

BIG LOTS INC
Form 10-Q
June 06, 2012
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

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

For the quarterly period ended April 28, 2012
or

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number 1-8897

BIG LOTS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Ohio

06-1119097

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or
organization)

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

300 Phillipi Road, P.O. Box 28512, Columbus, Ohio

43228-5311

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

(614) 278-6800

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

Yes☐ No○

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

Yes☐ No○

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting

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company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

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

Yes No

The number of the registrant’s common shares, \$0.01 par value, outstanding as of May 31, 2012, was 63,704,306.

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BIG LOTS, INC.
 FORM 10-Q
 FOR THE FISCAL QUARTER ENDED APRIL 28, 2012

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Part I. Financial Information

Item 1. Financial Statements

BIG LOTS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Operations (Unaudited)

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|
| | April 28, 2012 | April 30, 2011 |
| Net sales | \$1,294,481 | \$1,227,274 |
| Cost of sales (exclusive of depreciation expense shown separately below) | 782,032 | 733,145 |
| Gross margin | 512,449 | 494,129 |
| Selling and administrative expenses | 418,319 | 387,167 |
| Depreciation expense | 25,288 | 20,664 |
| Operating profit | 68,842 | 86,298 |
| Interest expense | (336) | (501) |
| Other income (expense) | 37 | 112 |
| Income from continuing operations before income taxes | 68,543 | 85,909 |
| Income tax expense | 27,763 | 33,378 |
| Income from continuing operations | 40,780 | 52,531 |
| Loss from discontinued operations, net of tax benefit of \$22 and \$40, respectively | (34) | (60) |
| Net income | \$40,746 | \$52,471 |
| | | |
| Earnings per common share - basic | | |
| Continuing operations | \$0.64 | \$0.71 |
| Discontinued operations | — | — |
| | \$0.64 | \$0.71 |
| | | |
| Earnings per common share - diluted | | |
| Continuing operations | \$0.63 | \$0.70 |
| Discontinued operations | — | — |
| | \$0.63 | \$0.70 |
| | | |
| Weighted-average common shares outstanding: | | |
| Basic | 64,119 | 74,047 |
| Dilutive effect of share-based awards | 1,046 | 1,219 |
| Diluted | 65,165 | 75,266 |

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

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BIG LOTS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Unaudited)

(In thousands)

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | |
|---|----------------------|----------------|
| | April 28, 2012 | April 30, 2011 |
| Net income | \$40,746 | \$52,471 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | |
| Foreign currency translation | 659 | — |
| Amortization of pension, net of tax \$(265) and \$(136), respectively | 412 | 212 |
| Total other comprehensive income | 1,071 | 212 |
| Comprehensive income | \$41,817 | \$52,683 |

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

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BIG LOTS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Balance Sheets

(In thousands, except par value)

| | (Unaudited) April 28, 2012 | January 28, 2012 |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$82,571 | \$68,547 |
| Inventories | 847,655 | 825,195 |
| Deferred income taxes | 45,997 | 42,784 |
| Other current assets | 68,646 | 70,130 |
| Total current assets | 1,044,869 | 1,006,656 |
| Property and equipment - net | 569,146 | 572,767 |
| Deferred income taxes | 3,402 | 6,549 |
| Goodwill | 15,030 | 12,282 |
| Other assets | 44,358 | 43,056 |
| Total assets | \$1,676,805 | \$1,641,310 |
| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$433,505 | \$350,117 |
| Property, payroll, and other taxes | 79,106 | 74,396 |
| Accrued operating expenses | 100,327 | 56,088 |
| Insurance reserves | 35,441 | 35,159 |
| KB bankruptcy lease obligation | 3,069 | 3,115 |
| Accrued salaries and wages | 25,307 | 29,170 |
| Income taxes payable | 19,303 | 36,775 |
| Total current liabilities | 696,058 | 584,820 |
| Long-term obligations | — | 65,900 |
| Deferred rent | 62,016 | 59,320 |
| Insurance reserves | 50,811 | 49,794 |
| Unrecognized tax benefits | 17,274 | 18,681 |
| Other liabilities | 41,219 | 39,562 |
| Shareholders' equity: | | |
| Preferred shares - authorized 2,000 shares; \$0.01 par value; none issued | — | — |
| Common shares - authorized 298,000 shares; \$0.01 par value; issued 117,495 shares; outstanding 62,793 shares and 63,609 shares, respectively | 1,175 | 1,175 |
| Treasury shares - 54,702 shares and 53,886 shares, respectively, at cost | (1,479,915) | (1,423,524) |
| Additional paid-in capital | 542,928 | 542,160 |
| Retained earnings | 1,759,687 | 1,718,941 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (14,448) | (15,519) |
| Total shareholders' equity | 809,427 | 823,233 |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$1,676,805 | \$1,641,310 |

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

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BIG LOTS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity (Unaudited)

(In thousands)

| | Common | | Treasury | | Additional Paid-In Capital | Retained Earnings | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss | Total |
|--|----------|---------|----------|---------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|-----------|
| | Shares | Amount | Shares | Amount | | | | |
| Balance - January 29, 2011 | 73,894 | \$1,175 | 43,601 | \$(1,079,130) | \$523,341 | \$1,511,877 | \$(10,470) | \$946,793 |
| Comprehensive income | — | — | — | — | — | 52,471 | 212 | 52,683 |
| Purchases of common shares | (106) | — | 106 | (4,626) | — | — | — | (4,626) |
| Exercise of stock options | 162 | — | (162) | 4,025 | (556) | — | — | 3,469 |
| Restricted shares vested | 250 | — | (250) | 6,191 | (6,191) | — | — | — |
| Tax benefit from share-based awards | — | — | — | — | 1,546 | — | — | 1,546 |
| Share activity related to deferred compensation plan | 1 | — | (1) | 13 | 107 | — | — | 120 |
| Share-based employee compensation expense | — | — | — | — | 6,831 | — | — | 6,831 |
| Balance - April 30, 2011 | 74,201 | 1,175 | 43,294 | (1,073,527) | 525,078 | 1,564,348 | (10,258) | 1,006,816 |
| Comprehensive income | — | — | — | — | — | 154,593 | (5,261) | 149,332 |
| Purchases of common shares | (10,957) | — | 10,957 | (359,331) | — | — | — | (359,331) |
| Exercise of stock options | 338 | — | (338) | 8,775 | (1,835) | — | — | 6,940 |
| Restricted shares vested | 21 | — | (21) | 540 | (540) | — | — | — |
| Tax benefit from share-based awards | — | — | — | — | 1,155 | — | — | 1,155 |
| Share activity related to deferred compensation plan | 6 | — | (6) | 19 | 140 | — | — | 159 |
| Share-based employee compensation expense | — | — | — | — | 18,162 | — | — | 18,162 |
| Balance - January 28, 2012 | 63,609 | 1,175 | 53,886 | (1,423,524) | 542,160 | 1,718,941 | (15,519) | 823,233 |
| Comprehensive income | — | — | — | — | — | 40,746 | 1,071 | 41,817 |
| Purchases of common shares | (2,624) | — | 2,624 | (104,038) | — | — | — | (104,038) |
| Exercise of stock options | 1,346 | — | (1,346) | 35,584 | (3,334) | — | — | 32,250 |
| Restricted shares vested | 455 | — | (455) | 12,031 | (12,031) | — | — | — |
| Tax benefit from share-based awards | — | — | — | — | 7,765 | — | — | 7,765 |
| Share activity related to deferred compensation | 7 | — | (7) | 32 | 282 | — | — | 314 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|----------|--------|---------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| plan | | | | | | | | |
| Share-based employee | — | — | — | — | 8,086 | — | — | 8,086 |
| compensation expense | | | | | | | | |
| Balance - April 28, 2012 | 62,793 | \$ 1,175 | 54,702 | \$(1,479,915) | \$542,928 | \$ 1,759,687 | \$(14,448) |) \$809,427 |

