

DOLLAR TREE INC
Form 10-Q
November 24, 2009

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

☒ Quarterly report pursuant to Section 13 or 15 (d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
For the quarterly period ended October 31, 2009

OR

☐ Transition report pursuant to Section 13 or 15 (d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
Commission File Number: 0-25464

DOLLAR TREE, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Virginia 26-2018846
(State or (I.R.S.
other Employer
jurisdiction of
incorporation Identification
or No.)
organization)

500 Volvo Parkway
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320
(Address of principal executive offices)

Telephone Number (757) 321-5000
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether 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 shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes ☐ No ☐

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer ☐

☒

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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 (X)

As of November 18, 2009, there were 88,261,780 shares of the Registrant's Common Stock outstanding.

DOLLAR TREE, INC.
AND SUBSIDIARIES

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Part I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

DOLLAR TREE, INC.
AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENTS
(Unaudited)

	13 Weeks Ended		39 Weeks Ended	
	October 31,	November 1,	October 31,	November 1,
(In millions, except per share data)	2009	2008	2009	2008
Net sales	\$ 1,248.7	\$ 1,114.0	\$ 3,672.6	\$ 3,258.4
Cost of sales	807.5	734.6	2,394.2	2,159.4
Gross profit	441.2	379.4	1,278.4	1,099.0
Selling, general and administrative expenses	333.6	310.1	984.0	898.4
Operating income	107.6	69.3	294.4	200.6
Interest expense, net	1.6	2.3	3.7	5.8
Income before income taxes	106.0	67.0	290.7	194.8
Provision for income taxes	37.8	23.9	105.2	70.5
Net income	\$ 68.2	\$ 43.1	\$ 185.5	\$ 124.3
Net income per share:				
Basic	\$ 0.76	\$ 0.48	\$ 2.07	\$ 1.38
Diluted	\$ 0.76	\$ 0.47	\$ 2.05	\$ 1.37

See accompanying Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

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DOLLAR TREE, INC.
AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(Unaudited)

(In millions)	October 31, 2009	January 31, 2009	November 1, 2008
ASSETS			
Current assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 342.1	\$ 364.4	\$ 78.6
Merchandise inventories	846.2	675.8	836.5
Other current assets	32.4	33.0	45.6
Total current assets	1,220.7	1,073.2	960.7
Property, plant and equipment, net	705.1	710.3	725.8
Goodwill	133.3	133.3	133.3
Deferred tax assets	34.4	33.0	22.9
Other assets, net	87.0	85.9	79.0
Total Assets	\$ 2,180.5	\$ 2,035.7	\$ 1,921.7
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY			
Current liabilities:			
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 17.5	\$ 17.6	\$ 17.6
Accounts payable	261.4	192.9	238.4
Other current liabilities	178.2	152.5	152.8
Income taxes payable	11.5	46.9	3.1
Total current liabilities	468.6	409.9	411.9
Long-term debt, excluding current portion	250.0	250.0	250.0
Income taxes payable, long-term	15.4	14.7	19.6
Other liabilities	121.6	107.9	100.1
Total liabilities	855.6	782.5	781.6
Commitments and contingencies			
Shareholders' equity	1,324.9	1,253.2	1,140.1
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	\$ 2,180.5	\$ 2,035.7	\$ 1,921.7
Common shares outstanding	88.3	90.8	90.6

See accompanying Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

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DOLLAR TREE, INC.
AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(Unaudited)

(In millions)	39 Weeks Ended	
	October 31, 2009	November 1, 2008
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 185.5	\$ 124.3
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	116.5	119.8
Other non-cash adjustments to net income	19.2	47.6
Changes in operating assets and liabilities	(98.6)	(205.2)
Net cash provided by operating activities	222.6	86.5
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Capital expenditures	(113.8)	(104.2)
Purchase of short-term investments	-	(34.7)
Proceeds from sales of short-term investments	-	75.2
Purchase of restricted investments	(10.5)	(16.2)
Proceeds from sales of restricted investments	6.4	15.5
Other	-	(0.4)
Net cash used in investing activities	(117.9)	(64.8)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Payments for share repurchases	(154.6)	-
Proceeds from stock issued pursuant to stock-based compensation plans	24.1	16.0
Tax benefit of stock-based compensation	3.8	1.5
Other	(0.3)	(1.2)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(127.0)	16.3
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(22.3)	38.0
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	364.4	40.6
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 342.1	\$ 78.6
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:		
Cash paid for:		
Interest	\$ 5.5	\$ 7.8
Income taxes	\$ 139.4	\$ 114.8

See accompanying Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

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DOLLAR TREE, INC.
AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements of Dollar Tree, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiaries (the "Company") have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles for interim financial information and are presented in accordance with the requirements of Form 10-Q and Article 10 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements. The condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations for the year ended January 31, 2009 contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed March 26, 2009. The results of operations for the 13 and 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009 are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the entire fiscal year ending January 30, 2010.

