

KIRKLAND'S, INC  
Form 10-K  
April 20, 2009

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

**Form 10-K**

(Mark One)

- ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)  
OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the fiscal year ended January 31, 2009**
- or**
- TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)  
OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the transition period from        to**

**Commission file number 000-49885**

**Kirkland s, Inc.**

*(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)*

**Tennessee**

*(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)*

**62-1287151**

*(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)*

**431 Smith Lane, Jackson, Tennessee**

*(Address of principal executive offices)*

**38301**

*(Zip Code)*

**Registrant s telephone number, including area code:**

**(731) 988-3600**

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

**Title of each class**

**Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered**

Common Stock, no par value per share

The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

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

**(None)**

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Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

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 (Section 229.405) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

The registrant is not currently phased into the Interactive Data File filing requirements pursuant to Rule 405

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

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

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

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

The aggregate market value of the common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of August 2, 2008 (the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter) was approximately \$27,889,492 based on the last sale price of the common stock as reported by The Nasdaq Stock Market.

As of March 25, 2009, there were 19,664,605 shares of the registrant's common stock outstanding.

#### **DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the definitive Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Kirkland's, Inc. to be held June 8, 2009, are incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

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**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This Form 10-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws and the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements may be found throughout this Form 10-K, particularly under the headings Business and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, among others. Forward-looking statements typically are identified by the use of terms such as may, will, should, expect, anticipate, believe, estimate, intend and similar words, although some forward-looking statements are expressed differently. You should consider statements that contain these words carefully because they describe our expectations, plans, strategies and goals and our beliefs concerning future business conditions, our results of operations, financial position and our business outlook or state other forward-looking information based on currently available information. The factors listed below under the heading Risk Factors and in the other sections of this Form 10-K provide examples of risks, uncertainties and events that could cause our actual results to differ materially from the expectations expressed in our forward-looking statements.

The forward-looking statements made in this Form 10-K relate only to events as of the date on which the statements are made. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which the statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

The terms Kirkland's, we, us, and our as used in this Form 10-K refer to Kirkland's, Inc.

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**PART I**

**Item 1. *Business***

**General**

We are a specialty retailer of home décor in the United States, operating 299 stores in 34 states as of January 31, 2009. Our stores present a broad selection of distinctive merchandise, including framed art, mirrors, wall décor, candles, lamps, decorative accessories, accent furniture, textiles, garden accessories and artificial floral products. Our stores also offer an extensive assortment of holiday merchandise as well as items carried throughout the year suitable for giving as gifts. In addition, we use innovative design and packaging to market home décor items as gifts. We provide our predominantly female customers an engaging shopping experience characterized by a diverse, ever-changing merchandise selection at surprisingly attractive prices. Our stores offer a unique combination of style and value that has led to our emergence as a recognized name in home décor and has enabled us to develop a strong customer franchise.

**Business Strategy**

Our goal is to be the leading specialty retailer of home décor in each of our markets. We believe the following elements of our business strategy differentiate us from our competitors and position us for profitable growth:

*Item-focused merchandising.* While our stores contain items covering a broad range of complementary product categories, we emphasize traditionally-styled, fashionable key items within our targeted categories rather than merchandising complete, themed product classifications. Although we do not attempt to be a fashion leader, our buyers work closely with our vendors to identify and develop stylish merchandise that appeals to a broad base of customers while reflecting the latest trends. We test-market products where appropriate and monitor individual item sales, which enables us to identify and quickly reorder best selling items in order to maximize sales. We constantly evaluate market trends and merchandise sales data and work with vendors to develop additional products to be sold in our stores, frequently on an exclusive basis. In most cases, this exclusive merchandise is the result of our buying team's experience in interpreting market and merchandise trends in a way that appeals to our customers.

*Ever-changing merchandise mix.* We believe our ever-changing merchandise mix creates an exciting treasure hunt environment, encouraging strong customer loyalty and frequent return visits to our stores. The merchandise in our stores is traditionally styled for broad market appeal, yet it reflects an understanding of our customer's desire for fashion and newness. Our information systems permit close tracking of individual item sales, enabling us to react quickly to both fast-selling and slow-moving items. Accordingly, we actively change our merchandise throughout the year in response to market trends, sales results and changes in seasons. We also strategically increase selling space devoted to gifts and seasonal merchandise in advance of holidays.

*Stimulating visual presentation.* Our stores have a distinctive look that helps customers visualize the merchandise in their own homes and inspires decorating and gift-giving ideas. Using multiple merchandise arrangements to simulate home settings, we group complementary merchandise creatively throughout the store. We believe this cross-category merchandising strategy encourages customers to browse for longer periods of time, promoting add-on sales. We adjust our visual presentation frequently to take advantage of sales trends and enhance our ever-changing merchandise mix.

*Strong value proposition.* Our customers regularly experience the satisfaction of paying noticeably less for items similar or identical to those sold by other retail stores or through other retail channels. This strategy of providing a

unique combination of style and value is an important element in making Kirkland's a destination store. While we carry some items in our stores that sell for several hundred dollars, most items sell for under \$20 and are perceived by our customers as very affordable home décor and gifts. Our longstanding relationships with vendors and our ability to place and sell-through large orders of a single item enhance our ability to attain favorable product pricing from vendors.



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*Broad market appeal.* Our stores operate successfully across a wide spectrum of different regions and market sizes. As of January 31, 2009, we operated stores in 34 states. Although originally focused in the Southeast, approximately 48% of our stores are now located outside that region. The flexibility of our concept enables us to select the most promising real estate opportunities that meet requisite economic and demographic criteria within our target markets where our customers live and shop.

## **Store Development Strategy**

Our strategy on store development in previous years has been to open new stores in existing and new markets. Over the past three years, we have slowed our new store growth and decreased our overall number of stores from 349 as of the end of fiscal 2006 to 299 stores as of the end of fiscal 2008. New stores generally have been larger off-mall stores, while store closings mostly have consisted of smaller mall stores. We anticipate that substantially all of our future new store growth will be in off-mall locations. As of January 31, 2009, we had commitments to open four new stores during fiscal 2009. We expect to open a total of 15 to 20 stores during the 52 weeks ending January 30, 2010 ( fiscal 2009 ) with a focus on the relocation of closing mall properties in our core geographic markets. We expect to close approximately 35 to 40 stores during fiscal 2009. While the plan for fiscal 2009 represents a further reduction in the store base, we expect the store count to reach a bottom by the end of the year. We are making a measured re-entry into the real estate market, and expect to have deals in progress for early 2010 that will serve to offset some of the late closings in fiscal 2009. Our approach to store development in the near term concentrates on controlled, profitable growth, focused on cash flow accumulation and the replacement of profitable mall stores with off-mall locations that have more upside potential.

Our store model produces strong cash flow and provides an attractive return on investment. Of the 146 new stores opened during the past four fiscal years, 145 of these are located in off-mall venues. Among the group of 145 off-mall stores, 136 have been open at least a full twelve months, and their average first-year sales volume was approximately \$1,400,000. These stores often generate a positive store contribution in their first full year of operation. Since fiscal 2003, when we began to focus our growth on off-mall opportunities, we have recorded higher average sales volume and store contribution from our off-mall new stores as compared to mall stores.

We use store contribution, which consists of store gross profit minus store operating expenses, as our primary measure of operating profitability for a single store or group of stores. Store contribution specifically excludes the allocation of corporate overhead and distribution costs, and therefore should not be considered comparable to operating income or other GAAP profit measures that are appropriate for assessing overall corporate financial performance. Store contribution also excludes depreciation and amortization charges. We track these non-cash charges for each store and for Kirkland's as a whole. However, we exclude these charges from store contribution in order to more closely measure the cash flow produced by each store in relation to the cash invested in that store in the form of capital assets and inventory.

## **Merchandising**

*Merchandising strategy.* Our merchandising strategy is to (i) offer distinctive and often exclusive, high quality home décor at affordable prices representing great value to our customers, (ii) maintain a breadth of productive merchandise categories, (iii) provide a carefully edited selection of key items within targeted categories, rather than merchandising complete, themed product classifications, (iv) emphasize new and fresh-to-market merchandise by continually updating our merchandise mix, and (v) present merchandise in a visually appealing manner to create an inviting atmosphere which inspires decorating and gift-giving ideas and encourages frequent store visits.

Our information systems permit close tracking of individual item sales, which enables us to react quickly to market trends and best or slow sellers. This daily sales and gross margin information helps us to maximize the productivity of

successful products and categories, and minimize the accumulation of slow-moving inventory. Our core merchandise assortment is relatively consistent across the chain. We address regional

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differences in home décor by tailoring inventories to geographic considerations and specific store sales results in selected categories.

We continuously introduce new and often exclusive products to our merchandise assortment in order to (i) maintain customer interest due to the freshness of our product selections, encouraging frequent return visits to our stores, (ii) enhance our reputation as a source for identifying or developing high quality, fashionable products, and (iii) allow merchandise which has peaked in sales to be quickly discontinued and replaced by new items. In addition, we strategically increase selling space devoted to gifts and holiday merchandise during the third and fourth quarters of the calendar year. Our flexible store design and fixtures allow for selling space changes as needed to capitalize on selling trends.

Our average store generally carries approximately 2,600-2,800 Stock Keeping Units ( SKUs ). We regularly monitor the sell-through on each item; therefore, the number and make-up of our active SKUs is continuously changing based on changes in selling trends. New and different SKUs are introduced to our stores constantly.

We purchase merchandise from approximately 279 vendors, and our buying team works closely with vendors to differentiate Kirkland's merchandise from that of our competitors. For products that are not manufactured specifically for Kirkland's, we may create custom packaging as a way to differentiate our merchandise offering and reinforce our brand. Exclusive or proprietary products distinguish us from our competition, enhance the value of our merchandise and provide opportunity to improve our net sales and gross margin. Our strategy is to continue to grow our exclusive and proprietary products within our merchandise mix.

*Product assortment.* Our major merchandise categories include wall décor (framed art, mirrors, metal and other wall ornaments), lamps, decorative accessories, candles and related items, textiles, garden accessories, and artificial floral products. Our stores also offer an extensive assortment of holiday merchandise, as well as items carried throughout the year suitable for giving as gifts. Consistent with our item-focused strategy, a vital part of the product mix is a variety of home décor and other assorted merchandise that does not necessarily fit into a specific product category. Decorative accessories consist of such varied products as vases and clocks. Other merchandise includes housewares, picture frames and miscellaneous items. Throughout the year and especially for the fourth quarter of the calendar year, our buying team uses its experience in home décor to develop products that are equally appropriate for gift-giving.

The following table presents the percentage of net sales contributed by our major merchandise categories over the last three fiscal years:

| Merchandise Category   | % of Net Sales |             |             |
|--|----------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | Fiscal 2008    | Fiscal 2007 | Fiscal 2006 |
| Wall Décor (including framed art, mirrors, metal and other wall ornaments) | 32%            | 31%         | 29%         |
| Decorative Accessories   | 13             | 13          | 12          |
| Candles  | 11             | 11          | 11          |
| Accent Furniture   | 9              | 8           | 8           |
| Holiday  | 7              | 8           | 7           |
| Lamps  | 8              | 6           | 8           |
| Textiles   | 5              | 6           | 8           |
| Gifts  | 4              | 5           | 2           |

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|  |      |      |      |
|--|------|------|------|
| Other (including housewares, picture frames and other miscellaneous items) | 4    | 4    | 5    |
| Floral   | 4    | 3    | 5    |
| Garden   | 3    | 5    | 5    |
| Total  | 100% | 100% | 100% |

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*Value to customer.* Through our distinctive merchandising, together with carefully coordinated in-store marketing, visual presentation and product packaging, we continually strive to increase the perceived value of our products to our customers. Our shoppers regularly experience the satisfaction of paying noticeably less for items similar or identical to those sold by other retail stores or through catalogs. Our stores typically have two semi-annual clearance events, one in January and one in July. We also run category and other promotions periodically throughout the year. We believe our value-oriented pricing strategy, coupled with an adherence to high quality standards, is an important element in establishing our distinct brand identity and solidifying our connection with our customers.

## **Store Operations**

*General.* As of January 31, 2009, we operated 299 stores in 34 states, with stores generally operating seven days a week. In addition to corporate management, approximately 20 District Team Leaders (who generally have responsibility for approximately 15 stores within a geographic district) manage store operations. A Store Team Leader and one to three Assistant Store Team Leaders manage individual stores. The Store Team Leader is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the store, including sales, guest service, merchandise display, human resource functions and store security. A typical store operates with an average of eight to 10 team members including a full-time stock person and a combination of full and part-time team members, depending on the volume of the store and the season. Additional part-time sales associates are typically hired to assist with increased traffic and sales volume in the fourth quarter of the calendar year.

*Formats.* We operate stores in both mall and off-mall venues. As of January 31, 2009, we operated 91 stores in enclosed malls and 208 stores in a variety of off-mall venues including lifestyle strip centers, power strip centers, outlet centers and freestanding locations. Off-mall stores tend to be larger than mall stores, and have a lower occupancy cost per square foot. The average size of our mall stores is approximately 4,700 square feet, and the average size of our off-mall stores is approximately 6,300 square feet. The average size of the new stores we opened in fiscal 2008 was approximately 7,700 square feet, and we expect our fiscal 2009 new stores to be of similar size.

*Visual merchandising.* Merchandise in both mall and off-mall stores is generally displayed according to display guidelines and directives given to each store from the Visual Merchandising and Marketing teams with input from Store Operations. This procedure promotes uniform display standards throughout the chain. Using multiple types of fixtures, we group complementary merchandise creatively throughout the store, and also display certain products strictly by category or product type.

Because of the nature of our merchandise and our focus on identifying and developing best-selling items, we emphasize our visual merchandising standards. Our Visual Merchandising and Marketing teams provide Store Team Leaders with recommended directives such as photographs and diagrams and placement guides. Each Store Team Leader has flexibility to creatively highlight those products that are expected to have the greatest appeal to local shoppers. Effective and consistent visual merchandising enhances a store's ability to reach its full sales potential.

*Personnel recruitment and training.* We believe our continued success is dependent in part on our ability to attract, retain and motivate quality team members. In particular, the success of our strategy depends on our ability to promote and/or recruit qualified District and Store Team Leaders and maintain quality team members. A multi-week training program is provided for new District Team Leaders and Store Team Leaders. Many Store Team Leaders begin their Kirkland's career as sales associates, but complete a formal five week training program before taking responsibility for a store. This five week training program includes two weeks in a designated training store, working directly with a qualified Training Store Team Leader. District Team Leaders are primarily responsible for recruiting new Store Team Leaders. Store Team Leaders are responsible for the hiring and training of new team members, assisted where appropriate by a Human Resources Manager. We constantly look for motivated and talented people to promote from within Kirkland's, in addition to recruiting outside Kirkland's.

*Compensation and incentives.* We compensate our Vice Presidents of Store Operations with a base salary, plus an annual performance bonus based on overall Company performance. District and Store Team

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Leaders are compensated with a base salary or on an hourly basis, plus a quarterly performance bonus based on store sales, product margins, and expense control. Sales associates are compensated on an hourly basis. In addition, we periodically run a variety of contests that reward associates for outstanding achievement in sales and other corporate initiatives.

**Real Estate**

*Strategy.* Our real estate strategy is to identify retail properties that are convenient and attractive to our target female customer. The flexibility and broad appeal of our stores and our merchandise allow us to operate successfully in major metropolitan markets such as Houston, Texas and Atlanta, Georgia; middle markets such as Birmingham, Alabama, and Nashville, Tennessee; and smaller markets such as Lafayette, Louisiana, and Amarillo, Texas.

*Site selection.* Our current strategy is to locate our stores in off-mall venues which are destinations for large numbers of shoppers and which reinforce our quality image and brand. To assess potential new locations, we review financial and demographic criteria and infrastructure for access. We also analyze the quality and relative location of co-tenants and competitive factors, square footage availability, frontage space and other relevant criteria to determine the overall acceptability of a property and the optimal locations within it.

Until recent years, we preferred to locate stores in regional or super-regional malls with a history of high sales per square foot and multiple national department stores as anchors. Beginning in fiscal 2003, we began to explore more off-mall real estate alternatives. We have experienced better financial results in these off-mall venues, primarily due to higher sales volumes and lower occupancy costs. We also believe that our target shopper prefers the off-mall location for convenience in her home décor shopping experience. Of our 299 stores as of January 31, 2009, 208 were in a variety of off-mall venues including lifestyle strip centers, power centers, outlet centers and freestanding locations. Off-mall stores tend to be slightly larger than mall stores, and have lower occupancy cost per square foot. We currently anticipate that all of the new stores opening in fiscal 2009 will be located in off-mall venues.

We believe we are a desirable tenant to developers because of our long and successful operating history, sales productivity, ability to attract customers and our strong position with co-tenants in the home décor category. The following table provides a history of our store openings and closings by venue for the last five fiscal years.

|                                    | <b>Fiscal<br/>2008</b> | <b>Fiscal<br/>2007</b> | <b>Fiscal<br/>2006</b> | <b>Fiscal<br/>2005</b> | <b>Fiscal<br/>2004</b> |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Mall</b>                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| Stores open at beginning of period | 121                    | 168                    | 210                    | 241                    | 245                    |
| Store openings                     |                        |                        | 1                      |                        | 10                     |
| Store closings                     | (30)                   | (47)                   | (43)                   | (31)                   | (14)                   |
| Stores open at end of period       | 91                     | 121                    | 168                    | 210                    | 241                    |
| <b>Off-Mall</b>                    |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| Stores open at beginning of period | 214                    | 181                    | 137                    | 79                     | 35                     |
| Store openings                     | 3                      | 35                     | 48                     | 59                     | 44                     |
| Store closings                     | (9)                    | (2)                    | (4)                    | (1)                    |                        |
| Stores open at end of period       | 208                    | 214                    | 181                    | 137                    | 79                     |
| <b>Total</b>                       |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |
| Stores open at beginning of period | 335                    | 349                    | 347                    | 320                    | 280                    |

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|                              |      |      |      |      |      |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Store openings               | 3    | 35   | 49   | 59   | 54   |
| Store closings               | (39) | (49) | (47) | (32) | (14) |
| Stores open at end of period | 299  | 335  | 349  | 347  | 320  |



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### **Buying and Inventory Management**

*Merchandise sourcing and product development.* Our merchandise team purchases inventory on a centralized basis to take advantage of our consolidated buying power and our technology to closely control the merchandise mix in our stores. Our buying team selects all of our products, negotiates with vendors and works closely with our planning and allocation team to optimize store-level merchandise quantity and mix by category, classification and item. Non-exclusive merchandise may be boxed or packaged exclusively for Kirkland's utilizing Kirkland's proprietary brands.