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

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BIG LOTS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
 Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)
 (In thousands)

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | |
|--|----------------------|----------------|
| | April 28, 2012 | April 30, 2011 |
| Operating activities: | | |
| Net income | \$40,746 | \$52,471 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 22,892 | 19,304 |
| Deferred income taxes | (338) | (5,140) |
| (Gain) Loss on disposition of equipment | (111) | 155 |
| Non-cash share-based compensation expense | 8,086 | 6,831 |
| Excess tax benefit from share-based awards | (7,772) | (1,546) |
| Pension expense, net of contributions | 1,372 | 282 |
| Change in assets and liabilities, excluding effects of foreign currency adjustments: | | |
| Inventories | (21,918) | (22,719) |
| Accounts payable | 83,101 | 69,607 |
| Current income taxes | (11,641) | 7,333 |
| Other current assets | 1,437 | (380) |
| Other current liabilities | 6,143 | (6,577) |
| Other assets | (4,079) | (2,441) |
| Other liabilities | 7,664 | 8,365 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 125,582 | 125,545 |
| Investing activities: | | |
| Capital expenditures | (18,288) | (19,197) |
| Cash proceeds from sale of property and equipment | 309 | 100 |
| Other | (10) | (2) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (17,989) | (19,099) |
| Financing activities: | | |
| Net repayments of borrowings under bank credit facility | (65,900) | — |
| Payment of capital lease obligations | (441) | (599) |
| Proceeds from the exercise of stock options | 32,250 | 3,469 |
| Excess tax benefit from share-based awards | 7,772 | 1,546 |
| Payment for treasury shares acquired | (67,643) | (4,626) |
| Other | 314 | 120 |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (93,648) | (90) |
| Impact of foreign currency on cash | 79 | — |
| Decrease in cash and cash equivalents | 14,024 | 106,356 |
| Cash and cash equivalents: | | |
| Beginning of period | 68,547 | 177,539 |
| End of period | \$82,571 | \$283,895 |

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

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BIG LOTS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Unaudited)

NOTE 1 – BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

All references in this report to “we,” “us,” or “our” are to Big Lots, Inc. and its subsidiaries. We are North America’s largest broadband closeout retailer. At April 28, 2012, we operated 1,536 stores in two countries: the United States of America (“U.S.”) and Canada. We make available, free of charge, through the “Investor Relations” section of our website (www.biglots.com) under the “SEC Filings” caption, our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (“Exchange Act”), as soon as reasonably practicable after we file such material with, or furnish it to, the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). The contents of our websites are not part of this report.

The accompanying consolidated financial statements and these notes have been prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC for interim financial information. The consolidated financial statements reflect all normal recurring adjustments which management believes are necessary to present fairly our financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows for all periods presented. These consolidated financial statements, however, do not include all information necessary for a complete presentation of financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”). Interim results may not necessarily be indicative of results that may be expected for, or actually result during, any other interim period or for the year as a whole. We have historically experienced, and expect to continue to experience, seasonal fluctuations, with a larger percentage of our net sales and operating profit realized in our fourth fiscal quarter. The accompanying consolidated financial statements and these notes should be read in conjunction with the audited consolidated financial statements and notes included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 28, 2012 (“2011 Form 10-K”).

Fiscal Periods

Our fiscal year ends on the Saturday nearest to January 31, which results in fiscal years consisting of 52 or 53 weeks. Unless otherwise stated, references to years in this report relate to fiscal years rather than calendar years. Fiscal year 2012 (“2012”) is comprised of the 53 weeks that began on January 29, 2012 and will end on February 2, 2013. Fiscal year 2011 (“2011”) was comprised of the 52 weeks that began on January 30, 2011 and ended on January 28, 2012. The fiscal quarters ended April 28, 2012 (“first quarter of 2012”) and April 30, 2011 (“first quarter of 2011”) were both comprised of 13 weeks.

Merchandise Inventories

We assign cost to merchandise inventories using the average cost retail inventory method. Under our previous inventory management system which was used through the end of 2011, we calculated average cost at the department level which constituted approximately 50 inventory cost pools. As previously disclosed in public filings over the past few years, we have been implementing new inventory management systems, SAP® for Retail. On January 29, 2012, the first day of 2012, we completed the implementation of our new inventory management systems, which has allowed us to more precisely determine our inventory cost under the retail method. We now calculate average cost at the class level which constitutes approximately 350 inventory cost pools.

This change in accounting principle, to include approximately 350 class inventory cost pools in the retail method calculation instead of approximately 50 departments in the calculation's inventory cost pools, is preferable as it will provide us with a more precise estimate of the average cost of our merchandise inventories.

Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 250, "Accounting Changes and Error Corrections" requires that unless it is impracticable to do so, the voluntary adoption of a new accounting principle should be done retrospectively. Prior to January 29, 2012, the date we completed our implementation of SAP® for Retail, our accounting systems did not capture merchandise inventory costs with class level detail needed for us to recognize, measure and disclose amounts for prior periods under the retrospective application. In particular, the previous inventory system did not track or reconcile stock ledger information by class, but rather by department. Specifically, key items such as freight and shrink costs were aggregated at the department level, with no data identifier to the class, which made it impractical to retrospectively account for the change. Therefore, we have adopted this change in accounting principle prospectively from the beginning of the current year, as we can determine the cumulative effect in inventory cost as of that date.

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As the impact of the accounting change in the beginning of the current year inventory is immaterial, we have recognized the cumulative effect of the change in accounting principle as a current period expense by recording a reduction in inventory and a corresponding increase to cost of sales of approximately \$5.6 million in the first quarter of 2012. This non-cash charge reduced the first quarter of 2012 income from continuing operations and net income by approximately \$3.4 million and reduced the first quarter of 2012 basic and diluted earnings per share from continuing operations by \$0.05.