In the Company's opinion, the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements included herein contain all adjustments (consisting of those of a normal recurring nature) considered necessary for a fair presentation of its financial position as of October 31, 2009 and November 1, 2008 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the periods presented. The January 31, 2009 balance sheet information was derived from the audited consolidated financial statements as of that date.

The Company has evaluated subsequent events for potential recognition and/or disclosure through November 24, 2009, the date the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements included in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q were filed with the SEC.

Certain 2008 amounts have been reclassified for comparability with the current period presentation. Goodwill has been stated separately and other intangible assets have been included in "Other Assets" in the accompanying Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets.

2. INTEREST RATE SWAPS

On March 20, 2008, the Company entered into two \$75.0 million interest rate swap agreements. These interest rate swaps are used to manage the risk associated with interest rate fluctuations on a portion of the Company's variable rate debt. Under these agreements, the Company pays interest to financial institutions at a fixed rate of 2.8%. In exchange, the financial institutions pay the Company at a variable rate, which equals the variable rate on the debt, excluding the credit spread. These swaps qualify for hedge accounting treatment and expire in March 2011. The fair value of these swaps as of October 31, 2009 is a liability of \$4.4 million and is included in "Other liabilities" in the accompanying Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2009. The fair value of these swaps as of November 1, 2008 was an asset of \$0.1 million and is included in "Other assets, net" in the accompanying Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheet as of November 1, 2008.

3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

In February 2008, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) released new guidance which delayed the effective date to value all non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities, except those that are recognized or disclosed at fair value on a recurring basis (at least annually) until the first quarter of 2009. The adoption of the new guidance did not have a significant impact on the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements.

Fair value is defined as an exit price, representing the amount that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. As such, fair value is a market-based measurement that should be determined based on assumptions that market participants would use in pricing an asset and liability. As a basis for considering such assumptions, a fair value hierarchy has been established that prioritizes the inputs used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1 measurement) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

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

Level 2 - Quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and

Level 3 - Unobservable inputs in which there is little or no market data which require the reporting entity to develop its own assumptions.

The Company's cash and cash equivalents, restricted investments and interest rate swaps represent the financial assets and liabilities that were accounted for at fair value on a recurring basis as of October 31, 2009. As required, financial assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The Company's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement requires judgment, and may affect the valuation of fair value assets and liabilities and their placement within the fair value hierarchy levels. The fair value of the Company's cash and cash equivalents and restricted investments was \$342.1 million and \$62.6 million, respectively at October 31, 2009. These fair values were determined using Level 1 measurements in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value of the swaps as of October 31, 2009 was a liability of \$4.4 million. These fair values were estimated using Level 2 measurements in the fair value hierarchy. These estimates used discounted cash flow calculations based upon forward interest-rate yield curves. The curves were obtained from independent pricing services reflecting broker market quotes.

4. INCOME TAXES

During 2008, the Company adjusted its balance of unrecognized tax benefits primarily as a result of the filing of accounting method changes for certain temporary differences. Accordingly, "Income taxes payable long-term" was reduced by \$34.7 million, of which \$32.8 million reduced "Deferred tax assets", \$1.6 million represented the after-tax impact associated with accrued interest on uncertain tax positions and \$0.3 million represented the settlement of federal and state tax audits.

