. Significant judgment is required to determine the existence of a liability, as well as the amount to be recorded. We regularly consult with attorneys and outside consultants in our consideration of the relevant facts and circumstances before recording a contingent liability. Changes in enacted laws, regulatory orders or decrees, our estimates of costs, risk-free interest rates, insurance proceeds, participation by other parties, the timing of payments, the input of our attorneys and outside consultants or other factual circumstances could have a material impact on the amounts recorded for our environmental and other

contingent liabilities.

Under environmental laws, an owner or lessee of real estate may be liable for the costs of removal or remediation of certain hazardous or toxic substances located on, or in, or emanating from such property, as well as related costs of investigation and property damage. Such laws often impose liability without regard to whether the owner or lessee knew of, or was responsible for, the presence of such hazardous or toxic substances. There can be no assurances that acquired or leased locations have been operated in compliance with environmental laws and regulations or that future uses or conditions will not result in the imposition of liability upon our Company under such laws or expose our Company to third party actions such as tort suits. We continue to address environmental conditions under terms of consent orders or otherwise negotiated with the applicable environmental authorities with respect to sites located in or related to Woburn, Massachusetts, Somerville, Massachusetts, Springfield, Massachusetts, Uvalde, Texas, Stockton, California, three sites related to former operations in Williamstown, Vermont, as well as sites located in Goldsboro, North Carolina, Wilmington, North Carolina and Landover, Maryland.

We have accrued certain costs related to the sites described above as it has been determined that the costs are probable and can be reasonably estimated. We have potential exposure related to a parcel of land (the "Central Area") related to the Woburn, Massachusetts site discussed above. Currently, the consent decree for the Woburn site does not define or require any remediation work in the Central Area. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (the "EPA") has provided us and other signatories to the consent decree with comments on the design and implementation of groundwater and soil remedies at the Woburn site and investigation of environmental conditions in the Central Area. We, and other signatories, have implemented and proposed to do additional work at the Woburn site but many of the EPA's comments remain to be resolved. We have accrued costs to perform certain work responsive to EPA's comments. We are also in discussions with EPA concerning its invoices for oversight costs with respect to the Woburn site and the Central Area. We have implemented mitigation measures and continue to monitor environmental conditions at the Somerville, Massachusetts site. We increased our environmental contingency reserves by approximately \$3.6 million during our second fiscal quarter of 2015 due primarily to additional costs we expect to incur associated with the construction of a planned municipal transit station in the area of our Somerville site.

Table Of Contents

We routinely review and evaluate sites that may require remediation and monitoring and determine our estimated costs based on various estimates and assumptions. These estimates are developed using our internal sources or by third-party environmental engineers or other service providers. Internally developed estimates are based on:

- Management's judgment and experience in remediating and monitoring our sites;
- Information available from regulatory agencies as to costs of remediation and monitoring;
- The number, financial resources and relative degree of responsibility of other potentially responsible parties (PRPs) who may be liable for remediation and monitoring of a specific site; and
- The typical allocation of costs among PRPs.

There is usually a range of reasonable estimates of the costs associated with each site. In accordance with US GAAP, our accruals represent the amount within the range that we believe is the best estimate or the low end of a range of estimates if no point within the range is a better estimate. When we believe that both the amount of a particular liability and the timing of the payments are reliably determinable, we adjust the cost in current dollars using a rate of 3% for inflation until the time of expected payment and discount the cost to present value using current risk-free interest rates. As of February 28, 2015, the risk-free interest rates we utilized ranged from 2.0% to 2.6%.

For environmental liabilities that have been discounted, we include interest accretion, based on the effective interest method, in selling and administrative expenses on the Consolidated Statements of Income. The changes to the amounts of our environmental liabilities for the twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015 are as follows (in thousands):

	February 28, 2015
Beginning balance as of August 30, 2014	\$ 19,846
Payments made for which reserves had been provided	(1,683)
Insurance proceeds received	65
Interest accretion	302
Revision in estimates	3,025
Change in discount rates	946
Balance as of February 28, 2015	\$ 22,501

Anticipated payments and insurance proceeds relating to currently identified environmental remediation liabilities as of February 28, 2015, for the next five fiscal years and thereafter, as measured in current dollars, are reflected below.