Selling and Administrative Expenses

Selling and administrative expenses include store expenses (such as payroll and occupancy costs) and costs related to warehousing, distribution, outbound transportation to our stores, advertising, purchasing, insurance and insurance-related, non-income taxes, and overhead. Our selling and administrative expense rates may not be comparable to those of other retailers that include distribution and outbound transportation costs in cost of sales. Distribution and outbound transportation costs included in selling and administrative expenses were \$41.7 million and \$40.1 million for the first quarter of 2012 and the first quarter of 2011, respectively.

Advertising Expense

Advertising costs, which are expensed as incurred, consist primarily of television and print advertising, internet marketing and advertising, and in-store point-of-purchase presentations. Advertising expenses are included in selling and administrative expenses. Advertising expenses were \$24.4 million and \$21.4 million for the first quarter of 2012 and the first quarter of 2011, respectively.

Foreign Currency Translation

The functional currency of our international subsidiary is the local currency of the country in which the subsidiary is located. We have one foreign subsidiary domiciled and operating in Canada. Foreign currency denominated assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. Dollars using the exchange rate in effect at the consolidated balance sheet date. Results of operations and cash flows are translated using the average exchange rates throughout the period. The effect of exchange rate fluctuations on translation of assets and liabilities is included as a component of shareholders' equity in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). Gains and losses from foreign currency transactions, which are included in other income (expense), were not material for the first quarter of 2012.

Supplemental Cash Flow Disclosures

The following table provides supplemental cash flow information for the first quarter of 2012 and 2011:

| | Thirteen Weeks Ended | |
|---|----------------------|----------------|
| | April 28, 2012 | April 30, 2011 |
| (in thousands) | | |
| Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information: | | |
| Cash paid for interest, including capital leases | \$ 193 | \$ 36 |
| Cash paid for income taxes, excluding impact of refunds | \$ 40,570 | \$ 31,269 |
| Non-cash activity: | | |
| Assets acquired under capital leases | \$— | \$ 130 |
| Accrued property and equipment | \$ 9,909 | \$ 8,060 |
| Share repurchases payable | \$ 36,395 | \$— |

During the first quarter of 2012, our gross proceeds from borrowings under the 2011 Credit Agreement (as defined in note 2) were \$83.6 million and our gross repayments of borrowings under the 2011 Credit Agreement were \$149.5 million.

Reclassifications

In the third quarter of 2011, we realigned the merchandise categories in our U.S. segment to be consistent with the realignment of our merchandising team and changes to our management reporting. Prior to the third quarter of 2011, we reported sales in the former Hardlines category and the former Other category. We moved the electronics department out of the former Hardlines category and repositioned it in the former Other category, which was renamed Play n' Wear. We also moved the results of certain large closeout deals that are typically acquired through our alternate product sourcing operations out of the former Other category and repositioned them in the former Hardlines category, which was renamed Hardlines & Other. Additionally, we reclassified the results of prior periods to reflect this realignment of our merchandise categories.

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Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standard Update (“ASU”) 2011-05, Comprehensive Income (Topic 220) - Presentation of Comprehensive Income, which provides new guidance on the presentation of comprehensive income. Specifically, ASU 2011-05 allows an entity to present components of net income and other comprehensive income in one continuous statement, referred to as the statement of comprehensive income, or in two separate, but consecutive statements. ASU 2011-05 eliminates the current option to report other comprehensive income and its components in the statement of shareholders' equity. While the new guidance changed the presentation of comprehensive income, there are no changes to the components that are recognized in net income or other comprehensive income under current accounting guidance. This new guidance was effective for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2011. The adoption of this guidance in the first quarter of 2012 did not have a material effect on our financial condition, results of operations, or liquidity.

NOTE 2 – BANK CREDIT FACILITY

On July 22, 2011, we entered into a new \$700 million five-year unsecured credit facility (“2011 Credit Agreement”). The 2011 Credit Agreement expires on July 22, 2016. The 2011 Credit Agreement replaced the \$500 million three-year unsecured credit facility we entered into on April 28, 2009 (“2009 Credit Agreement”). The 2009 Credit Agreement was scheduled to expire on April 28, 2012, but was terminated concurrently with our entry into the 2011 Credit Agreement. We did not incur any material termination penalties in connection with the termination of the 2009 Credit Agreement.

In connection with our entry into the 2011 Credit Agreement, we paid bank fees and other expenses in the aggregate amount of \$3.0 million, which are being amortized over the term of the agreement. Borrowings under the 2011 Credit Agreement are available for general corporate purposes, working capital, and to repay certain of our indebtedness. The 2011 Credit Agreement includes a \$10 million Canadian swing loan sublimit, a \$30 million U.S. swing loan sublimit, a \$150 million letter of credit sublimit and a \$200 million Canadian revolving credit loan subfacility. The interest rates, pricing and fees under the 2011 Credit Agreement fluctuate based on our debt rating. The 2011 Credit Agreement allows us to select our interest rate for each borrowing from multiple interest rate options. The interest rate options are generally derived from the prime rate, LIBOR, or CDOR. We may prepay revolving loans made under the 2011 Credit Agreement. The 2011 Credit Agreement contains financial and other covenants, including, but not limited to, limitations on indebtedness, liens and investments, as well as the maintenance of two financial ratios – a leverage ratio and a fixed charge coverage ratio. A violation of any of the covenants could result in a default under the 2011 Credit Agreement that would permit the lenders to restrict our ability to further access the 2011 Credit Agreement for loans and letters of credit and require the immediate repayment of any outstanding loans under the 2011 Credit Agreement. At April 28, 2012, we had no borrowings outstanding under the 2011 Credit Agreement while \$56.9 million was committed to outstanding letters of credit, leaving \$643.1 million available under the 2011 Credit Agreement.

NOTE 3 – FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

In connection with our nonqualified deferred compensation plan, we had mutual fund investments of \$20.2 million and \$19.6 million at April 28, 2012 and January 28, 2012, respectively, which were recorded in other assets. These investments were classified as trading securities and were recorded at their fair value. The fair values of mutual fund investments were Level 1 valuations under the fair value hierarchy because each fund's quoted market value per share was available in an active market.

Included in cash and cash equivalents were amounts on deposit with financial institutions totaling \$15.3 million at April 28, 2012, stated at cost, which approximates fair value. We had no such deposits at January 28, 2012.

The fair values of our long-term obligations are estimated based on the quoted market prices for the same or similar issues and the current interest rates offered for similar instruments. These fair value measurements are classified as Level 2 within the fair value hierarchy. Given the variable rate features and relatively short maturity of the instruments underlying our long-term obligations, the carrying value of these instruments approximates the fair value.

The carrying value of accounts receivable, accounts payable, and accrued expenses approximates fair value because of the relatively short maturity of these items.