5. NET INCOME PER SHARE

The following table sets forth the calculation of basic and diluted net income per share:

	13 Weeks Ended		39 Weeks Ended	
	October 31,	November 1,	October 31,	November 1,
(In millions, except per share data)	2009	2008	2009	2008
Basic net income per share:				
Net income	\$ 68.2	\$ 43.1	\$ 185.5	\$ 124.3
Weighted average number of				
shares outstanding	89.3	90.5	89.8	90.2
Basic net income per share	\$ 0.76	\$ 0.48	\$ 2.07	\$ 1.38
Diluted net income per share:				
Net income	\$ 68.2	\$ 43.1	\$ 185.5	\$ 124.3
Weighted average number of				
shares outstanding	89.3	90.5	89.8	90.2
Dilutive effect of stock options and				
restricted stock units (as determined				
by applying the treasury stock method)	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4
Weighted average number of shares and				
dilutive potential shares outstanding	89.9	91.0	90.4	90.6
Diluted net income per share	\$ 0.76	\$ 0.47	\$ 2.05	\$ 1.37

For the 13 and 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009, substantially all of the stock options outstanding were included in the calculation of the weighted average number of shares. For the 13 and 39 weeks ended November 1, 2008, approximately 0.4 million and 0.6 million stock options, respectively, were not included in the calculation of the weighted average number of shares and dilutive potential shares outstanding because their effect would be anti-dilutive.

6. STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION

The Company's stock-based compensation expense includes the fair value of granted stock options and restricted stock units (RSUs) and employees' purchase rights under the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan. Stock-based compensation expense was \$5.3 million and \$16.2 million, respectively, during the 13 and 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009, respectively. Total stock-based compensation expense was \$4.0 million and \$12.6 million, respectively, during the 13 and 39 weeks ended November 1, 2008.

The Company granted approximately 0.4 million service-based RSUs from the Equity Incentive Plan (EIP) and the Executive Officer Equity Incentive Plan (EOEP) to employees and officers in the 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009. The estimated \$17.2 million fair value of these RSUs is being expensed ratably over the three-year vesting periods, or a shorter period based on the retirement eligibility of certain grantees. The fair value was determined using the Company's closing stock price on the date of grant. The Company recognized \$1.4 million and \$4.2 million of expense related to these RSUs for the 13 and 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009.

In 2009 the Company granted 0.1 million RSUs from the EIP and the EOEP to certain officers of the Company, contingent on the Company meeting certain performance targets in 2009. If the Company meets these performance targets in fiscal 2009, then the RSUs will vest ratably over three years, ending April 1, 2012. The Company recognized \$0.8 million and \$1.7 million of expense related to these RSUs in the 13 and 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009.

7. SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

Comprehensive Income

The Company's comprehensive income reflects the effect of recording the derivative financial instrument entered into in March 2008. The following table provides a reconciliation of Net income to Total comprehensive income:

(In millions)	13 Weeks Ended		39 Weeks Ended	
	October 31, 2009	November 1, 2008	October 31, 2009	November 1, 2008
Net income	\$ 68.2	\$ 43.1	\$ 185.5	\$ 124.3
Fair value adjustment-derivative				
cash flow hedging instrument	-	(2.5)	(0.1)	0.1
Income tax expense	-	1.0	-	-
Fair value adjustment, net of tax	-	(1.5)	(0.1)	0.1
Total comprehensive income	\$ 68.2	\$ 41.6	\$ 185.4	\$ 124.4

Share Repurchase Program

The Company repurchased approximately 1.4 million and 3.5 million shares of common stock for approximately \$69.3 million and \$154.6 million, respectively during the 13 and 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009. The Company did not repurchase any shares in the 13 and 39 weeks ended November 1, 2008. As of October 31, 2009, the Company had approximately \$299.1 million remaining under Board approved repurchase authorizations.

8. LITIGATION MATTERS

In 2006, a former store manager filed a collective action against the Company in Alabama federal court. She claims that she and other store managers should have been classified as non-exempt employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act and received overtime compensation. The Court preliminarily allowed nationwide (except California) notice to be sent to all store managers employed for the three years immediately preceding the filing of the suit. Approximately 500 individuals are included in the collective action. The Company expects the Court to decide whether to decertify the collective action early in 2010. If the case proceeds as a collective action, it will likely proceed to trial in the Spring of 2010. The Company is vigorously defending itself in this matter.

In 2007, two store managers filed a class action against the Company in California federal court, claiming they and other California store managers should have been classified as non-exempt employees under California and federal law. The Court has allowed notice to be sent to all California store managers employed since December 12, 2004, and a class of approximately 720 individuals exists. Following discovery the company anticipates it will seek to decertify the class. No trial date has been scheduled. The Company is vigorously defending itself in this matter.