(In thousands)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Thereafter	Total
Estimated costs – current dollars	\$3,536	\$4,940	\$1,663	\$745	\$863	\$12,406	\$24,153
Estimated insurance proceeds	(107)	(159)	(173)	(159)	(173)	(1,430)	(2,201)
Net anticipated costs	\$3,429	\$4,781	\$1,490	\$586	\$690	\$10,976	\$21,952
Effect of inflation							7,377
Effect of discounting							(6,828)
Balance as of February 28, 2015							\$22,501

Estimated insurance proceeds are primarily received from an annuity received as part of our legal settlement with an insurance company. Annual proceeds of approximately \$0.3 million are deposited into an escrow account which funds remediation and monitoring costs for three sites related to our former operations in Williamstown, Vermont. Annual proceeds received but not expended in the current year accumulate in this account and may be used in future years for costs related to this site through the year 2027. As of February 28, 2015, the balance in this escrow account, which is held in a trust and is not recorded in our Consolidated Balance Sheet, was approximately \$2.9 million. Also included in estimated insurance proceeds are amounts we are entitled to receive pursuant to legal settlements as reimbursements from three insurance companies for estimated costs at the site in Uvalde, Texas.

Our nuclear garment decontamination facilities are licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (“NRC”), or, in certain cases, by the applicable state agency, and are subject to regulation by federal, state and local authorities. There can be no assurance that such regulation will not lead to material disruptions in our garment decontamination business.

Table Of Contents

From time to time, we are also subject to legal proceedings and claims arising from the conduct of our business operations, including personal injury claims, customer contract matters, employment claims and environmental matters as described above. During the thirteen weeks ended February 28, 2015, we recorded higher legal expenses and reserves related to miscellaneous legal matters, including NECC, which were largely offset by the recording of the expected insurance recovery of defense costs associated with the NECC matter.

While it is impossible for us to ascertain the ultimate legal and financial liability with respect to contingent liabilities, including lawsuits and environmental contingencies, we believe that the aggregate amount of such liabilities, if any, in excess of amounts covered by insurance have been properly accrued in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. It is possible, however, that the future financial position and/or results of operations for any particular future period could be materially affected by changes in our assumptions or strategies related to these contingencies or changes out of our control.

As previously disclosed, we are a defendant in hundreds of lawsuits relating to New England Compounding Center's ("NECC") highly-publicized compounding and sale of tainted methylprednisolone acetate, which reportedly resulted in a widespread outbreak of fungal meningitis and other infections. It has been reported that over 60 people died and another approximately 700 people were allegedly seriously injured as a result of this outbreak. These suits against us relate to the limited, once-a-month cleaning services we provided to portions of NECC's cleanroom facilities.

In February 2013, suits against NECC were transferred to a multi-district litigation ("MDL") proceeding in federal court in Boston, Massachusetts. The MDL court appointed the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee ("PSC") for the NECC litigation.

NECC is in bankruptcy and on December 3, 2014 its Chapter 11 Trustee (the "Chapter 11 Trustee") proposed a Chapter 11 Plan for NECC (the "Plan"). On December 16, 2014, the United States indicted 14 former owners, managers, employees and affiliates of NECC, alleging a number of crimes, including second-degree murder and racketeering.

On February 23, 2015, we entered into a Settlement and Release Agreement with the Chapter 11 Trustee and our insurers, which is supported by the PSC and the creditors' committee (the "Settlement Agreement"). Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, our insurers will pay the full settlement amount of \$30.5 million to the Chapter 11 Trustee for the benefit of creditors and other parties under the Plan. The Settlement Agreement provides that we will receive the benefit of the releases and injunction set forth in the Plan, which bar all persons from asserting any claims against us relating to the NECC matter. The effectiveness of the Settlement Agreement is conditioned on the bankruptcy court's issuance of a confirmation order confirming the Plan on terms that do not adversely change the terms or scope of the releases and injunction set forth in the Plan. In addition, \$30 million of the settlement amount will be held in escrow pending the exhaustion of all appeals that may be taken with respect to such confirmation order. Upon the exhaustion of all such appeals, if a court has not adversely changed the terms or scope of the releases and injunction set forth in

the Plan, then this settlement amount will be released from escrow and the settlement will be final.