We purchase merchandise from approximately 279 vendors. Approximately 80% of our total purchases are from importers of merchandise manufactured primarily in the Far East and India, with the balance purchased from domestic manufacturers and wholesalers. For our purchases of merchandise manufactured abroad, we have historically bought from importers or U.S.-based representatives of foreign manufacturers rather than dealing directly with foreign manufacturers. This process has enabled us to maximize flexibility and minimize product liability and credit risks. As we execute our strategy, we are continually evaluating the best ways to source and differentiate our merchandise while attaining our sales and gross margin objectives. For certain categories and items, the strategic use of domestic manufacturers and wholesalers enables us to reduce the lead times between ordering products and offering them in our stores.

*Planning and allocation.* Our merchandise planning and allocation team works closely with our buying team, field management and store personnel to meet the requirements of individual stores for appropriate merchandise in sufficient quantities. This team also manages inventory levels, allocates merchandise to stores and replenishes inventory based upon information generated by our information systems. Our inventory control systems monitor current inventory levels at each store and total company. We also continually monitor recent selling history within each store by category, classification and item to properly allocate future purchases to maximize sales and gross margin.

Each of our stores is internally classified for merchandising purposes based on certain criteria including store sales, size, location and historical performance. Although all of our stores carry similar merchandise, the variety and depth of products in a given store may vary depending on the store's rank and classification. Inventory purchases and allocation are also tailored based on regional or demographic differences between stores in selected categories.

### **Distribution and Logistics**

We have implemented a comprehensive approach to the management of our merchandise supply chain. This approach entails a thorough evaluation of all parts of the supply chain, from merchandise vendor to the store selling floor. We have developed strategies that incorporate the needs and expertise of many different parts of the Company including logistics, merchandising, store operations, information technology, and finance. During fiscal 2003, we reached agreement to lease a new, 771,000-square-foot distribution center in Jackson, Tennessee. This building was built to our specifications and opened in May 2004.

The commencement of operations in the new distribution center was accompanied by the implementation of a new warehouse management system as well as investments in material handling equipment designed to streamline the flow of goods within the distribution center. In fiscal 2009 and beyond, our goal is to achieve better labor productivity, better transportation efficiency, leaner store-level inventories and reduced store-level storage and handling costs.

In addition to making improvements to our distribution center operation, we have taken important steps to improve our efficiency in transporting merchandise to stores. We currently utilize third-party carriers to transport merchandise from our Jackson distribution center to our stores. Prior to fiscal 2006, the majority of our merchandise deliveries

were handled by either less-than-truckload (LTL) carriers or full truckload deliveries to regional pool points, with local delivery agents handling the actual store delivery function. As of the end of fiscal 2008, approximately 91% of our stores utilize a third alternative: less frequent full truckload deliveries. This alternative results in a lower cost and allows our field personnel better ability to plan the payroll needs surrounding merchandise receiving. The optimal delivery method for a given store depends

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on the store's sales volume, square footage, geographic location and other factors. This shift to direct store delivery methods has resulted in lower annual outbound freight costs both on a dollar basis and as a percentage of sales.

An important part of our efforts to achieve efficiencies, cost reductions and net sales growth is the continued identification and implementation of improvements to our planning, logistical and distribution infrastructure and our supply chain, including merchandise ordering, transportation and receipt processing. We also need to ensure that our distribution infrastructure and supply chain are kept in sync with our anticipated store count. For the foreseeable future, we believe our current distribution infrastructure is adequate to support our operational needs.

## **Internet**

We believe the Internet offers opportunities to complement our brick-and-mortar stores, increase sales and increase consumer brand awareness of our products. We maintain a web site at [www.kirklands.com](http://www.kirklands.com) which provides our customers with a resource to locate a store, preview our merchandise, apply for a Kirkland's credit card, and purchase gift cards online. We currently do not sell any merchandise through our web site, but we are currently evaluating costs and benefits of enhancing of our web site to allow customers to purchase merchandise for in-store pick up. The information contained or incorporated in our web site is not a part of this annual report on Form 10-K.

## **Information Systems**

Our store information systems include a server in each store that runs our automated point-of-sale ( POS ) application on multiple POS registers. The server provides Store Team Leaders with convenient access to detailed sales and inventory information for the store. Our POS registers provide a price look-up function (all merchandise is bar-coded), time and attendance, and automated check, credit card, debit card and gift card processing. Through nightly two-way electronic communication with each store, we upload SKU-level sales, gross margin information and payroll hours to our home office system and download new merchandise pricing, price changes for existing merchandise, purchase orders and system maintenance tasks to the store servers. Based upon the evaluation of information obtained through daily polling, our planning and allocation team implements merchandising decisions regarding inventory levels, reorders, price changes and allocation of merchandise to our stores. We have recently completed the selection process for new POS software. The new POS software will be tested during fiscal 2009 with a planned roll-out to stores in 2010.

The core of our home office information system is the integrated GERS retail management software. This system integrates all merchandising and financial applications, including category, classification and SKU inventory tracking, purchase order management, automated ticket making, general ledger, sales audit and accounts payable.

We moved into our new distribution center during the second quarter of 2004. Concurrent with this move, we implemented a new warehouse management system (WMS) designed by High Jump Software. The WMS was tailored to our specifications and provides us with a fully automated solution for all operations within the distribution center. We utilize a Lawson Software package for our payroll and human resources functions.

## **Marketing**

Our marketing efforts emphasize in-store signage, store and window banners and displays and other techniques to attract customers and provide an exciting shopping experience. Historically, we have not engaged in extensive media advertising because we believe that we have benefited from our strategic locations in high-traffic shopping centers and valuable word-of-mouth advertising by our customers. In recent years, we have accumulated a large database of e-mail addresses provided by our customers. We use this database to communicate frequently with our loyal customer base about new products, in-store events and special offers. We are actively evaluating ways to enhance our marketing

to customers through the testing of other forms of media advertising. We utilize marketing efforts and other in-store activity to promote specific events in our stores, including our semi-annual clearance events.

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As part of our effort to reach out to customers, in fiscal 2004, we introduced our Kirkland's private-label credit card. This program is administered by a third-party, who bears the credit risk associated with the card program without recourse to us. As a cardholder, the customer is automatically enrolled in a loyalty program whereby she earns loyalty points for her purchases. Customers attaining specified levels of loyalty points are eligible for special discounts on future purchases. We believe that customers using the card visit our stores and purchase merchandise more frequently as well as spending more per visit than our customers not using the card. As of January 31, 2009, there were approximately 390,000 Kirkland's private-label credit card holders.

## **Trademarks**

All of our stores operate under the names Kirkland's, Kirkland's Home, Kirkland's Home Outlet, and Kirkland's

We have registered several trademarks with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the Principal Register that are used in connection with the Kirkland's stores, including KIRKLAND® Sogo design, THE KIRKLAND COLLECTION®, HOME COLLECTION BY KIRKLAND®, KIRKLAND'S OUTLET®, KIRKLAND'S HOME®, as well as several trademark registrations for Kirkland's private label brand, the CEDAR CREEK COLLECTION®. In addition to the registrations, Kirkland's also is the common law owner of the trademark BRIAR PATCH®. These marks have historically been very important components in our merchandising and marketing strategy. We are not aware of any claims of infringement or other challenges to our right to use our marks in the United States.

## **Competition**

The retail market for home décor is highly competitive. Accordingly, we compete with a variety of specialty stores, department stores, discount stores and catalog retailers that carry merchandise in one or more categories also carried by our stores. Our product offerings also compete with a variety of national, regional and local retailers, including such retailers as Bed, Bath & Beyond, Cost Plus World Market, Michael's Stores, Pier 1 Imports and Williams-Sonoma. Department stores typically have higher prices than our stores for similar merchandise. Specialty retailers tend to have higher prices and a narrower assortment of home décor products. Wholesale clubs may have lower prices than our stores, but the product assortment is generally more limited. We believe that the principal competitive factors influencing our business are merchandise quality and selection, price, customer service, visual appeal of the merchandise and the store, and the convenience of location.

The number of companies offering a selection of home décor products that overlaps generally with our product assortment has increased over the last 10 years. However, we believe that our stores still occupy a distinct niche in the marketplace: traditionally-styled quality merchandise, reflective of current market trends, offered at a value price combined with a unique store experience. We believe we compete effectively with other retailers due to our experience in identifying a broad collection of distinctive merchandise, pricing it to be attractive to the target Kirkland's customer, presenting it in a visually appealing manner, and providing a quality store experience.

In addition to competing for customers, we compete with other retailers for suitable store locations and qualified management personnel and sales associates. Many of our competitors are larger and have substantially greater financial, marketing and other resources than we do. See Risk Factors We face an extremely competitive specialty retail business market, and such competition could result in a reduction of our prices, adversely impacting sales and gross margin and create a loss of our market share.

## **Employees**

We employed 3,455 employees at March 26, 2009. The number of employees fluctuates with seasonal needs. None of our employees is covered by a collective bargaining agreement. We believe our employee relations are good.



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### **Availability of SEC Reports**

We file annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K and other information with the SEC. Members of the public may read and copy materials that we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Members of the public may also obtain information in the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains an Internet web site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers, including Kirkland's, that file electronically with the SEC. The address of that site is <http://www.sec.gov>. Our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K and other information filed by us with the SEC are available, without charge, on our Internet web site, <http://www.kirklands.com>, as soon as reasonably practicable after they are filed electronically with the SEC. Copies are also available, without charge, by written request to: Secretary, Kirkland's, Inc., 431 Smith Lane, Jackson, TN 38301.

### **Executive Officers of Kirkland's**

The name, age as of March 31, 2009, and position of each of our executive officers is as follows:

*Robert E. Alderson*, 62, has been a Director of Kirkland's since September 1986 and has been Chief Executive Officer since February 2006. He also served as Chief Executive Officer from March 2001 to May 2005. He currently serves as President of Kirkland's and he also served as President of Kirkland's from February 2006 to March 2006 and as President from November 1997 to May 2005. He served as Chief Operating Officer of Kirkland's from November 1997 through March 2001 and as Senior Vice President of Kirkland's upon joining in 1986 through November 1997. He also served as Chief Administrative Officer of Kirkland's from 1986 to 1997. Prior to joining Kirkland's, Mr. Alderson was a senior partner at the law firm of Menzies, Rainey, Kizer & Alderson.

*W. Michael Madden*, 39, has been Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since January 2008 and Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since May 2006. Prior to his appointment as Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Madden served as Vice President of Finance from May 2005 to April 2006. Prior to May 2005, he served as Director of Finance since July 2000. Prior to joining Kirkland's, Mr. Madden served as Assistant Controller with Trammell Crow Company and was with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. At PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, he served in positions of increasing responsibility over six years culminating as Manager-Assurance and Business Advisory Services where he worked with various clients, public and private, in the retail and consumer products industries.

No family relationships exist among any of the above-listed officers, and there are no arrangements or understandings between any of the above-listed officers and any other person pursuant to which they serve as an officer. All officers are elected to hold office for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified.

### **Item 1A. Risk Factors**

*Investing in our common stock involves risk. You should carefully consider the following risks, as well as the other information contained in this 10-K, including our consolidated financial statements and the related notes, before investing in our common stock.*

***Our performance may be affected by general economic conditions and the current global financial crisis.***

Our performance is subject to worldwide economic conditions and their impact on levels of consumer spending, which have recently deteriorated significantly and may remain depressed, or be subject to further deterioration, for the foreseeable future. Some of the factors that are having an impact on discretionary consumer spending include general economic conditions, employment, consumer debt, reductions in net worth based on recent severe market declines,

residential real estate and mortgage markets, taxation, fuel and energy prices, interest rates, consumer confidence and other macroeconomic factors.

The worldwide specialty retail industry is heavily influenced by general economic cycles: Specialty retail is a cyclical industry that is heavily dependent upon the overall level of consumer spending. Purchases of home décor tend to be highly correlated with the cycles of the levels of disposable income of our consumers.



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As a result, any substantial deterioration in general economic conditions could adversely affect our net sales and results of operations. Downturns, or the expectation of a downturn, in general economic conditions could adversely affect consumer spending patterns, our sales and our results of operations.

Consumer purchases of discretionary items generally decline during recessionary periods and other periods where disposable income is adversely affected. The downturn in the economy may continue to affect consumer purchases of our merchandise and have an adverse impact on our results of operations and continued growth. Because home décor is generally considered to be a discretionary purchase, declines in consumer spending may have a more negative affect on specialty retailers in our industry segment than on retailers in general. Therefore, we may not be profitable if there is a decline in consumer spending.

The recent distress in the financial markets has resulted in extreme volatility in security prices and diminished liquidity and credit availability, and there can be no assurance that our liquidity will not be affected by changes in the financial markets and the global economy. Tightening of the credit markets and recent or future turmoil in the financial markets could also make it more difficult for us to access funds, refinance our existing indebtedness (if necessary), enter into agreements for new indebtedness or obtain funding through the issuance of our securities.

In addition, the current credit crisis is having a significant negative impact on businesses around the world, and the impact of this crisis on our major suppliers cannot be predicted. The inability of key suppliers to access liquidity, or the insolvency of key suppliers, could lead to their failure to deliver our merchandise. Worsening economic conditions could also result in difficulties for financial institutions (including bank failures) and other parties that we may do business with, which could potentially, impair our ability to access financing under existing arrangements or to otherwise recover amounts as they become due under our other contractual arrangements. Additionally, both as a result and independent of the current financial crisis in the United States, material fluctuations in currency exchange rates could have a negative impact on our business.

***A Prolonged Economic Downturn Could Result in Reduced Net Sales and Profitability.***

Our net sales are also subject to a number of factors relating to consumer spending, including general economic conditions affecting disposable consumer income such as unemployment rates, business conditions, interest rates, levels of consumer confidence, energy prices, mortgage rates, the level of consumer debt and taxation. A weak retail environment could impact customer traffic in our stores and also adversely affect our net sales. Purchases of home décor items may decline during recessionary periods, and a prolonged recession may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, economic downturns during the last quarter of our fiscal year could adversely affect us to a greater extent than if such downturns occurred at other times of the year.

***We May Not Be Able to Successfully Anticipate Consumer Trends and Our Failure to Do So May Lead to Loss of Consumer Acceptance of Our Products Resulting in Reduced Net Sales.***

Our success depends on our ability to anticipate and respond to changing merchandise trends and consumer demands in a timely manner. If we fail to identify and respond to emerging trends, consumer acceptance of the merchandise in our stores and our image with our customers may be harmed, which could reduce customer traffic in our stores and materially adversely affect our net sales. Additionally, if we misjudge market trends, we may significantly overstock unpopular products and be forced to take significant inventory markdowns, which would have a negative impact on our gross profit and cash flow. Conversely, shortages of items that prove popular could reduce our net sales. In addition, a major shift in consumer demand away from home décor could also have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

***The Market Price for Our Common Stock Might Be Volatile and Could Result in a Decline in the Value of Your Investment.***

The price at which our common stock trades may be volatile. The market price of our common stock could be subject to significant fluctuations in response to our operating results, general trends and prospects

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for the retail industry, announcements by our competitors, analyst recommendations, our ability to meet or exceed analysts or investors expectations, the condition of the financial markets and other factors. In addition, the stock market in recent years has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that often have been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of companies. These fluctuations, as well as general economic and market conditions, may adversely affect the market price of our common stock notwithstanding our actual operating performance.

### ***Our Comparable Store Net Sales Fluctuate Due to a Variety of Factors.***

Numerous factors affect our comparable store net sales results, including among others, weather conditions, retail trends, the retail sales environment, economic conditions, the impact of competition and our ability to execute our business strategy efficiently. Our comparable store net sales results have historically experienced fluctuations, and in the past several years, we have experienced declines in comparable store sales. Our comparable store net sales may not increase from quarter to quarter and may decline. As a result, the unpredictability of our comparable store net sales may cause our revenues and operating results to vary quarter to quarter, and an unanticipated decline in revenues or comparable store net sales may cause the price of our common stock to fluctuate significantly.

### ***We Face an Extremely Competitive Specialty Retail Business Market, and Such Competition Could Result in a Reduction of Our Prices and a Loss of Our Market Share.***

The retail market is highly competitive. We compete against a diverse group of retailers, including specialty stores, department stores, discount stores and catalog retailers, which carry merchandise in one or more categories also carried by us. Our product offerings also compete with a variety of national, regional and local retailers, including such retailers as Bed, Bath & Beyond, Cost Plus World Market, Michaels Stores, Pier 1 Imports and Williams-Sonoma. We also compete with these and other retailers for suitable retail locations, suppliers, qualified employees and management personnel. One or more of our competitors are present in substantially all of the markets in which we have stores. Many of our competitors are larger and have significantly greater financial, marketing and other resources than we do. This competition could result in the reduction of our prices and a loss of our market share. Our net sales are also impacted by store liquidations of our competitors. We believe that our stores compete primarily on the basis of merchandise quality and selection, price, visual appeal of the merchandise and the store and convenience of location.