In 2008, the Company was sued under the Equal Pay Act in Alabama federal court by two female store managers alleging that they and other female store managers were paid less than male store managers. Among other things, they seek monetary damages and back pay. The Court ordered that notice be sent to potential plaintiffs and approximately 350 individuals opted in. The Company expects that the Court will consider a motion to decertify the collective action at a future date. In October 2009, 33 plaintiffs filed a new Complaint in a federal court in Virginia, alleging gender pay and promotion discrimination under Title VII, as a class action. The Company has filed a Motion to dismiss on the grounds that the Complaint is time barred. The Company will vigorously defend itself in both of these matters.

The Company does not believe that any of these matters will, individually or in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on its business or financial condition. The Company cannot give assurance, however, that one or more of these lawsuits will not have a material adverse effect on its results of operations for the period in which they are resolved.

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

INTRODUCTORY NOTE: Unless otherwise stated, references to "we," "our" and "us" generally refer to Dollar Tree, Inc. and its direct and indirect subsidiaries on a consolidated basis.

A WARNING ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS: This document contains "forward-looking statements" as that term is used in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements address future events, developments or results and typically use words such as "believe," "anticipate," "expect," "intend," "plan," "view," "target" or "estimate." For example, our forward-looking statements include statements regarding:

- our anticipated sales, including comparable store net sales, net sales growth, earnings growth and new store growth;
 - costs of pending and possible future legal claims;
 - the average size of our stores and their performance compared with other store sizes;
- the effect of the continued shift in merchandise mix to include more consumables and the continued roll-out of frozen and refrigerated merchandise on gross profit margin and sales;
- the possible effect of the current economic downturn, inflation and other economic changes on our costs and profitability, including future changes in minimum wage rates, shipping rates, domestic and foreign freight costs, fuel costs and wage and benefit costs;
- our cash needs, including our ability to fund our future capital expenditures and working capital requirements; and,
- the future reliability of, and cost associated with, our sources of supply, particularly imported goods such as those sourced from China and Hong Kong.

For a discussion of the risks, uncertainties and assumptions that could affect our future events, developments or results, you should carefully review the risk factors summarized below and the more detailed discussions in the "Risk Factors" and "Business" sections in our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed March 26, 2009. Also see section 1A. "Risk Factors" in Part II of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q.

- A continued downturn in economic conditions could adversely affect our sales.
 - Our profitability is especially vulnerable to cost increases.
- Changes in federal, state or local law, or our failure to comply with such laws, could increase our expenses and expose us to legal risks.
 - We could encounter disruptions or additional costs in receiving and distributing merchandise.
- Sales below our expectations during peak seasons may cause our operating results to suffer materially.

- Our sales and profits rely on directly and indirectly imported merchandise which may increase in cost or become unavailable.
- We may be unable to expand our square footage as timely and profitably as planned.
- Our profitability is affected by the mix of products we sell.
- Pressure from competitors, including competition for merchandise, may reduce our sales and profits.
- Certain provisions in our articles of incorporation and bylaws could delay or discourage a takeover attempt.

Our forward-looking statements could be wrong in light of these and other risks, uncertainties and assumptions. The future events, developments or results described in this report could turn out to be materially different. We have no obligation to publicly update or revise our forward-looking statements after the date of this quarterly report and you should not expect us to do so.

Investors should also be aware that while we do, from time to time, communicate with securities analysts and others, it is against our policy to selectively disclose to them any material nonpublic information or other confidential commercial information. Accordingly, shareholders should not assume that we agree with any statement or report issued by any analyst regardless of the content of the statement or report, as we have a policy against confirming information issued by others. Thus, to the extent that reports issued by securities analysts contain any financial projections, forecasts or opinions, such reports are not our responsibility.

Overview

Our net sales are derived from the sale of merchandise. Two major factors tend to affect our net sales trends. First is our success at opening new stores or adding new stores through mergers or acquisitions. Second is the performance of stores once they are open. Sales vary at our existing stores from one year to the next. We refer to this change as a change in comparable store net sales, because we include only those stores that are open throughout both of the periods being compared, beginning after the first fifteen months of operation. We include sales from stores expanded during the period in the calculation of comparable store net sales, which has the effect of increasing our comparable store net sales. The term “expanded” also includes stores that are relocated.