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NOTE 4 – SHAREHOLDERS’ EQUITY

Earnings per Share

There were no adjustments required to be made to the weighted-average common shares outstanding for purposes of computing basic and diluted earnings per share and there were no securities outstanding at April 28, 2012 or April 30, 2011, which were excluded from the computation of earnings per share other than antidilutive stock options and restricted stock awards. For the first quarter of 2012 and the first quarter of 2011, 1.5 million and 1.2 million, respectively, of the stock options outstanding were antidilutive and excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share. Antidilutive stock options generally consist of outstanding stock options where the exercise price per share is greater than the weighted-average market price per share for our common shares for each period. Antidilutive stock options and restricted stock awards are excluded from the calculation because they decrease the number of diluted shares outstanding under the treasury stock method. The restricted stock awards that were antidilutive, as determined under the treasury stock method, were immaterial for all periods presented.

Share Repurchase Programs

On May 25, 2011, our Board of Directors authorized a share repurchase program providing for the repurchase of \$400.0 million of our common shares (“2011 Repurchase Program”).

During the first quarter of 2012, we acquired approximately 2.5 million of our outstanding common shares for \$98.5 million, which exhausted our authorization under the 2011 Repurchase Program.

NOTE 5 – SHARE-BASED PLANS

We have issued nonqualified stock options and restricted stock awards under our shareholder-approved equity compensation plans. Our restricted stock awards, as described below and in note 7 to the consolidated financial statements in our 2011 Form 10-K, are expensed and reported as nonvested shares. We recognized share-based compensation expense of \$8.1 million and \$6.8 million in the first quarter of 2012 and the first quarter of 2011, respectively.

The weighted-average fair value of stock options granted and assumptions used in the model to estimate the fair value of stock options granted during each of the respective periods were as follows:

| | First Quarter | | |
|--|---------------|----------|---|
| | 2012 | 2011 | |
| Weighted-average fair value of stock options granted | \$ 15.28 | \$ 14.55 | |
| Risk-free interest rate | 0.7 | % 1.8 | % |
| Expected life (years) | 4.2 | 4.2 | |
| Expected volatility | 40.9 | % 41.7 | % |
| Expected annual forfeiture rate | 3.0 | % 1.5 | % |

The following table summarizes stock option activity for the first quarter of 2012:

| | Number of Options | Weighted Average Exercise Price Per Share | Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term (years) | Aggregate Intrinsic Value (000's) |
|---|-------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Outstanding stock options at January 28, 2012 | 3,676,423 | \$ 28.36 | | |
| Granted | 902,000 | 43.87 | | |

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| | | | | |
|--|------------|----------|-----|-----------|
| Exercised | (1,345,525 |)23.97 | | |
| Forfeited | (67,325 |)37.06 | | |
| Outstanding stock options at April 28, 2012 | 3,165,573 | \$ 34.46 | 5.2 | \$ 17,625 |
| Vested or expected to vest at April 28, 2012 | 2,987,949 | \$ 34.26 | 5.1 | \$ 17,098 |
| Exercisable at April 28, 2012 | 1,096,447 | \$ 26.08 | 3.7 | \$ 12,891 |

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The stock options granted in the first quarter of 2012 vest in equal amounts on the first four anniversaries of the grant date and have a contractual term of seven years. The number of stock options expected to vest was based on our annual forfeiture rate assumption.

The following table summarizes the nonvested restricted stock awards activity for the first quarter of 2012:

| | Number of Shares | Weighted Average Grant-Date Fair Value Per Share |
|--|---------------------|--|
| Outstanding nonvested restricted stock at January 28, 2012 | 741,289 | \$ 39.40 |
| Granted | 525,800 | 43.85 |
| Vested | (454,800) |)38.79 |
| Forfeited | (6,400) |)39.97 |
| Outstanding nonvested restricted stock at April 28, 2012 | 805,889 | \$ 42.65 |

The nonvested restricted stock awards granted in the first quarter of 2012 (other than the award granted to our Chairman, CEO and President, Steven S. Fishman) vest if certain financial performance objectives are achieved. If we meet a threshold financial performance objective and the grantee remains employed by us, the restricted stock will vest on the opening of our first trading window five years after the grant date of the award. If we meet a higher financial performance objective and the grantee remains employed by us, the restricted stock will vest on the first trading day after we file our Annual Report on Form 10-K with the SEC for the fiscal year in which the higher objective is met.

On the grant date, we estimated a three-year period for vesting of the nonvested restricted stock awards granted in 2012 based on the projected achievement of the higher financial performance objective.

The nonvested restricted stock award granted to Mr. Fishman in the first quarter of 2012 vests if we achieve a corporate financial goal for 2012 and he is employed by us on March 31, 2013. If either of the conditions is not achieved, the nonvested restricted stock award is forfeited. If both of the conditions are achieved, Mr. Fishman's 2012 nonvested restricted stock will vest on the later of 1) the first trading day after we file with the SEC our Annual Report on Form 10-K for 2012 or 2) March 31, 2013.

The following activity occurred under our share-based plans during the respective periods shown:

| (in thousands) | First Quarter | |
|--|---------------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Total intrinsic value of stock options exercised | \$ 28,122 | \$ 3,167 |
| Total fair value of restricted stock vested | 21,103 | 10,898 |

The total unearned compensation cost related to all share-based awards outstanding at April 28, 2012 was approximately \$50.3 million. This compensation cost is expected to be recognized through April 2016 based on existing vesting terms with the weighted-average remaining expense recognition period being approximately 2.0 years from April 28, 2012.

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NOTE 6 – EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

We maintain a qualified defined benefit pension plan and a nonqualified supplemental defined benefit pension plan covering certain employees whose hire date occurred before April 1, 1994.

The weighted-average assumptions used to determine net periodic pension cost for our plans were as follows:

| | First Quarter | | |
|---|---------------|-------|---|
| | 2012 | 2011 | |
| Discount rate | 5.0 | % 5.7 | % |
| Rate of increase in compensation levels | 3.5 | % 3.9 | % |
| Expected long-term rate of return | 5.5 | % 8.0 | % |

The components of combined net periodic pension cost were as follows:

| (in thousands) | First Quarter | | |
|---|---------------|---------|---|
| | 2012 | 2011 | |
| Service cost - benefits earned in the period | \$627 | \$620 | |
| Interest cost on projected benefit obligation | 840 | 844 | |
| Expected investment return on plan assets | (772) | (1,149) |) |
| Amortization of actuarial loss | 683 | 354 | |
| Amortization of prior service cost | (9) | (9) |) |
| Amortization of transition obligation | 3 | 3 | |
| Net periodic pension cost | \$1,372 | \$663 | |

We currently expect no required contributions to the qualified defined benefit pension plan during 2012. We will contribute to the nonqualified supplemental defined benefit pension plan as benefits are paid to plan participants, if any, because the nonqualified plan is not a funded plan.

NOTE 7 – INCOME TAXES

Based on the weight of currently available evidence, we have fully reduced the provisional amount of net deferred income tax assets (including a net operating loss carryforward) of Big Lots Canada (see note 11), as well as the deferred tax benefit of the loss generated by the Canadian segment since the acquisition, by a valuation allowance.