### ***We Depend on a Number of Vendors to Supply Our Merchandise, and Any Delay in Merchandise Deliveries from Certain Vendors May Lead to a Decline in Inventory Which Could Result in a Loss of Net Sales.***

We purchase our products from approximately 279 vendors with which we have no long-term purchase commitments or exclusive contracts. None of our vendors supplied more than 10% of our merchandise purchases during fiscal 2008. Historically, we have retained our vendors and we have generally not experienced difficulty in obtaining desired merchandise from vendors on acceptable terms. However, our arrangements with these vendors do not guarantee the availability of merchandise, establish guaranteed prices or provide for the continuation of particular pricing practices. Our current vendors may not continue to sell products to us on current terms or at all, and we may not be able to establish relationships with new vendors to ensure delivery of products in a timely manner or on terms acceptable to us. In addition, current economic conditions may make it difficult for some of our vendors to arrange for the financing or factoring of their orders with manufacturers, which could result in our inability to obtain desired merchandise from those vendors.

We may not be able to acquire desired merchandise in sufficient quantities on terms acceptable to us in the future. Also, our business would be adversely affected if there were delays in product shipments to us due to freight difficulties, strikes or other difficulties at our principal transport providers or otherwise. We have from time to time

experienced delays of this nature. We are also dependent on vendors for assuring the quality of merchandise supplied to us. Our inability to acquire suitable merchandise in the future or the loss of one or

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more of our vendors and our failure to replace any one or more of them may harm our relationship with our customers resulting in a loss of net sales.

***We Are Dependent on Foreign Imports for a Significant Portion of Our Merchandise, and Any Changes in the Trading Relations and Conditions Between the United States and the Relevant Foreign Countries May Lead to a Decline in Inventory Resulting in a Decline in Net Sales, or an Increase in the Cost of Sales Resulting in Reduced Gross Profit.***

Most of our merchandise is purchased through vendors in the United States who import the merchandise from foreign countries including China and India. Our vendors are subject to the risks involved with relying on products manufactured abroad, and we remain subject to those risks to the extent that their effects are passed through to us by our vendors or cause disruptions in supply. These risks include changes in import duties, quotas, loss of most favored nation trading status with the United States for a particular foreign country, work stoppages, delays in shipments, freight cost increases, terrorism, war, economic uncertainties (including inflation, foreign government regulations and political unrest) and trade restrictions (including the United States imposing antidumping or countervailing duty orders, safeguards, remedies or compensation and retaliation due to illegal foreign trade practices). If any of these or other factors were to cause a disruption of trade from the countries in which the suppliers of our vendors are located, our inventory levels may be reduced or the cost of our products may increase.

Historically, instability in the political and economic environments of the countries in which our vendors obtain our products has not had a material adverse effect on our operations. However, we cannot predict the effect that future changes in economic or political conditions in such foreign countries may have on our operations. Although we believe that we could access alternative sources in the event of disruptions or delays in supply due to economic, political or health conditions in foreign countries on our vendors, such disruptions or delays may adversely affect our results of operations unless and until alternative supply arrangements could be made. In addition, merchandise purchased from alternative sources may be of lesser quality or more expensive than the merchandise we currently purchase abroad.

Countries from which our vendors obtain these products may, from time to time, impose new or adjust prevailing quotas or other restrictions on exported products, and the United States may impose new duties, quotas and other restrictions on imported products. This could disrupt the supply of such products to us and adversely affect our operations. The United States Congress periodically considers other restrictions on the importation of products obtained for us by vendors. The cost of such products may increase for us if applicable duties are raised or import quotas with respect to such products are imposed or made more restrictive.

We are also subject to the risk that the manufacturers abroad who ultimately manufacture our products may employ labor practices that are not consistent with acceptable practices in the United States. In any such event we could be hurt by negative publicity with respect to those practices and, in some cases, face liability for those practices.

***Our Success Is Highly Dependent on Our Planning and Control Processes and Our Supply Chain, and Any Disruption in or Failure to Continue to Improve These Processes May Result in a Loss of Net Sales and Net Income.***

An important part of our efforts to achieve efficiencies, cost reductions and net sales growth is the continued identification and implementation of improvements to our planning, logistical and distribution infrastructure and our supply chain, including merchandise ordering, transportation and receipt processing. In addition, recent volatility in energy prices could result in increased merchandise and freight costs, which cannot readily be offset through higher prices because of competitive factors.

A significant portion of the distribution to our stores is coordinated through our distribution facility in Jackson, Tennessee. Any significant disruption in the operations of this facility would have a material adverse

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effect on our ability to maintain proper inventory levels in our stores which could result in a loss of net sales and net income.

***Our Business Is Highly Seasonal and Our Fourth Quarter Contributes a Disproportionate Amount of Our Net Sales, Net Income and Cash Flow, and Any Factors Negatively Impacting Us During Our Fourth Quarter Could Reduce Our Net Sales, Net Income and Cash Flow, Leaving Us with Excess Inventory and Making It More Difficult for Us to Finance Our Capital Requirements.***

We have experienced, and expect to continue to experience, substantial seasonal fluctuations in our net sales and operating results, which are typical of many specialty retailers and common to most retailers generally. Due to the importance of the fall selling season, which includes Thanksgiving and Christmas, the last quarter of our fiscal year has historically contributed, and is expected to continue to contribute, a disproportionate amount of our net sales, net income and cash flow for the entire fiscal year. We expect this pattern to continue during the current fiscal year and anticipate that in subsequent fiscal years, the last quarter of our fiscal year will continue to contribute disproportionately to our operating results and cash flow. Any factors negatively affecting us during the last quarter of our fiscal year, including unfavorable economic or weather conditions, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations, reducing our cash flow, leaving us with excess inventory and making it more difficult for us to finance our capital requirements.

***We May Experience Significant Variations in Our Quarterly Results.***

Our quarterly results of operations may also fluctuate significantly based upon such factors as the timing of new store openings, pre-opening expenses associated with new stores, the relative proportion of new stores to mature stores, net sales contributed by new stores, increases or decreases in comparable store net sales, adverse weather conditions, shifts in the timing of holidays, the timing and level of markdowns, changes in fuel and other shipping costs, changes in our product mix and actions taken by our competitors.

***The Agreement Governing Our Debt Places Certain Reporting and Consent Requirements on Us Which May Affect Our Ability to Operate Our Business in Accordance with Our Business and Strategy.***

Our senior credit facility contains a number of covenants requiring us to report to our lender or to obtain our lender's consent in connection with certain activities we may wish to pursue in the operation of our business. These requirements may affect our ability to operate our business and consummate our business and strategy and may limit our ability to take advantage of potential business opportunities as they arise. These requirements affect our ability to, among other things:

incur additional indebtedness;

create liens;

pay dividends or make other distributions;

make investments;

sell assets;

enter into transactions with affiliates;

repurchase capital stock; and

enter into certain mergers and consolidations.

The senior credit facility has one financial covenant. This covenant requires us to maintain excess availability, as defined in our credit agreement, of at least \$3 million to \$4.5 million depending upon the size of our borrowing base. Any failure to comply with this or other covenants would allow the lenders to accelerate repayment of their debt, prohibit further borrowing under the facility, declare an event of default, take possession of their collateral or take other actions available to a secured senior creditor.



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If compliance with our debt obligations materially hinders our ability to operate our business and adapt to changing industry conditions, we may lose market share, our revenue may decline and our operating results may suffer. This could have a material adverse effect on the market value and marketability of our common stock.

***We Are Highly Dependent on Customer Traffic in Malls and Shopping Centers, and Any Reduction in the Overall Level of Traffic Could Reduce Our Net Sales and Increase Our Sales and Marketing Expenses.***

We rely heavily on the ability of mall and shopping center anchor tenants and other tenants to generate customer traffic in the vicinity of our stores. Historically, we have not relied on extensive media advertising and promotion in order to attract customers to our stores. Our future operating results will also depend on many other factors that are beyond our control, including the overall level of traffic and general economic conditions affecting consumer confidence and spending. Any significant reduction in the overall level of traffic could reduce our net sales.

***Our Hardware and Software Systems Are Vulnerable to Damage that Could Harm Our Business.***

We rely upon our existing information systems for operating and monitoring all major aspects of our business, including sales, warehousing, distribution, purchasing, inventory control, merchandise planning and replenishment, as well as various financial functions. These systems and our operations are vulnerable to damage or interruption from:

fire, flood and other natural disasters;

power loss, computer systems failures, internet and telecommunications or data network failure, operator negligence, improper operation by or supervision of employees, physical and electronic loss of data or security breaches, misappropriation and similar events; and

computer viruses.

Any disruption in the operation of our information systems, the loss of employees knowledgeable about such systems or our failure to continue to effectively modify such systems could interrupt our operations or interfere with our ability to monitor inventory, which could result in reduced net sales and affect our operations and financial performance. We also need to ensure that our systems are consistently adequate to handle our anticipated store growth and are upgraded as necessary to meet our needs. The cost of any such system upgrades or enhancements would be significant.

***We Depend on Key Personnel, and if We Lose the Services of Any Member of Our Senior Management Team, We May Not Be Able to Run Our Business Effectively.***

We have benefited substantially from the leadership and performance of our senior management team. Our success will depend on our ability to retain our current senior management members and to attract and retain qualified personnel in the future. Competition for senior management personnel is intense and there can be no assurances that we will be able to retain our personnel. The loss of a member of senior management would require the remaining executive officers to divert immediate and substantial attention to seeking a replacement.

***Our Charter and Bylaw Provisions and Certain Provisions of Tennessee Law May Make It Difficult in Some Respects to Cause a Change in Control of Kirkland's and Replace Incumbent Management.***

Our charter authorizes the issuance of blank check preferred stock with such designations, rights and preferences as may be determined from time to time by our Board of Directors. Accordingly, the Board of Directors is empowered, without shareholder approval, to issue preferred stock with dividend, liquidation, conversion, voting or other rights that could materially adversely affect the voting power or other rights of the holders of our common stock. Holders of

the common stock do not have preemptive rights to subscribe for a pro rata portion of any capital stock which may be issued by us. In the event of issuance, such preferred stock

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could be utilized, under certain circumstances, as a method of discouraging, delaying or preventing a change in control of Kirkland's. Although we have no present intention to issue any new shares of preferred stock, we may do so in the future.

Our charter and bylaws contain certain corporate governance provisions that may make it more difficult to challenge management, may deter and inhibit unsolicited changes in control of Kirkland's and may have the effect of depriving our shareholders of an opportunity to receive a premium over the prevailing market price of our common stock in the event of an attempted hostile takeover. First, the charter provides for a classified Board of Directors, with directors (after the expiration of the terms of the initial classified board of directors) serving three year terms from the year of their respective elections and being subject to removal only for cause and upon the vote of 80% of the voting power of all outstanding capital stock entitled to vote (the Voting Power). Second, our charter and bylaws do not generally permit shareholders to call, or require that the Board of Directors call, a special meeting of shareholders. The charter and bylaws also limit the business permitted to be conducted at any such special meeting. In addition, Tennessee law permits action to be taken by the shareholders by written consent only if the action is consented to by holders of the number of shares required to authorize shareholder action and if all shareholders entitled to vote are parties to the written consent. Third, the bylaws establish an advance notice procedure for shareholders to nominate candidates for election as directors or to bring other business before meetings of the shareholders. Only those shareholder nominees who are nominated in accordance with this procedure are eligible for election as directors of Kirkland's, and only such shareholder proposals may be considered at a meeting of shareholders as have been presented to Kirkland's in accordance with the procedure. Finally, the charter provides that the amendment or repeal of any of the foregoing provisions of the charter mentioned previously in this paragraph requires the affirmative vote of at least 80% of the Voting Power. In addition, the bylaws provide that the amendment or repeal by shareholders of any bylaws made by our Board of Directors requires the affirmative vote of at least 80% of the Voting Power.

Furthermore, Kirkland's is subject to certain provisions of Tennessee law, including certain Tennessee corporate takeover acts that are, or may be, applicable to us. These acts include the Investor Protection Act, the Business Combination Act and the Tennessee Greenmail Act, and these acts seek to limit the parameters in which certain business combinations and share exchanges occur. The charter, bylaws and Tennessee law provisions may have an anti-takeover effect, including possibly discouraging takeover attempts that might result in a premium over the market price for our common stock.

### ***Concentration of Ownership among Our Existing Directors, Executive Officers, and Their Affiliates May Prevent New Investors from Influencing Significant Corporate Decisions.***

As of the date of this filing, our current directors, executive officers and their affiliates, in the aggregate, beneficially own approximately 31% of our outstanding common stock. As a result, these shareholders are able to exercise a controlling influence over matters requiring shareholder approval, including the election of directors and approval of significant corporate transactions, and will have significant control over our management and policies. These shareholders may support proposals and actions with which you may disagree or which are not in your interests.

### ***Our ability to use our Net Operating Loss Carryforwards in the future may be limited, which could have an adverse impact on our tax liabilities.***

In general, Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code, or Section 382, contains provisions that may limit the availability of federal net operating loss carryforwards, or NOLs, to be used to offset taxable income in any given year upon the occurrence of certain events, including significant changes in ownership interests. Under Section 382, potential limitations on NOLs are triggered when there has been an ownership change (generally defined as a greater than 50% change (by value) in our stock ownership over a three-year period).

Our NOL carryforward for federal income tax purposes is currently limited under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code due to an ownership change which occurred over recent periods. Under Section 382, an ownership change occurs if there is a greater than 50% change in equity ownership of a company over a three-

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year period determined by reference to the ownership of persons holding 5% or more of that company's equity securities. If a corporation undergoes an ownership change as defined by Section 382, the corporation's ability to use its pre-change net operating loss carryovers and other pre-change tax attributes to offset its post-change income may be limited. As such, our NOL carryforward totaling \$6.2 million will be subject to an annual limitation estimated to be approximately \$2.2 million before taxes. The unused portion of the annual limitation can be carried forward to subsequent periods. We believe that the limitations imposed by Section 382 generally would not preclude use of our federal NOLs that existed at that time, assuming the Company has sufficient taxable income in future carryforward periods to utilize those NOLs. If we were to experience a future ownership change, however, our ability to use any federal NOLs existing at that time could be materially limited.

**Item 2. *Properties***

We lease all of our store locations and expect to continue our practice of leasing rather than owning. Our leases for mall stores typically provide for 10-year terms, many with the ability for us (or the landlord) to terminate the lease at specified points during the term if net sales at the leased premises do not reach a certain annual level. Our leases for off-mall stores typically provide for terms ranging from 5 to 10 years. Many of our leases provide for payment of percentage rent (i.e., a percentage of net sales in excess of a specified level) and the rate of increase in key ancillary charges is generally capped.

As current leases expire, we believe we have the option to obtain favorable lease renewals for present store locations or obtain new leases for equivalent or better locations in the same general area. To date, we have not experienced unusual difficulty in either renewing leases for existing locations or securing leases for suitable locations for new stores. A majority of our store leases contain provisions permitting the landlord to terminate the lease upon a change in control of Kirkland's.

During the third quarter of fiscal 2008, the Company sold a building and land in Jackson, Tennessee formerly used as its corporate headquarters, which consists of approximately 40,000 square feet of office space. The net proceeds received from the sale of the building and land were approximately \$2.8 million. We currently lease one central distribution facility, consisting of 771,000 square feet, also located in Jackson, Tennessee. This lease has a 15-year initial term, with two five-year options. On March 1, 2007, we entered into an Office Lease Agreement, effective as of March 1, 2007 with a landlord, whereby we leased 27,547 square feet of office space in Nashville, Tennessee for a seven-year term. The Agreement provides for an annual rent beginning at \$13 per square foot for the first year and increasing each year to \$15.45 per square foot in the last year. The Agreement also includes an option to renew the lease for an additional seven years, with the rent for such option period to be at the then-current market rental rate. The office houses the merchandising, marketing, store operations and real estate teams, as well as certain other senior management personnel.

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The following table indicates the states where our stores are located and the number of stores within each state as of January 31, 2009:

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Alabama        | 17  |
| Arizona        | 12  |
| Arkansas       | 7   |
| California     | 11  |
| Colorado       | 1   |
| Connecticut    | 2   |
| Delaware       | 1   |
| Florida        | 39  |
| Georgia        | 16  |
| Illinois       | 7   |
| Indiana        | 7   |
| Iowa           | 1   |
| Kansas         | 2   |
| Kentucky       | 8   |
| Louisiana      | 9   |
| Maryland       | 5   |
| Massachusetts  | 2   |
| Michigan       | 3   |
| Minnesota      | 4   |
| Mississippi    | 10  |
| Missouri       | 6   |
| Nevada         | 2   |
| New Jersey     | 2   |
| New York       | 7   |
| North Carolina | 18  |
| Ohio           | 8   |
| Oklahoma       | 3   |
| Pennsylvania   | 7   |
| South Carolina | 6   |
| Tennessee      | 14  |
| Texas          | 48  |
| Utah           | 1   |
| Virginia       | 10  |
| Wisconsin      | 3   |
| Total          | 299 |

**Item 3. *Legal Proceedings***

We are involved in various routine legal proceedings incidental to the conduct of our business. We believe any resulting liability from existing legal proceedings, individually or in the aggregate, will not have a material adverse effect on our operations or financial condition.

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

We did not submit any matters to a vote of security holders during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2008.