At October 31, 2009 we operated 3,803 stores in 48 states, with 32.3 million selling square feet compared to 3,572 stores with 30.1 million selling square feet at November 1, 2008. During the 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009, we opened 233 stores, expanded 74 stores and closed 21 stores, compared to 201 stores opened, 79 stores expanded and 40 stores closed during the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2008. In the 13 and 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009, we added approximately 0.9 million and 2.0 million selling square feet, respectively, of which approximately 0.1 million and 0.3 million, respectively, was added through expanding existing stores. The average size of stores opened during the 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009 was approximately 8,500 selling square feet. We believe that this size store is our optimal size operationally and that this size also gives the customer a shopping environment which invites them to shop longer, buy more and make return visits, which increases our customer traffic.

For the 13 and 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009, comparable store net sales increased 6.5% and 7.5%, respectively, primarily due to increased traffic. We believe comparable store net sales continue to be positively affected by a number of our initiatives, as debit and credit card penetration continued to increase in the 13 and 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009, and we continued the roll-out of frozen and refrigerated merchandise to more of our stores. At October 31, 2009, we had frozen and refrigerated merchandise in approximately 1,400 stores compared to approximately 1,220 stores at November 1, 2008. We believe that this has and will continue to enable us to increase sales and earnings by increasing the number of shopping trips made by our customers. In addition, we now accept

food stamps (under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (“SNAP”)) in approximately 2,700 qualified stores compared to approximately 2,160 stores at November 1, 2008.

With the pressures of the current economic environment, we have seen increases in the demand for basic, consumable products in 2009. As a result, we have shifted the mix of inventory carried in our stores to more consumer product merchandise which we believe increases the traffic in our stores and has helped to increase our sales even during the current economic downturn. While this shift in mix has impacted our merchandise costs we were able to offset that impact in the 13 and 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009 with decreased costs for merchandise in many of our categories.

In May 2007, legislation was enacted that increased the Federal Minimum Wage. The last increase to \$7.25 an hour was effective in July 2009. As a result, our wages have increased in the third quarter of 2009 and wages will continue to increase through the first half of 2010; however, we believe that we can offset the increase in payroll costs through increased store productivity and continued efficiencies in product flow to our stores.

Results of Operations

13 Weeks Ended October 31, 2009 Compared to the 13 Weeks Ended November 1, 2008

Net sales. Net sales increased 12.1%, or \$134.7 million, over last year's third quarter resulting from a 6.5% increase in comparable store net sales and sales in our new stores. Comparable store net sales are positively affected by our expanded and relocated stores, which we include in the calculation, and are negatively affected when we open new stores or expand stores near existing stores.

Gross Profit. For the 13 weeks ended October 31, 2009, our gross profit margin increased to 35.3% compared to our gross profit margin of 34.1% for the 13 weeks ended November 1, 2008. This increase can be attributed to the following:

- Merchandise costs, including inbound freight, decreased 90 basis points due primarily to lower fuel costs and lower ocean freight rates compared to the prior year quarter. Improved initial mark-up in many categories during the quarter was offset by an increase in the mix of higher cost consumer product merchandise during the quarter as compared to the prior year quarter.
- Occupancy and distribution costs decreased 30 basis points in the quarter resulting from the leveraging of the comparable store net sales increase.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses. Selling, general, and administrative expenses for the current quarter decreased to 26.7%, as a percentage of net sales, compared to 27.8% for the same period last year. This decrease was primarily due to the following:

- Store operating costs decreased 40 basis points primarily due to lower utility costs, as a percentage of sales, in the current quarter, resulting from lower rates compared to the prior year quarter and the leveraging associated the increase in comparable store net sales.
- Depreciation decreased 30 basis points primarily due to the leveraging associated with the increase in comparable store net sales in the current quarter.
- Payroll-related expenses decreased 25 basis points resulting from lower field payroll costs as a percentage of sales, due to the leveraging of the comparable store sales increase, partially offset by increased incentive compensation due to favorable sales and earnings results in relation to their targets in the current quarter and year.

Operating Income. Operating income for the current quarter was 8.6% as a percentage of net sales compared to 6.2% for the same period last year as a result of the increased gross profit margin and decreased selling, general and administrative expenses, as a percentage of net sales, noted above.