If either the bankruptcy court's confirmation order or any resulting appeal adversely affects the releases or injunction as provided for in the Plan, then we or our insurers may terminate the Settlement Agreement, in which case the litigation would resume. If the litigation were to resume based on the information currently available, we believe that a loss with respect to this matter would be neither probable nor remote and we are unable to reasonably assess an estimate or range of estimates of any potential losses. However, if we are found to be liable with respect to litigation relating to NECC that is not covered by our insurance or exceeds such insurance coverage, we may incur liabilities that are material to our financial condition and operating results.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of February 28, 2015, we did not have any off-balance-sheet arrangements, as defined in Item 303(a)(4)(ii) of Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation S-K.

Seasonality

Historically, our revenues and operating results have varied from quarter to quarter and are expected to continue to fluctuate in the future. These fluctuations have been due to a number of factors, including: general economic conditions in our markets; the timing of acquisitions and of commencing start-up operations and related costs; our effectiveness in integrating acquired businesses and start-up operations; the timing of nuclear plant outages; capital expenditures; seasonal rental and purchasing patterns of our customers; and price changes in response to competitive factors. In addition, our operating results historically have been lower during the second and fourth fiscal quarters than during the other quarters of the fiscal year. The operating results for any historical quarter are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for an entire fiscal year or any other interim periods.

Effects of Inflation

In general, we believe that our results of operations are not dependent on moderate changes in the inflation rate. Historically, we have been able to manage the impacts of more significant changes in inflation rates through our customer relationships, customer agreements that generally provide for price increases consistent with the rate of inflation, and continued focus on improvements of operational productivity.

Table Of Contents

Contractual Obligations and Other Commercial Commitments

As of February 28, 2015, except as discussed below, there were no material changes in our contractual obligations that were disclosed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 30, 2014.

In January 2015, we entered into sixteen forward contracts to exchange Canadian dollars (“CAD”) for U.S. dollars at fixed exchange rates in order to manage its exposure related to certain forecasted CAD denominated sales of one of our subsidiaries. The hedged transactions are specified as the first amount of CAD denominated revenues invoiced by one of our domestic subsidiaries each fiscal quarter, beginning in the third fiscal quarter of 2015 and continuing through the second fiscal quarter of 2019. In total, we will sell approximately 31.0 million CAD at an average Canadian-dollar exchange rate of 0.7825 over these quarterly periods. We concluded that the forward contracts met the criteria to qualify as a cash flow hedge under US GAAP. Accordingly, we have reflected all changes in the fair value of the forward contracts in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), a component of shareholders’ equity. Once the underlying forecasted transaction affects earnings, the gain or loss on the foreign exchange forward contract will be recorded as an adjustment to revenues.

As of February 28, 2015, we had forward contracts with a notional value of approximately 31.0 million CAD outstanding and recorded the fair value of the contracts of \$0.6 million in current accrued liabilities and a corresponding loss of \$0.6 million in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), which was net of the associated tax benefit. The \$0.6 million loss deferred in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) as of February 28, 2015 is expected to be reclassified to revenues prior to its maturity on February 22, 2019.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In July 2013, the FASB issued updated accounting guidance on the presentation of unrecognized tax benefits. This update provides that an entity’s unrecognized tax benefits, or a portion of its unrecognized tax benefits, should be presented in its financial statements as a reduction to a deferred tax asset for a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss, or a tax credit carryforward, with one exception. That exception states that, to the extent a net operating loss carryforward, a similar tax loss, or a tax credit carryforward is not available at the reporting date under the tax law of the applicable jurisdiction to settle any additional income taxes that would result from the disallowance of a tax position, or the tax law of the applicable jurisdiction does not require the entity to use, and the entity does not intend to use, the deferred tax asset for such purpose, the unrecognized tax benefit should be presented in the financial statements as a liability and should not be combined with deferred tax assets. This guidance was effective for annual reporting periods, and any interim periods within those annual periods, that begin after December 15, 2013 and was to be applied prospectively, with early adoption permitted. We adopted this guidance on August 31, 2014 and the adoption did not have a material impact on our financial statements.