**Table of Contents****PART II****Item 5. *Market for Registrant's Common Equity and Related Shareholder Matters***

Our common stock is listed on The Nasdaq Stock Market under the symbol KIRK. We commenced trading on The Nasdaq Stock Market on July 11, 2002. On April 13, 2009, there were approximately 99 holders of record, and approximately 3,600 beneficial owners, of our common stock. The following table sets forth the high and low last sale prices of our common stock for the periods indicated.

|                | <b>Fiscal 2008</b> |            | <b>Fiscal 2007</b> |            |
|----------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
|                | <b>High</b>        | <b>Low</b> | <b>High</b>        | <b>Low</b> |
| First Quarter  | \$ 1.80            | \$ 0.73    | \$ 5.68            | \$ 4.50    |
| Second Quarter | \$ 2.90            | \$ 1.75    | \$ 5.24            | \$ 2.20    |
| Third Quarter  | \$ 2.70            | \$ 1.74    | \$ 2.13            | \$ 0.95    |
| Fourth Quarter | \$ 3.05            | \$ 1.86    | \$ 1.11            | \$ 0.58    |

**Dividend Policy**

We intend to retain all future earnings to finance the continued growth and development of our business, and do not, therefore, anticipate paying any cash dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. In addition, our senior credit facility restricts the payment of cash dividends. There have been no dividends declared on any class of our common stock during the past two fiscal years. Future cash dividends, if any, will be determined by our Board of Directors and will be based upon our earnings, capital requirements, financial condition, debt covenants and other factors deemed relevant by our Board of Directors.

**Item 6. *Selected Financial Data***

As a smaller reporting company, we have elected not to provide the information required by this Item.

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

The following discussion should be read with our consolidated financial statements and related notes included elsewhere in this annual report on Form 10-K. A number of the matters and subject areas discussed in *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations* and *Business* and elsewhere in this annual report on Form 10-K are not limited to historical or current facts and deal with potential future circumstances and developments and are accordingly forward-looking statements. You are cautioned that such forward-looking statements, which may be identified by words such as *anticipate*, *believe*, *expect*, *estimate*, *intend*, *plan* and similar expressions, are only predictions and that actual events or results may differ materially.

Our fiscal year is comprised of the 52 or 53-week period ending on the Saturday closest to January 31. Accordingly, fiscal 2008 represented the 52 weeks ended on January 31, 2009. Fiscal 2007 represented the 52 weeks ended on February 2, 2008.

**Introduction**



We are a specialty retailer of home décor in the United States, operating 299 stores in 34 states as of January 31, 2009. Our stores present a broad selection of distinctive merchandise, including framed art, mirrors, wall décor, candles, lamps, decorative accessories, accent furniture, textiles, garden accessories and artificial floral products. Our stores also offer an extensive assortment of holiday merchandise, as well as items carried throughout the year suitable for giving as gifts. For the fiscal year ended January 31, 2009, we recorded total revenues of \$391.3 million, which included approximately \$637,000 related to gift certificate and gift card breakage.

Our stores offer a unique combination of style and value that has led to our emergence as a recognized name in home décor and has enabled us to develop a strong customer franchise. As a result, we have achieved

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substantial growth over our history and have expanded our store base into different regions of the country. During the 52 weeks ended January 31, 2009 ( fiscal 2008 ), we opened 3 new stores and closed 39 stores. All of our fiscal 2008 new stores are located in off-mall venues, and all of our closings except nine stores were located in malls.

## **Overview of Key Financial Measures**

Net sales and gross profit are the most significant drivers to our operating performance. Net sales consists of all merchandise sales to customers, net of returns and exclusive of sales taxes. Our net sales for fiscal 2008 decreased by 1.3% to \$390.6 million from \$395.9 million in fiscal 2007. The sales comparison was impacted by the decrease in our store count which was slightly offset by the increase in our comparable store sales. During fiscal 2008, we opened 3 new stores and closed 39 stores. Comparable store sales increased 3.6% for fiscal 2008. We use comparable store sales to measure our ability to achieve sales increases from stores that have been open for at least 13 full fiscal months. Increases in comparable store sales are an important factor in maintaining or increasing the profitability of existing stores.

Gross profit is the difference between total revenue and cost of sales. Cost of sales has four distinct components: product cost (including inbound freight), outbound freight cost, store occupancy cost and central distribution cost. Product cost comprises the majority of cost of sales, while central distribution cost is the least significant of these four elements. Product and freight cost are variable, while occupancy and distribution costs are largely fixed. Accordingly, gross profit expressed as a percentage of total revenue can be influenced by many factors including overall sales performance. For fiscal 2008, gross profit increased 18.8% to \$135.0 million from \$113.7 million in fiscal 2007. Gross margin for fiscal 2008 increased to 34.5% of total revenue from 28.7% of total revenue for fiscal 2007, primarily due to lower levels of markdowns during fiscal 2008 as well as better leveraging of store occupancy expense and slightly lower outbound freight costs.

Operating expenses, including the costs of operating our stores and corporate headquarters, are also an important component of our operating performance. Compensation and benefits comprise the majority of our operating expenses. Operating expenses contain fixed and variable costs, and managing the operating expense ratio (operating expenses expressed as a percentage of net sales) is an important focus of management as we seek to maintain or increase our overall profitability. Operating expenses include cash costs as well as non-cash costs such as depreciation and amortization. Due to the significant fixed-cost component of operating expenses, as well as the tendency of many operating costs to rise over time, increases in comparable store sales are typically necessary in order to prevent meaningful increases in the operating expense ratio. Operating expenses can also include certain costs that are of a one-time or non-recurring nature. While these costs must be considered to understand fully our operating performance, we typically identify such costs separately where significant on the consolidated statement of operations so that we can evaluate comparable expense data across different periods.

A complete evaluation of our financial performance incorporates not only operating results, but also an assessment of how effectively we are deploying our capital. We believe that a high return on capital is an indicator of a financially productive business. Accordingly, we evaluate our earnings in relation to inventories and total assets in order to determine if we are achieving acceptable levels of return on our capital. Inventory yield (gross profit divided by average inventories) and return on assets (net income divided by total assets) are two of the measures we use.

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We use a number of key performance measures to evaluate our financial performance, including the following:

|  | <b>Fiscal Year</b> |             |
|--|--------------------|-------------|
|  | <b>2008</b>        | <b>2007</b> |
| Net sales growth                                       | (1.3)%             | (10.7)%     |
| Comparable store sales growth(1)                       | 3.6%               | (13.3)%     |
| Average net sales per store (in thousands)(2)          | \$ 1,218           | \$ 1,126    |
| Average net sales per square foot(3)                   | \$ 210             | \$ 204      |
| Merchandise margins as a percentage of net sales(4)    | 51.2%              | 47.7%       |
| Gross profit as a percentage of total revenue          | 34.5%              | 28.7%       |
| Compensation and benefits as a percentage of net sales | 17.8%              | 18.5%       |
| Other operating expenses as a percentage of net sales  | 9.4%               | 10.7%       |
| Inventory yield(5)                                     | 297.0%             | 226.0%      |
| Return on assets (ROA)(6)                              | 7.3%               | (21.2)%     |

- (1) Comparable store sales are calculated by including new stores on the first day of the month following the 13th full fiscal month of sales.
- (2) Calculated using net sales of all stores open at both the beginning and the end of the period indicated.
- (3) Calculated using the gross square footage of all stores open at both the beginning and the end of the period. Gross square footage includes the storage, receiving and office space that generally occupies approximately 30% of total store space.
- (4) Merchandise margin is calculated as net sales minus product cost of sales and inventory shrinkage. Merchandise margin excludes outbound freight, store occupancy and central distribution costs.
- (5) Inventory yield is defined as gross profit divided by average inventory for each of the preceding four quarters.
- (6) Return on assets equals net income divided by total assets.

**Strategic Areas of Emphasis**

Our central area of emphasis for fiscal 2009 is continuing the positive momentum in the business that started in 2008. This effort begins with merchandising and improving the productivity of our merchandise assortment which should result in comparable store sales increases and improvements in our product margin. It involves improving our processes of identifying and procuring appealing merchandise, planning and product allocation, continued development of merchandising personnel, department structure and teamwork, and the evaluation of competitive factors. We will also emphasize inventory management. We plan to operate the business at an inventory level that supports the trends of the business, with the flexibility to react to emerging trends in the marketplace.

Another important area of emphasis is enhancing the store experience by improving guest service. Given a competitive retail environment, our in-store guest experience is a key differentiator. Training and store-level incentives for achievement of guest-service goals and metrics will be a focus for us in fiscal 2009. We will measure our success in these initiatives through monitoring key performance metrics including comparable stores sales, conversion rate (transactions divided by traffic count), average dollar transaction, and employee turnover rate.

Our efforts to improve our real estate base will continue in 2009. The Company ended fiscal 2008 with 299 stores compared with 335 stores as of the end of fiscal 2007. For fiscal 2009, the store base is expected to average about 30 stores less per quarter than the comparable quarters in fiscal 2008. Closings for the year are expected to reach approximately 35 to 40 stores with approximately half of those closing during the first half of fiscal 2009 and the other half closing after the fourth quarter holiday season in January 2010. New store openings are expected to be approximately 15 to 20 stores in fiscal 2009 with the largest concentration of

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openings taking place in the third and fourth quarters. This re-entry into the real estate market will take some time to gain traction. Our approach to store additions will be concentrated on a controlled, profitable growth, focused on cash flow accumulation, and the replacement of profitable mall stores with off-mall locations that have more upside potential along with some selective store openings in core geographic markets.

The following table summarizes our stores and square footage under lease in mall and off-mall locations as of January 31, 2009 and February 2, 2008:

|                                     | <b>As of<br/>January 31,<br/>2009</b> |                 |              | <b>As of<br/>February 2,<br/>2008</b> |                 |              |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                                     | <b>Mall</b>                           | <b>Off-Mall</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Mall</b>                           | <b>Off-Mall</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| Number of Stores                    | 91                                    | 208             | 299          | 121                                   | 214             | 335          |
| Square footage                      | 429,296                               | 1,311,696       | 1,740,992    | 581,930                               | 1,345,891       | 1,927,821    |
| Average square footage<br>per store | 4,718                                 | 6,306           | 5,823        | 4,809                                 | 6,289           | 5,755        |

|  | <b>For the Fiscal Year Ended<br/>January 31, 2009</b> |                 |              | <b>For the Fiscal Year Ended<br/>February 2, 2008</b> |                 |              |
|--|---|-----------------|--------------|---|-----------------|--------------|
|  | <b>Mall</b>   | <b>Off-Mall</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Mall</b>   | <b>Off-Mall</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| Average net sales per store (in<br>thousands)(1) | \$ 1,075  | \$ 1,282        | \$ 1,218     | \$ 994  | \$ 1,216        | \$ 1,126     |
| Average net sales per square<br>foot(1)(2)       | \$ 228  | \$ 204          | \$ 210       | \$ 211  | \$ 200          | \$ 204       |

(1) Calculated using net sales of all stores open at both the beginning and the end of the period indicated.

(2) The increase in net sales per square foot from fiscal 2007 to 2008 was due to the comparable store sales increase.

Our cash balances increased from \$5.8 million at February 2, 2008 to \$36.4 million at January 31, 2009 primarily due to our significant improvement in gross margin during fiscal 2008. Our objective is to finance all of our operating and investing activities for fiscal 2009 with cash provided by operations. We expect that capital expenditures for fiscal 2009 will range from \$9 to \$10 million, primarily to fund the leasehold improvements of approximately 15 to 20 new stores and maintain our investments in existing stores, our distribution center and information technology infrastructure.

**Table of Contents****Fiscal 2008 Compared to Fiscal 2007**

*Results of operations.* The table below sets forth selected results of our operations in dollars and expressed as a percentage of total revenue for the periods indicated (dollars in thousands):

|  | Fiscal 2008 |        | Fiscal 2007 |        | Change     |          |
|--|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|------------|----------|
|  | \$          | %      | \$          | %      | \$         | %        |
| Net sales  | \$ 390,640  | 99.8%  | \$ 395,929  | 99.8%  | \$ (5,289) | (1.3)%   |
| Gift certificate and gift card<br>breakage revenue | 637         | 0.2%   | 772         | 0.2%   | (135)      | (17.5)%  |
| Total revenue                                      | 391,277     | 100.0% | 396,701     | 100.0% | (5,424)    | (1.4)%   |
| Cost of sales                                      | 256,228     | 65.5%  | 283,040     | 71.3%  | (26,812)   | (9.5)%   |
| Gross profit                                       | 135,049     | 34.5%  | 113,661     | 28.7%  | 21,388     | 18.8%    |
| Operating expenses:                                |             |        |             |        |            |          |
| Compensation and benefits                          | 69,508      | 17.8%  | 73,392      | 18.5%  | (3,884)    | (5.3)%   |
| Other operating expenses                           | 36,779      | 9.4%   | 42,363      | 10.7%  | (5,584)    | (13.2)%  |
| Impairment charges                                 | 352         | 0.1%   | 3,453       | 0.9%   | (3,101)    | (89.8)%  |
| Depreciation and amortization                      | 18,741      | 4.8%   | 20,391      | 5.1%   | (1,650)    | (8.1)%   |
| Operating income (loss)                            | 9,669       | 2.5%   | (25,938)    | (6.5)% | 35,607     | (137.3)% |
| Interest expense, net                              | 50          | 0.0%   | 440         | 0.1%   | (390)      | (88.6)%  |
| Other income, net                                  | (469)       | (0.1)% | (112)       | 0.0%   | (357)      | 318.8%   |
| Income (loss) before income<br>taxes               | 10,088      | 2.6%   | (26,266)    | (6.6)% | 36,354     | (138.4)% |
| Income tax provision (benefit)                     | 783         | 0.2%   | (360)       | (0.1)% | (1,143)    | 317.5%   |
| Net income (loss)                                  | \$ 9,305    | 2.4%   | \$ (25,906) | (6.5)% | \$ 35,211  | (135.9)% |

*Net sales.* Net sales decreased by 1.3% to \$390.6 million for fiscal 2008 from \$395.9 million for fiscal 2007. The net sales decrease in fiscal 2008 resulted primarily from the decrease in store count, partially offset by an increase in comparable store sales. We opened 3 new stores in fiscal 2008 and 35 new stores in fiscal 2007, and we closed 39 stores in fiscal 2008 and 49 stores in fiscal 2007. During fiscal 2008, comparable store sales increased 3.6% as compared to a 13.3% decrease in fiscal 2007. Comparable store sales in our mall store locations were up 6.9% for the year, while comparable store sales for our off-mall store locations were up 2.1%. The increase in comparable store sales was primarily due to an increase in transactions combined with an increase in average ticket. Fiscal 2008 traffic declined slightly, but was offset by an increase in the customer conversion rate. Items per transaction drove the average ticket higher, but was offset by a decrease in the average selling price of our items. Merchandise categories that performed the strongest in fiscal 2008 were art, lamps, frames, and gift/novelty.

*Gross profit.* Gross profit increased \$21.4 million, or 18.8%, to \$135.0 million for fiscal 2008 from \$113.7 million for fiscal 2007. Gross profit expressed as a percentage of total revenue increased to 34.5% for fiscal 2008, from 28.7% for fiscal 2007. The increase in gross profit as a percentage of total revenue was primarily driven by improved merchandise margins due to lower levels of promotional activity and markdowns as compared to the prior year.

Merchandise margins as a percentage of net sales increased from 47.7% in fiscal 2007 to 51.2% in fiscal 2008. The increase in merchandise margin was the result of strong sell-through in our key merchandise categories, resulting in fewer markdowns and less promotional activity. Store occupancy costs during fiscal 2008 were \$45.1 million, or 11.5% of total revenue versus \$54.3 million, or 13.7% of total revenue in fiscal 2007. The decrease as a percent of total revenue was primarily due to the leveraging of fixed rental costs from the increase in comparable store sales. Also impacting store occupancy in fiscal 2008 was favorable lease renewal terms and the continued shift to less costly but more productive off-mall real estate locations, as well as an overall reduction in our store base. Freight expenses decreased as a percentage of total revenue reflecting comparable store sales leverage, a decline in fuel costs, and the continued shift to direct-to-store delivery methods from our distribution center.

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*Compensation and benefits.* Compensation and benefits, including both store and corporate personnel, was \$69.5 million, or 17.8% of total revenue, for fiscal 2008, as compared to \$73.4 million, or 18.5% for fiscal 2007. The decrease in the compensation and benefits ratio was primarily due to the positive comparable store sales performance, offset by an increase in corporate and store level bonuses due to the improvement in our fiscal 2008 operating results. At the corporate level, during the third quarter of fiscal 2007, we incurred a charge related to separation costs associated with a restructuring of corporate personnel. This charge totaled approximately \$965,000, or \$0.04 per share. We also incurred a charge during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2007 related to the separation costs associated with the departure of our former President and Chief Operating Officer. This charge totaled approximately \$412,000, but was offset by a reversal of previously recorded stock compensation in the amount of \$353,000 related to a forfeited restricted stock grant associated with this separation.

*Other operating expenses.* Other operating expenses, including both store and corporate costs, were \$36.8 million, or 9.4% of total revenue, for fiscal 2008 as compared to \$42.4 million, or 10.7% of total revenue, for fiscal 2007. The decrease in these operating expenses as a percentage of net sales was primarily the result of the positive comparable store sales performance and the leveraging effect on the fixed components of store and corporate operating expenses. Store-level operating expenses decreased slightly as a percentage of total revenue due to lower advertising expenses partly offset by increases in insurance expense. Additionally, during the fourth quarter of fiscal 2007, we recorded a change of estimate of \$655,000, or \$0.03 per diluted share, which benefited the prior year and reduced the liability related to anticipated breakage of discount certificates issued to our private label credit card customers. Corporate-level operating expenses were lower as a percentage of total revenues compared to prior year. In the prior year, we incurred one time costs of \$1.3 million related to the opening of a satellite office in Nashville, Tennessee.