We have estimated the reasonably possible expected net change in unrecognized tax benefits through May 4, 2013, based on 1) expected cash and noncash settlements or payments of uncertain tax positions, and 2) lapses of the applicable statutes of limitations for unrecognized tax benefits. The estimated net decrease in unrecognized tax benefits for the next 12 months is approximately \$2.0 million. Actual results may differ materially from this estimate.

NOTE 8 – CONTINGENCIES

We are involved in legal actions and claims arising in the ordinary course of business. We currently believe that each such action and claim will be resolved without a material effect on our financial condition, results of operations, or liquidity. However, litigation involves an element of uncertainty. Future developments could cause these actions or claims to have a material effect on our financial condition, results of operations, and liquidity.

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NOTE 9 – BUSINESS SEGMENT DATA

We manage our business as two segments: U.S. and Canada. The following tables summarize net sales, results of operations, and total assets, by segment:

| (in thousands) | Thirteen Weeks Ended | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|--------|-------------|
| | April 28, 2012 | | | April 30, 2011 | | |
| | U.S. | Canada | Total | U.S. | Canada | Total |
| Net sales | \$1,262,235 | \$32,246 | \$1,294,481 | \$1,227,274 | \$— | \$1,227,274 |
| Depreciation expense | 24,424 | 864 | 25,288 | 20,664 | — | 20,664 |
| Operating profit (loss) | 74,995 | (6,153) | 68,842 | 86,298 | — | 86,298 |
| Interest expense | (336) | — | (336) | (501) | — | (501) |
| Other income (expense) | — | 37 | 37 | 112 | — | 112 |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations before income taxes | 74,659 | (6,116) | 68,543 | 85,909 | — | 85,909 |
| Income tax expense | 27,763 | — | 27,763 | 33,378 | — | 33,378 |
| Income (loss) from continuing operations | \$46,896 | \$(6,116) | \$40,780 | \$52,531 | \$— | \$52,531 |

| (in thousands) | April 28, 2012 | | | January 28, 2012 | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------|----------|------------------|-------------|----------|
| | U.S. | Canada | Total | U.S. | Canada | Total |
| | Total assets | \$1,615,420 | \$61,385 | \$1,676,805 | \$1,586,035 | \$55,275 |

Our U.S. segment uses the following six merchandise categories, which match our internal management and reporting of merchandise net sales: Consumables, Furniture, Home, Seasonal, Play n' Wear, and Hardlines & Other. The Consumables category includes the food, health and beauty, plastics, paper, chemical, and pet departments. The Furniture category includes the upholstery, mattresses, ready-to-assemble, and case goods departments. The Home category includes the domestics, stationery, and home decorative departments. The Seasonal category includes the lawn & garden, Christmas, summer, and other holiday departments. The Play n' Wear category includes the electronics, toy, jewelry, infant accessories, and apparel departments. The Hardlines & Other category includes the appliances, tools, paint, and home maintenance departments, as well as the results of certain large closeout deals that are typically acquired through our alternate product sourcing operations. In the third quarter of 2011, we realigned the merchandise categories reported in our U.S. segment to be consistent with the realignment of our merchandising team. As discussed in the Reclassifications section of note 1, the categories formerly known as Hardlines and Other were reorganized and are now known as Play n' Wear and Hardlines & Other, respectively.

The following is net sales data by segment and category:

| (in thousands) | First Quarter | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| U.S. | | |
| Consumables | \$377,933 | \$375,481 |
| Furniture | 286,904 | 258,519 |
| Home | 191,177 | 183,891 |
| Seasonal | 173,405 | 169,337 |
| Play n' Wear | 134,087 | 144,919 |
| Hardlines & Other | 98,729 | 95,127 |
| Total U.S. | 1,262,235 | 1,227,274 |
| Canada | 32,246 | — |
| Net sales | \$1,294,481 | \$1,227,274 |

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NOTE 10 – COMPONENTS OF ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE LOSS

The following table summarizes the components of accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of tax, during 2011 and 2012:

| | Foreign currency translation | Pension Plan | Total accumulated other comprehensive loss |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Balance at January 29, 2011 | \$— | \$(10,470 |) \$(10,470 |
| Period change | — | 212 | 212 |
| Balance at April 30, 2011 | — | (10,258 |) (10,258 |
| Period change | (1,050 |) (4,211 |) (5,261 |
| Balance at January 28, 2012 | (1,050 |) (14,469 |) (15,519 |
| Period change | 659 | 412 | 1,071 |
| Balance at April 28, 2012 | \$(391 |) \$(14,057 |) \$(14,448 |

NOTE 11 – ACQUISITION

On July 18, 2011, we completed our acquisition of Liquidation World Inc. Under the terms of the acquisition agreement, we invested approximately \$1.9 million in cash to purchase all outstanding shares of Liquidation World Inc. As part of the acquisition, we assumed the liabilities and acquired all assets and leasehold rights of Liquidation World Inc. On July 19, 2011, we changed the name of Liquidation World Inc. to Big Lots Canada, Inc. ("Big Lots Canada"). The results of Big Lots Canada since the acquisition date are included in our consolidated financial statements. The allocation of the purchase price to the fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed remains preliminary, as we continue to review the liabilities we assumed principally related to income tax matters.

NOTE 12 – GOODWILL

The changes in the carrying amount of goodwill, which are generally not deductible for income tax purposes, for the first quarter of 2012, were as follows:

(in thousands)

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Balance - January 28, 2012 | \$12,282 |
| Goodwill from acquisition | — |
| Goodwill adjustments | 2,502 |
| Foreign currency impact | 246 |
| Balance - April 28, 2012 | \$15,030 |

The goodwill adjustments were associated with our acquisition of Big Lots Canada in the second quarter of 2011, and primarily related to fair value adjustments on our intangible assets and liabilities associated with the acquired operating leases.

NOTE 13 – SUBSEQUENT EVENT

On May 23, 2012, we announced that our Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to \$200.0 million of our common shares ("2012 Repurchase Program"). The authorization is expected to be used to repurchase shares in the open market and/or in privately negotiated transactions at our discretion, subject to market conditions and other factors. Common shares acquired through the 2012 Repurchase Program will be available to meet obligations under equity compensation plans and for general corporate purposes. The 2012 Repurchase Program has no scheduled termination date and will be funded with cash and cash equivalents, cash generated from operations or, if needed, by drawing on the 2011 Credit Agreement.

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

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT CONCERNING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS FOR PURPOSES OF THE SAFE HARBOR PROVISIONS OF THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995

The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 ("Act") provides a safe harbor for forward-looking statements to encourage companies to provide prospective information, so long as those statements are identified as forward-looking and are accompanied by meaningful cautionary statements identifying important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in the statements. We wish to take advantage of the "safe harbor" provisions of the Act.