Income Taxes. Our effective tax rate was 35.7% for the current quarter and the prior year quarter.

39 Weeks Ended October 31, 2009 Compared to the 39 Weeks Ended November 1, 2008

Net sales. Net sales increased 12.7%, or \$414.2 million, over the same period last year resulting from a 7.5% increase in comparable store net sales and sales in our new stores. Comparable store net sales are positively affected by our expanded and relocated stores, which we include in the calculation, and are negatively affected when we open new stores or expand stores near existing stores.

Gross Profit. For the 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009, our gross profit margin was 34.8% compared to 33.7% for the first nine months of 2008. This increase can be attributed to the following:

- Merchandise costs, including inbound freight, decreased 50 basis points due primarily to lower fuel costs and lower ocean freight rates compared to the prior year period. Improved initial mark-up in many categories during the year was partially offset by an increase in the mix of higher cost consumer product merchandise during the 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009 as compared to the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2008.
 - Outbound freight costs decreased 30 basis points in the current year due primarily to decreased fuel costs.
- Occupancy and distribution costs decreased 30 basis points in the current year resulting from the leveraging of the comparable store net sales increase.

Selling, General and Administrative Expenses. Selling, general, and administrative expenses for the 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009, decreased to 26.8%, as a percentage of net sales, compared to 27.6% for the same period last year. This decrease was primarily due to the following:

- Depreciation decreased 50 basis points primarily due to the leveraging associated with the increase in comparable store net sales in the current year.
 - Store operating costs decreased 30 basis points primarily due to lower utility costs, as a percentage of sales, in the current year compared to the prior year resulting from lower rates in the current year and the leveraging associated with the increase in comparable store net sales.

Operating Income. Operating income for the 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009, was 8.0% as a percentage of net sales compared to 6.2% for the same period last year as a result of the increased gross profit margin and decreased selling, general and administrative expenses, as a percentage of net sales, noted above.

Income Taxes. The income tax rate for each of the 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009 and November 1, 2008 was 36.2%. The current year rate reflects a reduction in tax expense of \$2.3 million resulting from an immaterial correction of deferred tax assets relating to fixed assets. The prior year rate reflects the recognition of certain tax benefits in accordance with standards of accounting for uncertainty in income taxes.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our business requires capital to open new stores, expand our distribution network and operate our existing business. Our working capital requirements for our existing business are seasonal in nature and typically reach their peak in the months of September and October. Historically, we have satisfied our seasonal working capital requirements, funded our store opening and expansion programs and repurchased shares from internally generated funds and borrowings under our credit facilities.

The following table compares cash flow information for the 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009 and November 1, 2008:

	39 Weeks ended	
	October	November
	31,	1,
(In millions)	2009	2008
Net cash provided by (used in):		
Operating activities	\$ 222.6	\$ 86.5
Investing activities	(117.9)	(64.8)
Financing activities	(127.0)	16.3

Net cash provided by operating activities increased \$136.1 million due primarily to increased earnings before income taxes and depreciation and amortization in the current year. Also providing more cash at October 31, 2009 were higher accounts payable balances due to the timing of payments and increased incentive compensation accruals as compared to the prior year.

Net cash used in investing activities increased \$53.1 million primarily due to short-term investment activity in the prior year. In the prior year we liquidated our short-term investments due to market conditions. The net proceeds from this liquidation of \$40.5 million were put into cash equivalent money market accounts. In the current year, capital expenditures have increased \$9.6 million resulting from an increase in new stores opened in the current year as compared to the prior year.

In the current year, financing activities used cash of \$127.0 million. The use of cash resulted from share repurchases in the current year partially offset by stock option exercises and employee stock plan purchases. In the prior year, financing activities provided cash of \$16.3 million as a result of employee stock plan purchases and limited stock option exercises. There were no share repurchases in the 39 weeks ended November 1, 2008.

At October 31, 2009, our long-term borrowings were \$267.5 million, our capital lease commitments were \$0.4 million and we had \$300.0 million available on the revolving credit portion of our Unsecured Credit Agreement. We also have \$121.5 million and \$50.0 million Letter of Credit Reimbursement and Security Agreements, under which approximately \$113.7 million was committed to letters of credit issued for routine purchases of imported merchandise as of October 31, 2009.