*Impairment charges.* During fiscal 2008, we incurred a non-cash charge related to the impairment of fixed assets related to certain underperforming stores in the pre-tax amount of approximately \$352,000, or \$0.02 per share, compared with charges of approximately \$2.1 million, or \$0.11 per share in fiscal 2007. During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2007, we also incurred a goodwill impairment charge of approximately \$1.4 million, or \$0.07 per share, as the fair value of the business was estimated to be less than the carrying value of our net assets as of February 2, 2008.

*Depreciation and amortization.* Depreciation and amortization expense was \$18.7 million, or 4.8% of total revenue, for fiscal 2008 as compared to \$20.4 million, or 5.1% of total revenue, for fiscal 2007. The decrease in depreciation and amortization was the result of a smaller store base in fiscal 2008 as compared to fiscal 2007, as well as fewer capital expenditures made in fiscal 2008.

*Interest expense, net.* Net interest expense was lower than the prior year, reflecting zero borrowings on our line of credit in fiscal 2008.

*Income tax provision (benefit).* Income tax expense was 7.8% of income before income taxes for fiscal 2008 as compared to a benefit of 1.4% of loss before income taxes for the prior year period. In the prior year, our tax benefit was limited as a result of the valuation allowance established for our deferred tax assets in the amount of \$8.2 million. As a result of our positive operating performance in 2008, we were able to reverse \$3.4 million of the valuation allowance that was established in 2007. As of January 31, 2009, we had deferred tax assets of \$11.3 million, offset by a valuation allowance of \$5.4 million. Our ability to reverse the remaining portion of this valuation allowance in future periods will depend on our operating performance and the resulting levels of taxable income or loss.

At January 31, 2009, the Company had pre-tax net operating loss ( NOL ) carryforwards for federal income tax purposes of \$6.2 million, which will begin to expire in 2022. Our NOL carryforward for federal income tax purposes is currently limited under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code due to an ownership change which occurred over recent periods. If a corporation undergoes an ownership change as defined by Section 382, the corporation's ability to use its pre-change net operating loss carryforwards and other pre-change tax attributes to offset its post-change income



may be limited. As such, our NOL carryforward will be subject to an annual limitation estimated to be approximately \$2.2 million before taxes. The unused portion of

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the annual limitation can be carried forward to subsequent periods. We believe that the limitations imposed by Section 382 generally would not preclude use of our federal NOLs, assuming the Company has sufficient taxable income in future carryforward periods. If we were to experience a future ownership change, however, our ability to use any federal NOLs existing at that time could be further limited.

*Net income (loss).* As a result of the foregoing, we reported net income of \$9.3 million, or \$0.47 per diluted share for fiscal 2008 compared to a net loss of \$(25.9) million, or \$(1.33) per diluted share for fiscal 2007.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Our principal capital requirements are for working capital and capital expenditures. Working capital consists mainly of merchandise inventories offset by accounts payable, which typically reach their peak by the end of the third quarter of each fiscal year. Capital expenditures primarily relate to new store openings; existing store expansions, remodels or relocations; and purchases of equipment or information technology assets for our stores, distribution facilities or corporate headquarters. Historically, we have funded our working capital and capital expenditure requirements with internally generated cash and borrowings under our credit facility.

*Cash flows from operating activities.* Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities was \$29.6 million and \$(4.9) million for fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007, respectively. Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities depends heavily on operating performance, changes in working capital and the timing and amount of payments for income taxes. The change in the amount of cash from operations as compared to the prior year period was primarily the result of the improvement in our operating performance resulting from the 3.6% increase in our comparable store sales, the increase in gross profit margin and the reduction in operating expenses. Inventories decreased approximately \$2.6 million during fiscal 2008 as compared to a decrease of \$3.5 million during the prior year period. Inventories averaged approximately \$129,000 per store at January 31, 2009, as compared to \$123,000 per store at February 2, 2008. Accounts payable decreased \$2.3 million during fiscal 2008 as compared to a decrease of \$4.8 million for the prior year period. The change in accounts payable was primarily due to the decreased store count as well as the timing and amount of merchandise receipt flow. We also received an income tax refund of approximately \$2.9 million during fiscal 2008 whereas we made cash tax payments of approximately \$2.5 million in the prior-year period.

*Cash flows from investing activities.* Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities for fiscal 2008 was approximately \$960,000 as compared to \$(14.8) million for fiscal 2007. Net cash provided by investing activities in fiscal 2008 consisted principally of the sale of our former corporate headquarters building and land in Jackson, Tennessee and our corporate aircraft resulting in net proceeds of approximately \$2.8 million and \$816,000, respectively. These cash inflows were offset by capital expenditures for the period of approximately \$2.7 million, about half of which related to the construction of three new stores. During fiscal 2008, we opened three stores compared to 35 stores in the prior year period. We expect that capital expenditures for fiscal 2009 will range from \$9 to \$10 million, primarily to fund the leasehold improvements of approximately 15 to 20 new stores and maintain our investments in existing stores, our distribution center and information technology infrastructure. As of January 31, 2009, we had lease commitments for four new stores. We anticipate that capital expenditures, including leasehold improvements and furniture and fixtures, and equipment for our new stores in fiscal 2009 will average approximately \$400,000 to \$430,000 per store. We anticipate that we will continue to receive landlord construction allowances, which help to reduce our cash invested in leasehold improvements. These allowances are reflected as a component of cash flows from operating activities within our consolidated statement of cash flows.

*Cash flows from financing activities.* Net cash provided by financing activities was \$0.1 million for fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007. Cash flows from financing activities for fiscal 2008 were comprised of employee stock purchases. During fiscal 2007, cash flows from financing activities were primarily related to borrowings



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and repayments under our revolving credit facility. We borrowed to a peak of \$21.1 million and paid down to zero by the end of fiscal 2007. During fiscal 2008, we did not make any draws on our revolving credit facility.

*Revolving credit facility.* Effective October 4, 2004, we entered into a five-year senior secured revolving credit facility with a revolving loan limit of up to \$45 million. On August 6, 2007, we entered into the First Amendment to Loan and Security Agreement (the Amendment) which provided the Company with additional availability under our borrowing base through higher advance rates on eligible inventory. As a result of the Amendment, the aggregate size of the overall credit facility remained unchanged at \$45 million, but the term of the facility was extended two years making the new expiration date October 4, 2011. Amounts outstanding under the amended facility, other than First In Last Out (FILO) loans, bear interest at a floating rate equal to the 60-day LIBOR rate (0.91% at January 31, 2009) plus 1.25% to 1.50% (depending on the amount of excess availability under the borrowing base). FILO loans, which apply to the first approximate \$2 million borrowed at any given time, bear interest at a floating rate equal to the 60-day LIBOR rate plus 2.25% to 2.50% (depending on the amount of excess availability under the borrowing base). Additionally, we pay a quarterly fee to the bank equal to a rate of 0.2% per annum on the unused portion of the revolving line of credit. Borrowings under the facility are collateralized by substantially all of our assets and guaranteed by our subsidiaries. The maximum availability under the credit facility is limited by a borrowing base formula, which consists of a percentage of eligible inventory and receivables less reserves. The facility also contains provisions that could result in changes to the presented terms or the acceleration of maturity. Circumstances that could lead to such changes or acceleration include a material adverse change in the business or an event of default under the credit agreement. The facility has one financial covenant that requires the Company to maintain excess availability under the borrowing base, as defined in the credit agreement, of at least \$3.0 million to \$4.5 million depending on the size of the borrowing base, at all times.

As of January 31, 2009, we were in compliance with the covenants in the facility and there were no outstanding borrowings under the credit facility, with approximately \$21.5 million available for borrowing (net of the availability block as described above).

At January 31, 2009, our balance of cash and cash equivalents was approximately \$36.4 million and the borrowing availability under our facility was \$21.5 million (net of the availability block as described above). We believe that the combination of our cash balances, line of credit availability and cash flow from operations will be sufficient to fund our planned capital expenditures and working capital requirements for at least the next twelve months.

## **Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

None

## **Seasonality and Quarterly Results**

We have historically experienced and expect to continue to experience substantial seasonal fluctuations in our net sales and operating income. We believe this is the general pattern typical of our segment of the retail industry and, as a result, expect that this pattern will continue in the future. Our quarterly results of operations may also fluctuate significantly as a result of a variety of other factors, including the timing of new store openings, net sales contributed by new stores, shifts in the timing of certain holidays and competition. Consequently, comparisons between quarters are not necessarily meaningful and the results for any quarter are not necessarily indicative of future results.

Our strongest sales period is the fourth quarter of our fiscal year when we generally realize a disproportionate amount of our net sales and a substantial majority of our operating and net income. In anticipation of the increased sales activity during the fourth quarter of our fiscal year, we purchase large



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amounts of inventory and hire temporary staffing help for our stores. Our operating performance could suffer if net sales were below seasonal norms during the fourth quarter of our fiscal year.

The following table sets forth certain unaudited financial and operating data for Kirkland's in each fiscal quarter during fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007. The unaudited quarterly information includes all normal recurring adjustments that we consider necessary for a fair statement of the information shown.

|                                     | <b>Fiscal 2008 Quarter Ended</b> |                           |                             |                             |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                     | <b>May 3,<br/>2008</b>           | <b>August 2,<br/>2008</b> | <b>November 1,<br/>2008</b> | <b>January 31,<br/>2009</b> |
| Total revenue                       | \$ 84,077                        | \$ 87,684                 | \$ 85,878                   | \$ 133,638                  |
| Gross profit                        | 26,908                           | 27,869                    | 28,625                      | 51,647                      |
| Operating income (loss)             | (2,825)                          | (1,736)                   | (1,521)                     | 15,751                      |
| Net income (loss)(1)                | (2,552)                          | (1,694)                   | (1,471)                     | 15,022                      |
| Earnings (loss) per share:          |                                  |                           |                             |                             |
| Basic                               | (0.13)                           | (0.09)                    | (0.07)                      | 0.76                        |
| Diluted                             | (0.13)                           | (0.09)                    | (0.07)                      | 0.76                        |
| Stores open at end of period        | 338                              | 347                       | 354                         | 299                         |
| Comparable store net sales increase | 4.3%                             | 2.8%                      | 1.2%                        | 5.3%                        |

|                                     | <b>Fiscal 2007 Quarter Ended</b> |                           |                             |                             |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                     | <b>May 5,<br/>2007</b>           | <b>August 4,<br/>2007</b> | <b>November 3,<br/>2007</b> | <b>February 2,<br/>2008</b> |
| Total revenue                       | \$ 82,314                        | \$ 87,359                 | \$ 88,743                   | \$ 138,285                  |
| Gross profit                        | 22,231                           | 23,811                    | 24,763                      | 42,856                      |
| Operating income (loss)(2)          | (12,698)                         | (9,799)                   | (8,631)                     | 5,190                       |
| Net income (loss)(1)                | (7,499)                          | (9,246)                   | (10,650)                    | 1,489                       |
| Earnings (loss) per share:          |                                  |                           |                             |                             |
| Basic                               | (0.38)                           | (0.47)                    | (0.55)                      | 0.08                        |
| Diluted                             | (0.38)                           | (0.47)                    | (0.55)                      | 0.08                        |
| Stores open at end of period        | 338                              | 347                       | 354                         | 335                         |
| Comparable store net sales decrease | (18.8)%                          | (10.5)%                   | (12.1)%                     | (12.6)%                     |

(1) As a result of our operating performance, we made adjustments to record valuation allowance against our deferred tax assets in the amounts of \$2.8 million in the quarter ended August 4, 2007 and \$5.4 million in the quarter ended February 2, 2008. As a result of our operating performance in 2008, we were able to reverse \$3.4 million of the valuation allowance during the quarter ended January 31, 2009.

(2) During the third quarter of fiscal 2007, we incurred a charge totaling approximately \$965,000 related to separation costs associated with a restructuring of corporate personnel. During the first, second and fourth quarters of fiscal 2007, we incurred non-cash charges related to the impairment of fixed assets related to certain underperforming stores in the pre-tax amount of approximately \$273,000, \$540,000, and \$1,259,000, respectively. During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2007, we incurred a goodwill impairment charge of approximately \$1.4 million.

**Inflation**

We do not believe that our operating results have been materially affected by inflation during the preceding three fiscal years. There can be no assurance, however, that our operating results will not be adversely affected by inflation in the future.

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### **Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

On February 3, 2008, we adopted portions of SFAS 157, Fair Value Measurements, which provides a common definition of fair value, establishes a uniform framework for measuring fair value and requires expanded disclosures about fair value measurements. There is a one-year deferral of the adoption of the standard as it relates to non-financial assets and liabilities. The adoption of SFAS 157 had no impact on our financial statements at January 31, 2009. We are in the process of evaluating the potential impact of the standard as it relates to non-financial assets and liabilities on our consolidated financial statements.

### **Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

The discussion and analysis of our financial condition and the results of our operations are based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The preparation of these financial statements requires us to make estimates that affect the reported amounts contained in the financial statements and related disclosures. We base our estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions which are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates. Our critical accounting policies are discussed in the notes to our consolidated financial statements. Certain judgments and estimates utilized in implementing these accounting policies are likewise discussed in the notes to our consolidated financial statements. The following discussion aggregates the various critical accounting policies addressed throughout the financial statements, the judgments and uncertainties affecting the application of these policies and the likelihood that materially different amounts would be reported under varying conditions and assumptions.

*Cost of sales (excluding depreciation) and inventory valuation* Cost of sales includes all costs of product purchased from vendors, including inbound freight to the extent that it is not included in the vendor pricing. Receiving costs, inspection costs, warehousing costs, internal transfer costs, outbound freight, and all salaries, wages and overhead associated with our distribution facility and its network are included in cost of sales. Our cost of sales also includes all store rent and related extra charges. Our inventory is stated at the lower of cost or market, net of reserves and allowances, with cost determined using the average cost method with average cost approximating current cost. We estimate the amount of shrinkage that has occurred through theft or damage and adjust that to actual at the time of our physical inventory counts which occur throughout the fiscal year. We also evaluate the cost of our inventory by category and class of merchandise in relation to the estimated sales price. This evaluation is performed to ensure that we do not carry inventory at a value in excess of the amount we expect to realize upon the sale of the merchandise. We believe we have the appropriate merchandise valuation and pricing controls in place to minimize the risk that our inventory values would be materially misstated.

*Impairments* In accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 144, Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets ( SFAS 144 ), we evaluate the recoverability of the carrying amounts of long-lived assets, such as property and equipment, covered by this standard whenever events or changes in circumstances dictate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. This review includes the evaluation of individual underperforming retail stores and assessing the recoverability of the carrying value of the fixed assets related to the store. Future cash flows are projected for the remaining lease life. If the estimated future cash flows are less than the carrying value of the assets, the Company records an impairment charge equal to the difference, if any, between the assets fair value and carrying value. Based on the estimated fair values of certain long-lived assets, we have recorded impairment charges of \$352,000 and \$2.1 million during fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007, respectively.

*Depreciation* Approximately 33% of our assets at January 31, 2009, represent investments in property and equipment. Determining appropriate depreciable lives requires judgments and estimates.



We utilize the straight-line method of depreciation and a variety of depreciable lives. Furniture, fixtures and equipment are generally depreciated over 5 years. Computer software and equipment is depreciated over 3-7 years. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the shorter of the useful lives of the assets or the original non-cancelable lease term. Our lease terms typically range from 5 to 10 years.

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To the extent we replace or dispose of fixtures or equipment prior to the end of its assigned depreciable life, we could realize a loss or gain on the disposition. To the extent our assets are used beyond their assigned depreciable life, no depreciation expense is being realized. We reassess the depreciable lives in an effort to reduce the risk of significant losses or gains arising from either the disposition of our assets or the utilization of assets with no depreciation charges.

*Insurance reserves* Workers compensation, general liability and employee medical insurance programs are partially self-insured. It is our policy to record a self-insurance liability using estimates of claims incurred but not yet reported or paid, based on historical claims experience and trends. Actual results can vary from estimates for many reasons, including, among others, inflation rates, claim settlement patterns, litigation trends and legal interpretations. We monitor our claims experience in light of these factors and revise our estimates of insurance reserves accordingly. The level of our insurance reserves may increase or decrease as a result of these changing circumstances or trends.

*Income taxes* We record income tax liabilities utilizing known obligations and estimates of potential obligations. A deferred tax asset or liability is recognized whenever there are future tax effects from existing temporary differences and operating loss and tax credit carryforwards. We record a valuation allowance to reduce deferred tax assets to the balance that is more likely than not to be realized. We must make estimates and judgments on future taxable income, considering feasible tax planning strategies and taking into account existing facts and circumstances, to determine the proper valuation allowance. When we determine that deferred tax assets could be realized in greater or lesser amounts than recorded, the asset balance and income statement reflects the change in the period such determination is made. Due to changes in facts and circumstances and the estimates and judgments that are involved in determining the proper valuation allowance, differences between actual future events and prior estimates and judgments could result in adjustments to this valuation allowance. We use an estimate of our annual effective tax rate at each interim period based on the facts and circumstances available at that time while the actual effective tax rate is calculated at year-end.

*Stock options* In accordance with SFAS 123(R), *Share-Based Payment*, we recognize share-based compensation expense based on the following: a) grant date fair value estimated in accordance with the original provisions of SFAS 123 for unvested options granted prior to the adoption date; b) grant date fair value estimated in accordance with the provisions of SFAS 123(R) for options granted subsequent to the adoption date; and c) the discount on shares purchased by employees through our employee stock purchase plan post-adoption, which represents the difference between the grant date fair value and the employee purchase price. This compensation expense is recorded in the statements of operations with a corresponding credit to common stock.

We use the Black-Scholes-Merton option pricing model which requires the input of highly subjective assumptions. These assumptions include estimating the length of time employees will retain their stock options before exercising them ( *expected term* ), the estimated volatility of our common stock price over the expected term and the number of options that will ultimately not complete their vesting requirements ( *forfeitures* ). Changes in the subjective assumptions can materially affect the estimate of fair value of stock-based compensation and consequently, the related amount recognized in the consolidated statements of operations.