Certain statements in this report are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Act, and such statements are intended to qualify for the protection of the safe harbor provided by the Act. The words "anticipate," "estimate," "expect," "objective," "goal," "project," "intend," "plan," "believe," "will," "should," "may," "target," "forecast," "guidance," "outlook," and similar expressions generally identify forward-looking statements. Similarly, descriptions of our objectives, strategies, plans, goals or targets are also forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements relate to the expectations of management as to future occurrences and trends, including statements expressing optimism or pessimism about future operating results or events and projected sales, earnings, capital expenditures and business strategy. Forward-looking statements are based upon a number of assumptions concerning future conditions that may ultimately prove to be inaccurate. Forward-looking statements are and will be based upon management's then-current views and assumptions regarding future events and operating performance, and are applicable only as of the dates of such statements. Although we believe the expectations expressed in forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions within the bounds of our knowledge, forward-looking statements, by their nature, involve risks, uncertainties and other factors, any one or a combination of which could materially affect our business, financial condition, results of operations or liquidity.

Forward-looking statements that we make herein and in other reports and releases are not guarantees of future performance and actual results may differ materially from those discussed in such forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including, but not limited to, the current economic and credit conditions, the cost of goods, our inability to successfully execute strategic initiatives, competitive pressures, economic pressures on our customers and us, the availability of brand name closeout merchandise, trade restrictions, freight costs, operating in Canada, the risks discussed in the Risk Factors section of our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, and other factors discussed from time to time in our other filings with the SEC, including Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K. This report should be read in conjunction with such filings, and you should consider all of these risks, uncertainties and other factors carefully in evaluating forward-looking statements.

Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date they are made. We undertake no obligation to publicly update forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Readers are advised, however, to consult any further disclosures we make on related subjects in our public announcements and SEC filings.

OVERVIEW

The discussion and analysis presented below should be read in conjunction with the accompanying consolidated financial statements and related notes. Each term defined in the notes has the same meaning in this item and the balance of this report.

We are North America's largest broadline closeout retailer, and manage our business as two segments: U.S. and Canada. The following are the results from the first quarter of 2012 that we believe are key indicators of both our

consolidated and segment operating performance when compared to the first quarter of 2011:

Consolidated Highlights

Net sales increased \$67.2 million, or 5.5%.

Diluted earnings per share from continuing operations decreased from \$0.70 per share to \$0.63 per share.

Inventory increased by 8.0% or \$62.8 million to \$847.7 million from the first quarter of 2011.

We exhausted the remaining purchase authorization under the 2011 Repurchase Program by acquiring 2.5 million of our outstanding common shares for \$98.5 million.

U.S. Segment Highlights

Net sales increased \$35.0 million, or 2.8%.

Comparable store sales for stores open at least fifteen months decreased 0.8%.

Gross margin dollars increased \$6.8 million, while gross margin rate decreased 60 basis points from 40.3% to 39.7% of sales. Gross margin dollars in the first quarter of 2012 include the impact of a non-cash, non-recurring charge of

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\$5.6 million, or 40 basis points, related to a change in accounting principle associated with the implementation of our new retail inventory systems.

• Selling and administrative expenses increased \$14.4 million. As a percentage of net sales, selling and administrative expenses increased 30 basis points to 31.8% of net sales.

• Operating profit rate decreased 110 basis points to 5.9%.

Canadian Segment Highlights

• Net sales for the period were \$32.2 million.

• Operating loss was \$6.2 million.

See the discussion and analysis below for additional details regarding our segments' operating results.

STORES

The following table presents stores opened and closed during the first quarter of 2012 and the first quarter of 2011:

| | U.S. | Canada | Total | |
|---|-------|--------|-------|---|
| 2011 | | | | |
| Stores open at the beginning of the fiscal year | 1,398 | — | 1,398 | |
| Stores opened during the period | 9 | — | 9 | |
| Stores closed during the period | (2 |)— | (2 |) |
| Stores open at the end of the period | 1,405 | — | 1,405 | |
| 2012 | | | | |
| Stores open at the beginning of the fiscal year | 1,451 | 82 | 1,533 | |
| Stores opened during the period | 10 | — | 10 | |
| Stores closed during the period | (7 |)— | (7 |) |
| Stores open at the end of the period | 1,454 | 82 | 1,536 | |

We continue to expect to open 90 new stores and close 45 existing locations in the U.S. during 2012.

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RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following table compares components of our consolidated statements of operations as a percentage of net sales at the end of each period:

| | First Quarter | | |
|--|---------------|---------|---|
| | 2012 | 2011 | |
| Net sales | 100.0 | % 100.0 | % |
| Cost of sales (exclusive of depreciation expense shown separately below) | 60.4 | 59.7 | |
| Gross margin | 39.6 | 40.3 | |
| Selling and administrative expenses | 32.3 | 31.5 | |
| Depreciation expense | 2.0 | 1.7 | |
| Operating profit | 5.3 | 7.0 | |
| Interest expense | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Other income (expense) | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Income from continuing operations before income taxes | 5.3 | 7.0 | |
| Income tax expense | 2.1 | 2.7 | |
| Income from continuing operations | 3.2 | 4.3 | |
| Discontinued operations | 0.0 | 0.0 | |
| Net income | 3.1 | % 4.3 | % |

FIRST QUARTER OF 2012 COMPARED TO FIRST QUARTER OF 2011

U.S. Segment

Net Sales

Net sales by merchandise category, as a percentage of total net sales, and net sales change in dollars and percentage from the first quarter of 2012 compared to the first quarter of 2011 were as follows:

| First Quarter | 2012 | | 2011 | | Change | | |
|-------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|----------|---------|--|
| (in thousands) | | | | | | | |
| Consumables | \$377,933 | 30.0 % | \$375,481 | 30.6 % | \$2,452 | 0.7 % | |
| Furniture | 286,904 | 22.7 % | 258,519 | 21.1 % | 28,385 | 11.0 % | |
| Home | 191,177 | 15.1 % | 183,891 | 15.0 % | 7,286 | 4.0 % | |
| Seasonal | 173,405 | 13.8 % | 169,337 | 13.8 % | 4,068 | 2.4 % | |
| Play n' Wear | 134,087 | 10.6 % | 144,919 | 11.8 % | (10,832) | (7.5 %) | |
| Hardlines & Other | 98,729 | 7.8 % | 95,127 | 7.7 % | 3,602 | 3.8 % | |
| Net sales | \$1,262,235 | 100.0 % | \$1,227,274 | 100.0 % | \$34,961 | 2.8 % | |

In the third quarter of 2011, we realigned our merchandise categories to be consistent with the realignment of our merchandising team and changes to our management reporting. Prior to the third quarter of 2011, we reported sales in the former Hardlines category and the former Other category. We moved the electronics department out of the former Hardlines category and repositioned it in the former Other category, which was renamed Play n' Wear. We also moved the results of certain large closeout deals that are typically acquired through our alternate product sourcing operations out of the former Other category and repositioned them in the former Hardlines category, which was renamed Hardlines & Other. We reclassified the results of prior periods to reflect this realignment of our merchandise categories for comparability.