In May 2014, the FASB issued updated accounting guidance on revenue recognition. This update provides a comprehensive new revenue recognition model that requires revenue to be recognized in a manner to depict the transfer of goods or services to a customer at an amount that reflects the consideration expected to be received in exchange for those goods or services. This guidance is effective for annual reporting periods, and any interim periods within those annual periods, that begin after December 15, 2016 and allows for either full retrospective or modified retrospective application, with early adoption not permitted. Accordingly, the standard is effective for us on August 27, 2017. We are currently evaluating the adoption method we will apply and the impact that this guidance will have on our financial statements and related disclosures.

In February 2015, the FASB issued updated accounting guidance on consolidation requirements. This update changes the guidance with respect to the analysis that a reporting entity must perform to determine whether it should consolidate certain types of legal entities. This guidance is effective for annual periods, and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2015, with early adoption permitted. We do not expect adoption of this guidance will have a material impact on our financial statements.

Table Of Contents

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

Foreign Currency Exchange Risk

We have determined that all of our foreign subsidiaries operate primarily in local currencies that represent the functional currencies of such subsidiaries. All assets and liabilities of our foreign subsidiaries are translated into U.S. dollars using the exchange rate prevailing at the balance sheet date. The effects of exchange rate fluctuations on the translation of assets and liabilities are recorded as a component of shareholders' equity. Revenues and expenses are translated at the average exchange rates in effect during each month of the fiscal year. As such, our financial condition and operating results are affected by fluctuations in the value of the U.S. dollar as compared to currencies in foreign countries. Revenues denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar represented approximately 8.5% and 8.8% of total consolidated revenues for the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015, respectively, and total assets denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar represented approximately 9.5% and 11.0% of total consolidated assets at February 28, 2015 and August 30, 2014, respectively. If exchange rates had increased or decreased by 10% from the actual rates in effect during the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended and as of February 28, 2015, our revenues would have increased or decreased by approximately \$3.1 million and \$6.4 million, respectively, and assets as of February 28, 2015 would have increased or decreased by approximately \$14.1 million.

In January 2015, we entered into sixteen forward contracts to exchange Canadian dollars ("CAD") for U.S. dollars at fixed exchange rates in order to manage its exposure related to certain forecasted CAD denominated sales of one of our subsidiaries. The hedged transactions are specified as the first amount of CAD denominated revenues invoiced by one of our domestic subsidiaries each fiscal quarter, beginning in the third fiscal quarter of 2015 and continuing through the second fiscal quarter of 2019. In total, we will sell approximately 31.0 million CAD at an average Canadian-dollar exchange rate of 0.7825 over these quarterly periods. We concluded that the forward contracts met the criteria to qualify as a cash flow hedge under US GAAP. Accordingly, we have reflected all changes in the fair value of the forward contracts in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), a component of shareholders' equity. Once the underlying forecasted transaction affects earnings, the gain or loss on the foreign exchange forward contract will be recorded as an adjustment to revenues.

As of February 28, 2015, we had forward contracts with a notional value of approximately 31.0 million CAD outstanding and recorded the fair value of the contracts of \$0.6 million in current accrued liabilities and a corresponding loss of \$0.6 million in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss), which was net of the associated tax benefit. The \$0.6 million loss deferred in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) as of February 28, 2015 is expected to be reclassified to revenues prior to its maturity on February 22, 2019.