**Item 7A. *Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk***

As a smaller reporting company, we have elected not to provide the information required by this Item.

**Item 8. *Financial Statements and Supplementary Data***

The financial statements and schedules are listed under Item 15(a) and filed as part of this annual report on Form 10-K.

The supplementary financial data is set forth under Item 7 of this annual report on Form 10-K.

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

None

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**Item 9A(T). *Controls and Procedures***

**Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

We have established and maintain disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in the reports that we file or submit under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ) is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. 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 January 31, 2009. Based on that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of January 31, 2009.

**Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f). Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, we carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of January 31, 2009 based on the *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission ( COSO ). Based on this evaluation, our management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of January 31, 2009.

This annual report does not include an attestation report of our independent registered public accounting firm regarding internal control over financial reporting. Management's report was not subject to attestation by our independent registered public accounting firm pursuant to temporary rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission that permit us to provide only management's report in this annual report.

**Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

There have been no changes in internal controls over financial reporting identified in connection with the foregoing evaluation that occurred during our last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

**Item 9B. *Other Information***

None.

**Table of Contents****PART III****Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers, and Corporate Governance**

Information concerning directors, appearing under the caption Board of Directors in our Proxy Statement (the Proxy Statement) to be filed with the SEC in connection with our Annual Meeting of Shareholders scheduled to be held on June 8, 2009, information concerning executive officers, appearing under the caption Item 1. Business Executive Officers of Kirkland's in Part I of this annual report on Form 10-K, and information under the caption Other Matters Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance in the Proxy Statement are incorporated herein by reference in response to this Item 10.

The Board of Directors has adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics applicable to our directors, officers and employees, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, which has been posted on the Investor Relations section of our web site. We intend to satisfy the amendment and waiver disclosure requirements under applicable securities regulations by posting any amendments of, or waivers to, the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics on our web site, www.kirklands.com.

**Item 11. Executive Compensation**

The information contained in the sections titled Executive Compensation and Information About the Board of Directors Board of Directors Compensation in the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference in response to this Item 11.

**Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Shareholder Matters**

The information contained in the section titled Security Ownership of Kirkland's Ownership of Management and Certain Beneficial Owners in the Proxy Statement, with respect to security ownership of certain beneficial owners and management, is incorporated herein by reference in response to this Item 12.

**Equity Compensation Plan Information**

| Plan category  | (a)   | (b)   | (c)   |
|--|---|---|---|
|  | Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights | Weighted-average exercise price of Outstanding options, warrants and rights | Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) |
| Equity compensation plans approved by security holders | 1,179,403<br>N/A  | \$ 6.44<br>N/A  | 1,689,104<br>N/A  |

|  |           |    |      |           |
|--|-----------|----|------|-----------|
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders |           |    |      |           |
| Total  | 1,179,403 | \$ | 6.44 | 1,689,104 |

**Item 13. *Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence***

The information contained in the section titled *Related Party Transactions* in the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference in response to this Item 13.

The information contained in the section titled *Information About the Board of Directors Independence* in the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference in response to this Item 13.

**Item 14. *Principal Accounting Fees and Services***

The information contained in the section titled *Other Matters- Audit Fees* in the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference in response to this Item 14.

**PART IV**

**Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statements, and Reports on Form 8-K**

(a) 1. *Financial Statements*

The financial statements set forth below are filed on the indicated pages as part of this annual report on Form 10-K.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>  | 34 |
| <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of January 31, 2009 and February 2, 2008</u>                                      | 35 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Operations for the 52 Weeks Ended January 31, 2009 and February 2, 2008</u>           | 36 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity for the 52 Weeks Ended January 31, 2009 and February 2, 2008</u> | 37 |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the 52 Weeks Ended January 31, 2009 and February 2, 2008</u>           | 38 |
| <u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u>   | 39 |

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Board of Directors and Shareholders of Kirkland's, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Kirkland's, Inc. as of January 31, 2009 and February 2, 2008, and the related consolidated statements of operations, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the two years in the period ended January 31, 2009. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Kirkland's, Inc. as of January 31, 2009 and February 2, 2008, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the two years in the period ended January 31, 2009, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

As discussed in Note 4 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company adopted FASB Interpretation No. 48, Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes, an Interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109, effective February 4, 2007.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Memphis, Tennessee  
April 17, 2009



**Table of Contents****KIRKLAND S, INC.****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

|  | <b>January 31,<br/>2009</b>              |          | <b>February 2, 2008</b> |          |
|--|--|----------|-------------------------|----------|
|  | <b>(In thousands, except share data)</b> |          |                         |          |
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |  |          |                         |          |
| Current assets:  |  |          |                         |          |
| Cash and cash equivalents  | \$                                       | 36,445   | \$                      | 5,820    |
| Inventories, net   |  | 38,686   |                         | 41,246   |
| Income tax receivable  |  |          |                         | 2,900    |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets  |  | 6,191    |                         | 7,968    |
| Total current assets   |  | 81,322   |                         | 57,934   |
| Property and equipment, net  |  | 41,826   |                         | 63,002   |
| Other assets   |  | 3,616    |                         | 1,196    |
| Total assets   | \$                                       | 126,764  | \$                      | 122,132  |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY</b>   |  |          |                         |          |
| Current liabilities:   |  |          |                         |          |
| Accounts payable   | \$                                       | 13,501   | \$                      | 15,786   |
| Income taxes payable   |  | 5,349    |                         |          |
| Accrued expenses   |  | 24,981   |                         | 25,566   |
| Total current liabilities  |  | 43,831   |                         | 41,352   |
| Deferred rent  |  | 27,534   |                         | 34,460   |
| Other liabilities  |  | 3,048    |                         | 3,750    |
| Total liabilities  |  | 74,413   |                         | 79,562   |
| Commitments and contingencies (Note 8)   |  |          |                         |          |
| Shareholders' equity:  |  |          |                         |          |
| Preferred stock, no par value, 10,000,000 shares authorized; no shares issued or outstanding at January 31, 2009, and February 2, 2008                                     |  |          |                         |          |
| Common stock, no par value, 100,000,000 shares authorized; 19,653,270 and 19,585,093 shares issued and outstanding at January 31, 2009, and February 2, 2008, respectively |  | 141,810  |                         | 141,334  |
| Accumulated deficit  |  | (89,459) |                         | (98,764) |
| Total shareholders' equity   |  | 52,351   |                         | 42,570   |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity   | \$                                       | 126,764  | \$                      | 122,132  |

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

**Table of Contents****KIRKLAND S, INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**

|  | <b>Year Ended</b>                                |                             |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
|  | <b>January 31,<br/>2009</b>                      | <b>February 2,<br/>2008</b> |
|  | <b>(52<br/>Weeks)</b>                            | <b>(52 Weeks)</b>           |
|  | <b>(In thousands, except per<br/>share data)</b> |                             |
| Net sales  | \$ 390,640                                       | \$ 395,929                  |
| Gift certificate and gift card breakage revenue                        | 637  | 772                         |
| Total revenue  | 391,277  | 396,701                     |
| Cost of sales (exclusive of depreciation as shown below)               | 256,228  | 283,040                     |
| Gross profit   | 135,049  | 113,661                     |
| Operating expenses:  |  |                             |
| Compensation and benefits  | 69,508   | 73,392                      |
| Other operating expenses   | 36,779   | 42,363                      |
| Impairment charges   | 352  | 3,453                       |
| Depreciation of property and equipment                                 | 18,741   | 20,391                      |
| Total operating expenses   | 125,380  | 139,599                     |
| Operating income (loss)  | 9,669  | (25,938)                    |
| Interest expense   | 123  | 644                         |
| Interest income  | (73)   | (204)                       |
| Other income, net  | (469)  | (112)                       |
| Income (loss) before income taxes                                      | 10,088   | (26,266)                    |
| Income tax provision (benefit)   | 783  | (360)                       |
| Net income (loss)  | \$ 9,305   | \$ (25,906)                 |
| Earnings (loss) per share:   |  |                             |
| Basic  | \$ 0.47  | \$ (1.33)                   |
| Diluted  | \$ 0.47  | \$ (1.33)                   |
| Weighted average shares for basic earnings (loss) per share            | 19,628   | 19,516                      |
| Effect of dilutive stock equivalents                                   | 63   |                             |
| Adjusted weighted average shares for diluted earnings (loss) per share | 19,691   | 19,516                      |

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

**Table of Contents****KIRKLAND S, INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY**

|  | <b>Common Stock</b>                      |               | <b>Accumulated</b> | <b>Total</b>        |
|--|--|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|
|  | <b>Shares</b>                            | <b>Amount</b> | <b>Deficit</b>     | <b>Shareholders</b> |
|  | <b>(In thousands, except share data)</b> |               |                    | <b>Equity</b>       |
| Balance at February 3, 2007                            | 19,627,065                               | \$ 140,761    | \$ (72,779)        | \$ 67,982           |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle    |  |               | (79)               | (79)                |
| Exercise of stock options and employee stock purchases | 108,028                                  | 171           |                    | 171                 |
| Tax benefit from exercise of stock options             |  | 15            |                    | 15                  |
| Restricted stock forfeited                             | (150,000)                                |               |                    |                     |
| Stock compensation expense                             |  | 387           |                    | 387                 |
| Net loss   |  |               | (25,906)           | (25,906)            |
| Balance at February 2, 2008                            | 19,585,093                               | 141,334       | (98,764)           | 42,570              |
| Employee stock purchases                               | 68,177                                   | 103           |                    | 103                 |
| Stock compensation expense                             |  | 373           |                    | 373                 |
| Net income   |  |               | 9,305              | 9,305               |
| Balance at January 31, 2009                            | 19,653,270                               | \$ 141,810    | \$ (89,459)        | \$ 52,351           |

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

**Table of Contents****KIRKLAND S, INC.****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

|   | <b>Year Ended</b>                              |  |
|---|--|--|
|   | <b>January 31,<br/>2009<br/>(52<br/>Weeks)</b> | <b>February 2,<br/>2008<br/>(52 Weeks)</b> |
|   | <b>(In thousands)</b>                          |  |
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>  |  |  |
| Net income (loss)   | \$ 9,305                                       | \$ (25,906)                                |
| Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities: |  |  |
| Depreciation of property and equipment  | 18,741   | 20,391                                     |
| Amortization of landlord construction allowance   | (9,016)  | (6,790)                                    |
| Amortization of debt issue costs  | 27   | 22   |
| Impairment of long-lived assets and goodwill  | 352  | 3,453                                      |
| Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle                                       |  | (79)                                       |
| Stock compensation expense  | 373  | 387  |
| Loss on disposal of property and equipment  | 1,123  | 611  |
| Deferred income taxes   | (4,510)  | 960  |
| Changes in assets and liabilities:  |  |  |
| Inventories   | 2,560  | 3,544                                      |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets   | 3,608  | (2,569)                                    |
| Other assets  | 161  | (206)                                      |
| Accounts payable  | (2,285)  | (4,786)                                    |
| Income taxes receivable/payable   | 8,249  | (3,881)                                    |
| Accrued expenses and other noncurrent liabilities   | 874  | 9,970                                      |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities                                       | 29,562   | (4,879)                                    |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>  |  |  |
| Proceeds from sale of property and equipment  | 3,700  | 73   |
| Capital expenditures  | (2,740)  | (14,835)                                   |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities                                       | 960  | (14,762)                                   |
| <b>Cash flows from financing activities:</b>  |  |  |
| Borrowings on revolving line of credit  |  | 253,684                                    |
| Repayments on revolving line of credit  |  | (253,684)                                  |
| Exercise of stock options and employee stock purchases                                    | 103  | 171  |
| Debt issue costs  |  | (68)                                       |
| Net cash provided by financing activities   | 103  | 103  |

**Cash and cash equivalents:**

|                         |           |             |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Net increase (decrease) | \$ 30,625 | \$ (19,538) |
| Beginning of the year   | 5,820     | 25,358      |
| End of the year         | \$ 36,445 | \$ 5,820    |

**Supplemental cash flow information:**

|                              |            |          |
|------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Interest paid                | \$ 92      | \$ 501   |
| Income taxes (refunded) paid | \$ (2,879) | \$ 2,460 |

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

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**KIRKLAND S, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Note 1 Description of Business and Significant Accounting Policies**

Kirkland s, Inc. (the Company ) is a specialty retailer of home décor with 299 stores in 34 states as of January 31, 2009. The consolidated financial statements of the Company include the accounts of Kirkland s, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries Kirkland s Stores, Inc. and Kirklands.com, Inc. Significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated.

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from the estimates and assumptions used.

Changes in estimates are recognized in the period when new information becomes available to management. Areas where the nature of the estimate makes it reasonably possible that actual results could materially differ from amounts estimated include: impairment assessments on long-lived assets, inventory reserves, self-insurance reserves, income tax liabilities, valuation allowances, stock-based compensation, gift certificate and gift card breakage, customer loyalty program accruals and contingent liabilities.

*Fiscal year* The Company s fiscal year is comprised of the 52 or 53-week period ending on the Saturday closest to January 31. Accordingly, fiscal 2008 represented the 52 weeks ended on January 31, 2009 and fiscal 2007 represented the 52 weeks ended on February 2, 2008.

*Cash and cash equivalents* Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on deposit in banks and investments with maturities of 90 days or less at the date of purchase.

*Cost of sales and inventory valuation* Cost of sales includes all costs of product purchased from vendors, including inbound freight to the extent that it is not included in the vendor pricing. Receiving costs, inspection costs, warehousing costs, internal transfer costs, outbound freight, and all salaries, wages and overhead associated with our distribution facility and its network are included in cost of sales. Our cost of sales also includes all store rent and related extra charges. Our inventory is stated at the lower of cost or market, net of reserves and allowances, with cost determined using the average cost method with average cost approximating current cost. We estimate the amount of shrinkage that has occurred through theft or damage and adjust that to actual at the time of our physical inventory counts which occur throughout the fiscal year. We also evaluate the cost of our inventory by category and class of merchandise in relation to the estimated sales price. This evaluation is performed to ensure that we do not carry inventory at a value in excess of the amount we expect to realize upon the sale of the merchandise.

*Vendor allowances* We receive various payments and allowances from our vendors, including rebates and other credits. The amounts received are subject to the terms of vendor agreements, which generally do not state an expiration date, but are subject to ongoing negotiations that may be impacted in the future based on changes in market conditions and changes in the profitability, quality, or sell-through of the related merchandise. For all such vendor allowances, the Company applies the guidance pursuant to the Emerging Issues Task Force Issue No. 02-16,

Accounting by a Customer (Including a Reseller) for Certain Consideration Received from a Vendor ( EITF 02-16 ), by recording the vendor funds as a reduction of inventories that are recognized as a reduction to cost of sales as the



inventories are sold. The Company's vendor funding arrangements generally do not provide for any reimbursement arrangements that are for specific, incremental, identifiable costs that are permitted under EITF 02-16 for the funding to be recorded as a reduction to advertising or other operating, selling, general and administrative expenses.

*Prepaid expenses and other current assets* Prepaid expenses and other current assets consist primarily of prepaid rent, prepaid insurance and receivables from landlords for construction allowances. Construction allowance receivables were zero and \$2,865,000 at January 31, 2009, and February 2, 2008, respectively.

**Table of Contents****KIRKLAND S, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

*Property and equipment* Property and equipment are stated at cost. Depreciation is computed on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the respective assets. Furniture, fixtures and equipment are generally depreciated over 5 years. Leasehold improvements are amortized over the shorter of the useful life of the asset or the expected lease term ranging from five to 10 years. Maintenance and repairs are expensed as incurred and improvements are capitalized. Gains or losses on the disposition of fixed assets are recorded upon disposal.

*Impairment of long-lived assets* In accordance with the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 144, Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets ( SFAS 144 ), we evaluate the recoverability of the carrying amounts of long-lived assets, such as property and equipment, covered by this standard whenever events or changes in circumstances dictate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. This review includes the evaluation of individual underperforming retail stores and assessing the recoverability of the carrying value of the fixed assets related to the store. Future cash flows are projected for the remaining lease life. If the estimated future cash flows are less than the carrying value of the assets, the Company records an impairment charge equal to the difference, if any, between the assets' estimated fair value and carrying value. Based on the estimated fair values of certain long-lived assets, we have recorded impairment charges of \$352,000 and \$2.1 million during fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007, respectively. As of January 31, 2009, and February 2, 2008, these stores with impairments had a remaining carrying value of long-lived assets totaling \$1.2 million and \$1.3 million, respectively.

*Goodwill* The Company accounts for its goodwill in accordance with SFAS No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets*. Accordingly, goodwill is not amortized but reviewed for impairment on an annual basis during each fourth quarter or more frequently when events and circumstances indicate that an impairment may have occurred. During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2007, we incurred a charge of approximately \$1,381,000 relating to goodwill recorded in connection with a prior acquisition as the fair value of the business was estimated to be less than the carrying value of the net assets as of February 2, 2008. There was no goodwill remaining as of February 2, 2008.

*Insurance reserves* Workers' compensation, general liability and employee medical insurance programs are partially self-insured. It is our policy to record a self-insurance liability using estimates of claims incurred but not yet reported or paid, based on historical claims experience and trends. Actual results can vary from estimates for many reasons, including, among others, inflation rates, claim settlement patterns, litigation trends and legal interpretations. We monitor our claims experience in light of these factors and revise our estimates of insurance reserves accordingly. The level of our insurance reserves may increase or decrease as a result of these changing circumstances or trends.