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Net sales increased \$35.0 million, or 2.8%, to \$1,262.2 million in the first quarter of 2012, compared to \$1,227.3 million in the first quarter of 2011. The increase in net sales was principally due to the net addition of 49 stores since the end of the first quarter of 2011, which increased net sales by \$44.0 million, partially offset by a 0.8% decrease in comparable store sales for stores open at least fifteen months, which decreased net sales by \$9.0 million. The Furniture category had the largest sales gains during the first quarter of 2012, with mattresses and upholstery being the primary drivers, as we had positive customer response during tax refund selling season. The increase in the Home category was led by the domestics department, where new initiatives to expand the Home category's square footage positively impacted sales. The primary driver of the increase in the Hardlines & Other category was an attractive assortment of branded closeout merchandise primarily in our small appliances department. The Seasonal category increase was primarily due to our lawn & garden department, partially offset by lower Spring holiday sales. The Consumables category experienced lower than expected sales in our food and health and beauty departments, partially offset by our expanded offerings in specialty foods. The decrease in the Play n' Wear category was primarily driven by lower sales in our apparel, infant, lingerie, and toys departments, which were partially offset by increased sales in our electronics department.

Based on the sales trends exiting the first quarter of 2012 and the beginning weeks of May, we expect comparable store sales to be slightly positive to slightly negative during the second quarter of 2012.

Gross Margin

Gross margin dollars increased \$6.8 million, or 1.4%, to \$500.9 million for the first quarter of 2012, compared to \$494.1 million for the first quarter of 2011. The increase in gross margin dollars was principally due to higher net sales of \$35.0 million, which increased gross margin dollars by approximately \$14.1 million, partially offset by a lower gross margin rate, which decreased gross margin dollars by approximately \$7.3 million. Gross margin as a percentage of net sales decreased 60 basis points to 39.7% in the first quarter of 2012, compared to 40.3% in the first quarter of 2011. The gross margin rate decrease was principally due to the impact of the change in accounting principle related to our merchandise inventories of \$5.6 million, or 40 basis points, a slightly higher markdown rate, and higher fuel costs and the corresponding impact on inbound freight.

In the second quarter of 2012, we expect our gross margin rate will be higher than the second quarter of 2011, as we expect a lower markdown rate in 2012 as compared to 2011.

Selling and Administrative Expenses

Selling and administrative expenses were \$401.5 million for the first quarter of 2012, compared to \$387.2 million for the first quarter of 2011. The increase of \$14.4 million, or 3.7%, was primarily due to increases in store occupancy expenses of \$4.8 million, store payroll expense of \$3.0 million, advertising expense of \$3.0 million, health benefit expenses of \$1.5 million, and share-based compensation expense of \$1.3 million. The increases in store payroll and store occupancy expenses were primarily due to the net increase of 49 stores compared to the end of the first quarter of 2011. Advertising expense increased as a result of the increased store count, new signage initiatives, and certain testing initiatives to support future programs. The increase in share-based compensation expense was primarily driven by the higher valuation of awards granted in 2011 as compared to 2010, due to the appreciation of our stock price between grant dates.

As a percentage of net sales, selling and administrative expenses increased 30 basis points to 31.8% for the first quarter of 2012 compared to 31.5% for the first quarter of 2011.

In the second quarter of 2012, we expect our selling and administrative expenses as a percentage of net sales will increase compared to the second quarter of 2011. We expect an increase in spend associated with additional store occupancy costs, higher advertising spend, and higher incentive and share-based compensation expenses.

Depreciation Expense

As expected, depreciation expense increased \$3.7 million to \$24.4 million in the first quarter of 2012, compared to \$20.7 million for the first quarter of 2011. The increase is directly related to our new store growth, investments in systems, including SAP® for Retail, and capital spending to support and maintain our stores and distribution centers. Depreciation expense as a percentage of sales increased by 20 basis points compared to the first quarter of 2011.

During the balance of 2012, we expect that depreciation expense will increase as compared to 2011 as we spend the remaining forecasted capital expenditures associated with new store openings and maintenance of existing stores and distribution centers. Capital expenditures continue to be forecasted in the range of \$130 million to \$135 million for 2012.

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Canadian Segment

Our Canadian segment's net sales were \$32.2 million, which exceeded our original expectations of \$25 million to \$30 million. Our operating loss was \$6.2 million compared to a forecasted loss of \$6 million to \$8 million. Net sales were positively impacted by growing inventory levels, improved quality and breadth of assortments, and strong customer demand for newly introduced consumable products, seasonal, and furniture merchandise.

Other Performance Factors

Interest Expense

Interest expense was \$0.3 million in the first quarter of 2012, compared to \$0.5 million in the first quarter of 2011.

The decrease was driven by lower amortization of deferred bank fees on our 2011 Credit Agreement in the first quarter of 2012 as compared to deferred bank fees on our 2009 Credit Agreement in the first quarter of 2011. We had total average borrowings (including capital leases) of \$17.2 million in the first quarter of 2012 compared to total average borrowings of \$1.8 million in the first quarter of 2011. The increase in total average borrowings from the first quarter of 2011 to the first quarter of 2012 was the result of us beginning 2012 with \$65.9 million of outstanding borrowings under the 2011 Credit Agreement, compared to zero borrowings outstanding under the 2009 Credit Agreement during the first quarter of 2011.

Income Taxes

The effective income tax rate for the first quarter of 2012 and the first quarter of 2011 for income from continuing operations was 40.5% and 38.9%, respectively. The higher rate was primarily due to a valuation allowance relative to the deferred tax benefit of the loss generated by our Canadian segment and the effect of U.S. income taxes on a lower pretax income base (driven by the loss generated by our Canadian segment). The rate increase was partially offset by the effect of a net increase in favorable discrete U.S. state income tax items associated with settlement activity.

Capital Resources and Liquidity

On July 22, 2011, we entered into the 2011 Credit Agreement. The 2011 Credit Agreement is scheduled to expire on July 22, 2016. In connection with our entry into the 2011 Credit Agreement, we paid bank fees and other expenses in the aggregate amount of \$3.0 million, which are being amortized over the term of the agreement. Borrowings under the 2011 Credit Agreement are available for general corporate purposes, working capital, and to repay certain of our indebtedness, including amounts due under the 2009 Credit Agreement. The 2011 Credit Agreement includes a \$10 million Canadian swing loan sublimit, a \$30 million U.S. swing loan sublimit, \$150 million letter of credit sublimit, and a \$200 million Canadian revolving credit loan subfacility. The interest rates, pricing and fees under the 2011 Credit Agreement fluctuate based on our debt rating. The 2011 Credit Agreement allows us to select our interest rate for each borrowing from multiple interest rate options. The interest rate options are generally derived from the prime rate, LIBOR, or CDOR. We may prepay revolving loans made under the 2011 Credit Agreement. The 2011 Credit Agreement contains financial and other covenants, including, but not limited to, limitations on indebtedness, liens and investments, as well as the maintenance of two financial ratios – a leverage ratio and a fixed charge coverage ratio. A violation of any of the covenants could result in a default under the 2011 Credit Agreement that would permit the lenders to restrict our ability to further access the 2011 Credit Agreement for loans and letters of credit and require the immediate repayment of any outstanding loans under the 2011 Credit Agreement. At April 28, 2012, we were in compliance with the covenants of the 2011 Credit Agreement.