Other than the forward contract, discussed above, we do not operate a hedging program to mitigate the effect of a significant change in the value of our foreign subsidiaries functional currencies, which include the Canadian Dollar,

Euro, British Pound, and Mexican Peso, as compared to the U.S. dollar. Any losses or gains resulting from unhedged foreign currency transactions, including exchange rate fluctuations on intercompany accounts are reported as transaction losses (gains) in our other (income) expense. The intercompany payables and receivables are denominated in Canadian Dollars, Euros, British Pounds, Mexican Pesos and Nicaraguan Cordova. During the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015, transaction losses included in other (income) expense was approximately \$0.9 million and \$1.3 million, respectively. If the exchange rates had increased or decreased by 10% during the thirteen and twenty-six weeks ended February 28, 2015, we would have recognized exchange gains or losses of approximately \$0.9 million for both periods.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

As required by Rule 13a-15 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), we carried out an evaluation under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, of 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 their evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective to ensure that material information relating to the Company required to be disclosed by the Company in reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in Securities and Exchange Commission rules and forms and to ensure that such information is accumulated and communicated to management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. In designing and evaluating the disclosure controls and procedures, our management recognized that any controls and procedures, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurances of achieving the desired control objectives, and management necessarily was required to apply its judgment in designing and evaluating the controls and procedures. We continue to review our disclosure controls and procedures, and our internal control over financial reporting, and may from time to time make changes aimed at enhancing their effectiveness and to ensure that our systems evolve with our business.

Table Of Contents

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the second quarter of fiscal year 2015 that have materially affected, or that are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II – OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

From time to time, we are subject to legal proceedings and claims arising from the current conduct of our business operations, including personal injury, customer contract, employment claims and environmental matters as described in our Consolidated Financial Statements. We maintain insurance coverage providing indemnification against many of such claims, and we do not expect that we will sustain any material loss as a result thereof. Refer to Note 10, “Commitments and Contingencies,” to the Consolidated Financial Statements, as well as Item 1A. Risk Factors below, for further discussion.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

To our knowledge, except as set forth below under this “Item 1A. Risk Factors,” there have been no material changes in the risk factors described in Part I, “Item 1A. Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 30, 2014. In addition to the other information set forth in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, you should carefully consider the factors discussed in Part I, “Item 1A. Risk Factors” in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 30, 2014, which could materially affect our business, financial condition or future results. The risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K are not the only risks we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and/or operating results.

In addition to contingencies and claims relating to environmental compliance matters, we may from time to time be subject to legal proceedings and claims related to our business operations which may adversely affect our financial condition and operating results.

In addition to contingencies and claims relating to environmental compliance matters, we are subject from time to time to legal proceedings and claims arising from the conduct of our business operations, including personal injury claims, customer contract matters and employment claims. Certain of these claims are typically not covered by our available insurance. In addition, claims occasionally result in significant investigation and litigation expenses and, if successful, may result in material losses to us. Certain claims may also result in significant adverse publicity against us. As a consequence, successful claims against us not covered by our available insurance coverage could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operation.

As previously disclosed, we are a defendant in hundreds of lawsuits relating to New England Compounding Center's ("NECC") highly-publicized compounding and sale of tainted methylprednisolone acetate, which reportedly resulted in a widespread outbreak of fungal meningitis and other infections. It has been reported that over 60 people died and another approximately 700 people were allegedly seriously injured as a result of this outbreak. These suits against us relate to the limited, once-a-month cleaning services we provided to portions of NECC's cleanroom facilities.

In February 2013, suits against NECC were transferred to a multi-district litigation ("MDL") proceeding in federal court in Boston, Massachusetts. The MDL court appointed the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee ("PSC") for the NECC litigation.

NECC is in bankruptcy and on December 3, 2014 its Chapter 11 Trustee (the "Chapter 11 Trustee") proposed a Chapter 11 Plan for NECC (the "Plan"). On December 16, 2014, the United States indicted 14 former owners, managers, employees and affiliates of NECC, alleging a number of crimes, including second-degree murder and racketeering.