*Customer loyalty program* The Company has established a private-label credit card program for its customers. The card program is operated and managed by a third-party bank that assumes all credit risk with no recourse to the Company. All cardholders are automatically enrolled in a loyalty program whereby cardholders earn loyalty points in return for making purchases in the Company's stores. Attaining specified loyalty point levels results in the issuance of discount certificates to the cardholder. The Company accrues for the expected liability associated with the discount certificates issued as well as the accumulated points that have not yet resulted in the issuance of a certificate adjusted for expected redemption rates. This liability is included within accrued expenses on the consolidated balance sheets and the changes to the liability are included within other operating expenses on the consolidated statements of operations. During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2007, the Company recorded a change of estimate reducing the liability by \$655,000, or \$0.03 per diluted share, related to a change in the expected redemption rates of discount certificates issued to its private label credit card customers.

*Deferred rent* Many of the Company's operating leases contain predetermined fixed escalations of minimum rentals during the initial term. Additionally, the Company does not typically pay rent during the construction period for its new stores. For these leases, the Company recognizes the related rental expense on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease commencing with the date of initial access to the leased space,

**Table of Contents****KIRKLAND S, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

and records the difference between amounts charged to operations and amounts paid as a liability. The cumulative net excess of recorded rent expense over lease payments totaled \$6.7 million, of which \$751,000 was reflected as a current liability in accrued expenses and \$5.9 million was reflected as a noncurrent liability in deferred rent on the consolidated balance sheet as of January 31, 2009. As of February 2, 2008, \$886,000 was reflected as a current liability in accrued expenses and \$7.0 million was reflected as a noncurrent liability in deferred rent on the consolidated balance sheet.

The Company also receives incentives from landlords in the form of construction allowances. These construction allowances are recorded as deferred rent and amortized as a reduction to rent expense over the lease term. As of January 31, 2009, the unamortized amount of construction allowances totaled \$28.0 million, of which \$6.4 million was reflected as a current liability in accrued expenses and \$21.6 million was reflected as a noncurrent liability in deferred rent on the consolidated balance sheet. As of February 2, 2008, \$8.1 million was reflected as a current liability in accrued expenses and \$27.5 was reflected as a noncurrent liability in deferred rent on the consolidated balance sheet.

*Revenue recognition* The Company recognizes revenue at the time of sale of merchandise to customers. Net sales include the sale of merchandise, net of estimated returns and exclusive of sales taxes.

Revenues from gift certificates and gift cards are recognized as revenue when tendered for payment. While the Company will continue to honor all gift certificates and gift cards presented for payment, the Company determines the likelihood of redemption to be remote for certain gift certificates and gift card balances due to, among other factors, long periods of inactivity. The Company uses the Redemption Recognition Method to account for breakage for unused gift card and gift certificate amounts where breakage is recognized as gift certificates or gift cards are redeemed for the purchase of goods based upon a historical breakage rate. In these circumstances, to the extent the Company determines there is no requirement for remitting certificate or card balances to government agencies under unclaimed property laws, gift certificate and gift card balances are recognized in the consolidated statement of operations as revenue. The Company recognized approximately \$637,000 in gift certificate and gift card breakage during fiscal 2008, compared to approximately \$772,000 during fiscal 2007.

*Compensation and benefits* Compensation and benefits includes all store and corporate office salaries and wages and incentive pay as well as employee health benefits, 401(k) plan benefits, social security and unemployment taxes. During the third quarter of fiscal 2007, the Company incurred a charge related to separation costs associated with a restructuring of corporate personnel. This charge totaled approximately \$965,000, representing the elimination of certain corporate positions, including field multi-unit management positions and positions at the Company's Jackson and Nashville corporate offices. There were charges related to other executive severance during fiscal 2007 totaling approximately \$528,000. As of January 31, 2009, there was a remaining payable of approximately \$280,000 related to these charges.

*Stock options* In accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (revised 2004), Share-Based Payment ( SFAS 123(R) ), the Company values and records as compensation expense, stock awards granted to employees under a fair value based method. The Company recognizes share-based compensation expense based on the following: a) grant date fair value estimated in accordance with the original provisions of SFAS 123 for unvested options granted prior to the adoption date; b) grant date fair value estimated in accordance with the provisions of SFAS 123(R) for options granted subsequent to the adoption date; and c) the discount on shares purchased by

employees through our employee stock purchase plan post-adoption, which represents the difference between the purchase date fair value and the employee

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**KIRKLAND S, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

purchase price. This compensation expense is recorded within compensation and benefits in the consolidated statements of operations with a corresponding credit to common stock.

*Other operating expenses* Other operating expenses consist of such items as insurance, advertising, property taxes, supplies, losses on disposal of assets and various other store and corporate expenses.

*Preopening expenses* Preopening expenses, which consist primarily of payroll and occupancy costs, are expensed as incurred.

*Advertising expenses* Advertising costs are expensed in the period in which the related advertising activity first takes place. Advertising expense was \$1,452,000 and \$4,897,000 for fiscal years 2008 and 2007, respectively.

*Other income, net* Other income, net consists of sales tax rebates of \$226,000 and \$193,000 for fiscal years 2008 and 2007, respectively, and other miscellaneous income of \$243,000 and expense of \$81,000 for fiscal years 2008 and 2007, respectively.

*Income Taxes* Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized based on the differences between the financial statement and the tax law treatment of certain items. Realization of certain components of deferred tax assets is dependent upon the occurrence of future events. The Company records valuation allowances to reduce its deferred tax assets to the amount it believes is more likely than not to be realized. These valuation allowances can be impacted by changes in tax laws, changes to statutory tax rates, and future taxable income levels and are based on the Company's judgment, estimates, and assumptions regarding those future events. In the event the Company were to determine that it would not be able to realize all or a portion of the net deferred tax assets in the future, the Company would increase the valuation allowance through a charge to income tax expense in the period that such determination is made. Conversely, if the Company were to determine that it would be able to realize its deferred tax assets in the future, in excess of the net carrying amounts, the Company would decrease the recorded valuation allowance through a decrease to income tax expense in the period that such determination is made.

The Company provides for uncertain tax positions and the related interest and penalties, if any, based upon management's assessment of whether a tax benefit is more likely than not to be sustained upon examination by tax authorities. The Company recognizes interest and penalties accrued related to unrecognized tax benefits in income tax expense. At January 31, 2009, the Company believes it has appropriately accounted for any unrecognized tax benefits. To the extent the Company prevails in matters for which a liability for an unrecognized tax benefit is established or is required to pay amounts in excess of the liability, the Company's effective tax rate in a given financial statement period may be affected.

The Company's income tax returns are audited by state and federal authorities and we are typically engaged in various tax examinations at any given time. Tax contingencies often arise due to uncertainty or differing interpretations of the application of tax rules throughout the various jurisdictions in which the Company operates. The contingencies are influenced by items such as tax audits, changes in tax laws, litigation, appeals and experience with previous similar tax positions. The Company regularly reviews its tax reserves for these items and assesses the adequacy of the amounts it has recorded. The Company evaluates potential exposures associated with its various tax filings by estimating a liability for uncertain tax positions based on a two-step process. The first step is to evaluate the tax position for recognition by determining if the weight of available evidence indicates that it is more likely than not that

the position will be sustained on audit, including resolution of related appeals or litigation processes, if any. The second step is to estimate and measure the tax benefit as the largest amount that is more than 50% likely to be recognized upon settlement.

*Sales and use taxes* Governmental authorities assess sales and use taxes on the sale of goods and services. The Company excludes taxes collected from customers in its reported sales results. Such amounts are reflected as accrued expenses until remitted to the taxing authorities.

**Table of Contents****KIRKLAND S, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

*Use of estimates* The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of certain assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingencies at the date of the financial statements and the related reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

*Fair value of financial instruments* The carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, other current assets and accounts payable approximate fair value because of their short maturities.

*Earnings per share* Basic earnings per share is computed by dividing net income or loss by the weighted average number of shares outstanding during each period presented, which excludes non-vested restricted stock. Diluted earnings per share is computed by dividing net income or loss by the weighted average number of shares outstanding plus the dilutive effect of stock equivalents outstanding during the applicable periods using the treasury stock method. The diluted loss per share amount for fiscal 2007 has been calculated using the same denominator as used in the basic loss per share calculation as the inclusion of dilutive securities in the denominator would have been anti-dilutive.

*Comprehensive income* Comprehensive income does not differ from the consolidated net income (loss) presented in the consolidated statements of operations.

*Operating segments* An operating segment is defined as a component of an enterprise that engages in business activities from which it may earn revenues and incur expenses and about which separate financial information is regularly evaluated by the chief operating decision maker in deciding how to allocate resources. Due to the similar economic characteristics of the Company's small and off-mall stores, and the similar nature of the Company's products, type of customer, and method used to distribute the Company's products, the Company operates as one business segment and does not disclose separate segment information.

*Recent accounting pronouncements* On February 3, 2008, we adopted portions of SFAS 157, Fair Value Measurements, which provides a common definition of fair value, establishes a uniform framework for measuring fair value and requires expanded disclosures about fair value measurements. There is a one-year deferral of the adoption of the standard as it relates to non-financial assets and liabilities. The adoption of SFAS 157 had no impact on our financial statements at January 31, 2009. We are in the process of evaluating the potential impact of the standard as it relates to non-financial assets and liabilities on our consolidated financial statements.

**Note 2 Property and Equipment**

Property and equipment is comprised of the following (in thousands):

|           | <b>January 31,<br/>2009</b> | <b>February 2,<br/>2008</b> |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Land      | \$                          | \$ 402                      |
| Buildings |                             | 3,481                       |
| Equipment | 26,680                      | 27,001                      |



|                                |           |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Furniture and fixtures         | 40,910    | 45,016    |
| Leasehold improvements         | 57,302    | 61,644    |
| Projects in progress           | 317       | 419       |
|                                | 125,209   | 137,963   |
| Less: accumulated depreciation | 83,383    | 74,961    |
|                                | \$ 41,826 | \$ 63,002 |

**Table of Contents****KIRKLAND S, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****Note 3 Accrued Expenses**

Accrued expenses are comprised of the following (in thousands):

|                                     | <b>January 31,<br/>2009</b> | <b>February 2,<br/>2008</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Salaries and wages                  | \$ 5,659                    | \$ 3,643                    |
| Gift certificates and store credits | 5,239                       | 6,480                       |
| Sales taxes                         | 1,829                       | 2,143                       |
| Deferred rent                       | 7,125                       | 8,989                       |
| Other                               | 5,129                       | 4,311                       |
|                                     | <b>\$ 24,981</b>            | <b>\$ 25,566</b>            |

**Note 4 Income Taxes**

The Company's income tax provision (benefit) is computed based on the federal statutory rates and the state statutory rates, net of related federal benefit. The provision (benefit) for income taxes consists of the following (in thousands):

|                               | <b>52 Weeks<br/>Ended<br/>January 31,<br/>2009</b> | <b>52 Weeks<br/>Ended<br/>February 2,<br/>2008</b> |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Current                       |  |  |
| Federal                       | \$ 5,172   | \$ (1,898)   |
| State                         | 121  | 578  |
| Deferred                      |  |  |
| Federal                       | (648)  | (6,118)  |
| State                         | (486)  | (1,090)  |
| Change in valuation allowance | (3,376)  | 8,168  |
|                               | <b>\$ 783</b>                                      | <b>\$ (360)</b>                                    |

The provision (benefit) for income taxes differs from the amount computed by applying the statutory federal income tax rate to income before income taxes. A reconciliation of the provision (benefit) for income taxes at the statutory federal income tax rate to the amount provided (benefited) is as follows (in thousands):

|   | <b>52 Weeks<br/>Ended<br/>January 31,<br/>2009</b> | <b>52 Weeks<br/>Ended<br/>February 2,<br/>2008</b> |
|---|--|--|
| Tax at federal statutory rate               | \$ 3,531   | \$ (9,193)   |
| State income taxes (net of federal benefit) | 565  | (512)  |
| Goodwill impairment                         |  | 483  |
| Change in valuation allowance               | (3,376)  | 8,168  |
| Other                                       | 63   | 694  |
| <br>Income tax benefit                      | <br>\$ 783   | <br>\$ (360)                                       |

At January 31, 2009 and February 2, 2008, the Company had pre-tax net operating loss ( NOL ) carryforwards for federal income tax purposes of \$6.2 million and \$8.4 million, respectively, which will begin

Table of Contents**KIRKLAND S, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

to expire in 2022. At January 31, 2009 and February 2, 2008, the Company had NOL carryforwards for state income tax purposes of zero and \$19.9 million, respectively.

The Company's NOL carryforward for federal income tax purposes is currently limited under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code due to an ownership change which occurred in a recent period. If a corporation undergoes an ownership change as defined by Section 382, the corporation's ability to use its pre-change net operating loss carryovers and other pre-change tax attributes to offset its post-change income may be limited. As such, the utilization of NOL carryforwards will be subject to an annual limitation estimated to be approximately \$2.2 million before taxes. The unused portion of the annual limitation can be carried forward to subsequent periods.

Deferred income taxes reflect the net tax effects of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for income tax purposes. Significant components of the Company's deferred tax assets and liabilities are as follows (in thousands):

|                                      | <b>January 31,<br/>2009</b> | <b>February 2,<br/>2008</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Deferred tax assets:                 |                             |                             |
| Net operating loss and carryforwards | \$ 2,167                    | \$ 4,273                    |
| Accruals                             | 3,664                       | 2,583                       |
| Inventory valuation                  | 279                         | 376                         |
| Deferred rent and other              | 5,222                       | 4,693                       |
| Total gross deferred tax assets      | 11,332                      | 11,925                      |
| Less: Valuation allowance            | (5,437)                     | (8,168)                     |
| Total net deferred tax assets        | 5,895                       | 3,757                       |
| Deferred tax liabilities:            |                             |                             |
| Depreciation                         | (833)                       | (3,476)                     |
| Prepaid assets                       | (233)                       | (281)                       |
| Net deferred tax (liability)         | (1,066)                     | (3,757)                     |
| Total net deferred taxes             | \$ 4,829                    | \$                          |

Future utilization of the deferred tax assets is evaluated by the Company and the valuation allowance is adjusted accordingly. In 2007, the valuation allowance increased by \$8.2 million as the Company incurred losses greater than the historical income which could be offset by a net operating loss carryback. As a result of positive operating performance in 2008, the Company was able to reverse a portion of the valuation allowance that was established in 2007. The Company's ability to reverse the remaining portion of this valuation allowance in future periods will depend on its operating performance and the resulting levels of taxable income or loss.

The Company and one or more of its subsidiaries file income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction and various state and local jurisdictions. The Company is no longer subject to U.S. federal income tax examinations by authorities for years prior to 2004. With few exceptions, the Company is no longer subject to state and local income tax examinations for years prior to 2002. The Company has no ongoing U.S. federal, state or local income tax examinations.

The Company adopted the provisions of FASB Interpretation No. 48 on February 4, 2007. As a result of the implementation, the Company recognized a \$79,000 increase in the liability for unrecognized tax benefits,

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which was accounted for as a reduction of the February 4, 2007 balance of retained earnings. The total net amount of unrecognized tax benefits as of January 31, 2009 that, if recognized, would affect the effective tax rate is \$349,000. A reconciliation of the beginning and ending amount of unrecognized tax benefits is as follows (in thousands):

|  | <b>January 31,<br/>2009</b> | <b>February 2,<br/>2008</b> |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Balance at the beginning of the year                         | \$ 690                      | \$ 198                      |
| Additions based on tax positions related to the current year |                             |                             |
| Additions for tax positions of prior years                   | 121                         | 492                         |
| Reductions for tax positions of prior years                  |                             |                             |
| Settlements  |                             |                             |
| Lapse of the statute of limitations                          | (144)                       |                             |
| Balance at the end of the year                               | \$ 667                      | \$ 690                      |

In the January 31, 2009 balance of unrecognized tax benefits, there are two tax positions for which the ultimate deductibility is highly certain but the timing of such deductibility is uncertain. Accordingly, the impact to the deferred tax accounting for these tax positions has been considered.

**Note 5 Senior Credit Facility**

Effective October 4, 2004, the Company entered into a five-year senior secured revolving credit facility with a revolving loan limit of up to \$45 million. On August 6, 2007, the Company entered into the First Amendment to Loan and Security Agreement (the Amendment) which provided the Company with additional availability under the borrowing base through higher advance rates on eligible inventory. As a result of the Amendment, the aggregate size of the overall credit facility remained unchanged at \$45 million, but the term of the facility was extended two years making the new expiration date October 4, 2011. Amounts borrowed under the amended revolving credit facility, other than First In Last Out (FILO) loans, bear interest at a floating rate equal to the 60-day LIBOR rate (0.91% at January 31, 2009) plus 1.25% to 1.50% (depending on the amount of excess availability under the borrowing base). FILO loans, which apply to the first \$2 million borrowed at any given time, bear interest at a floating rate equal to the 60-day LIBOR rate plus 2.25% to 2.50% (depending on the amount of excess availability under the borrowing base). Additionally, the Company pays a fee to the bank equal to a rate of 0.2% per annum on the unused portion of the revolving line of credit. Borrowings under the facility are collateralized by substantially all of the Company's assets and guaranteed by its subsidiaries. The maximum availability under the credit facility is limited by a borrowing base formula, which consists of a percentage of eligible inventory and receivables less reserves. The facility also contains provisions that could result in changes to the presented terms or the acceleration of maturity. Circumstances that could lead to such changes or acceleration include a material adverse change in the business or an event of default under the credit agreement. The facility has one financial covenant that requires the Company to maintain excess availability under the borrowing base, as defined in the credit agreement, of at least \$3 to \$4.5 million depending on the size of the borrowing base, at all times.

As of January 31, 2009, the Company was in compliance with the covenants in the facility, corporate offices and there was zero in outstanding borrowings under the credit facility, with approximately \$21.5 million available for borrowing (net of the availability block as described above).