The primary source of our liquidity is cash flows from operations and, as necessary, borrowings under the 2011 Credit Agreement. Our net income and, consequently, our cash provided by operations are impacted by net sales volume, seasonal sales patterns, and operating profit margins. Our net sales are typically highest during the nine-week Christmas selling season in our fourth fiscal quarter. Generally, our working capital requirements peak late in our third fiscal quarter or early in our fourth fiscal quarter. We have typically funded those requirements with borrowings

under our credit facility. At April 28, 2012, we had no borrowings under the 2011 Credit Agreement and the borrowings available under the 2011 Credit Agreement were \$643.1 million, after taking into account the reduction in availability resulting from outstanding letters of credit totaling \$56.9 million. We anticipate through September 15, 2012, that total indebtedness under the 2011 Credit Agreement will peak at less than \$200 million, which includes outstanding letters of credit and the estimated impact of cash needs of Big Lots Canada, but excludes the impact of any common share purchases under the 2012 Repurchase Program.

Cash provided by operating activities increased by \$0.1 million to \$125.6 million in the first quarter of 2012 compared to \$125.5 million in the first quarter of 2011.

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Cash used in investing activities decreased by \$1.1 million to \$18.0 million in the first quarter of 2012 compared to \$19.1 million in the first quarter of 2011. The decrease was primarily due to a decrease of \$0.9 million in capital expenditures to \$18.3 million in the first quarter of 2012 compared to \$19.2 million in the first quarter of 2011.

Cash used in financing activities increased by \$93.5 million to \$93.6 million in the first quarter of 2012 compared to \$0.1 million in the first quarter of 2011. The primary drivers of cash used in financing activities in the first quarter of 2012 were our share repurchase activities and our repayment of borrowings under the 2011 Credit Agreement. In the first quarter of 2012, we acquired \$98.5 million of our common shares under the 2011 Repurchase Program, of which we had settled \$62.1 million in cash by April 28, 2012, and repaid \$65.9 million of indebtedness under our 2011 Credit Agreement. Our share repurchase activity and repayments of debt were partially offset by cash received from the exercise of stock options of \$32.3 million and the associated tax benefits of \$7.8 million.

On a consolidated basis, we expect cash provided by operating activities less capital expenditures to be approximately \$190 million for 2012.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates, judgments, and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period, as well as the related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. On an ongoing basis, management evaluates its estimates, judgments, and assumptions, and bases its estimates, judgments, and assumptions on historical experience, current trends, and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates. See note 1 to our consolidated financial statements included in our 2011 Form 10-K for additional information about our accounting policies.

The estimates, judgments, and assumptions that have a higher degree of inherent uncertainty and require the most significant judgments are outlined in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations contained in our 2011 Form 10-K. Had we used estimates, judgments, and assumptions different from any of those discussed in our 2011 Form 10-K or below, our financial condition, results of operations, and liquidity for the current period could have been materially different from those presented.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

We are subject to market risk from exposure to changes in interest rates on investments that we make from time to time and on borrowings under the 2011 Credit Agreement. An increase or decrease of 1% in interest rates would not have a material effect on our financial condition, results of operations, or liquidity.

We are subject to market risks associated with foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations between the Canadian Dollar and the U.S. Dollar. An increase or decrease of 1% in foreign currency exchange rates would not have a material effect on our financial condition, results of operations, or liquidity.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Our management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has evaluated the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures, as that term is defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ("Exchange Act"), as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have each concluded that such disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the end of the period covered by this report.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

During the first quarter of 2012, we completed the second phase of our implementation of SAP® for Retail by implementing new merchandising systems. The implementation of the new systems required us to modify our internal control over financial reporting (as that term is defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) of the Exchange Act). There were no other changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during our most recent fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

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Part II. Other Information

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

No response is required under Item 103 of Regulation S-K.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

During the first quarter of 2012, there were no material changes to the risk factors previously disclosed in our 2011 Form 10-K.

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

(In thousands, except price per share data)

| Period | (a) Total Number of Shares Purchased ⁽¹⁾ (2) | (b) Average Price Paid per Share | (c) Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | (d) Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| January 29, 2012 - February 25, 2012 | — | \$— | — | \$98,501 |
| February 26, 2012 - March 24, 2012 | 83 | 43.93 | 83 | 94,831 |
| March 25, 2012 - April 28, 2012 | 2,541 | 39.50 | 2,422 | — |
| Total | 2,624 | \$39.64 | 2,505 | \$— |

(1) In March 2012, in connection with the vesting of our outstanding restricted shares, we acquired 119,333 of our common shares, which were withheld to satisfy minimum statutory income tax withholdings.

(2) The 2011 Repurchase Program is comprised of a May 25, 2011 authorization by our Board of Directors for the repurchase of up to \$400.0 million of our common shares. Our purchases of 2.5 million common shares in the first quarter of 2012 exhausted the 2011 Repurchase Program.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

None.

Item 5. Other Information

None.

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Item 6. Exhibits

Exhibits marked with an asterisk (*) are filed herewith. The Exhibit marked with two asterisks (**) is furnished electronically with this Quarterly Report.

| Exhibit No. | Document |
|--------------|--|
| 10.1 | Big Lots 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to our Form S-8 dated May 23, 2012). |
| 10.2 | Form of Big Lots 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan Non-Qualified Stock Option Award Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to our Form 8-K dated May 23, 2012). |
| 10.3 | Form of Big Lots 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Award Agreement (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to our Form 8-K dated May 23, 2012). |
| 10.4 | Form of Big Lots 2012 Long-Term Incentive Plan Restricted Stock Award Agreement for Nonemployee Directors (incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to our Form 8-K dated May 23, 2012). |
| <u>18.1*</u> | Preferability Letter of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm |
| <u>31.1*</u> | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| <u>31.2*</u> | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| <u>32.1*</u> | Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| <u>32.2*</u> | Certification of Chief Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 101** | XBRL Instance Document. |

Signature

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

Dated: June 6, 2012

BIG LOTS, INC.

By: /s/ Joe R. Cooper

Joe R. Cooper
Executive Vice President and

Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer, Principal Accounting
Officer and Duly Authorized Officer)