During the 13 and 39 weeks ended October 31, 2009, we repurchased approximately 1.4 million and 3.5 million shares of common stock for approximately \$69.3 million and \$154.6 million, respectively. We did not repurchase any shares during the 13 and 39 weeks ended November 1, 2008. As of October 31, 2009, we had approximately \$299.1 million remaining under repurchase authorizations.

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Item 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK.

We are exposed to various types of market risk in the normal course of our business, including the impact of interest rate changes, fuel costs and foreign currency rate fluctuations. We may enter into interest rate swaps to manage our exposure to interest rate changes, and we may employ other risk management strategies, including the use of fuel hedges and foreign currency forward contracts. We do not enter into derivative instruments for any purpose other than cash flow hedging purposes.

On March 20, 2008, we entered into two \$75.0 million interest rate swap agreements. These interest rate swaps are used to manage the risk associated with interest rate fluctuations on a portion of our variable rate debt. Under these agreements, we pay interest to financial institutions at a fixed rate of 2.8%. In exchange, the financial institutions pay us at a variable rate, which equals the variable rate on the debt, excluding the credit spread. These swaps qualify for hedge accounting treatment and expire in March 2011. The fair value of these swaps as of October 31, 2009 is a liability of \$4.4 million. The fair value of these swaps as of November 1, 2008 was an asset of \$0.1 million.

Item 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

As of the end of the period covered by this report, 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 defined in Rule 13a-15(e) of the Exchange Act). Based on this evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer concluded that, as of October 31, 2009, our disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended October 31, 2009 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

From time to time, we are defendants in ordinary, routine litigation or proceedings incidental to our business, including allegations regarding:

- employment-related matters;
- infringement of intellectual property rights;
- product safety matters, which may include product recalls in cooperation with the Consumer Products Safety Commission or other jurisdictions;
- personal injury/wrongful death claims; and
- real estate matters related to store leases.

In addition, we are defendants in several class or collective action lawsuits. For a discussion of these lawsuits, please refer to “Note 8. Litigation Matters”, included in “Part I. Financial Information, Item 1. Financial Statements” of this Form 10-Q.

We will vigorously defend ourselves in these lawsuits. We do not believe that any of these matters will, individually or in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition. We cannot give assurance, however, that one or more of these lawsuits will not have a material adverse effect on our results of operations for the period in which they are resolved.

Item 1A. RISK FACTORS

There have been no material changes to the risk factors described in Item 1A. "Risk Factors" in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, filed with the SEC on March 26, 2009.

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

The following table presents our share repurchase activity for the 13 weeks ended October 31, 2009:

Period	Total number of shares purchased	Average price paid per share	Total number of shares purchased as part of publicly announced plans or programs	Approximate dollar value of shares that may yet be purchased under the plans or programs (in millions)
August 2, 2009 to August 29, 2009	-	\$ -	-	\$ 368.4
August 30, 2009 to October 3, 2009	-	-	-	368.4
October 4, 2009 to October 31, 2009	1,416,256	48.93	1,416,256	299.1
Total	1,416,256	\$ 48.93	1,416,256	\$ 299.1

Item 3. DEFAULTS UPON SENIOR SECURITIES.

None.

Item 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS.

None.

Item 5. OTHER INFORMATION.

None.

Item 6. EXHIBITS.

3. Articles and Bylaws

3.1 Articles of Incorporation of Dollar Tree, Inc. (as amended, effective June 23, 2008) (Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's June 19, 2008 Current Report on Form 8-K, incorporated herein by this reference)

3.2 Bylaws of Dollar Tree, Inc. (the Company), as amended (Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's June 18, 2009 Report on Form 8-K, incorporated herein by this reference)

4. Instruments Defining the Rights of Security Holders

4.1 Form of Common Stock Certificate (Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's March 13, 2008 Current Report on Form 8-K, incorporated herein by this reference)

31. Certifications required under Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act

31.1 Certification required under Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of Chief Executive Officer

31.2 Certification required under Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of Chief Financial Officer

32. Certifications required under Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act

32.1 Certification required under Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of Chief Executive Officer

32.2 Certification required under Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of Chief Financial Officer

SIGNATURES

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

DOLLAR TREE, INC.

Date: November 24, 2009

By: /s/ Kevin S. Wampler
Kevin S. Wampler
Chief Financial Officer
(principal financial and accounting
officer)

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[Forward to Exhibit 31.1](#)