**Note 6 Long-Term Leases**

The Company leases retail store facilities, warehouse facilities, corporate offices and certain equipment under operating leases with terms ranging up to 15 years and expiring at various dates through 2020. Most of the

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retail store lease agreements include renewal options and provide for minimum rentals and contingent rentals based on sales performance in excess of specified minimums. Rent expense, including extra charges under operating leases was approximately \$48,665,000 and \$57,222,000 in fiscal years 2008 and 2007, respectively. Contingent rental expense was approximately \$83,000 and \$70,000 for fiscal years 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Future minimum lease payments under all operating leases with initial terms of one year or more are as follows: \$46,984,000 in 2009; \$39,712,000 in 2010; \$32,867,000 in 2011 \$29,723,000 in 2012, \$27,589,000 in 2013 and \$74,082,000 thereafter.

**Note 7 Employee Benefit Plans**

*Stock options* Share-based payments include stock option grants and certain other transactions under the Company's stock plans. Total share-based compensation expense (a component of compensation and benefits) was approximately \$373,000 for the 52 week period ended January 31, 2009 and \$387,000 for the 52 week period ended February 2, 2008. Tax deductions in excess of recognized compensation cost are classified as a financing cash inflow in accordance with SFAS 123(R).

On June 12, 1996, the Company adopted the 1996 Executive Incentive and Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan (the 1996 Plan), which provides employees and officers with opportunities to purchase shares of the Company's common stock. The 1996 Plan authorized the grant of incentive and non-qualified stock options and required that the exercise price of incentive stock options be at least 100% of the fair market value of the stock at the date of the grant. As of January 31, 2009, options to purchase 182,737 shares of common stock were outstanding under the 1996 Plan at an exercise price of \$1.29. Options issued to employees under the 1996 Plan have maximum contractual terms of 10 years and vest ratably over 3 years. No additional options may be granted under the 1996 Plan.

In July 2002, the Company adopted the Kirkland's, Inc. 2002 Equity Incentive Plan (the 2002 Plan). The 2002 Plan provides for the award of restricted stock, restricted stock units (RSUs), incentive stock options, non-qualified stock options and stock appreciation rights with respect to shares of common stock to employees, directors, consultants and other individuals who perform services for the Company. The 2002 Plan is authorized to provide awards for up to a maximum of 2,500,000 shares of common stock. Options issued to employees under the 2002 Plan have maximum contractual terms of 10 years and generally vest ratably over 3 years. Options issued to non-employee directors vest immediately on the date of the grant. As of January 31, 2009, options to purchase 610,000 shares of common stock were outstanding under the 2002 Plan at exercise prices ranging from \$2.03 to \$18.55 per share. As of January 31, 2009, there were 386,666 RSUs outstanding under the 2002 Plan with fair value grant prices ranging from \$2.03 to \$2.31 per share. RSUs generally vest after a 3 year period and are convertible into common stock on the date of vesting.

The following table summarizes information about employee stock options outstanding and exercisable at January 31, 2009:

**Options Outstanding**  
**Weighted**  
**Average**



| Range of Exercise Prices | Number<br>of Shares | Remaining                         | Weighted       | Options Exercisable |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                          |                     | Contractual<br>Life (In<br>Years) | Average        | Number              | Weighted<br>Average |
|                          |                     |                                   | Exercise Price | of Shares           | Exercise Price      |
| \$1.29 - \$4.25          | 342,737             | 5.8                               | \$ 1.85        | 242,737             | \$ 1.91             |
| \$6.26 - \$11.75         | 382,500             | 6.7                               | \$ 8.61        | 370,411             | \$ 8.68             |
| \$14.58 - \$18.55        | 67,500              | 4.4                               | \$ 17.44       | 67,500              | \$ 17.44            |
| Total                    | 792,737             | 6.1                               | \$ 6.44        | 680,648             | \$ 7.13             |

As of January 31, 2009, there were 312,727 outstanding in-the-money options. Shares reserved for future share based grants approximated 1.5 million at January 31, 2009. The weighted average grant date fair value

**Table of Contents****KIRKLAND S, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

of options granted during fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007 were \$1.44 and \$2.15, respectively. The aggregate intrinsic value of options outstanding and options exercisable as of January 31, 2009 was approximately \$311,000 and \$253,000, respectively. For fiscal 2008, unrecognized stock compensation expense related to the unvested portion of outstanding stock options was approximately \$139,000 which is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 1.1 years.

Activity under the Company's stock option plans in each of the periods indicated are as follows:

|                                   | <b>Number of<br/>Options</b> | <b>Weighted<br/>Average<br/>Exercise Price</b> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Balance at February 3, 2007       | 951,139                      | \$ 7.88  |
| Options granted                   | 70,000                       | \$ 4.54  |
| Options exercised                 | (15,112)                     | \$ 1.72  |
| Options forfeited                 | (167,457)                    | \$ 6.46  |
| Balance at February 2, 2008       | 838,570                      | \$ 8.00  |
| Options granted                   | 130,000                      | \$ 2.08  |
| Options exercised                 |                              |  |
| Options forfeited                 | (175,833)                    | \$ 10.65                                       |
| Balance at January 31, 2009       | 792,737                      | \$ 6.44  |
| <b>Options Exercisable As of:</b> |                              |  |
| January 31, 2009                  | 680,648                      | \$ 7.13  |
| February 2, 2008                  | 752,731                      | \$ 8.25  |

The fair value of each option is recorded as compensation expense on a straight-line basis between the grant date for the award and each vesting date. The Company has estimated the fair value of all stock option awards as of the date of the grant by applying the Black-Scholes multiple-option pricing valuation model. The application of this valuation model involves assumptions that are judgmental and highly sensitive in the determination of compensation expense. The weighted average for key assumptions used in determining the fair value of options granted in the 52 week period ended January 31, 2009 and 52 week period ended February 2, 2008 and a summary of the methodology applied to develop each assumption are as follows:

|                           | <b>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Expected price volatility | 0.61        | 0.44        |
| Risk-free interest rate   | 3.7%        | 4.7%        |

|                 |           |           |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Expected life   | 5.8 years | 5.5 years |
| Forfeiture rate | 5%        | 5%        |
| Dividend yield  | 0%        | 0%        |

*Expected price volatility* This is a measure of the amount by which the stock price has fluctuated or is expected to fluctuate. The Company uses actual historical changes in the market value of its stock to calculate the volatility assumption as it is management's belief that this is the best indicator of future volatility. The Company calculates daily market value changes to the date of grant over a period beginning one year following the Company's initial public offering date. An increase in the expected volatility will increase compensation expense.

*Risk-free interest rate* This is the U.S. Treasury rate for the week of the grant having a term equal to the expected life of the option. An increase in the risk-free interest rate will increase compensation expense.

**Table of Contents****KIRKLAND S, INC.****NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

*Expected lives* This is the period of time over which the options granted are expected to remain outstanding. The Company uses the simplified method found in the Securities and Exchange Commission's Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 107 to estimate the expected life of stock option grants. Options granted have a maximum term of ten years. An increase in the expected life will increase compensation expense.

*Forfeiture rate* This is the estimated percentage of options granted that are expected to be forfeited or canceled before becoming fully vested. This estimate is based on historical experience of similar grants. An increase in the forfeiture rate will decrease compensation expense.

*Dividend yield* The Company has not made any dividend payments nor does it have plans to pay dividends in the foreseeable future. An increase in the dividend yield will decrease compensation expense.

Forfeitures are estimated at the time of valuation and reduce expense ratably over the vesting period. This estimate is adjusted periodically based on the extent to which actual forfeitures differ, or are expected to differ, from the previous estimate. The Company's forfeiture estimate has a minimal effect on expense as the majority of the share based awards vest quarterly.

*Restricted stock* During the first quarter of fiscal 2006, the Company granted 150,000 shares of restricted stock to its former President and Chief Operating Officer. The award was scheduled to fully vest after five years of continuous employment with the Company. The value of this grant was measured at the market value of the Company's common stock on the service inception date. In the fourth quarter of fiscal 2007, the executive separated from the Company and forfeited all 150,000 shares of unvested restricted stock. All compensation expense associated with this grant which had previously been recognized up to the point of the separation was reversed resulting in a credit to compensation and benefits in the amount of \$353,000.

*Restricted stock units ( RSUs )* During the second and third quarter of fiscal 2008, the Company granted 400,000 RSUs to various employees. The RSUs become 100% vested on the third anniversary of the grant date, provided the employee has remained in continuous service with the Company through that date. The fair value of the RSUs is equal to the closing price of the Company's common stock on the date of the grant. The weighted average grant date fair value of the RSUs granted during fiscal 2008 was \$2.06 and is being expensed on a straight-line basis over the vesting period. Compensation expense for RSUs during fiscal 2008 was \$133,000. As of January 31, 2009 there was approximately \$663,000 of unrecognized compensation expense related to RSUs which is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 2.5 years.

RSU activity for the year was as follows:

|                                | Shares  | Weighted Average<br>Grant Date<br>Fair Value |
|--------------------------------|---------|--|
| Non-vested at February 2, 2008 |         | \$   |
| Granted                        | 400,000 | 823,200                                      |
| Vested                         |         |  |

|                                |          |    |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|----|----------|
| Cancelled                      | (13,334) |    | (27,068) |
| Non-vested at January 31, 2009 | 386,666  | \$ | 796,132  |

*Employee Stock Purchase Plan* In July 2002, the Company adopted an Employee Stock Purchase Plan ( ESPP ). Under the ESPP, full-time employees who have completed twelve consecutive months of service are allowed to purchase shares of the Company s common stock, subject to certain limitations, through payroll deduction, at 85% of the fair market value. The Company s ESPP is authorized to issue up to 500,000 shares of common stock. During fiscal 2008 and fiscal 2007, there were 68,177 and 92,916 shares of common stock, respectively, issued to participants under the ESPP.

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**KIRKLAND S, INC.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)**

*401(k) Savings Plan* The Company maintains a defined contribution 401(k) employee benefit plan, which covers all employees meeting certain age and service requirements. Up to 6% of the employee's compensation may be matched at the Company's discretion. For all fiscal years presented, this discretionary percentage was 50% of an employee's contribution subject to Plan maximums. The Company's matching contributions were approximately \$322,000 and \$335,000 in fiscal 2008 and 2007, respectively. The Company has the option to make additional contributions to the Plan on behalf of covered employees; however, no such contributions were made in fiscal 2008 or 2007.

*Deferred Compensation Plan* Effective March 1, 2005, the Company adopted The Executive Non-Qualified Excess Plan (the Deferred Compensation Plan). The Deferred Compensation Plan is available for certain employees whose benefits under the 401(k) Savings Plan are limited due to provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. The Company's matching contribution was approximately \$24,000 and \$39,000 in fiscal years 2008 and 2007, respectively.

**Note 8 Commitments and Contingencies**

Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to concentration of risk are primarily cash and cash equivalents. The Company places its cash and cash equivalents in insured depository institutions and limits the amount of credit exposure to any one institution within the covenant restrictions imposed by the Company's debt agreements.

The Company is party to pending legal proceedings and claims. Although the outcome of such proceedings and claims cannot be determined with certainty, the Company's management is of the opinion that it is remote that these proceedings and claims will have a material effect on the financial condition, operating results or cash flows of the Company.

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3. *Exhibits:* (see (b) below)

(b) *Exhibits.*

The following is a list of exhibits filed as part of this annual report on Form 10-K. For exhibits incorporated by reference, the location of the exhibit in the Company's previous filing is indicated in parentheses.

| <b>Exhibit<br/>Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|---------------------------|---|
| 3.1*                      | Amended and Restated Charter of Kirkland's, Inc. (Exhibit 3.1 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 1, 2003) (the 2002 Form 10-K )  |
| 3.2*                      | Amended and Restated Bylaws of Kirkland's, Inc. (Exhibit 3.2 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 31, 2006)  |
| 4.1*                      | Form of Specimen Stock Certificate (Exhibit 4.1 to Amendment No. 1 to our registration statement on Form S-1 filed on June 5, 2002, Registration No. 333-86746 ( Amendment No. 1 to 2002 Form S-1 ))  |
| 10.1*                     | Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of October 4, 2004, by and among Kirkland's, Inc., Kirkland's Stores, Inc. and kirklands.com, inc., Fleet Retail Group, Inc., as Agent, and the Financial Institutions Party Thereto From Time to Time as Lenders (Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 8, 2004)  |
| 10.2*                     | Amended and Restated Registration Rights Agreement dated as of April 15, 2002, by and among Kirkland Holdings L.L.C., Kirkland's, Inc., SSM Venture Partners, L.P., Joseph R. Hyde III, Johnston C. Adams, Jr., John H. Pontius, CT/Kirkland Equity Partners, L.P., R-H Capital Partners, L.P., TCW/Kirkland Equity Partners, L.P., Capital Resource Lenders II, L.P., Allied Capital Corporation, The Marlborough Capital Investment Fund, L.P., Capital Trust Investments, Ltd., Global Private Equity II Limited Partnership, Advent Direct Investment Program Limited Partnership, Advent Partners Limited Partnership, Carl Kirkland, Robert E. Kirkland, Robert E. Alderson, The Amy Katherine Alderson Trust, The Allison Leigh Alderson Trust, The Carl T. Kirkland Grantor Retained Annuity Trust 2001-1 and Steven Collins (Exhibit 10.2 to Amendment No. 1 to 2002 Form S-1) |
| 10.3+*                    | Employment Agreement by and between Kirkland's and Robert E. Alderson dated June 1, 2002, (Exhibit No. 10.6 to Amendment No. 1 to 2002 Form S-1)  |
| 10.4+*                    | Amendment to Employment Agreement by and between Kirkland's, Inc. and Robert E. Alderson dated March 31, 2004 (Exhibit 10.2 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended May 1, 2004)   |
| 10.5+*                    | 1996 Executive Incentive and Non-Qualified Stock Option Plan, as amended through April 17, 2002 (Exhibit 10.10 to our registration statement on Form S-1 filed on April 23, 2002, Registration No. 333-86746 (the 2002 Form S-1 ))  |
| 10.6+*                    | 2002 Equity Incentive Plan (Exhibit 10.11 to Amendment No. 1 to 2002 Form S-1)  |
| 10.7+*                    | Form of Non-Qualified Stock Option Award Agreement for Director Grants (Exhibit 10.1 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended October 30, 2004 ( October 2004 Form 10-Q ))  |
| 10.8+*                    | Form of Incentive Stock Option Agreement (Exhibit 10.2 to the October 2004 Form 10-Q)   |
| 10.9+*                    | Executive Non-Qualified Excess Plan (Exhibit 10.19 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended January 29, 2005)   |
| 10.10+*                   | Compensation Policy for Non-employee Directors (Exhibit 10.11 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended February 2, 2008)  |
| 10.11*                    |   |

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First Amendment to Kirkland's, Inc. 2002 Equity Incentive Plan effective March 17, 2006 (Exhibit 99.2 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 22, 2006 (the March 22, 2006 Form 8-K ))

- 10.12+\* Severance Rights Agreement by and between Kirkland's and Robert E. Alderson dated May 30, 2006 (Exhibit 10.1 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended July 29, 2006)
- 10.13\* Office Lease Agreement dated March 1, 2007 by and between Kirkland's and Two Rivers Corporate Centre, L.P. (Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated March 1, 2007)
- 10.14\* First Amendment to Loan and Security Agreement dated as of August 6, 2007, by and among Kirkland's, Inc., Kirkland's Stores, Inc. and kirklands.com, inc., Fleet Retail Group, Inc., as Agent, and the Financial Institutions Party Thereto From Time to Time as Lenders (Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K dated August 10, 2007)



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| <b>Exhibit<br/>Number</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|---------------------------|--|
| 10.15+*                   | Severance Rights Agreement by and between Kirkland's and W. Michael Madden dated April 11, 2008 (Exhibit 99.1 to Amendment No. 1 to our Form 8-K dated April 15, 2008)           |
| 21.1*                     | Subsidiaries of Kirkland's (Exhibit 21 to the 2002 Form S-1)   |
| 23.1                      | Consent of Ernst & Young LLP   |
| 31.1                      | Certification of the President and Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.  |
| 31.2                      | Certification of the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.  |
| 32.1                      | Certification of the President and 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 the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |

\* Incorporated by reference.

+ Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

**Table of Contents****SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Kirkland's, Inc.

By: /s/ Robert E. Alderson  
 Robert E. Alderson  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Date: April 17, 2009

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

| <b>Signature</b>                             | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Date</b>    |
|--|--|----------------|
| /s/ Robert E. Alderson<br>Robert E. Alderson | President and Chief Executive Officer, and<br>Director (Principal Executive Officer) | April 17, 2009 |
| /s/ W. Michael Madden<br>W. Michael Madden   | Senior Vice President and Chief Financial<br>Officer (Principal Financial Officer)   | April 17, 2009 |
| /s/ Carl Kirkland<br>Carl Kirkland           | Director   | April 17, 2009 |
| /s/ Steven J. Collins<br>Steven J. Collins   | Director   | April 17, 2009 |
| /s/ Miles Kirkland<br>Miles Kirkland         | Director   | April 17, 2009 |
| /s/ R. Wilson Orr, III<br>R. Wilson Orr, III | Director   | April 17, 2009 |
| /s/ Ralph T. Parks<br>Ralph T. Parks         | Director   | April 17, 2009 |

/s/ Murray M. Spain

Director

April 17, 2009

Murray M. Spain

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**KIRKLANDS, INC.**

**INDEX OF EXHIBITS FILED WITH THIS ANNUAL REPORT ON 10-K**

| <b>Exhibit<br/>Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|---------------------------|---|
| 23.1                      | Consent of Ernst & Young LLP.   |
| 31.1                      | Certification of the President and Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a)             |
| 31.2                      | Certification of the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) |
| 32.1                      | Certification of the President and Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350                       |
| 32.2                      | Certification of the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350           |