On February 23, 2015, we entered into a Settlement and Release Agreement with the Chapter 11 Trustee and our insurers, which is supported by the PSC and the creditors' committee (the "Settlement Agreement"). Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, our insurers will pay the full settlement amount of \$30.5 million to the Chapter 11 Trustee for the benefit of creditors and other parties under the Plan. The Settlement Agreement provides that we will receive the benefit of the releases and injunction set forth in the Plan, which bar all persons from asserting any claims against us relating to the NECC matter. The effectiveness of the Settlement Agreement is conditioned on the bankruptcy court's issuance of a confirmation order confirming the Plan on terms that do not adversely change the terms or scope of the releases and injunction set forth in the Plan. In addition, \$30 million of the settlement amount will be held in escrow pending the exhaustion of all appeals that may be taken with respect to such confirmation order. Upon the exhaustion of all such appeals, if a court has not adversely changed the terms or scope of the releases and injunction set forth in the Plan, then this settlement amount will be released from escrow and the settlement will be final.

If either the bankruptcy court's confirmation order or any resulting appeal adversely affects the releases or injunction as provided for in the Plan, then we or our insurers may terminate the Settlement Agreement, in which case the litigation would resume. If the litigation were to resume based on the information currently available, we believe that a loss with respect to this matter would be neither probable nor remote and we are unable to reasonably assess an estimate or range of estimates of any potential losses. However, if we are found to be liable with respect to litigation relating to NECC that is not covered by our insurance or exceeds such insurance coverage, we may incur liabilities that are material to our financial condition and operating results.

Table Of Contents

As a result of our significant presence in energy producing regions, we expect that if energy prices remain depressed our financial results will be negatively impacted.

We have a substantial number of plants and conduct a significant portion of our business in energy producing regions in the U.S and Canada. The price of oil has declined dramatically over the past several months. If the price remains depressed, it is likely that our customers in the oil industry will curtail their level of operations. This contraction will negatively impact our garment and merchandise rental revenues from them. In addition, a decline in the oil industry will also likely adversely affect our customers in businesses which service or supply the oil industry as well as our customers in unrelated businesses located in areas which have benefited from the economic expansion generated by the robust growth driven by the higher oil prices. On the other hand, we benefit from lower costs of the gasoline used to fuel our vehicles and the natural gas used to operate our plants. Since there are substantial uncertainties regarding the extent, timing and effect of lower oil prices, it is difficult to quantify the positive and negative impacts on our financial results from lower oil prices. Nevertheless, we believe that the benefits from lower energy costs would be outweighed by the revenues and profits we may lose as a result of cutbacks by our customers in the oil industry and other affected businesses. As a result, we believe that a prolonged period of relatively low prices of oil will adversely affect our results of operations.

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

None.

ITEM 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES

None.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not Applicable.

ITEM 5. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

10.1 UniFirst Corporation Amended and Restated 2010 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (previously filed as Appendix A to the Corporation's Definitive Proxy Statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 2, 2014 and incorporated herein by reference).

* 31.1 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Ronald D. Croatti

* 31.2 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Steven S. Sintros

** 32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

** 32.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

* 101 The following materials from UniFirst Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 28, 2015, formatted in XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Consolidated Statements of Income, (ii) Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income, (iii) Consolidated Balance Sheets, (iv) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, and (v) Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

* *Filed herewith*

** *Furnished herewith*

Table Of Contents

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.

UniFirst Corporation

/s/ Ronald D. Croatti

April 9, 2015 By: Ronald D. Croatti

President and Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Steven S. Sintros

April 9, 2015 By: Steven S. Sintros

Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Table Of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

10.1 UniFirst Corporation Amended and Restated 2010 Stock Option and Incentive Plan (previously filed as Appendix A to the Corporation's Definitive Proxy Statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 2, 2014 and incorporated herein by reference).

* 31.1 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Ronald D. Croatti

* 31.2 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Steven S. Sintros

** 32.1 Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

** 32.2 Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

* 101 The following materials from UniFirst Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 28, 2015, formatted in XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Consolidated Statements of Income, (ii) Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income, (iii) Consolidated Balance Sheets, (iv) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, and (v) Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

* *Filed herewith*

** *Furnished herewith*